



Suggested citation: Gnell, Jhohsh, Mysterious Matt, trouble!, eds., *Earth First!* 27, no. 2 (1 January 2007). Republished by the Environment & Society Portal, Multimedia Library. <http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/7242>

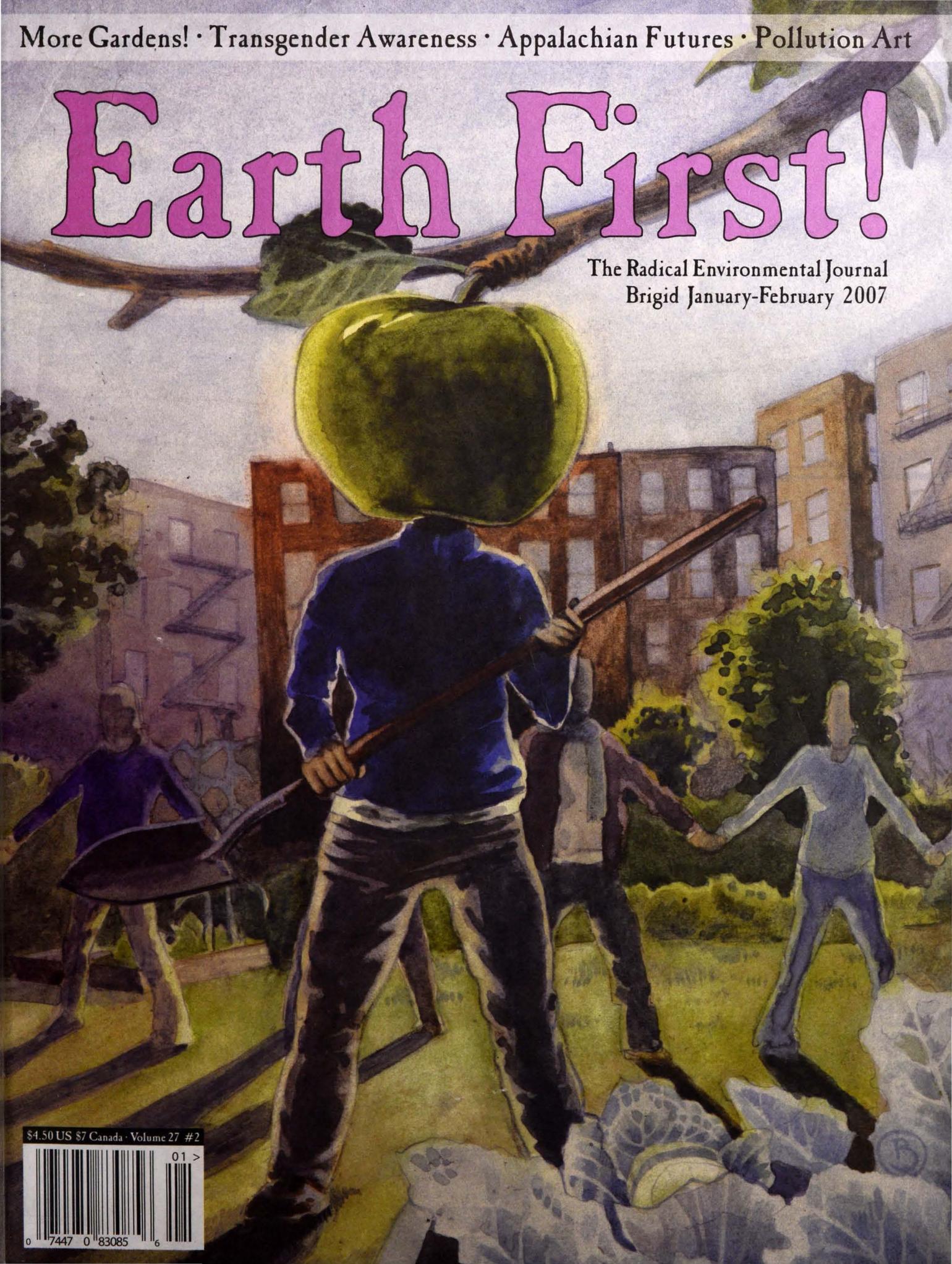
All rights reserved. The user may download, preserve and print this material only for private, research or nonprofit educational purposes. The user may not alter, transform, or build upon this material.

The Rachel Carson Center's Environment & Society Portal makes archival materials openly accessible for purposes of research and education. Views expressed in these materials do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Rachel Carson Center or its partners.

More Gardens! · Transgender Awareness · Appalachian Futures · Pollution Art

Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal
Brigid January-February 2007



\$4.50 US \$7 Canada · Volume 27 #2



0 7447 0 83085 6



Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

Brigid January-February 2007

FEATURES

- 3 **NUCLEAR WASTE RESISTANCE IN GERMANY**
- 6 **GREEN SCARE UPDATE**
OPERATION BACKFIRE DEFENDANTS TAKE PLEA DEALS
- 8 **ANIMAL ENTERPRISE TERRORISM ACT**
PASSED BY CONGRESS AND SIGNED INTO LAW
- 10 **TRINIDAD COMMUNITY FIGHTS ALCOA SMELTER**
- 12 **MOLOKA'I ACTIVISTS OCCUPY DEVELOPMENT SITE**
- 14 **TAKING BACK THE LAND IN MIAMI**
INSIDE THE UMOJA VILLAGE SHANTYTOWN
- 16 **DEFENDING HARLEM'S COMMUNITY GARDENS**
- 18 **ARBITRARY LINES AND MILITARIZED ZONES**
THE INDIGENOUS BORDER SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS
- 20 **REAL ID REALLY SUCKS**
TOWARD A NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION DATABASE
- 22 **CRITICAL ART ENSEMBLE**
ANTI-GE ACTIVISTS UNDER ATTACK
- 24 **CONFESSIONS OF AN ART ADDICT**
RECONSIDERING POLLUTION ART

- 28 **TRANNIES ARE TAKING OVER!**
AN INTRODUCTION TO TRANSGENDER AWARENESS
- 31 **APPALACHIAN ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIES**
- 31 **ACHERS FOR ACRES**
CEMETERIES VS. MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL MINING
- 33 **RANDAL'S FINE WOOD NOT-JUST-BOXES**
- 33 **THE FRIENDLY FOREST WORKER**
- 34 **COMMUNITY RESISTANCE TO COAL IN VIRGINIA**
- 35 **REMEMBERING JAMIE MCGUINN**
- 36 **BRAD WILL MOURNED AND CELEBRATED IN NYC**
- 37 **MEMORIES OF B**
- 38 **PEOPLE'S UPRISING IN OAXACA**
- 40 **DEALING WITH TRAUMA AND BURNOUT**
EXPERIENCES OF SUPPORT WORK
- 48 **EF! ORGANIZERS' CONFERENCE**
FEBRUARY 22-26 • AUSTIN, TEXAS

Back Cover

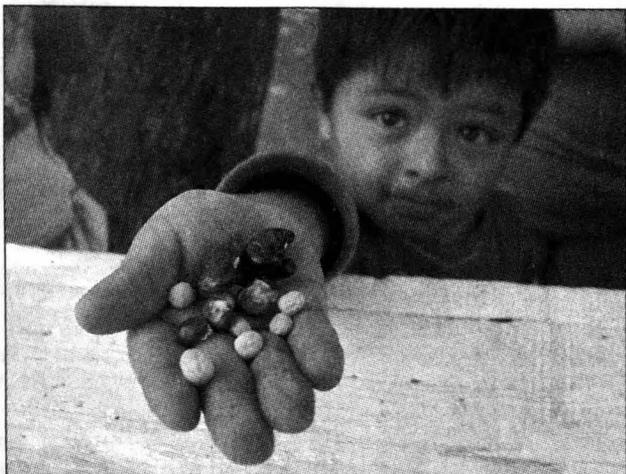


photo by Jonathan McIntosh (www.capeandarmstrong.com)

A boy holds a handful of seeds at the South Central Farm in Los Angeles, California. For more information, visit www.southcentralfarmers.com.

SECTIONS

- 4 DEAR SFB: LETTERS TO THE EDITORS
- 17 BARE BONES
- 20 FRONTLINES
- 26 ARMED WITH VISIONS
- 30 ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD
- 39 BLAST FROM THE PAST
- 42 PRISONERS IN THE STRUGGLE
- 44 ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 46 EF! DIRECTORY

Looking Back on a Year of Loss

We feel loss more often than most. To be a part of Earth First!—or any movement dedicated to protecting the natural world—is to be intimately aware of the many times when our efforts fail. Every day, forests are clearcut, mountains leveled, seas polluted, gardens made barren and species driven extinct.

This sense of loss is not something that exists apart from our personal lives. As has always been the case, the people who try to stop such atrocities are beaten, raped, imprisoned or murdered. Those who struggle on behalf of others are often subject to the brutal repression that occurs beyond the insulating veil of privilege. And when persecuted, some choose to take their own lives rather than face the vicious degradation that otherwise awaits them.

The past year has left me and many others raw and aching from such tragedies: the imprisonment of so many beloved friends and determined allies; Bill's suicide in jail; Brad's murder in Oaxaca; Jamie's fatal collision with a logging truck; my friend Meg's death in New Orleans. Faced with so much pain and

loss, I have often found myself asking those familiar questions: "Why?" and "What if?" Some irrational part of me—of all of us—hopes that answering these questions correctly will send time flying in reverse and bring our fallen friends back home.

For me and many others, it's tempting to answer these questions by politicizing tragedy and the mourning process—by treating the untimely deaths of our friends as injustices to overcome. In linking Brad's murder and Bill's suicide with the oppression of so many others throughout the world, we're expressing a sincere hope that common bonds of grief and loss can lead to revolutionary solidarity—that the deaths of so many can somehow be redeemed.

But, as a friend just reminded me, some things are simply accidents. As tempting as it is to blame Jamie's death on the logging industry and deforestation, or to link Meg's with climate change and car culture, the simple fact is that our friends are gone forever. Winning justice for them—or even for Brad and Bill—won't bring them back, nor will destroying the forces that led to their deaths. And even if we win in our struggle for environmental and social justice—even if we create some stateless, sustainable, egalitarian world—our fallen friends won't be there to greet us.

This past year has pushed me to acknowledge that some loss is inevitable and that some pain will never heal. Death and loss are not oppressive institutions that can be abolished along with logging and mountaintop removal; they're part of the natural world that we're trying so hard to save. All that we can really do is pick up where our fallen friends left off and continue their struggle. It's the best way to honor not only those who have gone but also those yet to come.

In love, sadness and solidarity,

—JOSH



artwork by Maurice Suchacki

Earth First! Brigid

January 1, 2007

Vol. 27, No. 2

Earth First! is published by an editorial collective from within the Earth First! movement. Entire contents are copyrighted 2007. Please contact us for permission to reprint articles. Art, photographs and poetry are copyrighted by individual artists and permission for use must be received from them directly.

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.

Submission deadlines are the first of every odd-numbered month in the calendar year. Articles should be typed or clearly printed. We encourage submissions via email. Art or photographs are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. 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.

ISSN 1055-8411 *Earth First!* is indexed in the Alternative Press Index. *Earth First!* is recorded on microfilm by ProQuest, Inc.

Please direct all correspondence to:

Earth First!

PO Box 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702

(520) 620-6900

collective@earthfirstjournal.org

www.earthfirstjournal.org

Editorial Collective: Gnell, Jhohsh, Mysterious Matt, trouble!

Poetry Editor: Dennis Fritzing

Volunteers: Abigail, Buttercup, Jessica, Joleen, Kylie, Lenny, Lisa, Rebecca, Sprocket, Skyler Simmons, Thee Baron, Turtle

Front Cover: Brian Bowes

Inside Front: Chris Perry

(www.chrisperryphotography.com)

Inside Back: Kylie

Back Cover: Jonathan McIntosh

Earth First! (ISSN 1055-8411) January-February 2007, Volume 27, Issue 2, is published bimonthly by Daily Planet Publishing, 831 East 47th Street, Tucson, AZ 85713. US Subscriptions are \$25. Outside the US, surface delivery is \$40 and airmail is \$50. Send subscriptions to PO Box 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. Periodicals Postage Paid at Tucson, Arizona. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Earth First!*, PO Box 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702-3023.



Nuclear Waste Shipment Meets **Massive Resistance** in Germany

BY SKYLER SIMMONS

Protesters across Germany and France disrupted a nuclear waste shipment destined for the small German village of Gorleben for three consecutive days in early November. Embracing the principle of a diversity of tactics, the anti-nuclear activists employed everything from locking down to rails to knocking down radio towers.

The 175 tons of nuclear waste were being shipped by rail from a nuclear reprocessing plant in France to a concrete storage building in Germany from November 10 to 12. For several years now, such shipments have met intense resistance from farmers, students, environmentalists and anarchists.

This year, the Castor train, as it is called, was blocked before even

school and took to the streets to protest the nuclear waste traveling through their town. At the end of the demonstration, the youths attempted to force their way through the gates of the barracks that police had retreated into. In towns further along the route, farmers drove their tractors onto the tracks to block the train, while others held sit-ins and erected burning barricades. Activists with the group Robin Wood strung a traverse line high above the tracks and hung from it with banners, effectively blocking the train's route.

The German government responded to the protests by deploying 20,000 police officers along the train's route, many of them to guard the final 12 miles, where the nuclear waste is unloaded and transported by truck to the dump site. In response, many of the protesters put their energy into tying up police by blocking access roads, playing cat and mouse,

and creating diversions in order to allow others to gain access to the tracks.

Scuffles broke out in several towns, with police using pepper spray and batons and

protesters damaging patrol cars and throwing rocks. In one spot, unknown saboteurs cut down a radio tower used by police for communications.

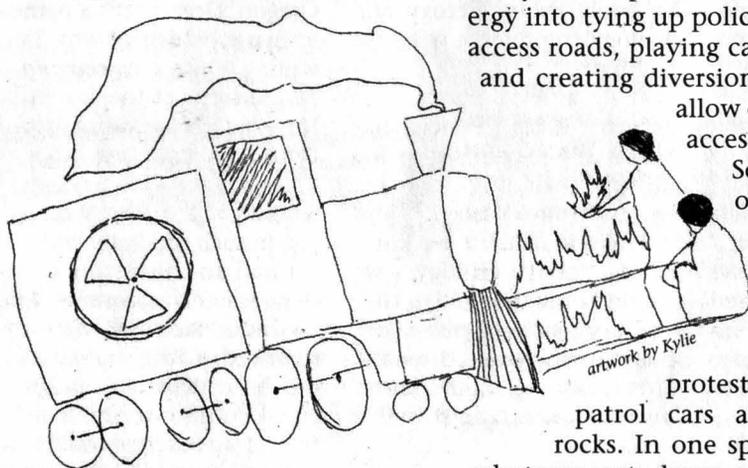
Resistance to the nuke transports was most intense along the final road route. In Metzingen, police attempted to raid one of the largest protest camps but were repelled by a determined counter attack of camp residents. From there, protesters blocked the main route of

the waste transport trucks. When police began to divert traffic, others joined in and shut down the alternate routes with enormous burning barricades made from hay bales provided by local farmers.

Local residents—worried that their town will become a permanent nuke dump—were prepared, mobilizing 5,000 people. Two hundred farmers on tractors clogged the streets of Gorleben, four large concrete pyramid lockdowns were deployed along the shipping route, and hundreds of others engaged in mass sit-ins. Elsewhere in the town, scuffles broke out between cops and protesters and flaming barricades blocked the entrance to the nuclear waste dump. After hours of clearing protesters, often times violently, the police were able to punch a hole through the barricades and deliver the nuclear waste to its temporary holding facility outside of Gorleben.

While the protesters did not stop the transport, they did manage to severely delay its arrival. Many activists, recognizing that they cannot directly overcome the full power of the state, have instead taken the approach of making the nuke transports as costly as possible. Considering that police operations alone cost approximately \$65 million, they did a pretty fair job. And this figure doesn't even take into account the numerous acts of sabotage carried out!

This year's anti-nuke action is being viewed as a warm-up for the 2007 Group of Eight meetings being held in Germany, next Summer. Activists have been doing intensive organizing and hope to put their experiences and battle-tested tactics to use in disrupting the meetings of the world's most powerful leaders.



reaching the German border by residents of the French town of Serquex. From there, it was nothing but trouble for the Castor train and German police as activists set up numerous blockades along the route.

One of the first spots of German resistance was the town of Luchow, where 600 students walked out of

DEAR SHIT

Dear *Earth First! Journal*,

It seems to me that Earth First! is severely lacking in radicalism. Granted you are radical, but not nearly enough. Take your cover story (see *EF!J* September-October 2006). It's really awesome what you did, but so what? You didn't even shut it down for a fucking day. You all need to cut the shit and start being radical activists. We need to be 100 times more radical. Mountaintop removal should be over! Wake up!

—JACOB TRUDEAU

Dear *EF!J*,

I would subscribe except I'm disenchanted with the environmental movement as a whole. It doesn't matter if it's Rainforest Action Network or World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace or Sierra Club, the Earth is suffering and efforts have been insufficient. They're either too radical or too conformist. There needs to be a much greater emphasis on educating the mainstream without condescending or intimidating.

By the way, I worked my ass off for the Green Party because of its environmental focus, but now I see they don't make it a priority. That truly frustrates me. What a piss off. Plus the socialists act as though only white, middle-class baby boomers care about the ecosystem. That sucks.

Peace now!

—ANONYMOUS

Dear *EF!J*,

I am writing to express my shock that an *EF! Journal* reader has the gall to even suggest that a government informant is any better than a child molester, rapist or murderer (see *EF!J* November-December 2006). Moreover, this bank robber, later wrongfully convicted of murder, gladly pays for every issue of the *EF! Journal* delivered to his prison cell at the federal supermax. Apparently, some readers remain green in an entirely different context, but I urge everyone to consider how the struggle against the prison-industrial complex is related to that for the environment and disenfranchised species. All struggles against artificial power, including the need for mutual respect and understanding, are important.

In struggle,

—MARK JORDAN

Dear SFB,

In response to the article "Evolving Earth First!," there is a section that says we are not a science-based movement (see *EF!J* September-October 2006). I agree that emotions don't react to

science as well as other catalysts. If what you are really saying is that science is not our *only* guiding principle, then great. However, we need to still use science, and yes, part of our movement should be based on science. Academia, staid and cold, doesn't have a lock on science; many of the best "scientists" I know are self-taught.

To take down the powers that are destroying this planet, we *need* science; to be successful after the fall of industrial society, we *need* science. We need to know about the science of economics to be able to fight the global banking system. We need to know about physics to monkeywrench. We need to know about biology and ecology to preserve what we still have.

The article about the Round River Rendezvous talked about plants growing nearby, including "chicory, Queen-Anne's lace... and invasive kudzu." If we knew more about ecology, we would know that kudzu isn't the only one of the three that is invasive—all three are! This is shit we should know. Invasive species can strip this

planet of biodiversity just like the corporations are. The gap of knowledge between people and the land is worsening, and we of all people should strive to learn more about science and nature.

Our ancestors before us intimately knew plants, animals, weather and other crucial things. If we ever want to return to that day, we need to pass on that knowledge and not let emotions completely override science. The two can coexist quite well.

—ACHA DEMIKS

Dear SFB,

Just my random thoughts after reading "The State of the *Journal*" article (see *EF!J* September-October 2006). I'm one of your 88 subscribers in Oregon. Geez, that's a pathetic figure, which is why I'm writing. Outreach seems to be the focus of the article. How can the *Journal*, or just Earth First! itself, reach out to the masses—those people whom you are, at least on paper, in such solidarity with.

I had an interesting experience a few summers ago. Cascadia Summer was announced in the *Journal* as a much anticipated, magical event coming to the Northwest. I was excited too. I saw it as a sort of Mississippi Summer, where people flocked to the region to support not a civil rights voting project as in 1964 but an environmental rights project. How saddened I was to see the pitiful few people who came.

PLEASE KEEP LETTERS
TO 300 WORDS OR LESS.

FEAR BRAINS

My wife and I worked on an organic farm that Summer, but I volunteered to drive folks to the treesits at the designated sites in the Willamette National Forest past Oakridge. What happened? Was there any outreach other than the *Journal* and a few random websites? Does anyone to this day know that—forget about the rest of the country for the time being—Eugene alone had thousands of potential people who would have been in solidarity with Cascadia Summer? The University of Oregon has 20,000 students going to it! When I drove, I took maybe four or five activists a week out to the sites, which were maybe populated each by 20 or 30 more people.

at the occasional environmental conference will not be enough. While misanthropy continues to be the normal reaction of Earth First!ers to the world situation, they will sadly be unable to entice those same miscreant humans into buying the latest issue. Somehow, without sacrificing the no-compromise stance, a more inviting air has to be unleashed onto the general populace. Do Earth First!ers have a legitimate reason for disliking humans? Yes! But it won't get you any damn subscribers.

—ANONYMOUS

To the editors,

With the benefits and events coming up around December 7, this seemed like a good time to bring up a subject

to reflect on the downsides of that label and to ask whether or not it might be have served an effective one-year term and be ready for retirement.

The first and most obvious problem with it, in my mind, is that it sets us apart from all the other groups that are having their rights trampled by the USA PATRIOT Act and associated legislation. Halfway through this year, I was already hearing from friends that our little plight was being referred to as the "White Scare" by activists of color. That might be mean of them, but we're definitely setting ourselves up for that when we try to point the media at the oppression of environmentalists rather than the general climate of oppression

I hope this opinion isn't taken as any kind of attack on anyone who supported the "Green Scare" label originally or still does. Like I said, last year I did too, and it still has a certain appeal. However, it had problems even initially, and a year later, for me, the problems outweigh the benefits. I don't have a new catchy label to throw out there, but I'd prefer to move the focus to civil rights, anti-PATRIOT Act, pro-peace, maybe pro-impeachment, but not continue to run around saying, "Greens are the new Reds, they're oppressing us, waaah!" The Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act aside, it really hasn't escalated into a national-level Red-Scare-style witch hunt. The Operation Backfire case seems to be limited to more or less the same

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

It was when I drove that I think I found the answers. The people I drove were in such disdain of anyone who didn't meet their level of commitment to the cause. That antipathy was so pervasive you could cut it with a knife, and the vibe couldn't help but resonate out to the surrounding community. No wonder so few showed up. *They were not welcomed.*

Your appeal to the readers for more subscribers, however sincere, will not be enough. A table that sells the *Journal*

that's been bugging me for a while and hear other people's thoughts.

I was all in favor of the "Green Scare" label last January. It made a lot of sense in a number of ways, especially at a time when it seemed like enviros were being singled out and scapegoated more than anyone else.

However, with the current cases coming to a close and the threat of 300- or 1,000-year sentences apparently diminishing, it seems like time

affecting Muslims, African-Americans, immigrants and many other groups. In my opinion, continuing to push the term "Green Scare" at this point in time is going to further classify us as white, elite environmentalists who only care about our own issues, and the enviro movement really doesn't need that right now, especially not the radical enviro movement. We need allies, and we're not the center of the universe.

handful of people who were originally indicted. They aren't (yet) holding congressional hearings about "have you or anyone you associate with ever been a member of the Sierra Club." Overall, it seems like kind of an exaggeration to continue using the term, and it distinctly separates us from other groups of people suffering under the current wave of repression, which, to me, seems like a very bad thing.

—CHRIS CALEF

Operation Backfire Defendants Take Plea Deals

BY THE CIVIL RIGHTS OUTREACH COMMITTEE

One year after the arrests of December 7, 2005, the Operation Backfire prosecutions have seen tremendous changes. All defendants facing federal charges in Oregon—with the exception of those not located by the authorities—have now entered into plea deals. On November 9, Nathan Block, Daniel McGowan, Jonathan Paul and Joyanna Zacher accepted deals that explicitly rejected any requirement to identify, provide information on or testify against others. As a precondition for these “global resolution” deals, the defense dropped its motion demanding information about whether National Security Agency wiretaps were used to gather evidence in this case (see *EF!* November-December 2006).

On September 27, two days before it was set to expire, the Oregon grand jury’s term was extended, and with it the imprisonment of grand jury resister Jeff Hogg. However, Hogg was finally released on November 15! We wish to thank Hogg’s lawyer, Paul Loney, as well as all those who supported Hogg and in some way contributed to his release. He will now be readjusting to life in Eugene, a community that showed exemplary support while Hogg was in prison.

As the Colorado federal court had previously agreed to transfer all charges relating to the 1998 Vail ski resort arson to District of Oregon jurisdiction, cooperating defendants Chelsea Gerlach and Stanislas Meyerhoff were arraigned on the Vail charges on September 29, and entered guilty pleas on December 14. Neither Gerlach nor Meyerhoff, who had pleaded guilty to a number of other charges in July, are expected to serve additional time in prison for the Vail arson. Both told the court that the late Bill “Avalon” Rodgers was solely responsible for the burning of buildings in Colorado.

On October 4, in a hearing announced to mainstream media by the Department of Justice the day before, Jennifer Kolar and Lacey Phillabaum (a former *Earth First! Journal* editor) pleaded guilty in the Western Washington US District Court to conspiracy, arson and destructive device

charges relating to the arson of the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture in 2001. In addition, Kolar pleaded guilty to charges relating to the 1998 attempted arson of Colorado’s Wray Gun Club, which sponsors a turkey shoot. As required by her plea agreement, Kolar will also plead guilty to the 1997 arson of the Cavel West horsemeat processing plant in Oregon, as soon as the related charges are transferred to Washington.

The government has recommended sentences of five to seven years for Kolar and three to five years for Phillabaum. Their formal sentencing is currently scheduled for January 5. Both Kolar and Phillabaum were released without bail following their pleas. As part of their federal plea agreements, they agreed to cooperate with both current and future government investigations, and to testify against others.

On November 9, Block, McGowan, Paul and Zacher—the four non-cooperating Oregon defendants—entered “guilty” pleas, which involve each defendant admitting their personal participation but do not require them to provide information about anyone else. These plea agreements are not sealed and are accessible to the public. The courtroom was filled with supporters during these hearings; unfortunately, court staff turned away many additional people at the door.

Joyanna Zacher pleaded guilty to one charge of conspiracy, plus several charges of arson and attempted arson relating to property destruction at the Romania Chevrolet dealership and the Jefferson Poplar Farm in 2001. Nathan Block pleaded guilty to similar charges from the same two incidents. The government has recommended sentences of eight years for both defendants.

Daniel McGowan pleaded guilty to one conspiracy charge and multiple charges of arson relating to the sabotage of Jefferson Poplar Farm and Superior Lumber Company offices. At the end of his hearing, McGowan read a statement that expressed his love for his family, his strongly held beliefs and his sorrow for any hurt that he had caused. McGowan’s suggested sentence is also eight years.



artwork by Brian Bowes (www.brianbowesart.com)

Finally, Jonathan Paul pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy and one count of arson relating to the Cavel West action. His suggested sentence is five years. Paul's sister Alexandra read a statement outside the courthouse, stating that Paul "will continue to be a person deeply committed to the betterment of our society and the elimination of animal and human suffering."

The Oregon defendants are currently scheduled for sentencing in April. Despite the plea agreements, federal prosecutors have asked the court to apply a "terrorism enhancement" at sentencing. Should Judge Aiken grant the government's request, the non-cooperating defendants could face up to 20 years in prison in addition to the terms of their resolution agreements. Any attempt to define these defendants as "terrorists" must be vigorously opposed.

The FBI's Operation Backfire against the environmental movement is far from over. Briana Waters still faces serious federal charges for her alleged participation in the arson at the University of Washington. She asserts her innocence on all counts and deserves our support. The four who have taken plea deals without offering information or testimony against others also deserve our strongest solidarity. Please continue to write letters, raise funds and otherwise assist grassroots support efforts. Talk with your friends, co-workers

and neighbors, and plan solidarity events.

If you have skills or resources that could complement our outreach efforts, please get in touch. As always, contact Lauren Regan of the Civil Liberties

Defense Center (lregan@cldc.org) if you have information that could possibly assist the non-cooperating defendants' attorneys. You can find legal documents at www.cldc.org. We look forward to your feedback and wish to continue building relationships of solidarity with all those engaged in anti-repression projects.

Donations to help Jeff Hogg post-release should be sent to Friends of Jeff Hogg, POB 12271, Eugene, OR 97440.

For more information, contact the Civil Rights Outreach Committee, POB 10384, Eugene, OR 97440; civilrightsoutreach@gmail.com; www.greenscare.org.

The Civil Rights Outreach Committee is a media working group that monitors the mainstream press surrounding the Green Scare and produces its own proactive media.

Non-Cooperating Defendants

Although some prisoners are listed together, they must be written to separately. See page 42 for additional guidelines.

•Nathan Block, #1663667, and Joyanna Zacher, #1662550, Lane County Jail, 101 W 5th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401; supportersofnathanandjoyanna@gmail.com.

•Daniel McGowan, released on bail. For more information, visit www.supportdaniel.org.

•Jonathan Paul, released on bail. For more information, contact Friends of Jonathan Paul, PMB 267, 2305 Ashland St, Ste C, Ashland, OR 97520; friendsofjonathanpaul@yahoo.com.

•Briana Waters, released on bail. For more information, visit www.supportbriana.org.

Animal Enterprise

BY WILL POTTER

After a cold and wet morning, politicians and celebrities slogged through the muck of the National Mall on November 13, to pay tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. and break ground on the new national memorial in his honor. Democrats and Republicans, Clinton and Bush, Oprah and Jesse were all on hand in muddied wingtips and pumps, clamoring to show their support for the civil rights leader and his once-controversial tactics.

Representative John Lewis of Georgia told PBS News-Hour, "King inspired me and thousands of other Americans to get in the way. He inspired us to get in trouble. But it was good trouble; it was necessary trouble. And that's why we honor Martin Luther King, Jr. today."

But hours later, those who had spent the morning waxing eloquent about dissent and making trouble were nowhere to be found as about half a dozen lawmakers allowed the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA) to pass the House of Representatives on a voice vote. Already passed by the Senate in September, the AETA was signed into law by President Bush on November 27.

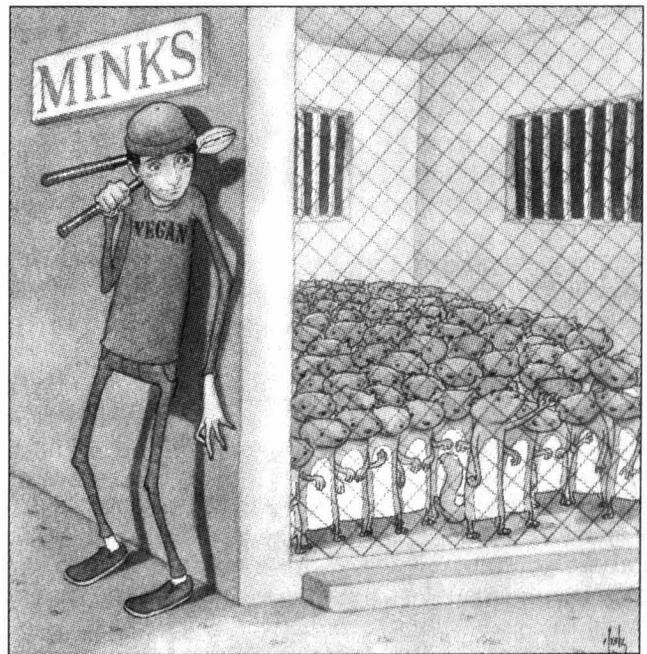
The AETA is essentially an expansion of the existing Animal Enterprise Protection Act (AEPA) of 1992. The punishable offenses included in the AEPA are limited to: causing "physical disruption to the functioning of an animal enterprise" and "economic damage exceeding \$10,000"; causing serious bodily injury or death in the course of these acts; or conspiring to do so. The AETA expands these punishable offenses to include: *any* damage or loss of property associated with animal enterprise, with no minimum dollar amount; placing a "person in reasonable fear of death... or serious bodily injury"; or conspiring to do so. It also prescribes harsher, escalating penalties.

The AETA is ostensibly meant to target underground, illegal actions committed in the name of animal rights by groups like the Animal Liberation Front. But underground activists won't lose much sleep over this bill. Their actions are already illegal (and they know it); the government has already labeled them the "number one domestic terrorist threat." And yet these activists continue to demonstrate that heavy-handed police tactics will not deter them. Legal, aboveground activists are the ones who should be most concerned about this vague and overly broad legislation, under which they could be considered "terrorists." The AETA sends a chilling message to activists of all social movements that political opportunists can use the rhetoric and resources of the War on Terrorism against them.

Corporations like Pfizer, Wyeth and GlaxoSmithKline joined the United Egg Producers, National Cattlemen's Beef Association and other New McCarthyists to rush through the AETA legislation on the very first day back from congressional recess. It seems that the shift to Democratic

control of Congress put a little spring in their step and gave this legislation—similar versions of which have languished in Congress since the mid-'90s—a new urgency. The law was rushed through the House as part of the suspension calendar, a political move used to usher through so-called non-controversial legislation with little debate.

Virginia Representative Bobby Scott—often called the "go-to-guy" in the House on civil liberties and civil rights issues—came out swinging in support of the "ecoterrorism" bill. Scott, a Democrat, said that existing laws have been "reasonably effective," but "gaps and loopholes" prevent law enforcement from going after animal rights "extremists."



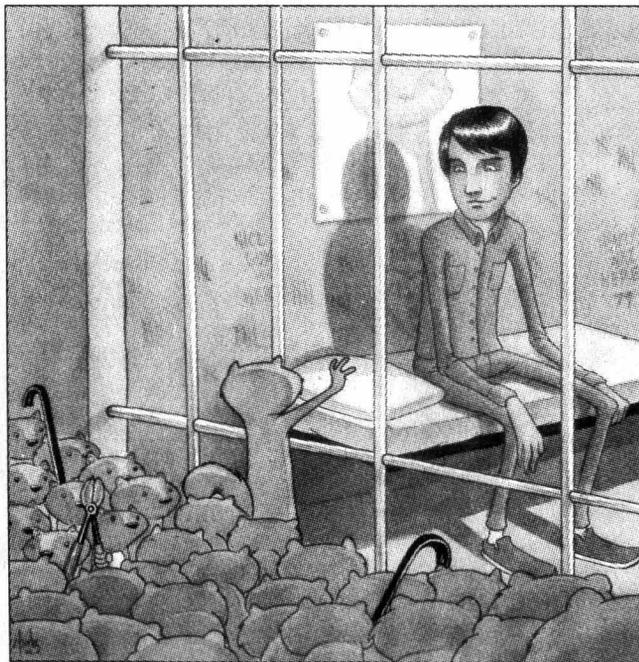
Scott failed to note, even in passing, that the existing AEPA was used to successfully prosecute seven Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) activists on "animal enterprise terrorism" charges for running a website. Ignoring this crucial bit of information, Scott said that activists are taking advantage of the fact that the AEPA doesn't cover "affiliates and associates" of animal enterprises.

Disturbingly, Scott said in passing that civil disobedience could be covered in the bill—which some other supporters of the bill have denied—but he tried to ease public fears by saying that the civil disobedience would have to cause disruption and loss of profits to qualify, and that "it must be proven that such losses were specifically intended." The same congressman who frequently praises the achievements of the civil rights movement is suddenly standing on the House floor and advocating the inclusion of that movement's tactics in a "terrorism" bill.

Terrorism Act Signed into Law

Apparently, the actions of animal rights activists aren't "good trouble." They aren't "necessary trouble." In a different time, though, civil rights activists weren't "good trouble," either. It's not a stretch to imagine similar legislation being used to target civil rights activists, if only Strom Thurmond had thought of it first. Supporters would probably have said it was all in the name of cracking down on "extremists" like Malcolm X. Meanwhile, anyone paying attention would see clear as day that the legislation was meant to have a chilling effect on all dissent.

Representative Thomas Petri, a Republican from Wisconsin usually in disagreement with Scott, said much of the



artwork by Tom Haubrick (www.haubrick.com)

same. He had the nerve to stand on the House floor and say, with a straight face, that current federal law, including the ACPA, has been "inadequate" in going after animal rights activists. Petri knows full well that *all* the crimes listed in this bill are already crimes, that the original bill has been used successfully, and that the animal and environmental movements have never claimed a single human life.

Petri and the corporations that support him call the existing legislation "inadequate" because, in their mind, the true threat is not the underground wing of the movement but the movement itself. The Malcolm Xes are threats but so are the MLKs, and they know it. That's where this vague and overly broad legislation comes into place, wrapping up civil disobedience, undercover investigations and other non-violent activity as "terrorism."

Only Representative Dennis Kucinich of Ohio spoke up against this dangerous legislation. "This bill was written to have a chilling effect," he said, "on a specific type

of protest." Kucinich got in a little back-and-forth with Wisconsin Representative James Sensenbrenner about the bill. Sensenbrenner repeatedly cited a provision of the bill that "exempts" First Amendment activity. Thank you to Sensenbrenner and our patriotic representatives for reminding us that there is still a First Amendment. However, saying, "This law is constitutional," doesn't make it so. If anything, it's an admission that the bill has serious flaws.

At one point, Sensenbrenner read off a list of quotes from animal rights activists that he said exemplified the targets of the legislation. Kucinich promptly noted that "those statements, in and of themselves, are constitutionally protected speech. Yet under this bill, they suddenly find themselves shifting into an area of doubt, which goes back to my initial claim that this bill was written to have a chilling effect upon a specific type of protest."

But perhaps the most disturbing segment of this whole scare-mongering debacle was how Sensenbrenner ended the floor debate: "This is a good bill. I think that all of the fears that the gentleman from Ohio has placed on the record are [considered] ill-founded by practically everybody who has looked through this bill, including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)."

The ACLU, in fact, had sent a letter to members of Congress on March 6, urging opposition to the legislation, and the Humane Society of the US (HSUS) sent a nearly identical letter. The biggest concerns raised in these letters were never addressed by Congress. Yet while the HSUS and other mainstream animal welfare groups like the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals were outspoken against the AETA, the ACLU informed lawmakers in September that "the ACLU does not oppose this bill."

Why? Perhaps because there are so many other civil liberties issues competing for critical attention. Perhaps because corporate scare-mongering and green baiting has turned animal rights activists into political lepers. Or perhaps history repeats itself. The ACLU has a long, venerable history of defending the civil liberties of even the most unsavory characters, including the KKK. Yet during the Red Scare of the '40s and '50s, the ACLU formally barred communists from leadership or staff positions. Meanwhile, the National Lawyers Guild took a beating for refusing to name names and purge members who also belonged to communist organizations, but it stood its ground.

This time around, the National Lawyers Guild was out front opposing the AETA and the Green Scare. And this time around, the silence of the ACLU spoke volumes, essentially giving the Green Scare the green light.

Will Potter is an award-winning reporter based in Washington, DC, who testified before Congress on the civil liberties implications of the AETA. He is the creator of GreenIsTheNewRed.com, where he blogs about the Green Scare and history repeating itself.

Smelter Struggles

Trinidad community fights Alcoa

BY SUJATHA FERNANDES

The roads that wander through the southwestern peninsula of Trinidad pass small fishing villages, mangrove swamps and coconut plantations; they skirt herds of buf-falypso and reveal sheltered beach coves. But in February 2006, Alcoa signed an agreement with the Trinidad and Tobago government that threatens to fundamentally alter this gentle landscape. The Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania-based company's plans to build a large aluminum smelter have sparked criticism from local residents and environmentalists.

The \$1.5-billion project is slated for the Chatham/Cap-de-Ville area and includes a 341,000 metric-ton-per-year aluminum smelter, an anode plant and a cast house. Alcoa, the world's leading producer of aluminum, is promoting the project as a boon to local employment and other community benefits.

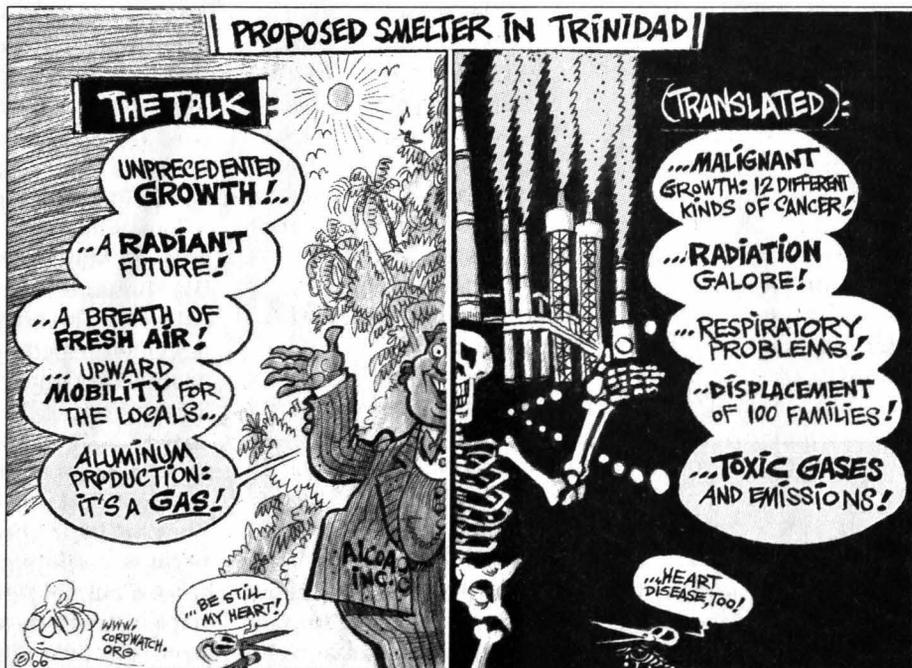
Alumina, from which aluminum is derived, would come from Alcoa refineries in Jamaica, Suriname and northern Brazil. Alcoa's Director of Public Strategy Wade Hughes has said that the government of Trinidad and Tobago invited Alcoa to build the smelter, citing the islands' advantages: competitive energy prices, local economic needs and "strategic positioning for manufacturing in close proximity to the large markets of North and South America and Europe."

In July, Alcoa chose Bechtel as its primary partner in conducting feasibility studies for the smelter. Over the last six years, the government of Trinidad and Tobago has already worked with Bechtel to construct four Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plants in Point Fortin, which have affected traditional fishing waters. Bechtel and Alcoa both hold contracts with the US military. Since 2004, Alcoa has received \$43.7 million to manufacture ground combat and tactical vehicles for the US Army and aluminum structural castings for the US Navy's Tactical Tomahawk Missile Program.

Cedros Peninsula United (CPU), a local organization opposing Alcoa's proposed smelter, charges that the project will hurt villages along the peninsula. It will displace

100 families, release emissions harmful to health and the environment, pose occupational safety hazards and diminish biodiversity. The group has also raised fears that the smelter will create electromagnetic fields (EMF). EMF have proven controversial at China's state-run aluminum smelters in Nanshan and Shandong, and at a facility that Alcoa operates in São Luís, Brazil.

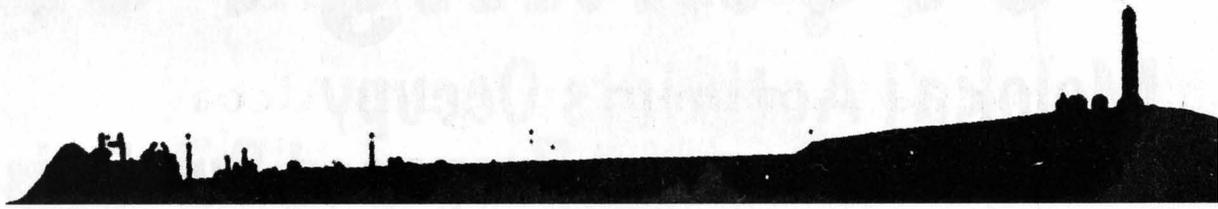
Alcoa has a long history of environmental violations. The US Department of Commerce states that Alcoa violated more than 100 regulations on the export of potassium fluoride and sodium fluoride between 1991 and



1995. According to the *New York Times*, Alcoa's Massena aluminum smelter in New York, was fined \$7.5 million in 1991—the largest criminal penalty at the time for hazardous waste violations.

The problems of toxic waste and pollution are also foremost for Trinidad's activists. Alcoa's Certificate of Environmental Clearance (CEC) application estimates that the proposed smelter would have an annual output of 600 metric tons of solid waste, as well as 50 cubic meters of wastewater per day.

The most voluminous solid waste is spent potlining (SPL), the corroded material removed from the steel shells or "pots" that hold molten aluminum. According to the



Alcoa website, SPL has been classified as hazardous waste because of its toxicity and explosive nature. Asked what Alcoa plans to do with Trinidad's SPL, Hughes replied that it "will be shipped to our processing facility in Gum Springs, Arkansas." Yet shipping potlining is a violation of the Basel Convention, an international agreement administered by the United Nations.

Other harmful emissions from aluminum smelters are clearly dangerous. Studies in Australia found that hydrogen fluoride, inspirable dust and sulphur dioxide from aluminum smelters caused respiratory problems such as asthma, wheezing and chest tightness in workers. A 30-year study by the University of Calgary in Canada, found in 2004 that aluminum smelter workers in Sardinia, Italy, exposed to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons were between 2.4 and five times more likely to die of pancreatic cancer. In Norway, the Department of Horticulture and Crop Sciences studied three aluminum smelters and concluded that even low emissions of fluoride cause serious damage to nearby vegetation. Another Alcoa smelter under production in east Iceland has led to similar protests over health and environmental effects (see *EF!* May-June 2006).

But, despite mounting opposition, Alcoa is moving ahead. In March 2006, it applied to the Environmental Management Agency for a CEC. Permission was granted in July for Alcoa to undergo an environmental impact assessment.

Alcoa has also spearheaded a public relations campaign to win over the populace with pledges of good jobs and a clean environment. The company, which earned \$26.2 billion in 2005, according to its website, is buying full-page advertisements in local newspapers. One ad promised "750 to 800 long-term jobs to Trinidad" and touted the smelter as part of Alcoa's "community partnerships." Another ad in the *Trinidad Express* read, "Alcoa's smelter in the Park. Progress—in harmony with Community and Culture," and another claimed, "Alcoa—longtime steward of the environment."

Fitzroy Beache, president of the Chatham/Cap-de-Ville Environmental Protection Group (CCEPG), is not convinced. "Alcoa does this everywhere it goes; it is doing this in Iceland to stop the protest and buy out everybody. Now it tries to come to the community saying it'll build parks and football fields. But we don't want that; we don't even want Alcoa in our community right now."

The prospect of the smelter is proving a unifying force as the ethnically diverse but tightly knit communities of

the peninsula organize to protect their environment and their way of life. The mostly poor, rural, black and brown communities of the peninsula have formed alliances and organizations such as the CCEPG, CPU and the Rights Action Group.

These organizations demanded a meeting with company representatives, and after all-night vigils outside the prime minister's office, protest marches and rallies, Alcoa agreed. On July 5 and 14, Adesh Surajnath, a technical engineer hired by Alcoa to do preliminary drilling, attended public meetings at the Chatham Community Center and answered questions.

Community leaders and residents alike expressed anger and distrust. One of the more than 300 attendees demanded to know how much compensation he would receive for the loss of the farming land that supports his family. Others in the small, crowded hall raised health and environmental concerns.

When Surajnath said he was unable to answer the questions, furious residents demanded an audience with ministers who could—including Minister of Energy and Petroleum Lenny Saith. According to Beache, the government should make its plans clear and initiate meaningful forums where the public can voice their concerns.

In addition to protests and marches, the Civil Rights Association and CCEPG are pursuing legal channels to stop the construction. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj, the lawyer on the case, is preparing to file public interest litigation to prevent the government from taking any further steps until it puts in place proper regulations.

One of the leaders of the campaign against the smelter is a small, young Indo-Trinidadian mother of two.

"The issue is preserving ourselves," she said, sitting on the veranda of her two-story house in Chatham. "We are aware of the health problems, the cancer, the asthma. We've seen the destruction of our coastlines with the LNG plants. People don't catch fish here now, you know?"

"They want to convert the entire southwest peninsula into an industrial belt. Alcoa will break all the rules to see that this proposed smelter goes ahead, but what do we have to benefit? Some temporary employment at minimum wage, but who gains all the profit? The people have nothing to gain from this."

For more information, visit www.rightsactiongroup.blogspot.com; www.nosmeltertnt.com; www.savingiceland.org.

A version of this article was originally published by CorpWatch and can be found at www.corpwatch.org.

Breaking Point

Moloka'i Activists Occupy Proposed Subdivision Site

BY BREE ULLMAN

Shortly before midnight on September 20, Moloka'i homesteader Moke Kim stood before the nine Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) trustees with fire in his eyes. "Everyone says that we must assimilate so that we will not be left behind," he said. "I don't want to be assimilated. I want to be left behind."

Kim is one of more than 300 people gathered to take a stand on what activists say is a battle to save the last Hawaiian island.

Public testimony has lasted nearly four and a half hours. At issue is the Moloka'i Ranch's Community-Based Master Land Use Plan, which would turn La'au Point, a pristine stretch of land on the southwest corner of the island, into a luxury subdivision. The plan comes with several incentives for the community, including the creation of new jobs and the promise of a land trust prohibiting development on a significant piece of the ranch's other lands. To the dismay of native Hawaiian activists, OHA voted unanimously to endorse the plan. OHA Trustee Collette Machado of Moloka'i calls it a "realistic solution to a 30-year struggle with Moloka'i Ranch."

Not everyone is convinced. Frustrated by the master plan's continued progress in the face of community opposition, resisters have resorted to tactics reminiscent of the 1970s' Kaho'olawe protests. Activists have begun an extended occupation of La'au Point, where they have built a traditional *hale* (dwelling) using mangrove and bamboo logs. On October 7, hundreds of protesters marched four

miles to the occupation site. This was the largest protest march in Moloka'i history and the first to follow traditional Hawaiian protocol. Moloka'i Ranch Cultural Advisor Pilipo Solatorio says he was glad the company cooperated with protesters by allowing him to give a traditional chant and answer the conch shell calls of entering marchers. As Solatorio stood at the open "no trespassing" gates to La'au, he was on the verge of tears.

"Only we understand this sense of place," he told marchers. "For others, it's *kala* (money)." Solatorio also says that he wished he could have marched alongside the protesters. "I saw the spirit of my ancestors in the people who walked through those gates."

Moloka'i citizens have defied development for decades. They see no reason to throw in the towel any time soon.

"We stopped the bombing of Kaho'olawe, we stopped the cruise ships, and we will stop gentlemen's estates from going up at La'au," says famed activist Walter Ritte, who has used civil disobedience tactics to fight development for more than 30 years.

Moloka'i residents also question the value of the promised jobs. "What exactly do they mean by bringing jobs to Maunaloa?" Josh Pastrana asks. "Do they mean minimum wage jobs cleaning people's houses? Cleaning people's toilets? Because that is not my idea of opportunity."

In a state where tourism rules local industry, Moloka'i seems almost a logical impossibility. The island contains the highest sea cliffs in the world, the longest white sand beach in Hawaii, the largest barrier reef in the island chain and hardly any tourism. There are no stoplights, no shopping malls, no buildings taller than a palm tree. Locals welcome visitors but not speculators. Moloka'i, they say, is not for sale.

Ritte says the outcome of the La'au conflict could determine the fate of much more than the 875 acres in jeopardy. "Who will control Moloka'i's future? Will it be the people of this island? Will their voices be heard? Or will it fall into the hands of big businesses and developers?" Ritte asks. "We pride ourselves on the fact that we are an island of people that speak up—as farmers, as fishermen, as independent people. If we lose this battle, this is what we lose."

"This is an island that refuses to be homogenized," says State Senator Clayton Hee, who joined the recent protest march to La'au Point. "On other islands people in need are stealing copper wire from the highways.



A traditional hale at La'au Point



photo by Todd Yamashita

Here, they hunt from the mountain; they fish from the sea. This is a human refuge."

On Moloka'i, where subsistence hunting and gathering still thrive, La'au is called "the icebox" for its abundant game and proximity to the Penguin Banks, the best fishing area on the island. The Moloka'i Hawaiian Homestead Association and other La'au development opponents say that the master plan will threaten their limited water supply and devastate important cultural resources on the only island where native Hawaiians still have a majority.

Moloka'i Properties Ltd., known locally as Moloka'i Ranch, insists that the land-use plan was developed in collaboration with the Moloka'i community and that it is a socially and culturally responsible project. Moloka'i Ranch is one of the state's largest landholders, with holdings encompassing some 65,000 acres. A subsidiary of Singapore-based BIL International Ltd., the ranch has been reportedly losing money for decades—partially because the community has successfully fought its various development plans.

The ranch says that more than 1,000 people participated in the public input process over the past two years, but videotapes of the meetings show that an overwhelming majority turned out only to tell the ranch how strongly they opposed La'au development. "Every meeting is pretty much the same," says Dan Emhof, who filmed many of the forums. "The people say 'no' over and over again. They're more like rallies than discussions. That's how few people have come out in support of the ranch."

"This is not a community plan," says planner Harmonee Williams of Townscape Inc., who joined protesters marching to La'au this month. She should know—she helped write it. Townscape was hired by Moloka'i Ranch to draft the environmental impact statement for the La'au Point proposal.

"A true community plan starts from nothing and asks the community what they want," she says. "In this case, [Moloka'i Ranch] decided La'au was going to happen and then asked the community what they wanted to do with the rest."

Steve Morgan, who has lived on the west end of the island for 30 years, says the people of Moloka'i do not want

to sacrifice some land to preserve other land. They want to preserve all of it. He noted that for the past three decades, no developer has managed to touch the land offered by the trust, and that anyone who tried would have to go through the same difficult land-use process that the ranch is going through now.

"This plan is a Trojan horse," says Morgan. "The ranch knows it could never develop on those lands," he says. "That's why it's offering them up." He adds that the size of the offer means that Moloka'i's refusal to accept the deal will set a precedent. "It will tell [Molokai Ranch] whether we will compromise who we are."

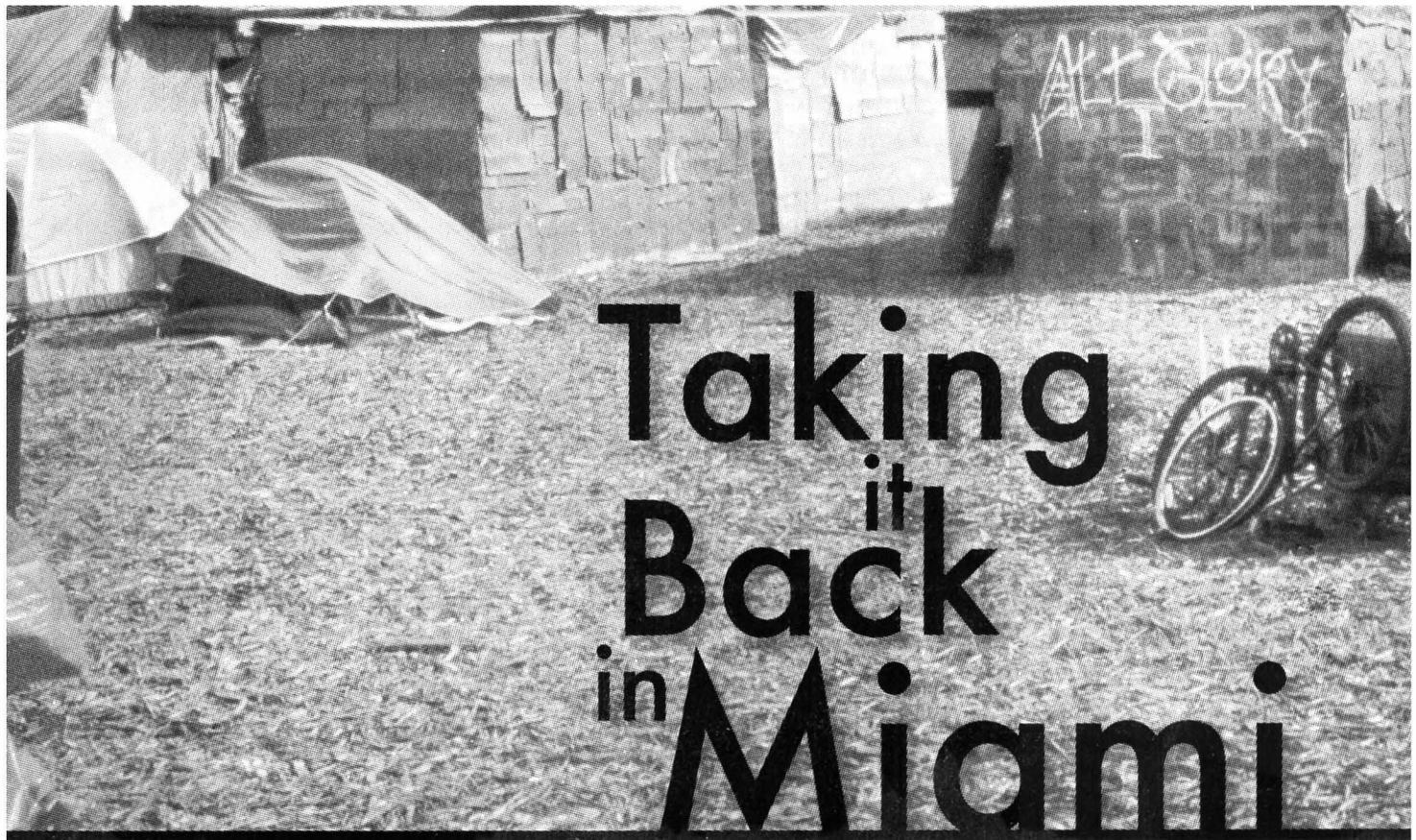
Moloka'i seems to play by its own rules, and relaxing is not on the agenda any time soon. The occupation of the La'au Point site evoked the devil-may-care appeal of a pirate adventure, complete with the formation of a settlement on a slice of land nicknamed Shipwreck Beach. Supplied by a small flotilla of fishing boats, more than 50 people spent shifts building a *hale* on the contested land.

Ritte was thrilled to see that the original occupation crew was not just the usual suspects. "I'd never seen these guys at any of the meetings, but when the day arrived, they were here. These are the men who actually spend time at La'au, and they were the only ones who could have pulled this off." The men are calling themselves "frontliners," and they spent much of the first day chasing sinking mangrove logs to the bottom of the sea.

Despite the peaceful nature of recent protests, the Save La'au movement is couched in the language of battle. The frontliners who initiated the occupation refer to Walter Ritte as "General Wal." In protest of the OHA resolution supporting the plan, frontliner Hanohano Naehu held a sign that read, "This is war."

When Jimmy Duvauchelle, Moloka'i Ranch's head cattleman, asked Naehu to put the sign down, he refused. "I hold this sign not because I hate anyone," Naehu says, "but because development is like bombs to me.... This is for my survival."

A version of this article originally appeared in the Honolulu Weekly and can be found at www.honoluluweekly.com/cover/2006/10/break-point.



Taking it Back in Miami

BY MAX RAMEAU

On October 23, a group of activists and homeless people landed on the corner of 62nd Street and Northwest 17th Avenue, in the impoverished Liberty City section of Miami, Florida. We removed about eight garbage bags full of debris from the vacant lot there, unloaded materials and supplies, and erected tents. We also planted a huge sign that simultaneously described our occupation, made a call to action and gave name to a movement: Take Back the Land.

Taking its name from the Swahili word for "unity," the Umoja Village Shantytown is now a self-sustaining community that houses 35 previously homeless people and functions as a full-blown urban shantytown. The lot, which is owned jointly by the city of Miami and Miami-Dade County, features approximately 20 wood-framed structures and includes multiple duplex-style housing units built from wooden pallets, a fully functional kitchen, an all-natural toilet housed in a porta-potty shell and a shower powered by an elevated water container.

The public land, which once housed a low-income apartment complex, is now controlled by its residents and the community at large. The occupation and the overwhelming community support for it did not arise in a vacuum, but are the result of dedicated local organizations and individuals working for social change.

Miami has been a focal point of the recent mad rush to develop every square inch of the Earth for maximum profit in the name of progress. No longer a haven for affordable retirement, Miami has recently witnessed some of the greatest land value increases in the US. Wealthy developers and the mass media celebrate what they call a "development boom" and swim in the profits.

Most others, however, endure raised rents and deteriorating living conditions, and find owning a home increasingly out of reach. In the black community, gentrification—the forced removal and replacement of low-income residents by wealthier people—has hit with a vengeance. For the poor, that "boom" is the sound of their community being destroyed.

Worse still, the government that many have turned to for solutions seems to be in on the plot. Logic dictates that during a housing shortage, government agencies would increase the number of affordable housing units. However, the exact opposite is occurring as local governments actively *decrease* the number of units, despite public outcry. The shrinking pool of affordable housing has devastated the poor, but it profits developers, who are free to jack up the rent on people with few options.

To add insult to injury, tens of millions of dollars earmarked for low-income housing were stolen in a case of massive government corruption, which was unearthed by the *Miami Herald* in July. The funds were, instead, delivered to the hands of wealthy and politically connected developers. Mass media reports of the corruption outraged the general public, creating the political opportunity to take back the land.

This confluence of factors makes clear that neither the market nor the government is interested in using land responsibly or appropriately. We are not being heroic in planning a land takeover; to address this issue,

there is literally no one else to whom we can turn. The conclusion is surprisingly self-evident: Taking back the land is a legitimate response to gentrification and the housing crisis. However, we are aiming our sights higher than merely providing a transactional service, such as building housing. We want to build a liberation movement.

We have developed objectives on three levels: First, we will provide housing and food to those in need. Second, we will challenge the system itself by asserting our right to directly relate to the land. We need neither government nor developers to serve as intermediaries between the people and the land on which we live, work and play. This is our land, and we will make better use and take better care of it than them.

And third, we will build a new society based on human dignity and respect, not relationships of pigmentation, gender, capital or weaponry. As part of this new society, the residents are being trained on how to run every aspect of the city that we are building, including small and large decision making, planning, building units, cleaning, cooking, conflict resolution and more.

The theory behind this action, then, rests on several assumptions:

This movement is fundamentally about land; we have the right to control the land in our community and use it for the public good; the government is an integral part of the problem and, therefore, cannot be depended upon to forge a solution; and development is not about buildings, paved streets or technology. Rather, true development is fundamentally about the lives and potential of actual people.

As such, the inevitable question arose: What are our demands of the

government? This is not an elaborate scheme to force the government into negotiations. We do not want its misplaced sympathy, false promises or grandiose plans. We want it to refrain from screwing this up as badly as its previous "attempts" at low-income housing. We have, therefore, only one demand of the government: Leave us alone.

In addition to serving as a model for reclaiming both public policy and land, this occupation offers valuable lessons in movement building. In our broader response to the housing crisis, the movement is coordinating efforts for greater impact. Some are challenging the public corruption aspect of the issue; a large and powerful coalition has been built to address the public policy aspect of housing, making demands and



keeping the issue on the front burner of public opinion. Take Back the Land squarely challenges the structure of the system and the ability of capitalism/white supremacy/patriarchy to provide fair land usage for people. Each part of the movement coordinates with but does not control the actions of the others.

The political component of Take Back the Land is led by an all-black coalition. After laying the theoretical groundwork, we understood the importance of working with other

concerned parties and sought the assistance of Lake Worth Global Justice, a grouping of mostly young, white people dealing with globalization, as well as environmental and land issues.

The Lake Worth folks were granted broad discretion to work their magic but were willing to work under black political leadership—a rare and critically important concession that many non-black organizations are unwilling to make, even when working in the black community. The Umoja Village could not have been built without their incredible participation.

The black organizations have built real capacity by learning from the Lake Worth folks, and we like to think they have learned from our political vision. This action was the result of a real coalition with real shared power, mutual trust and respect. To rework the popular saying, it takes a village to build Umoja. And it took *umoja* to build a village.

As with all capitalist economic cycles, however, this boom was not built to last. Two forces are headed for what might be a socially defining collision. The affordable housing shortage continues to intensify, just as the housing bust, which will leave potentially thousands of housing units uncompleted or unoccupied, picks up steam.

The paradox of the people-less homes sharing a city with the homeless people has profound implications for land struggles in the US. This time, however, the response—or lack thereof—of the social justice movement is taking center stage. Are we ready to Take Back the Land?

For more information, contact afrimax@gmail.com; takebacktheland.blogspot.com.

Max Rameau is an organizer with the Center for Pan-African Development, the group that initiated Take Back the Land.

DANGER, LIFE, DEATH AND HOPE: DEFENDING HARLEM'S COMMUNITY GARDENS

BY JESSI JETPACK AND ARESH JAVADI

Forty-five-day eviction letters have been sent to seven East Harlem community gardens with 16 more to follow. What!? I thought all the gardens in New York City were saved!

Not quite.

More than 50 New York community gardens are in imminent danger of being bulldozed. Many of these are in East Harlem.

In the 1960s, East Harlem—a primarily African-American and Latino neighborhood known also as Spanish Harlem and *El Barrio*—was decimated by arsonist landowners who, prompted by falling property values, burned down their own buildings to collect the insurance money. Meanwhile, willful neglect by city agencies exacerbated problems in African-American and Latino neighborhoods, leaving Harlem and similar neighborhoods across the five boroughs with countless demolished buildings and vacant lots.

From this wreckage, East Harlem residents created community green spaces to help renew their neglected neighborhoods. One garbage bag at a time, community members cleared mountains of trash from vacant lots and turned them into beautiful community gardens full of vegetables, fruit trees, shade trees, bushes, flowers and herbs. With these new gardens, East Harlem gained much needed public green space, venues of cultural expression, places for neighborhood kids to play,

and sources of oxygen, healthy food and healing medicine.

Several decades later, in an ironic twist of fate, East Harlem's gardens

is the Nueva Esperanza Community Garden on the corner of 110th Street and Fifth Avenue. Founded in 1988 and tended by community gardeners from Bangladesh, Germany, China, Puerto Rico and Harlem, Nueva Esperanza is home to a very old corkscrew willow tree, two peach trees, several cats and kittens, and numerous tomatoes, melons, squash, corn, sunflowers, beans, basil, greens and more. During the day, the gardeners can be seen hard at work and in the evenings, sharing food and music with neighbors and anyone who wants to come in.

In early June, the city's Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) broke into the garden and tore out its *casita* (little house), toolshed, trellises, grape vines and the borders of the garden boxes. All the garden tools and gardeners' belongings disappeared or were thrown away. But gardeners broke HPD's lock the following week and took back the garden!

Planned for the Nueva Esperanza site is a high-rise luxury condominium development, ostensibly intended to finance a museum (showcasing African art owned by wealthy white collectors) to be built next door. The museum was fast-tracked by politicians and is generally seen as an outside entity and a gentrifying force in the community. Despite this, it would be easy to have the museum and community garden coexist if only the attendant high-rise condominiums were built on a different site (or not built at all!).

are under attack. Now that the community gardens have breathed life back into East Harlem, the city wants to sell them to developers for a hefty profit. It is the positive impact of the community gardens themselves that has resulted in bulldozers at their gates. This is all despite the fact that Harlem has hundreds of vacant lots that could be developed without displacing gardens.

First on the city's demolition list



Illustration by Brian Bowen (www.brianbowensart.com)

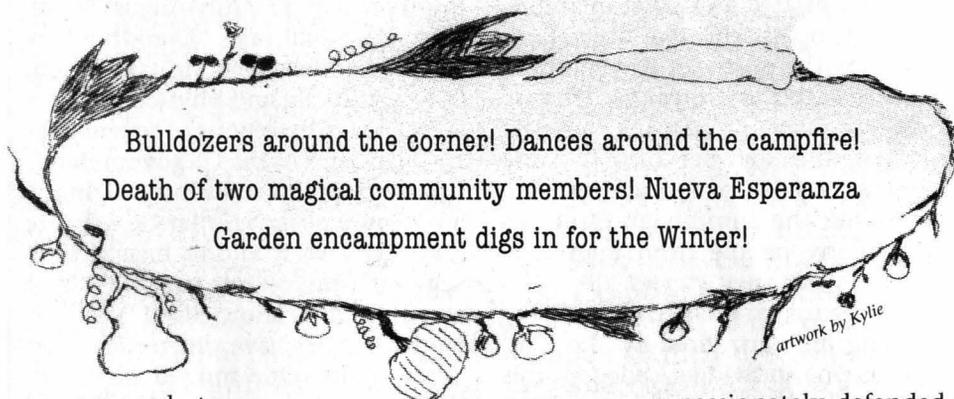
There are thousands of empty buildings and tens of thousands of vacant lots in the city on which housing could be built.

The Harlem United Gardeners (HUG), a coalition representing the East Harlem area, has been meeting intensively for the last few months. The gardeners have been trying to decide how to combat the attack on their gardens, many of which have been a part of the neighborhood and their lives for more than 20 years.

The mission of HUG and the More Gardens! Coalition is simple and direct: to make all community gardens permanent and create more gardens. This is a crucial goal for an area with less than one-fourth of an acre of green space per 1,000 people,

Two months ago, Victor Medina, a longtime Harlem community gardener at the 116th Block Association Garden, died of complications after surgery. Victor was a well-loved member of the garden community and played a big part in bringing together gardeners in East Harlem to fight the evictions. Victor readily volunteered to lock down from his wheelchair when he heard of the danger facing the gardens and his beloved trees. A memorial was later held at Victor's garden on November 19.

On November 12, we held a memorial for our fallen comrade Brad Will, who was killed by paramilitaries in Oaxaca, Mexico, while documenting the popular uprising there (see page 36). Brad was a key member of More Gardens! in its inception and



as opposed to the 2.5 acres recommended for the city. Many gardeners live among the cement high-rises that represent the highest population concentration of projects in New York.

We are telling HPD that Harlem needs its gardens. We are demanding that if gardens are destroyed, the city offer new sites that are accessible, comparable in size and permanent to any gardeners who are displaced.

Bulldozers are expected to come for Nueva Esperanza soon. Volunteers stay in the garden overnight and keep an early morning lookout. A lock-down has been set up for one garden defender to lock herself or himself into and delay the bulldozers while garden supporters and media are contacted. The gardeners are keeping a vigil. They have drawn a line in the grass. They are asking for experienced defenders to join them.

Death in the Movement

New York City's community gardeners lost two important people recently.

passionately defended community gardens. He contributed much to the garden struggle in New York City, sharing ideas, tactics and music, and never hesitating to put his body on the line. He was one of many people at the (old) Esperanza Community Garden encampment to lock himself to the garden when the bulldozers showed up.

We encourage people to remember Victor and Brad for the work they did and to help create a more just and sustainable world.

The encampment is urgently inviting both new and experienced activists to join in the fun. For more information, contact More Gardens! at (718) 585-2109; jecifer@gmail.com; www.moregardens.org.

Jessi Jetpack is a member of the More Gardens! Coalition who, as a child, read books instead of going outside. Jessi would like to have called this article "La Guerra de Los Jardines IV: Una Nueva Esperanza."

Aresh Javadi is a leprechaun and a founding member of the More Gardens! Coalition.

BARE BONES

EPA to Regulate Form of Nanotechnology

In November, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) placed increased regulations on nanotechnologies using silver ions—the first case of government regulation of nanotechnology. From now on, manufacturers of nanosilver will need to provide scientific proof that their products do not pose any environmental or health risks.

Nanosilver, one of the most common forms of nanotechnology, is typically used to kill bacteria in shoe liners, food-storage containers, air fresheners and washing machines. Critics of nanotechnology are concerned that after nanosilver is discarded, it could enter the environment and kill off beneficial bacteria populations.

Honeywell Agrees to Clean Up Superfund Lake

In October, after a 17-year legal battle, Honeywell International agreed to remove toxic sediments from New York's Onondaga Lake at a cost of more than \$450 million. The cleanup will be one of the largest environmental recovery projects in New York State history. Onondaga Lake is one of only three lakes classified as Superfund sites by the Environmental Protection Agency.

From 1917 through 1986, chemical company AlliedSignal disposed of toxic waste at a site near Onondaga Lake. A 2002 study found elevated levels of mercury, benzene, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other toxic compounds in the lake. Honeywell merged with AlliedSignal in 1999, assuming the latter's liabilities in the process.

While many view the cleanup plan as a landmark victory, others consider it insufficient. They suggest that more than \$2 billion would be required to properly decontaminate Onondaga Lake.

ARBITRARY LINES AND MILITARIZED ZONES

BY CINDER

This past Fall, the US government and its corporate cronies worked overtime to further militarize the US-Mexico border. On September 21, Boeing won a \$67-million federal contract to construct a "virtual fence" along a 28-mile stretch of the border. The high-tech barrier will include 1,800 surveillance towers, sensors and even unmanned spy planes. Government officials have promised that this will be the first of many contracts awarded under the new Secure Border Initiative, a multibillion-dollar plan to reduce undocumented entry along both the northern and southern US borders over the next six years (see *EF!J* July-August 2006).

On October 26, President Bush signed the Secure Fence Act into law. This new law authorizes the construction of more vehicle barriers, checkpoints and hundreds of miles of additional fence along the southern border. It also gives the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) the ability to increase the use of advanced technology. In the past year, the National Guard has also been deployed to the border, and the number of Border Patrol agents has increased significantly.

In the midst of these steps toward a more fascist military presence in the Sonoran Desert, the Tohono O'odham people, along with the Derechos Humanos Coalition, the American Indian Movement (AIM) and the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), called an Indigenous Border Summit of the Americas for September 26 through October 1,

on the San Xavier Reservation, just outside of Tucson, Arizona. The conference initiated a discussion among Native peoples who live on nations spanning the northern and southern borders—arbitrary lines that they do not recognize. Bill Means, an AIM veteran and founder of IITC, and Dennis Banks, a co-founder of AIM, facilitated the summit and encouraged many people from many nations to share their stories.

The discussion focused on how the ongoing militarization of the border—as one individual called it, this "warfare waged upon us"—will continue to affect indigenous communities, especially the seven nations living along the southern border: the Kumeyaay, Cocopah, Tohono O'odham, Akimel O'odham, Yaqui, Yavapai-Apache, Tiwa and Kickapoo. The conference also addressed concerns over the Bush administration's recent moves to nullify the 1794 Jay Treaty, which recognizes indigenous peoples' right to border passage, and to introduce legislation requiring DNA tests to determine Indian blood. This conference made clear that indigenous peoples have not consented to nor been consulted about these actions, which are in violation of their treaty rights.

Many attendees recounted abuses by the Border Patrol and the National Guard. These forces have been running rampant on Tohono O'odham land: carving their own roads through the desert, flying helicopters too low overhead, creating traffic on reservation roads, camping near sacred sites, surveilling ceremonies, entering homes, harassing indigenous people

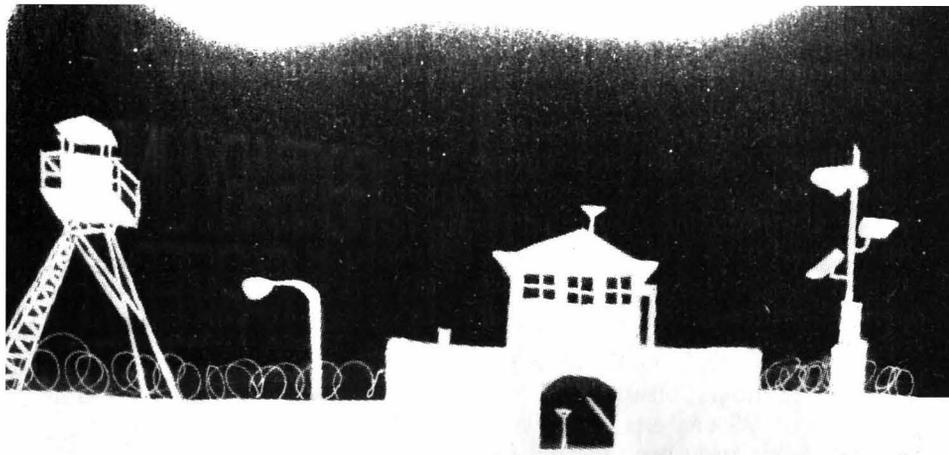
legally crossing the border, and creating a culture of intimidation, fear and disrespect (see *EF!J* July-August 2004). One individual said, "Everything we hold sacred has been violated—mentally, spiritually and physically."

This led to assertions of sovereignty and criticisms of the US government's failure to respect indigenous rights. A few people observed that "if we were sovereign, we wouldn't have an occupying army on our nation." Many agreed and acknowledged that US border policies have superceded their treaty rights. One individual stated, "Sovereignty is a myth; we only have as much as Congress allows us."

Many were critical of Tohono O'odham tribal leaders, who are seen as complicit in the militarization of indigenous land. The tribal government receives DHS money to fund housing, health care and education. In exchange, O'odham elected officials do not respond to people's questions about what the federal government is doing and are "afraid to speak up."

One person described how decisions about their land are being made without mass participation or accountability: "The head of DHS flew in, touched the ground and left. The majority of the people didn't get to speak with him, only the tribal leaders." But there were calls for the people "to start talking back.... The government is not going to resolve our problems; the only one who can resolve our problems is us."

In one of the most exciting moments of the summit, a member of the Six Nations presented a Mohawk warrior flag (which is flown during battle) and a Six Nations flag (which has the



tree of peace at its center) to the Tohono O'odham people. His message of solid and unending resistance without negotiation was received well. He said that the current resistance in Caledonia, Canada, grew from a small group who simply uttered, "No. You are not building homes on our land" (see *EF!* November-December 2006). He added, "If you're going to have resistance, you start and you cannot stop. They know we are not going to back down." He offered the example of the Six Nations physically reclaiming a portion of their ancestral land from a housing developer as an inspiration to those along the southern border. "Tell them, 'No. You are not building a fence across our land.' You have our support."

Another O'odham, Mike Wilson, also called for more action on the reservation in the form of humanitarian aid. Wilson fills the water stations that migrants use frequently as they make the perilous journey through the Sonoran Desert. He feels that the tribal government is doing nothing to prevent deaths on the reservation and that not enough of his fellow O'odham are offering a helping hand. "No one should die for a cup of water," he stated. Another person warned, "Indian and Mexican, we're the same people, yet our captor has brainwashed us into racism."

Many at the summit emphasized how many migrants are indigenous people from Mexico and Central and South America. One individual stated, "When Indian relatives come across the border, we don't see them as criminals, as illegal aliens. We see them as Indians."

Some described the larger picture of indigenous peoples being pushed off their lands in the Global South and forced to make the journey to the US so that they and their families can survive. One person illustrated the horrible degeneration of traditional lifeways that follows loss of land: "When you are removed from your land, you are no longer called an Indian but a farmworker. This separation of identity is... genocide."

The main goal of the summit was to gather all these different perspectives and experiences into a unified voice. Indigenous nations have been approached separately and offered varying deals by the US and Mexican governments in an attempt to divide them. The last day of the conference was set aside for drafting statements that were issued to all indigenous nations, the general public, the US and Mexican governments, and the United Nations.

In October, Subcomandante Marcos of the Zapatista National Liberation Army spoke in Magdalena de Kino, Mexico—not far from the Arizona-Sonora border. There, he offered a warning that echoed some of the sentiments expressed at the summit: "And there will be many gatherings and declarations, but our poor Mexican men and women are going to continue dying on Navajo land or on the land of the O'odham. Those things are not going to change if we continue believing in those above."

For more information, visit www.treatycouncil.org; www.aimovement.org; deletetheborder.org.

When not fighting the man, Cinder likes to climb Saguaros,

BARE BONES

Kashmir Border Wall Drives Carnivores into Villages

In 2006, a record number of leopards and Himalayan black bears raided Indian villages along the Pakistan border, killing at least 12 people and injuring dozens more. At least six bears and leopards have been killed in retaliation. The reason for this unprecedented increase in animal/human violence: a 10-foot-tall, 450-mile-long fence built by India in 2003, in order to keep out Pakistani militants.

"Fencing... has restricted the trans-border movement of wild animals in the border areas of the state," says Qazi Mohammed Afzal, Kashmir's environmental minister. "If people stand divided due to the fence, then so do animals."

A 1970 ban on hunting in Kashmir has led to the growth of leopard and bear populations. The destruction and settlement of the state's pine forests have also contributed to increased contact between animals and humans.

New York Resumes Bobcat Trapping

New York's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is ending its 20-year moratorium on bobcat and fisher trapping. In October, the DEC announced that it would be instituting an experimental research trapping season in upstate New York. The season will run from late October to mid-February, over the next three years.

The DEC will issue free, special permits to trappers, who must give the animals' skinned carcasses to researchers but are allowed to keep the pelts. According to the DEC, the study will collect population data and measure the effectiveness of trapping as a form of furbearer management.

REAL ID REALLY SUCKS



BY TROUBLE!

The Real ID Act, which was signed into law on May 11, 2005, is a not-so-random smorgasbord of almost everything that sucks, packed neatly into a rider on a routine military spending bill. This act was originally authored as an anti-immigration measure by Representative Jim Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin—well known for his love of war, torture, intellectual property rights and decency regulations, as well as his hatred of immigrants, taxes and gays. It includes provisions for higher bonds for detained migrants and makes applying for asylum more difficult.

Especially worrisome to undocumented migrants, activists of any sort and their supporters should be

the act's expanded definition of "terrorism." For US citizens, as well as documented and undocumented migrants, "terrorist activity" now includes sabotage of any transport vessel, use of any weapon with intent to cause substantial harm to people or property, threat of assassination, gathering information on a target of a potential terrorist attack and more. For undocumented migrants, "terrorist acts" also include being a representative or member of an alleged terrorist group, endorsing "terrorist activity," and receiving military-style training from or materially supporting "terrorist groups." This type of legislation has already been used to threaten Green Scare defendants with extended sentences, and it will continue to be used against those

taking direct action in the name of animals and Mother Earth.

But wait, it gets better!

Title II of the Real ID Act mandates the creation of "Real IDs," nationally standardized identification cards and licenses implanted with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) transponders. After May 11, 2008, anyone residing in the US will need a Real ID to drive, take a train or plane, or receive any federal services requiring identification. Though the Real ID doesn't technically constitute a national ID card—it won't be required of US citizens—the act states that "a federal agency may not accept, for any official purpose, a driver's license or identification card issued by a state to any person unless the state is meeting the [new] requirements." Personal information stored on the

Frontlines

Indigenous Blockades Slash Peru's Oil Production

More than 800 elders, women and children from the Achuar nation joined in a blockade that shut down most of Peru's oil production facilities for two weeks in October. The blockade also prevented airport, road and river access to Achuar territory in the Amazon. The Peruvian government initially sent in 200 national police officers, but the face-off remained peaceful.

The Achuar forced the government and Argentine oil company Pluspetrol to construct a new hospital, create a multimillion-dollar health budget for the nation, give five percent of Loreto state oil royalties to Achuar community development, supply one year of emergency food to communities affected by pollution, and acknowledge the Achuar refusal of any new oil contracts and the cancellation of existing ones.

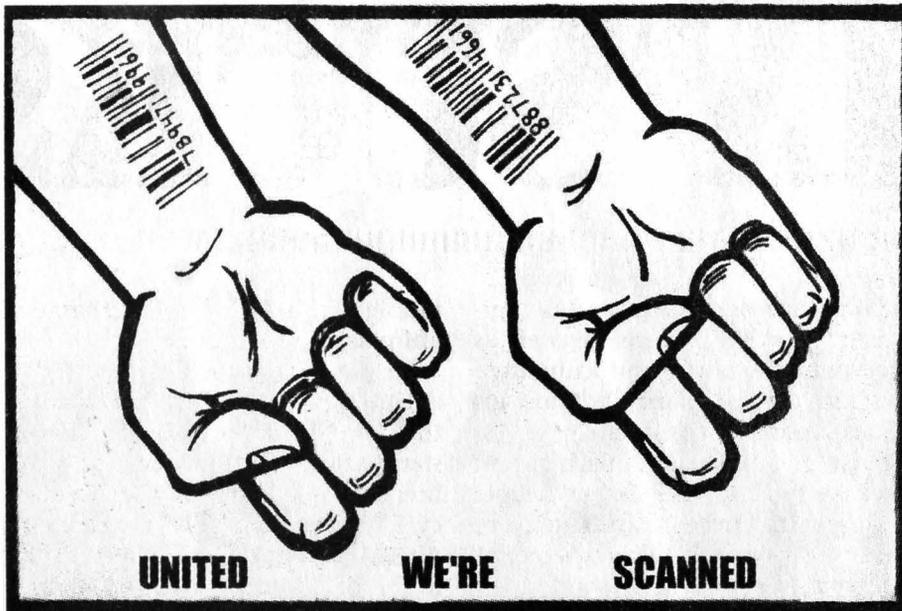
The blockade came in response to more than 30 years of illegal dumping into nearby waterways by the oil industry and two years of failed government negotiations.

Peabody Coal Can't Hide Down Under

On October 9, a group of more than 30 outraged climate activists occupied and disrupted Peabody Coal's office in Newcastle, Australia. Representatives from the United Nations of the South Pacific joined with Hunter Valley residents and folks from more than five countries to protest Peabody's destruction of the Navajo nation's cultural and environmental heritage at Black Mesa in northern Arizona. The activists demanded that Peabody cancel its proposed merger with Australian company Excel Coal and end all coal mining. To date, more than 15,000 Diné have been evicted from their ancestral lands in order to secure the resources beneath.

Italian ALF Liberates More Than 1,000

On November 21, a group of masked animal liberationists cut a hole in the roof of the Harlan Corporation breeding building in Correzzana, northeast of Milan. Once inside, the resistant rascals relocated 25 primates and more



RFID transponders will be accessible by "common machine-readable technology," which is vulnerable to hacking as well as collection by businesses that can resell it to advertisers. The information collected by the government when issuing Real ID cards will amount to a national digital database of all US citizens' personal information.

When applying for Real IDs, citizens will be required to present identity documentation far exceeding current requirements. This will put many already oppressed demographics at even greater risk of government scrutiny. The same "Employment Verification System" that is being used to round up undocumented migrants

across the country will presumably out every transsexual person whose personal information doesn't match up (see page 28).

Lastly, Title III calls for massive border "security": the construction of walls and installation of high-tech surveillance technology, unimpeded by any judicial review, existing laws or environmental protections. This construction will cut through massive swaths of protected wilderness and habitat (see EJI July-August 2006). The manufacture of new IDs, card readers and border infrastructure required by the REAL ID Act will cost taxpayers more than \$11 billion.

This legislation is being fought by such disparate groups as the National Governors' Association, American Immigration Lawyers Association, American Civil Liberties Union, National Association of Evangelicals, American Library Association and more than 600 other organizations.

To ask Sensenbrenner for more information about the Real ID Act, contact (202) 225-5101; sensenbrenner@mail.house.gov.

trouble! wears a tinfoil hat to bed.

than 1,000 mice to more peaceful settings. The liberators proceeded to destroy computer equipment and smear feces and something resembling blood on the walls.

As with many animal supply companies, Harlan's record of animal abuse is undeniable and unconscionable. Animals in Harlan's torture chambers have gone without food and water for days on end. Similar atrocities at Harlan labs in the UK have been extensively documented in undercover video, which is available on the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection's website.

Oaxaca Solidarity Activists Attack Tucson Free Trade Center

As the suits went to work at the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade in Tucson, Arizona, on November 20, they were greeted by glued locks, broken glass and spray-painted messages of "Viva Oaxaca" and "Free Trade = Death." This sabotage was done in response to the Zapatistas' call for actions in solidarity with the struggle in Oaxaca: "We should show our commitment to each other in our actions,... just as the compañer@s of the Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca are showing us their dignity in struggle."

The targeted law center plays a critical role in drafting the neoliberal policies that have destroyed the lives of many people throughout Latin America. In 2004, for example, it hosted the Andean Free Trade Agreement summit.

Greenpeace Activists Lock Down at Didcot Power

When workers showed up at Didcot Power near Oxfordshire, UK, on November 2, they were presented with a paralyzed power plant. Greenpeace activists had entered the site along a railroad, chained themselves to a coal conveyor belt and ascended a solitary chimney, bringing the facility to a halt. Two protestors repelled down the chimney and painted "Blair's Legacy" down its face.

The non-violent occupation ended the next day at 3:30 p.m., after a court injunction was obtained against the activists. Twenty-five people were arrested and released on bail to await a January court date.

The action cost RWE npower, owner of Didcot, nearly \$1 million due to a 50 percent cut in power generation. This was the third and most potent protest at Didcot this year.

ANY ART YOU CREATE CAN AND WILL BE USED AGAINST YOU:



Steven Kurtz interacts with a participant during CAE's "GenTerra" project at the Museum of Natural History, London, UK, in 2004.

BY MGM

For Steven Kurtz and the Critical Art Ensemble (CAE), the idea of pissing off major corporations was nothing new. Monsanto had sent a cease-and-desist order to CAE for their Contestational Biology installation, during which CAE reverse engineered Roundup Ready crops with a simple nutritional supplement, rendering the genetically engineered (GE) soy, corn and canola plants vulnerable—instead of immune—to the toxic herbicide. Imagine Monsanto's reaction upon learning that CAE was calling for Fuzzy Biological Sabotage (FBS) as a fresh tactic to disrupt the creation and distribution of harmful new GE products.

But it's one thing to piss off a major corporation and quite another to have the Department of Justice breathing down your neck. That's what happened to Kurtz and Robert Ferrell after the sudden and natural death of Kurtz's wife on May 11, 2004. Kurtz and Ferrell had been working on CAE's latest project, Marching Plague, concerning government pursuit of biological warfare programs allegedly intended to

protect against a biological attack. When paramedics and cops rushed to Kurtz's house to assist his wife, they noticed the scientific equipment in his house. "This can't be right," they said to themselves. The Joint Terrorism Task Force was called, and the FBI launched an investigation attempting to charge Steve Kurtz and CAE's long-time collaborator, Robert Ferrell with bioterrorism. Even though the Department of Justice and the FBI failed to bring those charges, they are not leaving these men or CAE alone.

All of Kurtz's and CAE's files, books, notes and computers—including all the work for the then-unreleased Marching Plague project and equipment used in two other previously displayed projects—were confiscated by the FBI, which still has not returned any of the materials. Kurtz and Ferrell have already spent more than \$150,000 in legal costs. They are currently accused of the charges of mail and wire fraud concerning the purchase and sharing of \$256 worth of two harmless and legally obtained bacteria strains used in three of CAE's art installations. Thanks to the USA PATRIOT Act, these charges carry the same

maximum potential sentence as the bioterrorism charges—20 years! These charges are ridiculous (scientists share bacteria this way all the time), and the Department of Justice is spending millions of dollars to convict citizens of crimes that neither state and local authorities nor ATCC, the bacteria supply company wants to pursue.

So what types of information is CAE producing that would make it such a huge target for the Department of Justice? In the Marching Plague project, which includes a book of the same name that was released in 2006 by Autonomedia, CAE exposed the foolishness of the government's bioweapons research. CAE found that many of the bioweapons being studied had already been deemed unusable because of their unpredictable and ineffective deployment. CAE also pointed out how few people have died from these supposed killer bio-bugs compared to the millions who die every year from common and preventable ailments like dehydration, malaria, drug-resistant tuberculosis and AIDS. The project also includes a film of CAE re-enacting some of the government's more telling dud bioweapon experiments. But CAE is

not just about research; its website is a candy store of biotech history, theory, direct action and practical examples of past projects all rolled into one. It carries various descriptions of direct-action-esque projects dating back to 1993, and CAE has spent the past seven years working on breaking down the mystical world of biotech into everyday language.

In the book *Molecular Invasion*, CAE provides activists with a seven-point plan to stymie the biotech industry by building cultural resistance to harmful transgenic production:

1. Demystify transgenic production and products,
2. Counteract public fear with information to create informed opposition,
3. Promote critical thinking,
4. Undermine and attack utopian biotech rhetoric,
5. Allow for nonspecialist intervention into transgenic research processes,
6. Create public space where education exchanges occur, and
7. Build respect for amateurism.

CAE has included a lot of suggestions for how to approach this plan, but one of its sexiest ideas is FBS—standing on the ambiguous line between legal and illegal action. CAE suggests that activists should avoid tactics like arson of test plots, because this fuels corporate and government claims that activists are terrorists. Fire also kills non-target species. CAE demonstrates that, with a little help from your friendly local geneticist, it is possible to reverse engineer these new advances.

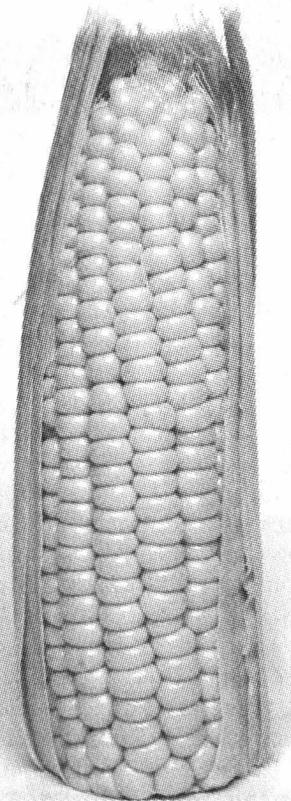
The fuzzy saboteur helps create a chain of events that lead to the desired end result. The original act should be as legal as possible; also, unlike in civil disobedience, there is no physical confrontation with authority. Trespassing may not even be necessary, and you can tell the authorities to piss off if they complain. CAE requests that all activist

celebrities and spectacularizers leave this budding method alone.

CAE's suggestions employ the military strategy of sabotage. First, you should use only the minimum amount of force necessary to achieve your objective. Second, focus your attack on the weakest link in the

GM Food

It's everywhere you want to be



"Free Range Grains"

artwork by CAE

system. Third, utilize precise targeting of GMOs. Possible targets are GMO test and research sites, and possible disrupters could be rats, moles, gophers, groundhogs, rabbits, mice or any other animals that do not have to obey property laws and are not susceptible to the toxins being tested (no suicide missions). A possible tactic could be selecting pests that are immune to the effects of a

given GMO and releasing this scourge on the test plots. CAE found that by mixing Roundup with pyridoxal 5-phosphate (a vitamin B6 derivative), spraying it on Roundup Ready plants and exposing the plants to sunlight, the plants could be killed. This vitamin B6 derivative does not harm any of the surrounding non-GE organisms. CAE developed this form of contestational biology to help organic and traditional farmers defend themselves from the predatory and terrorist tactics of GM corporations like Monsanto.

Another interesting CAE project is Free Range Grains. Participants brought in samples of food that CAE members tested using DNA extraction methods to expose food contaminated with GMOs. Though CAE could not say conclusively that a given food was genetically modified, they could test for conclusive negatives. CAE has made the entire step-by-step process for identifying GMOs accessible on its website.

As an artist/scientist who has worked with chemical and biological water monitoring equipment, I was interested to see how much a DNA extraction test kit would cost. After calling a number of medical suppliers, I determined that brand new equipment and supplies would cost an average of \$5,800, though I later checked eBay and found some of the equipment for less. I predict that you could find everything for between \$1,000 and \$1,500—still a hefty price just to test your food, although activist communities could pool resources for equipment.

Like the rest of us, CAE marches on with a new focus on the war machine and the agents of repression.

For more information, including how to help Steven Kurtz and Robert Ferrell, visit www.caedefensefund.org; www.critical-art.net.

MGM is currently flashing a middle finger in the direction of the Department of Justice, the FBI and prosecuting attorney William Hochul.

Confessions of an Art Addict

BY MGM

How does art fit into the radical environmental movement? Imagine our protests without the large sandhill cranes, running buffalo, corrupt politicians and bleeding-heart liberals providing essential visual images. Imagine the "cracking" of Glen Canyon Dam without the central image provided by the banner. During my tenure in the EF! movement, I have met many artists working on different projects. Nights at the Round River Rendezvous are illuminated by fire performances, while a Critical Mass loaded with art bikes is an accepted EF! tactic (see *EF!J* November-December 2006). Considering this infusion of art in EF!, it is important not to lose our focus on the environmental impacts of some artforms.

My life changed the first time I saw a comrade spin poi fire. I spent hours watching the performer whirl flaming balls with abandon. I thought, "That could be me," and I became an art addict. Needless to say, I never found an audience unwilling to partake in my pollution art (PA).

PA is a term for any artform that produces copious amounts of solid, air, water, light or noise pollution. Since entering the PA scene, I have met all sorts of polluters. They generally fall somewhere between the blissfully unaware to the conscious polluter. What is the pollution level of your artform? Here is an imperfect rating system: An artform gets a pollution point for each type of pollution it produces. Not all artforms create all types of pollution, and some create more than others. Here are a few types that I currently can't live without.

Fireworks

Anarchists around the world celebrate our holidays with popping pollution producers that light up the night. On

November 5, 1605, Guy Fawkes' Parliament-pulverizing plan was postponed. That night is now celebrated as Guy Fawkes' Night by filling the sky with exploding fireworks.

The October 1999 issue of *New Teknik* magazine estimated that Sweden's millennium fireworks shows would dump three tons of lead and 60 tons of chromium over the country within a matter of hours. Indeed, air pollution levels were measured before and after the fireworks displays.

After the shows, levels of airborne arsenic had doubled, while levels of mercury, cadmium, lead, copper, zinc and chromium were as much as 500 times above normal. Assuming the same amount of fireworks were used in all European Union countries, *New Teknik* estimated that the celebrations shot 124 tons of lead into the air over Europe. In the US, millennium fireworks shows may have generated 90 tons of airborne lead pollution.

photo by Jessica Arizona Indymedia



MGM demonstrates one form of pollution art.

than six million cases—or 120,000 tons—of fireworks to the US in 2005. Fireworks are big business, but environmentalists are striking back. In June, San Diego Coastkeeper notified SeaWorld of its intent to sue due to lack of proper state pollution permits and successfully brought the "adventure park's" 2006 fireworks season to a halt. A SeaWorld spokesperson said that any new regulations that increased costs could permanently end fireworks displays.

So what are the current alternatives? Rich companies may have the option to use compressed air and electronic detonators instead of black powder, producing greater accuracy in height and timing. Or you could just not support this destructive industry at all. Fireworks get five pollution points. Take a lesson from Guy Fawkes: Save the explosives for a more fitting target.

Graffiti

Cities should be visual orgies filled with graf, and I am interested in helping this become a reality. Unfortunately, a lot of spraypaint means a lot of empty cans with accompanying parachuting paint particles. Originally developed by the military as a tool to dispense insecticide, aerosol systems were quickly adapted to other products, including spraypaint.

There are many parts of a spraypaint can system. Pigments are used to provide color and opacity. Solvents are the nonaqueous liquids that carry the rest of the paint ingredients. Hydrofluorocarbon propellants are gasses that force the paint out of the can by expanding rapidly when the valve is opened. Volatile organic compounds present in paint formulas contribute to air pollution. Spraypaint is packaged in tin-plated steel or aluminum cans. Even though it has massive environmental impacts, spraypaint continues to be a popular consumer commodity.

Graf gets two pollution points. Some alternatives to cans may be to use high volume, low pressure spray guns or airless spraypainting systems, though the practicality of carrying these bulky systems on the run from cops or trainyard bulls is questionable. Some towns and recycling centers have a hazardous waste recycling day or area where everyone can bring their waste for safer disposal. I have seen an entire tractor-trailer full of unspent spraypaint cans that were destined for a local incinerator. The workers offered me as much free paint as I could carry.

Fire Spinning

One of my personal pollution contributions is poi fire spinning. I love spinning fire as much as the next performer, but I also know that one teaspoon of petroleum fuel can contaminate 100,000 gallons of drinking water. I take this to heart when I see burners spinning off excess fuel onto the ground, be it paved or not. Sometimes this is actually part of the show, even though not all of the fuel will burn off. Storm water carries this excess fuel directly into the Earth's waterways. Pyro performances procure four pollution points.

To make fire performing cleaner, we have to break the fossil fuel addiction. Biodiesel burns longer than white gas and is non-toxic, renewable and 100 percent biodegradable. Plus, biodiesel's carbon dioxide emissions are significantly less than any other fossil fuel's, thanks to its main ingredient: vegetable oil. I encourage spinners to use a spin-off can made from an empty paint can with a rope attached. When combined with funnels, spin-off cans save fuel, conserve our waterways and prevent that flaming fuel from flinging into the eager eyes of your audience.

Glow Sticks

These are the bane of my existence. A part of me cannot justify creating so much waste for just a few hours of fun. Glow sticks are fueled by chemiluminescence, a chemical reaction that causes a release of energy. A common commercial light stick contains separate solutions of

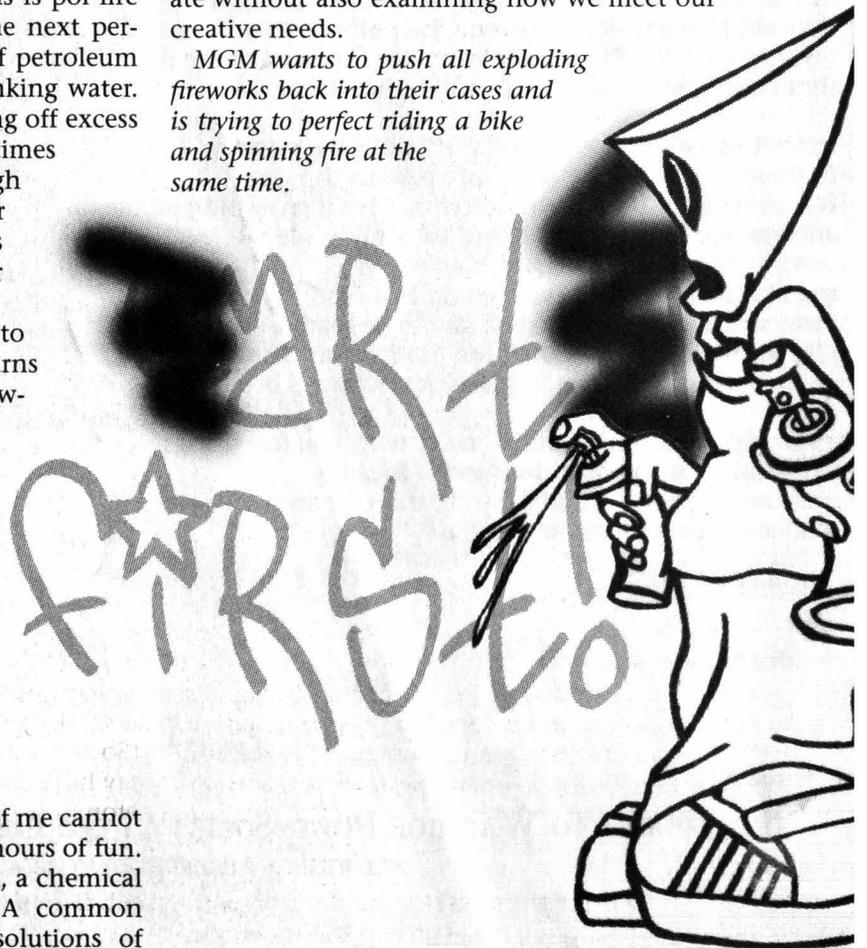
hydrogen peroxide and phenyl oxalate ester, as well as a fluorescent dye. When the barrier between these solutions is broken, light is produced. The fluorescent dyes are based on a very toxic chemical called anthracene, and the hydrogen peroxide is a powerful bleach. Glow sticks may contain other chemicals, including sodium carbonate, luminol, ammonium carbonate and copper sulfate pentahydrate. Much as manufacturers have created rechargeable ice packs and hand warmers, it seems that reusable glow sticks could be designed. Glow sticks get three pollution points.

Art Cars

Finally, I have a deadly fixation with art cars. Most art cars burn petrochemicals, and the extra weight and added wind resistance of the art decreases the car's gas mileage. In an effort to undermine the art car movement, I am calling for an art bike movement. I feel that this could overlap with the lowrider bike movement and tall bike gangs, though I feel that some utility is lost with these bikes. I call for the destruction of car culture every time I ride my bicycle, though I get sidetracked whenever I see a mobile museum. Art cars get five pollution points for their blissful celebration of car culture—one of the most destructive of human habits.

I like getting strung out on my fellow artists' work, from the pirate ship of Tasmania's Weld Valley to the recycled bikes of Tucson's BICAS. Yet we should strive to not drive further destruction with our art. As ecologically inclined artists, we should not be blinded by our need to create without also examining how we meet our creative needs.

MGM wants to push all exploding fireworks back into their cases and is trying to perfect riding a bike and spinning fire at the same time.



ARMED WITH VISIONS

Clear as cut glass & just as dangerous

wild and free

for jamie mcguinn

i have no children and i never will
for i am a soldier and i have been killed
and as my spirit now rises and my body lays still
i'll tell you my story if listen you will

though i am a soldier i carry no gun
i've no use for flags and borders for i know all are one
i fight not for rich men and the reasons that they give
i fight so that all my relations might live

my mother and father, they showed me and taught
i should love and respect even when others do not
i was raised up in the mountains near the head of the new
these hills and that river, i learned from them too

this morning my sweetheart and i walked around
the forests and fields next to my parents' house
we said someday we'll build here and we'll grow old and die
and we would have had it been ours to decide

but alas as it happens i've died on this road
i was struck by a loggin truck hauling a load
i'll return now to the water, the fire, the earth and wind
reabsorbed by my creator as the deal's always been

as go my friends and family i leave with you few things
just stories for to tell and songs for to sing
and this one wish i hold for y'all, this one and only plea
wild and free may you always be

—Willie

Bear's Poem

Them big, bad bears
play defense
like ya wouldn't believe.

It's like a
mystical vision...

Raid
then just disappear.
Hit the garbage then run,
call it hibernation.

Big, bad grizz
pops on the iPod,
stash the stash,
curl up and crash.
Dream of chasin' down
an elk or two...
hear a diva wail
keep an eye open
keep free
keep outta jail.

Down at the
rattlesnake café
we leave espresso offerings
to "Big Daddy."
That bear loves
his Bukowski and
shots in the dark...
pull up a good book,
fire up a blunt,
it's winter...
dream.

—Stan Wilson

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

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED TO THE AUTHORS

Dumpster Diving

The grocery stores were all being picketed that day—
a city-wide strike,
Sunday, and the co-op was already closed—
the store the strikers left alone hired
its own picket
to advertise it had locked its workers out
refusing to be ignored.

What do we do?

All five of us and the little one hungry,
coming back from the country.
Placid shoppers wheel their loaded carts
around the corner
to waiting combustion engines,
stare at five people half-buried
in garbage,

laughing with delight

“Hey look at this!”

“Here’s some more!”

from the colossal dumpster, ferrying
crates and soiled boxes of food
to the back of the van,
matching four pairs of old shoes,
digging out a pocket knife still sharp,
some sort of great clamp,
the little one looking on.

No embarrassment.

Then the washing party in the kitchen,
scraping off the mold,
the compost bucket filling
with peelings, everyone helping.

The mounds of food in bowls
across the table, more
than we could ever buy,
a full pot of ginger root,
a big pan of avocados nicely ripe,
even two mangos,
fingerling bananas,

the vegetables to make our dinner,
an exotic fruit for yuppies—
we threw it out after cutting it open—
it oozed white and no one knew
what it was supposed to look like.

Cooking the feast,
planning the outrageous scams
that could pay for our land
in the mountains,

laughing until tears came
flipping watermelon seeds at each other
from our scavenged dessert,
getting quiet, tired,
sobered by occasional flashes
in our talk
of the people and lives
beyond these doors.

—Rabinowitz



Wreckage

Nature is full
Of dispirited clutter
Wreckage of life broken into
Humble, salty disarray:
A million tiny black shells
Empty and broken on an Atlantic morning beach
Fur skeleton matted down to the hooves
Along a hungry northern lake
Vegetation rotting in stranded pools
Where beetles and other wire-legged lives
Come and go
Doing the really big behind the scenes work
Moving the ghastly, stinking wreckage
To bright flowers and soaring feathers.

The beetles have an inside joke
As they go about their dogged business:
The glowing fur is always present
Even in the putrid coil of flesh gone sour
Just as the sun does not stop burning
Even in the darkest part of night.

—Jenny McBride

Trannies are taking over!

BY TROUBLE!

Are you tired of those damned anti-oppression articles that keep crowding out stories about hardcore lockdowns and monkeywrenching in the *Journal*? Bored by incessant ramblings about “privilege,” “gender,” “race,” “analysis” and so on? Me neither! And that’s why I want to discuss transgender awareness.

Why does trans awareness matter to Earth Firsters? I’ll give you a hint: it’s the same reason that awareness of race, gender, age and class (to name just a few axes of oppression) is important. Just as there are women and men, people of color and white people, old and young folks and people of all classes in EF!, there are trannies in EF! too! Some of us are invisible, and some of us are very out, but there’s bound to be more of us on the way if y’all non-trans EF!ers put in the effort to be more trans-inclusive (and we’re bound to disappear if ya don’t!).

So who are transgender people? According to ftmguide.org, “The word

‘transgender’ is an umbrella term that is often used to describe a wide range of identities and experiences, including: female-to-male (FtM) and male-to-female (MtF) transsexuals, cross-dressers, drag queens, drag kings, gender queers and many more.... [However,] because ‘transgender’ is an umbrella term, it is often thought to... not adequately describe the particulars of specific identities and experiences. For example, the identity/experience of a post-operative FtM transsexual will probably be very different from that of a female-identified drag king who performs on weekends, but both are often lumped together under the term ‘transgender.’”

In other words, we’re people whose gender expression and/or gender identity differs from conventional expectations based on the physical sex we are born into; we’re people born with penises who aren’t men, with vaginas who aren’t women and with intersex bodies who don’t identify with their assigned gender. Transgender identities contradict the medical establishment’s nasty habit of assigning one or the other binary gender at birth—and, in the case of intersex people (those born with anatomy outside of the binary) enforcing it with mutilating surgeries—that mirror the rest of Western society’s equally violent enforcement of the binary and its associated gender roles.

Trans identity is rejected by mainstream culture because its existence calls into question the validity of rigid gender roles, a main tenet of the medical industry and patriarchy as a whole. Largely due to both feelings of self-hatred and discomfort with one’s identity and/or body, as well as harassment and external oppression, trans people are at an incredibly high risk for suicide attempts—some estimates are near 50 percent for pre-transition trans youth and 20 percent for pre-transition trans adults. Suicide

rates for transitioned transsexuals aren’t estimated to differ much from those of the general population.

There are innumerable transgender identities; what makes one a trans ally is respecting any and all of these



artwork courtesy the Schonburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Nzinga, king of Angola from 1624 to 1653, ruled as an MtF cross-dresser.

identities. Respect means doing your research, using a trans person’s preferred pronoun (if you can’t figure out what it is, ask politely; if you slip up, quietly correct yourself), neither tokenizing nor marginalizing trans people and, most importantly, *listening*. A person’s trans identity might be a hugely relevant part of their life—they may really want to talk about it and be very out—but they might also not want to talk about it or be thought of as trans at all.

That said, most of us don’t want to be seen as nothing more than our identity—that’s called *tokenization*. Like anyone, we want our identities acknowledged and celebrated as part of us—that’s called *validation*. We don’t identify as trans to be used in non-trans people’s arguments against the existence of gender or to be pointed at when you are insecure about your group’s lack of diversity.

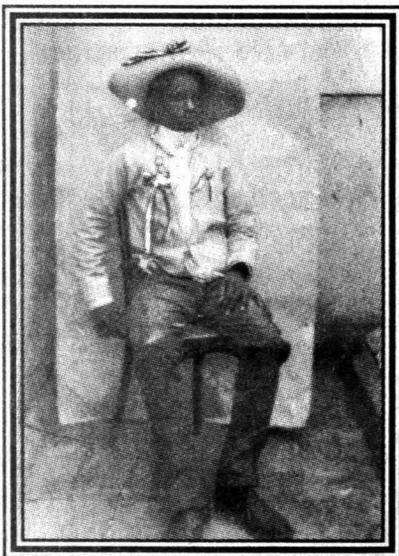


photo courtesy Fototeca del Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia

Afro-Mexicana revolutionary from Michoacán

It's also important to remember that while gender identity and sexual orientation can be related, they are also very different aspects of our identities. There are obviously many non-trans queer, gay and lesbian folks. Similarly, there are trans people who identify with every type of sexuality—straight, queer, whatever.

But what, specifically, does this have to do with the radical environmental and animal rights movements? Some of y'all seem not to be aware of this, but calling yourself a radical does not mean anything if you're not willing to acknowledge, call out and deal with the dynamics that privilege creates. Transphobia, heterosexism and other aspects of patriarchy are just as much a part of radical groups as of the mainstream; they're just expressed in different ways.

Consider the level of validation one will receive for participating in banner hangings, monkeywrenching, protests, riots, blockades, treesits, etc. Then consider the risk level of a trans person versus that of a non-trans person for harassment, assault, harsher convictions, mental-institution lock-up and rape if arrested. Of course it's awesome and empowering for trans people to be welcomed and accepted as participants in direct action. But what will make radical groups more inclusive places for trans people—and more effective overall—is if there is an equal emphasis on the importance of direct action, support work, legal work and outreach, and if people with less privilege are given priority in choosing what task they'd like to participate in. This allows us to participate in direct action if we want to, to avoid it if

it's too risky and to put people who would traditionally be in more high-profile roles into lower-profile ones.

Of course, much of what it takes to be inclusive isn't so much *saying* that a trans person could take a leadership role as it is *showing* this acceptance with attitude. Many a time in male-dominated groups, I've seen myself and other non-male-assigned people turned to at an awkward time and offered a role in a more risky action—after a man has already taken up a leadership role without the consent of the rest of the group. Again, that is tokenization. Being inclusive means valuing and honoring everyone's skills and opinions, not deciding to include a trans person at the last minute by virtue of their identity or putting them in a media spotlight to make your group seem diverse. Inclusiveness is when someone with more privilege steps down from a high-profile role to let others hold the banner.

I've also heard many a radical ask, in so many words, how it's valid for MtF and FtM trans people's identities to rely upon hormones and surgeries that are creations of the medical and pharmaceutical industries. I posed this question to Alison Davison, an outspoken activist and member of the Tucson trans community. She immediately asked, by the same logic, how it's valid for people with diabetes and cancer to use technologies of the same industry. What about those of us who suffer from "mental illness" and are reliant on psychiatric medication? And, besides, how many EF!ers use cell phones and the Internet, or drive cars? Like anyone living within industrial civilization, trans people are just as victimized by the system as they are reliant on it for survival.

We live in an incredibly transphobic culture, which—unlike many non-Western and indigenous societies—does not offer a societal position for trans people. Trans people do

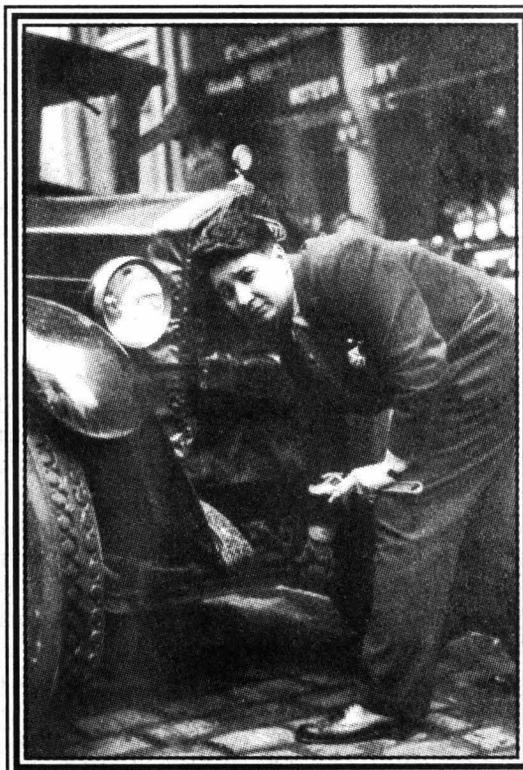


photo courtesy: UPI/Redman

Violette Morris, who lived openly as an FtM cross dresser in the 1920s

not revel in paying exorbitant costs—or lacking funds, having to engage in the black market and utilize sketchy hormones and medical services—just to feel comfortable in their own bodies. We do not appreciate being called crazy by our friends, families and the medical industry.

"If we live in the world today, we have to compromise our ideals, and you have to be comfortable with your compromises," says Davison. This is not to say that if we all lived in some wonderfully gender-diverse society, trans people would not exist. Even if transphobia did not exist, "that would only address social identity. That doesn't change the fact of not feeling at home in your body."

This article could stretch on to be as long as the experiences of every trans person ever, but really it's just the basics. I barely covered intersex definitions and inclusiveness, which hopefully you'll look up in the suggested readings. What's important is that you look up more information about trans identity, think about your own internalized transphobia, and take steps to make the groups you work and live in more trans-inclusive.

trouble! is a PC fag who enjoys long walks on the beach, Indian food and roasting roadkill anarchists over the fire.

Further Reading

Intersex and Trans List of Demands

www.geocities.com/gainesvilleavengers/intersextransdemands.htm

Trans Glossary

www.ftmguide.org/terminology.html

Trans History/Non-Western Transgender

Transgender Warriors by Leslie Feinberg
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_sex
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Transgender_in_non-western_cultures

Trans 101

www.gendercrash.com/101.shtml
Gender Outlaw by Kate Bornstein

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD

ALF Reconsiders Tiger Liberation

The Animal Liberation Front (ALF) planned a daring raid to rescue a caged Siberian tiger from Switzerland's Circus Royal. But after breaking into the tiger's enclosure on October 21, the clandestine activists had second thoughts. Determined not to leave empty-handed, the ALF freed a bunny, a guinea pig and numerous doves, and defaced circus machinery and vehicles.

The ALF communiqué maintains that it sent a clear message to the Circus Royal: The exploitation of animals, as performers or as pets, is not acceptable.

When asked about the action, circus director Oliver Skrenig commented, "The pet rabbit was not even in the show; it belonged to our clown's six-year-old daughter."

Lactating Against Coal

A typical city and county commissioners' meeting in Gainesville, Florida, took a strange and theatrical twist when an anti-coal activist offered commissioners a glass of fake, mercury-laden breast milk.

The meeting focused on a consulting firm's report, which stated that coal is the best source for the city and county's energy needs. The fee for this absurd report was \$400,000. After more than two hours of this drivel, the activist got up to the podium as a representative of Partners for Safe Lactation. He spoke about the dangers of coal-based energy production creating mercury, which can contaminate breast milk and poison infants. He then grabbed a clear plastic cup and proceeded to puncture a bag of soy milk concealed under his shirt, filling the cup. When the activist asked commissioners if they would drink breast milk contaminated with mercury, they declined and called for security. Fortunately, the activist was able to escape.

The episode was later aired on the public broadcast station. Commissioners reported that they had been threatened with contaminated breast milk and called for additional security at future meetings.

Major Breakthrough in Interspecies Kitsch

Disney's Epcot Center in Florida has been sponsoring a campaign to break down interspecies language barriers by training dolphins to sing a portion of the Batman theme song. Researchers from the New College of Florida used a system of rewards—usually extra feedings—to teach the dolphins the correct pitches and inflections. Though it is obvious to us non-speciesists that other animals are capable of producing music, psychology professor Gordon Bauer believes that "music is a human construct.... I doubt that it has pertinence to animals, although the elements of music, such as pitch, time, timbre, rhythm, etc. may be incorporated into animal communication."

When asked to comment on this research, a participating dolphin had only this to say: "So long, and thanks for all the fish."

Barbados Faces Giant Snail Invasion

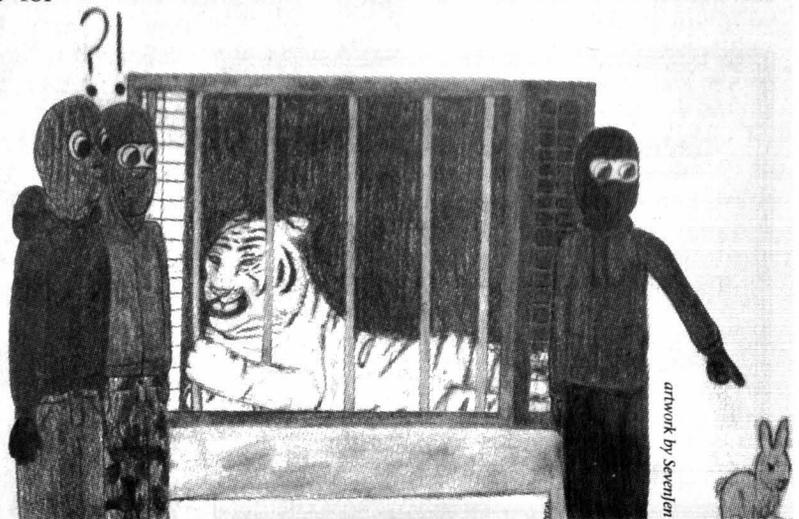
No doubt inspired by neoliberal trade policies, thousands of giant African snails have migrated to Barbados in the past five years, overwhelming the small island's limited resources. These snails, which are about the size of a human hand, can feed on up to 500 different kinds of plants and can transmit meningitis through their mucous membranes. Government officials are responding to the swarms of crop-consuming snails by organizing volunteer pesticide-spraying brigades to root the snails out from their underground abodes.

"We saw snails riding on each other's backs and moving in clusters," said David Walrond, chairman of the local emergency response office. "You're just crunching the shells as you're walking through."

Viral Fossil Brought Back to Life

French geneticists, tired of toying with less-than-exciting viruses such as ebola, HIV, herpes and the flu, decided to spice up their labs by resurrecting a five-million-year-old human retrovirus in October. This virus, named Phoenix, is a predecessor to the human endogenous retroviruses (HERVs) that are still found in the human genome. The scientists, lead by Thierry Heidmann, recreated Phoenix by reversing millions of years of HERV mutations.

Video game nerds may recognize this series of events as similar to the preface to Final Fantasy VII, in which researchers revive a sentient colony of deadly and highly infectious viral cells, mistaking them for a harmless ancient lifeform. Be very afraid.



alternative appalachian economies

One key to breaking the stranglehold of King Coal on southern Appalachia is to develop alternative economies. Many Appalachian citizens already survive through underground economies. Below are a few examples of some legal alternatives to the coal industry: the use of cemeteries to protect mountaintops, a wood worker's skills and a root digger's knowledge. We hope that these examples will spark some real dialogue about developing sustainable economies.

Achers for Acres Appalachia's Freshest Underground Economy

BY MGM

This past Memorial Day, I had the opportunity to visit one of the most well-known mountaintop removal (MTR) sites in the US and possibly the world: Kayford Mountain. On this mountain lives a stout fellow named Larry Gibson. It is impossible to miss Gibson because he's riled up about Big Coal's destruction of mountains. As a group of anti-MTR activists approached the gate of Massey's large mine, we were greeted by a slew of security guards. Gibson approached them, requested permission to visit a cemetery on the property and told the dastardly detail that our contingent contained

some direct relatives of the deceased. After signing permission slips and writing "Stop MTR" on all the blank slips, our gang headed off.

It was surreal marching with fellow Appalachians over the once lush forests turned to desert-scapes. We all intended to hike the half mile to the cemetery hidden on the crest. But for our elder members, this option was deemed impossible because of a more than 45-degree slope. Fortunately, Massey security was bright enough to offer to drive the elders up the windy road, and we all met at the top. After hanging out, cursing coal companies and kicking some rocks down the slope in the direction of Massey security, our scouts found the cemetery.

This cemetery was hardly something I would recognize as such. Gibson told us that years ago, mysterious forces (coal profiteers) had removed the headstones and piled dirt on the gravesites. The tears of pain and rage that filled the hearts of all the participants were expressed in fiery speeches. It was during this time that I came up with the idea of Achers for Acres.

This cemetery didn't have to be a small one- or two-acre island on this mountain of destruction. What if it covered the entire mountain? If we took all the people who would be buried in tightly packed cemeteries and spread them out so that each gravesite had one to two acres or more, then we

continued on next page

continued from previous page

could protect entire mountains from surface mining, forever! Everyone knows how much coal companies like expansion. But who is going to protect the land when the last member of the family can no longer make a stand. We say, send us your dead. The mountains of Appalachia are crying out for your aching bones.

Here's the sales pitch: For a fair price, you can have a nice plot of one or more acres that will be protected from the coal company by your interment. For an additional charge, a native tree of your choice may be planted near your plot. Ease of transport to burial plots is increased by cremation. We will strive for purely green burials. Each grave will be marked on local maps, topographic maps, global positioning systems, nautical maps, star charts and Google Earth, assuring that your eternal investment will maintain many families' hillside homesteads.

We devised a plan of action. First, we will go to the property tax assessors' office to get free maps and find names and addresses of local property owners with land adjoining existing or potential mine sites. Next, we will approach these people and present them with the idea, accompanying cemetery laws and a long list of potential plot purchasers who contacted us through our email account. We will continue to facilitate the process until the landowner becomes confident enough to go solo. We will provide some oversight to make sure that landowners are abiding by the stated premises of the program. A local benefit of Achers for Acres includes setting up a local burial fund to help local families with high burial costs. The plot price will be set by the landowner or worked out between the two parties.

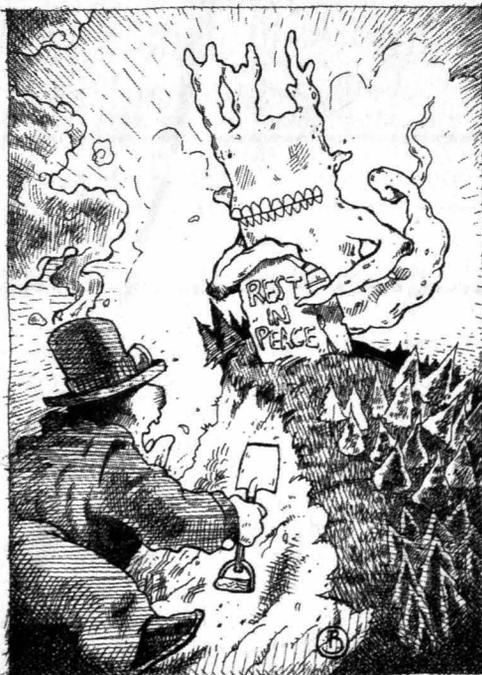
Here are some matters that we have yet to work out. This program will protect the land from surface mining and not underground mining, so more research must be done to protect the land from all types of mining. We'll also need to maintain the land by paying property taxes for the long term. We will check into the zoning and other

Mountaineer's Desire

*I have no passion to be deep
Scented down in a black coffin,
Silk lined and cushioned...
But this flesh shall be burned
To gray embers and strewn
High up in the Mountains
Among the hard faced silent rocks,
Where time has gnawed
Cracks and crevices,
Where stunted mountain trees
Send roots deep down against
The high wind's fury,
And where Mountain people, silent,
And solitary, like the rocks and trees,
Pass by....*

—Don West

cemetery laws. We will apply to get Jane and John Does buried. We will look into how local people feel about non-locals being buried on their land. We will define cemetery maintenance and have caretakers living on-site. We will have plot buyers make written or oral statements that will be archived and made into part of a graveyard/MTR tour, which brings me to my next point.



Achers for Acres can join with tourism, a growing business in the Appalachian Mountains. I am not talking about the urban sprawl, strip mall, paved parking lots, cutting down trees, McDonald's, Starbucks, Dolly-

Wood bullshit tourism. No, I am speaking of locally run and operated dark tourism (DT).

DT is the generic term for travel associated with death, tragedy and disaster. There has been much study and discussion on the Dark Tourism Forum website, led by the University of Central Lancashire in the UK, and launched in September 2005. During our listening projects in Tennessee, I learned that respect for cemeteries and the dead are fairly prevalent themes among most Appalachian folks. A lot of people still go and visit their families' graves every week. Cemetery tours would only be half of the DT enterprise. By protecting land adjacent to existing mine sites, we will expose the destruction of the mountains to cemetery tourists.

Some may ask how we could exploit grief, disaster and tragedy. To this I say: The coal companies are fucking it up, and we are protecting it. Come and see it for yourself. Achers for Acres is taking a stand for the mountains and halting the destructive drawl of the dragline. Worries will be dispelled by seeing the destruction of MTR and hearing from locals who

have lived through it. Achers for Acres recognizes these mountains as sites of political unrest and propose cemetery tours as a tool for enhancing citizen involvement in grassroots movements. We hope that these sites and the people who care for them, living or deceased, can convey political values and attitudes favoring environmental rights through civic participation. These mountain communities have been marginalized for long enough. We seek to provide a culturally sustainable economic alternative to coal mining and illegal underground economies.

Achers for Acres gravesites will open up the land for continued use, such as vegetable gardens, permaculture plantings and wild crafting. I imagine families from all over the world coming to visit the mountain that their relatives protected with their burial. Together with our ancestors, we will protect the mountains of Appalachia.

For more information, contact achersforacres@hotmail.com.

Randal's Fine Wood Not-Just-Boxes

BY RANDAL HATFIELD

I have worked with wood since I could drive nails. The lumber I use is all locally grown and harvested. I go to local clearcuts and search the slash piles for lumber to salvage. Powerline maintenance crews provide another source with their trimming of easements. By the work of my hands, many an old barn has found new life in the form of boxes or furniture. My selection of woods depends on what I have access to at the moment. I prefer wild cherry and walnut as quality lumber, though they are hard to come by. Other woods that I like to use are white oak, mulberry, poplar, ash, cedar, birch, mimosa and various fruit trees. Mimosa is an invasive species from Asia, so I am performing a service by removing it.

My whole production process is DIY, reuses resources and creates minimal waste. I begin by drying the lumber for six to eight months after harvest. As the wood dries, it begins to decompose ever so slightly. It takes a lifetime of experience to learn the correct moment to work the wood before it decomposes too far. Once I made the boxes a tad too short for

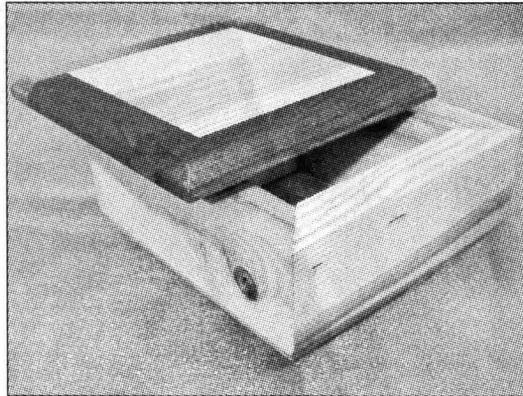
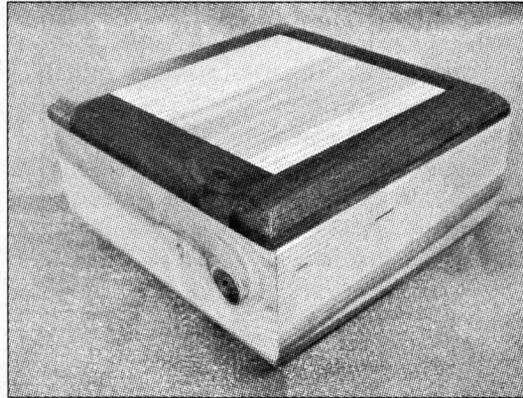
my liking and had to alter the design rather than throw out all the crafted parts. That is how some of my boxes ended up with dark stripes on their sides. For some of my earlier furniture, I carved the dowels by hand. I later

figured out that attaching spent ammo shells to a drill press produce the same product with less effort and more precision.

Though I have made many boxes, I am still on the quest to make the perfect box. Being from the mountains of Tennessee gives me a special connection that I like to share with others through these boxes. I want everyone to know that these are more than boxes. They contain knowledge from my years of experience; they contain the sweat of my brow. I have spent endless hours pouring over every detail of each box. I look at the forests that surround my home and I see my future. When I hike through the woods, I trim a young sapling in the hope that one day it will become a beautiful tree.

When you support me, you are giving hope to many locals that sustainable economies can and do exist in southern Appalachia.

For more information, contact POB 54 Eagan, TN 37730; randalsfinewood@yahoo.com.



The Friendly Forest Worker

BY CAROL JUDY

I am a 57-year-old non-timber forest worker from north-east Tennessee. My work consists of digging roots, pulling moss and forest restoration. Some people would define my lifestyle as subsistence living, though I do not.

I dig a lot of golden seal, black cohosh and sang (ginseng). With sang, I usually break the stem over and hide it as my contribution to the continuing cycle of harvesting from the woods. Sometimes I dig sassafras for local women who make a tonic for their personal use. My elders taught me all about the roots, including where to find them, how to use them and where to sell them. I have dug some golden seal beds for ten years, while other beds have not survived because of clearcutting or mountaintop removal.

Last year I sold dry golden seal for \$30 a pound. In a local drugstore, I found dry, ground golden seal for \$43 an ounce—that's \$640 a pound. If this product development happened locally, my community could sustain and maintain itself in a better way. I just want local folks to be able to provide for themselves without harming others' livelihoods.

Unfortunately, modern forests are designed to produce for specialty markets instead of local holistic uses. When I look at the community and the mountains that surround it, I learn that we are both treated the same way. This is extremely scary to me because I know our consumer culture has limited information on the full costs to local communities with no context about long-term impacts on consumer health.

For more information, contact tn_forestgranny@yahoo.com.

Community Resistance to Coal in Southwestern Virginia

BY COLLEEN ELIZABETH

I write this before departing in a canoe down the Clinch River, standing on the bank with two stray cats nuzzling my legs incessantly. Two days ago, I walked along Little Stoney

educate folks about local issues and to create connections across Appalachia and beyond. Overall, our energy was focused on meeting local folks and other activists, familiarizing ourselves with Virginia's mining laws and understanding what is happening in

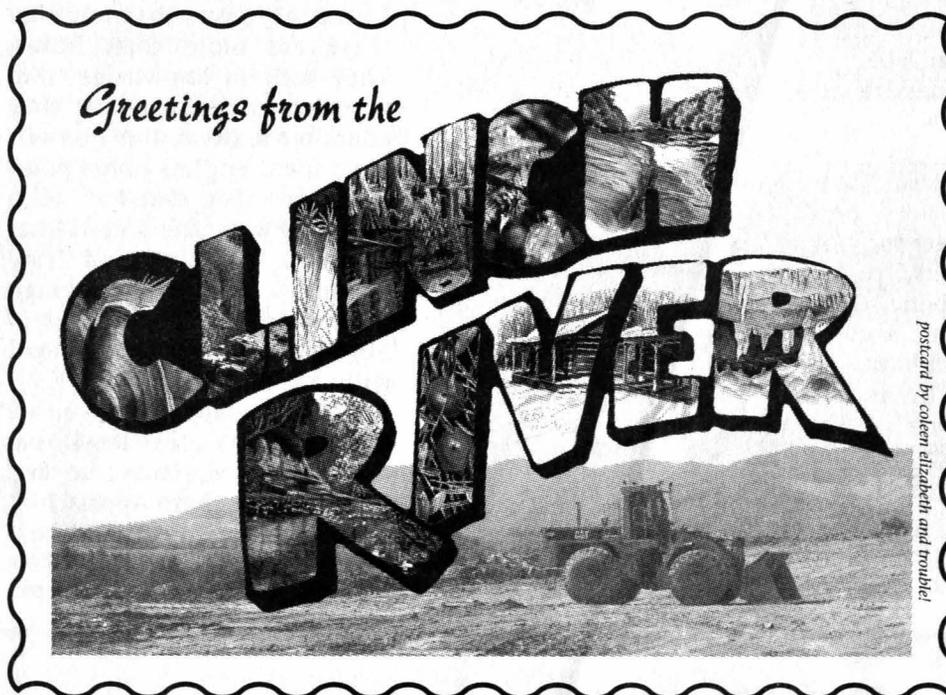
been limited opportunity for more glamorous actions.

The Summer's shining star of direct action was, of course, the post-Rondy action at the Carbo power plant (see *EF!* September-October 2006). Locally, support for the action was mixed: Some folks brought up the outsider/insider issue, pointing to the limited local involvement and the departure of most blockade participants immediately after the action; others thanked us for doing something they don't have either the time or courage to do. Organizers in southwest Virginia have decided not to participate in direct action here unless locals approach us and initiate it, and are working to build a stronger network of local resisters.

At Wise County's sesquicentennial celebration, a local woman hand-delivered a letter opposing MTR to Governor Tim Kaine's aide, which Kaine mysteriously never received. MJSers also attempted to badger Kaine about West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin's recent speech on how coal liquidification will solve our oil woes, given at the National Governors' Conference.

The roots we developed here in Wise County led to Mountain Links, a resource center, sprouting up in the town of Appalachia, Virginia, this Fall. Mountain Links works closely with the Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards, a small local citizens group that is outspoken about MTR, and serves as a gathering place and information base on mining issues and economic alternatives to coal. Mountain Links welcomes all members of the community and also offers a library, computers with Internet access, tutoring, workshops and bike repair.

The few non-local activists wintering here in Wise County see ourselves as support for local anti-MTR



Falls, taking photographs and thinking of July, when the waterfall pools were filled with Earth First!ers. Still on my mind are the US Forest Service timber sale planned for just upstream and the recent conversations I've had with local folks about the coal-burning power plant proposed for a spot downstream.

Here in southwestern Virginia, Mountain Justice Summer (MJS) 2006 found success in building ties and an organizing base. Many wonderful people were drawn to the area—some because of mountaintop removal (MTR) issues, others for the Round River Rendezvous and many for both. This flow of activists served to

this corner of the state. At times, the enormity of all the work laid before us was daunting, and trying to decide what our next step should be was frustrating.

Unlike MJS 2005, where activists traveled throughout the region together, this Summer folks generally stayed in one of the four MTR states (Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee). This tactic strengthened community organizing efforts, which were much needed in southwestern Virginia, where organization had been spotty despite the area's history of coal and resistance. With our focus on community organizing and gathering information, there has

Jamie Danced with the World

James Douglas "Jamie" McGuinn was born in 1983, in Boone, North Carolina. On October 5, he died in a no-fault head-on collision with a logging truck while riding his moped.

Jamie loved hiking and camping, and had a passion for social justice issues. He was an environmental activist, working with Earth First! as a treesitter and ground support person in the redwoods of northern California before joining up with the Mountain Justice Summer (MJS) campaign against Appalachian strip mining in 2005.



When he talked with MJS activists about his experiences, he emphasized that treesitters need to cultivate respect for ground supporters, to avoid an I'm-better-than-you attitude. And he talked about how wonderful it is to live in trees:

"One of the things about being in the

upper canopy is it's a whole 'nother world. You can see the tops of the trees, instead of just the trunks. The trunks are cool, but the real expression of the trees is at the top.

"I'll give an example. When I was in this tree called Ur-sus, a cedar in Oregon, I could sit up on the platform and look out and see the other trees in the grove. There were two Douglas firs, a couple hemlocks, some spruces—really diverse. The Doug firs were the sentinels, like guards of the forest, tall and stout and straight. And the hemlocks, they all had these tops bent over, and they were the more emotional, poet types. Cedars were really strong and sturdy. They were the protectors of the forest; they watched out for everything. You don't see that from the ground. One thing that's really cool, sometimes when you'll get into these big trees, the wind will blow hard and start this kkkkk-kkkk noise, kind of like they're breaking, but they're not. It's just movement. And it almost does sound like they're talking to each other. You can hear that from the platform sometimes.

"When you go up to the top, you can see the whole tree, the way the whole thing kind of goes swaying back and forth and dancing. We had this [redwood] tree in California, named Lucille, and it wasn't tied into any other trees—the only rope on the tree was to climb on. So you could sit up there, and she was perfectly balanced, branches all over the place. We nicknamed her the Dancer. She would start dancing, swaying back and forth with the breeze, and it was the most gentle motion ever. It was amazing."

Jamie is sorely missed by all.

activists and as a bridge connecting folks outside the region with what is happening here in the coalfields. We are working on documenting mining activity and compiling information for Appalachian Voices' new website, which features a great National Memorial for the Mountains.

An important campaign here revolves around the Dominion power company, which hopes to open a new power plant in Wise County, not far from the old Carbo plant that EF!ers got to know last Summer. The proposed plant would burn waste coal, biomass and regularly mined coal, and it would be located on the Clinch River. As one of the most diverse rivers in the US, the Clinch

River is home to about 50 mussel species, which filter sediment and are important water quality indicators. Additionally, the Clinch River is now also the main water source for Wise County, since many other wells and streams have been polluted by mining.

The waste coal that would be burned at the plant comes from piles that have accumulated at coal processing facilities and cannot be processed at regular power plants. Because this coal is low-energy, about 60 percent more waste coal has to be burned in order to produce the same amount of energy as regular coal. This in turn creates more pollution and more waste, in the form of ash.

Dominion and the coal companies are keeping us quite busy here in Virginia, but we've got a lot of support from our friends here at Appalshop, Appalachian Voices, the Clinch Coalition and the many groups that make up the bioregional Mountain Justice campaign, but we can always use more help, especially with spreading the word!

For more information, contact info@mountainlinksappalachia.org; www.mountainlinksappalachia.org; www.ilovemountains.org.

If she's not baking vegan spelt biscuits and counting the overloaded coal trucks driving by her house, you can find colleen elizabeth in nearby woods with her canine sidekick, exploring the many kinds of ferns that grow there.

A Day of Tears and Laughter

Brad Will Mourned and Celebrated at Memorial Service



BY JOHN TARLETON

On November 11, 200 friends of Brad Will sang, cried, shared stories, marched through New York City's Lower East Side and stormed a padlocked community center as they remembered the longtime activist and independent journalist who was murdered by Mexican paramilitaries on October 27.

The Service

The day's events began at a packed St. Mark's Church, where a three-hour memorial service was held, featuring music, poetry, homemade video from Brad's travels, readings from his writings and a slideshow of his life set to music by folk singer Stephanie Rogers. A giant banner of Brad holding a small child in his arms hung behind the altar. Below, a vivid, life-sized cardboard cutout of Brad holding a video camera was mounted atop his old bicycle.

"We're here acknowledging the life of a prophet and a saint," said Frank Morales, an associate pastor at St. Mark's and a veteran Lower East Side activist. "Over the years, I saw him go from being a very heart-on-his-sleeve kind of guy to someone who was very centered and wise beyond his years."

The slideshow, which featured scores of family photos, left many in tears as it showed Brad's life unfold from a playful little boy growing up in an affluent Chicago suburb to a playful, easygoing adult who refused to turn his eyes away from injustice and oppression anywhere in the world.

"You gave names and faces to the big body counts," said his close friend Dyan

Neary, who traveled with him throughout South America in recent years.

Brad, 36, was killed by paramilitaries while he was filming protests against the much-despised governor of the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca.

Throughout the ceremony, friends wove together the various strands of his adult life—from studying with Allen Ginsberg at the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics in Boulder, Colorado, to his frontline activism in

scrawl "84 East" on a piece of cardboard, which somehow came out as "84 Eat."

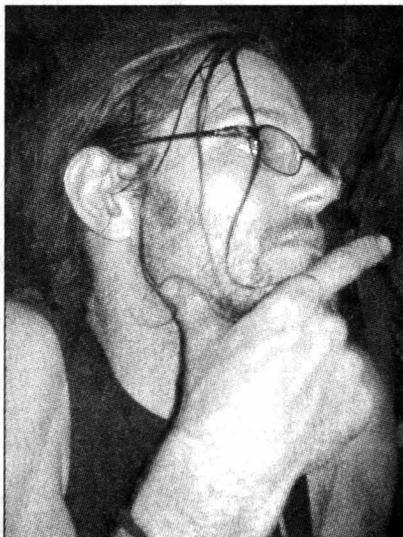
The final reading of the ceremony was done by Andy Stern, who narrated Brad's last dispatch from Oaxaca, in which he describes spending the night with the friends and family of a local activist who was shot dead by local paramilitaries while standing guard at a barricade. "One more death—one more martyr in a dirty war," Andy read aloud. "One more time to cry and hurt—one more time to know power and its ugly head—one more bullet cracks the night—one more night at the barricades—some keep the fires—others curl up and sleep—but all of them are with him as he rests one last night at his watch."

The Hungry March Band led the crowd out of the church and into the cobblestone front courtyard, where people were able to nourish themselves from a heaping table full of dumpster scores.

The Procession

A raucous funeral procession ensued as the crowd followed the Hungry March Band on a winding tour of the Lower East Side. Confused onlookers watched as the crowd roared by, chanting "Brad Will, *Presente!*" A single cop car with flashing lights followed behind.

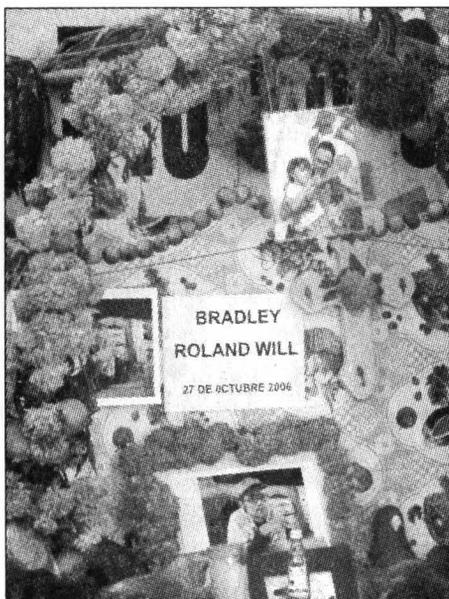
The procession passed the former site of a squat on East Fifth Street, which was demolished in February 1997, despite Brad's dramatic rooftop standoff against a city wrecking ball. The crowd also visited the former site of Esperanza Garden on Seventh



photos by Pirate Jenny

the old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest, from the squats and community gardens of the Lower East Side to his work with Indymedia.

Tears turned to laughter when video footage was shown in which Brad (who could clean out anyone's refrigerator) stood on the side of a highway trying to compose a haiku to hold aloft for passing motorists, before finally giving up and trying to



One of Brad's memorials in Oaxaca

Street, where Brad and others fought to stave off city bulldozers intent on clearing the land for developers.

Departing from Esperanza, the procession made its way up Avenue C and turned left on East Ninth Street. When the crowd arrived at the former CHARAS Community Center at 635 E Ninth St, a cheer went up. Suddenly the padlocked front gate burst open, and people poured into the front courtyard. The giant, five-story school building was abandoned by the city in the 1960s and reclaimed by Puerto Rican community activists in 1978. Over the next 20 years, it became a vibrant center for arts and activism on the Lower East Side, until Mayor Rudy Giuliani had it auctioned off—despite heated protests—to a real-estate developer who

is still embroiled in legal disputes with his neighbors.

Dozens of marchers entered the building, exploring the gutted first floor and tagging the walls with graffiti honoring Brad. Several people ventured up a dank, darkened stairwell by the light of their cell phones, hoping to hang a banner from the front of the building. Unable to pry open any of the front windows, the protesters finally scampered back down the stairs and out into the fresh night air.

The procession finally ended at La Plaza Cultural Armando Perez at the corner of Ninth Street and Avenue C, where Brad's friends planted flower bulbs in his memory and gathered in a circle to share more stories.

John Tarleton is a reporter and editor for nyc.indymedia.org and The Independent.

Memories of B

BY GUMBY CASCADIA

I met Brad in 1998, at the Fall Creek treesit. A bunch of us had decided to defend a rare stand of low-elevation old-growth forest just southeast of Eugene, Oregon. The first treesit was named Happy, and my friend Jeff "Free" Luers was the first treesitter there. The second treesit to go up was Comfrey, a helicopter cargo net dangling 200 feet up in the canopy of the giant Douglas firs and hemlocks. B was the next semi-permanent resident, nestled into that big hammock in the sky.

The first time I'd ever climbed into an actual sit—I'd climbed trees out there before any treesits were installed—it took me 45 huffing-puffing minutes to get up there. When I reached the net, a furry, bespectacled face reached over the edge to haul me in.

"I'm B. Welcome to Comfrey."

"You mean 'Bee' as in Bumble?"

"Nope, just B."

I climbed in and took in my surroundings. The forest canopy was like twilight all day, with rare specks of sunshine filtering through the thick evergreen needles. A gray jay perched two feet away on the edge of the net and squawked for a meal.

"They're the thieves of this forest. Gotta keep your food sealed up tight," B told me. He gave me the Treesitting

101 intensive: how to connect your safety line, how to use the shit bucket without unhooking your safety, and how to transfer food and cargo on the pulley lines to the other sits. His energy was frenetic and determined; he kept ambling around the net and small "bathroom" platform, adjusting lines and securing supplies with near-manic intensity. He was rail thin, one of those skinny, energetic people who eat all day to maintain a metabolism that resents such things as quiet and sleep.



Photo courtesy Brad Willard

He offered to teach me how to venture out on the rope walkways connecting the sits, but I declined, not sure if I was ready to dangle on ropes without even the illusory safety of a solid tree to make me feel a sense of structure in that green-tinged void. I remember accepting a peanut butter sandwich from his grungy, tree-sap-covered hands while he told me he'd come from New York City, where he'd been working with Steal This Radio on the Lower East Side.

And now, those of us who knew B in that context are scattered to the winds. I plan to go out to Fall Creek and sit under Comfrey and Grover, on the ground where my mother's

ashes are scattered, and do my remembering there.

Gumby Cascadia is a longtime crisis intervention and movement triage specialist.

Uprising in Oaxaca

BY JONATHAN

On May 22, in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca, Chapter 22 of the National Education Workers' Union (SNTE) went on strike. Its 17 principal demands included salary raises, free breakfasts and school uniforms for students, and repairs to school buildings. But due to the embezzlement of more than \$9 billion from the state over the last eight years, education funds are low. The teachers set up a permanent protest camp in Oaxaca City, the state's capital, and blanketed the city with more than 2,000 barricades. Dialogue was closed after current governor Ulises Ruiz Ortiz (URO) refused to offer a viable solution.

At 5 a.m. on June 14, 3,000 state police officers entered the Oaxaca City *zocalo* (main plaza), where the teachers' protest camp was located, in a violent attempt to drive the protesters out. But by 10 a.m., the teachers regained control of this politically important downtown space with considerable help from indigenous groups and others standing in solidarity with SNTE 22.

The Oaxacan People's Popular Assembly (APPO) was formed on June 21, in reaction to the violence of June 14. The APPO consists of 350 social organizations, of which the SNTE 22 is one, and is run by participatory assembly. Assembly representation was initially offered only to groups with ten or more official members, but now membership is open to all and includes large numbers of less formally organized neighborhood residents and activists.

The APPO's principal demand is the exit of URO from the office he attained through clear electoral fraud. After failing to push URO out through legal means, APPO brigades took over the entire state government structure and commandeered 12 of the 13 commercial radio stations in Oaxaca City,

as well as the local university radio station.

Dialogue held with the secretary of the interior went nowhere. The federal legislature refused to remove the governor from office, and URO made it clear that he would not leave, claiming that he is the legitimate governor of the state.

On October 29, more than 3,800 Federal Preventative Police (PFP) officers stormed the city, took the *zocalo* and dismantled all but the most combative APPO barricades. On November 2, the PFP tried to take the university campus, home to Radio Universidad, the sole remaining APPO-operated radio station, but were repelled by protesters after an eight-hour street battle.

Enrique Rueda, the head of SNTE 22, continued to negotiate with the government and betrayed the movement by declaring that the teachers would return to classes. Although some schools have resumed session, the majority of the teachers remain on strike, swearing that they'll only enter the classrooms after URO has stepped down.

Government repression is high with daily arrests, disappearances and shootings by government-contracted paramilitaries, many of whom are policemen in civilian clothing. As of press time, at least 18 people have been murdered by paramilitaries and countless other disappeared persons are feared dead.

Despite this, the APPO remains resolute in its struggle and on November 10-12 held its first constitutional congress to formalize membership and assembly protocols. The congress finished with a number of issues unresolved, most importantly the split between APPO members who want to ally with the Party of the Democratic Revolution, the more liberal Mexican political party, and those who want



to eschew party politics altogether in favor of a more direct democratic structure.

It is no surprise that something like the APPO would have such success in Oaxaca—70 percent of the state's population is indigenous, and 407 of the 572 state municipalities are governed by the "use and customs" laws, under which communities elect representative governments in a yearly assembly that political parties are denied access to. Although use and customs laws are unique to Oaxaca, there have been People's Popular Assemblies created in several other states, and the federal government worries that if the APPO succeeds in ousting URO, president-elect Felipe Calderón, who also gained office through electoral fraud, will be the subject of a similar popular movement.

For more information, visit www.indybay.org; www.narconews.com; www.democracynow.org; nyc.indymedia.org; www.counterpunch.org.

blast from the past

Brigid 1997 *Earth First! Journal*



First Minnesota Logging Blockade Nets Victory

BY WILD WILLY

On December 9, 1996, at about 4:30 a.m., a group of seven wet-behind-the-ears forest defenders met on US Forest Service (USFS) Road 200 in northern Minnesota, just a few miles from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. They called themselves Earth First! Big Woods. Sure, some of these folks had been involved in anti-war or anti-nuke protests, and some of them had even been arrested for their actions. But none of them had ever done what they were going to do that cold morning: stop loggers from cutting one of the last old white pine stands left in Superior National Forest.

The would-be treehuggers decided to make their stand near the bottom of a steep hill, at a narrow point in the road where a stream washed away any hopes of driving around the blockade. By about 6 a.m., a fire in the middle of the road was sporting healthy five-foot flames, and they knew that at any moment loggers would be coming over the hill.

The USFS named the sale Little Alphonie. There was much internal argument at the agency about the sale of this area. The protesters had acquired internal USFS paperwork that said that the sale "is a compromise between wildlife and silviculture vs. timber-driven targets." The activists also had a copy of another document marked "Do Not File in Public File" that said, "We are very concerned about National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation and the silvicultural soundness of the decision."

Armed with the dirty USFS documents and cardboard signs, the protesters waited for the work crew. At around 6:30 a.m., the waiting was over. The lead truck containing the logger and his spouse came to a halt just feet from the bonfire. Behind him was a semi trailer with a feller-buncher on it. Directly behind that came a van with five more protesters and a video camera.

The standoff began, them in their trucks and the activists around the fire, holding signs lit only by the logger's headlights. After about an hour, Smokey the Bear joined the activists at the fire and told them, "I used to do public

relations work for the USFS, but this had gone way too far." Smokey told the activists that if they helped him, he would show them just how much he cared about the forests. So, with the help of a diversion and a lot of luck (the truck driver needed to relieve himself), Smokey chained himself to the front bumper of the running semi trailer hauling (as Smokey called it) the raper-butcher.



artwork by Jimmy Bryant

It is probably safe to say that if the video camera had not been there, we might be talking about the late Smokey the Bear. The truck driver, upon realizing his own bad sense of timing, got very angry. He wrapped the loose end of a chain around the bear's neck. The logger went for some kind of tool on an axe handle and threatened to use it to get "that damned thing off my truck."

After three hours and more traffic than USFS Road 200 had seen in the last week, the lead ranger negotiated with Smokey the Bear to unlock. She promised him (in writing) that she would order the logger to turn his equipment around and not return that day.

Smokey unchained herself, but some of the protesters, out of a basic sense of mistrust, refused to leave the road to let the beast turn around. It took the logger about an hour to back his truck up the hill. At one point, he

had to unload the feller-buncher and use it to pull the semi up the hill.

The protesters had done what they didn't think was possible—stood between the logger and the trees, and won.

The blockade was held for a total of 12 days and got awesome newspaper coverage. The "no compromise" stance not only resulted in the education of people all over Minnesota about national forests and their plight, but also created a platform for other organizations to use legal means to stop this dastardly cut.

The headlines went from "12 activists block forest road to prevent logging of old pines" to "US suspends sale of trees in National Forest" in ten days....

For the rest of the EF! Big Woods story, check out the Brigid 1997 issue of the *Earth First! Journal*. Back issues of the EF! Journal are available for \$5 each. Order our near-complete, 27-year set for \$500.

DEALING WITH TRAUMA AND BURNOUT

EXPERIENCES OF SUPPORT WORK

BY ACTIVIST TRAUMA SUPPORT

In mainstream society, well-being is connected with saunas and mudpacks, so we have tried to give it a different connotation in activist circles. Personal well-being is about us. It's about how we deal with the stress of organizing, juggling multiple responsibilities, maintaining our physical health, taking breaks, not becoming sleep deprived, avoiding burnout and developing sustainable activism. It involves dealing with fear and trauma caused by police confrontations, learning to stay calm when there's a lot of pressure, knowing your own limits and treating yourself well. We like taking care of each other, taking care of ourselves and continuing our resistance.

Activist Trauma Support started in 2005, in response to demonstrators' traumatic experiences during the Group of Eight (G8) protests in Scotland. A group of people with diverse professional backgrounds organized trauma support into three parts: first, education, including workshops, printed material, a webpage and talks; second, emotional first aid, offering recovery spaces with trained listeners (including counselors and psychologists), massages, cups of tea, a 24-hour phone help line, a safe space for emergencies and facilitated group debriefings; and third, long-term support, offering phone and email support, personal meetings and a public database with contacts.

During the G8, we learned three main lessons: First, when offering trauma support, you may be the nearest available emotional support, and there is no limit to the issues that may come up. Second, there is a need to work on burnout. Third, we need a paradigm shift toward more awareness of and respect for emotions. Activist Trauma Support incorporated these lessons into subsequent campaigns.

Wellness at Gatherings

In September 2006, people gathered at the 10-day Camp for Climate Action near Leeds, England, to take direct action against Drax coal-fired power station, as well as discuss and live positive alternatives to climate chaos (see *EF!J* November-December 2006). The Well-being Space provided a calm area that was away from the camp center but not too isolated. A big sign at the entrance said: "Come in to have a break, de-stress, relax, have a cup of

tea, talk to somebody, recover, book a massage or book a counselor." The space was open from 11 a.m. to midnight but was staffed at all times for emergencies. Two people at a time took daily shifts of three hours each; in total, 15 people ran the space. During our 60- to 90-minute daily group meetings, we had a debriefing, discussion, group bonding and updates. People who used the space included key organizers, the sleep deprived, the traumatized, and those needing to talk or get massage work.

A debriefing was held for the kids' bloc—maybe the first kids' debriefing after a kids' bloc action ever. We realized the importance of approaching groups to offer a post-action debriefing or to supply guidelines. Everyone got an overall action picture as personal roles were shared during go-arounds. People's thoughts and feelings provided an awareness of others' emotional states. Talking about trauma is an important recovery

step towards a paradigm shift. People with mental health issues also felt that it was safe for them to come to this action camp. The support space

was used by those who had difficulty coping or had just stopped their medication.

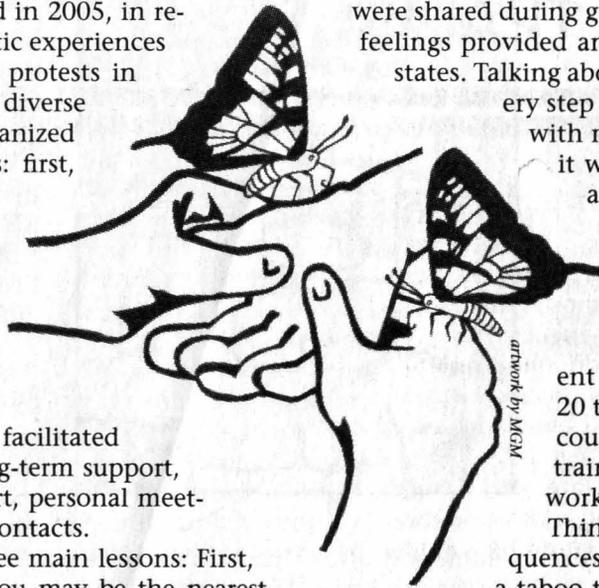
Our team was diverse, allowing us to help with different issues. Our age range was from 20 to 50 and included psychologists, counselors, activists who had been trained in emotional support, body workers and social workers.

Thinking about the emotional consequences our activism has on us has been a taboo topic for too long. To breach this subject, we offered a workshop on burnout

and sustainable activism, and another on activist trauma and recovery.

Avoiding Burnout

Some activists work far beyond their boundaries, paralyzing themselves for months afterwards. But to others, taking a break can be regarded as a betrayal. During the Climate Camp, this attitude was questioned and started to change. People with a lot of responsibilities would lay down for a while, get a massage or just take time for themselves. As an organizer, it is hard to take a break and feel confident that things will happen without you and that the world will keep turning. Maintaining your own well-being enables you to work more productively. Massages



artwork by MGM

can be very helpful in this respect, to relieve the emotional and physical pains of hard work.

Police violence in response to political protest encompasses more than just physical injuries. Many people who have been attacked by the police or witness state violence deal with emotional consequences. Sometimes they are stigmatized for being weak, and symptoms of trauma are not recognized. However, trauma is a natural response and has nothing to do with personal weakness. Psychologists call the reaction that occurs after direct or indirect experiences of brutality Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

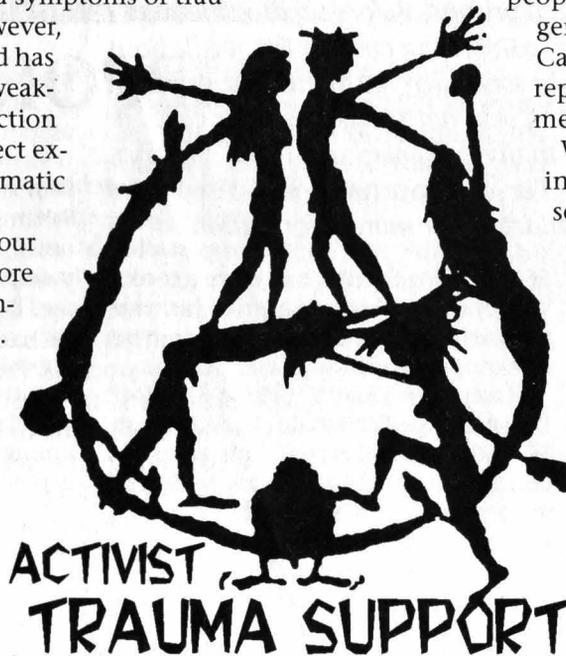
During the Climate Camp, our well-being group became more solid with more people getting involved from the UK and Europe. We have decided to hold three weekend-long meetings a year for more in-depth work rather than just working at camps and convergence centers.

Altogether, the experience has been positive. We have received a lot of

feedback, including the changes you can't measure, like how people think and talk more effectively and healthily, and how it feels to be at a place with a well-being space. Some people said it was reassuring, like having a medic around, even if you might not need her. This is a learning process that is most effective with more people. It felt really good to be part of the general political success of the Climate Camp, especially in the sense of fighting repression in ways that make our movements stronger and more versatile.

We have successfully started breaking the taboo around emotional consequences of police violence. We consider trauma support to be an essential part of anti-repression work. We only have a chance by standing our ground and supporting each other through the aftermath of political violence.

For more information, contact Activist Trauma Support, OARC, EOCC, Princes St, Oxford, OX4 1DD, UK; activist_trauma@riseup.net; www.activist-trauma.net; healingtrauma.pscap.org.



Post-Traumatic Stress

Reactions to post-traumatic stress occur in three different areas. You might experience some or all of these signs:

1. Re-experiencing the traumatic event, including nightmares, flashbacks, intrusive memories and the feeling of not being able to release the experience;
2. Avoidance/suppression/emotional numbing, including loss of memory, self-medication (alcohol/drugs), self-isolation, social withdrawal and avoidance of anything that reminds you of the experience;
3. Increased agitation, including sleeplessness, irritation, emotional outbreaks, panic attacks, fearfulness, hyper-vigilance and difficulty concentrating and performing normal tasks.

These are common reactions to extreme experiences. A lot of people have gone through this and gotten over it.

There are two essential components of recovery:

1. Stay at a safe, calm place for some time with caring people whom you trust.
2. Work through the experience. Find words for what happened and tell a friend, write it down or express it another way.

Seventy percent of activists' symptoms fade out after four to six weeks. If symptoms continue, this condition is called Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and is so serious that professional help is needed. There is a possibility that PTSD can appear months to years after the experience (delayed PTSD). PTSD is a processing dysfunction, meaning that the system blocks or does not process the experience.

Burnout

Burnout happens slowly over a long period of time. It can be expressed physically and/or mentally. Symptoms of burnout can include:

- A creeping feeling that activism is taking over your life,
- Difficulty in making decisions,
- Inability to stay focused,
- Insomnia, difficulty in sleeping or getting enough sleep,
- A growing tendency to think negatively,
- Pervasive feelings of hopelessness,
- A loss of energy and sense of purpose,
- A loss of pleasure in food, friends or other activities that were once exciting and interesting—a general sense of running on empty, and
- Temper tantrums over trivial matters, not wanting to get out of bed in the morning or becoming accident prone.

Physical indications of burnout include muscle tension, restriction of blood flow to the tissues and increased adrenaline buildup, possibly leading to headache, backache and exhaustion.

Some strategies for dealing with burnout include:

- Take some time off,
- Take time to reconnect with yourself and enjoy life,
- Learn to live with imperfection,
- Share work and responsibility, and
- Take regular breaks for sleep, food, exercise and hugs.

Prisoners in the Struggle: Support Them!

The following list is a small sample of the total number of political prisoners and prisoner support groups worldwide. 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 you write to a prisoner. When prisoners are awaiting trial, it is best not to discuss their cases or related topics with them. Although many prisoners are listed together, they must be written to separately. The EF! Journal offers discounted subscriptions for prisoners. Please contact us for more information.

Prisoner and Legal Updates

•Madeline Buckler, PR7492, HMP Morton Hall, Swinderby, Lincoln, LN6 9PT, UK. Serving two years for sending hate mail to a supplier of guinea pigs for vivisection. She has been moved to the above address.

•Jacob Conroy, #93501-011, FCI Victorville Medium I, POB 5300, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA. Serving four years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC). For more information, visit www.supportjake.org.

•Donald Currie, TN 4593, HMP Woodhill, Tattenhoe St, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK4 4DA, UK. Sentenced to 12 years on December 7, for arson against companies linked with the vivisection industry.

•Darius Fulmer, #26397-050, FCI Fort Dix, POB 2000, Fort Dix, NJ 08640, USA. Serving one year for a conspiracy charge stemming from his work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.shac7.com.

•Lauren Gazzola, #93497-011, FCI Danbury, Rte 37, Danbury, CT 06811, USA. Serving 4.3 years for conspiracy charges stemming from her work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.supportlauren.com.

•Joshua Harper, #29429-086, FDC Sheridan, POB 6000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA. Serving three years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.joshharper.org.

•Joseph Harris, TNS728, HMP Lewes, Brighton Rd, East Sussex, BN7 1EA, UK. Serving three years for damaging the property of people associated with Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). He has been moved to the above address.

•Jeff Hogg was released on November 15, after serving six months for refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating the Earth Liberation Front (ELF).

•Kevin Kjonaas, #93502-011, FCI Sandstone, POB 1000, Sandstone, MN

55072, USA. Serving six years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.supportkevin.com.

•Josephine Mayo, PR6508, HMP Drake Hall, Eccleshall, Staffordshire, ST21 6LQ, UK. Serving four years for conspiracy to blackmail a supplier of guinea pigs for vivisection. She has been moved to the above address.

•Andrew Stepanian, #26399-050, FCI Butner Medium II, POB 1500, Butner, NC 27509, USA. Serving three years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.andystepanian.com.

•Daniel Wadham was released under electronic surveillance on November 17, after serving one year for using abusive words and behavior toward a fox hunter.

•Nadia Winstead was found in contempt of court on November 17, for refusing to testify about SHAC before a grand jury. She is free on bail pending her appeal.

Awaiting Trial or Sentencing

•Fadalla Idris Alajaimy, Mohamed Ahmed Alajaimy and Ali Mohamed Alhassen Massad are awaiting trial for "waging war against the state"—a capital crime—for allegedly organizing against the construction of a dam. Their current addresses are unknown. For more information, contact the Sudan Organization Against Torture, Argo House, Kilburn Park Rd, London NW6 5LF, UK; info@soatsudan.org; www.soatsudan.org.

•Tre Arrow, CS#05850722, Vancouver Island Regional Correction Center, 4216 Wilkinson Rd, Victoria, BC, V8Z 5B2, Canada. Appealing extradition to the US to stand trial for alleged involvement in the arsons of logging trucks and vehicles owned by a sand and gravel company. For more information, visit www.trearrow.org.

•Eric McDavid, X-2972521 4E231A, Sacramento County Main Jail, 651 I St, Sacramento, CA 95814, USA. Awaiting trial for alleged conspiracy to destroy the US Forestry Service's Institute of Forest Genetics, a dam, cell-phone towers and power plants. For more information, visit www.supporteric.org.

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

•The "Lecce 5" are awaiting trial in Italy, accused of damaging gas pumps in opposition to the war on Iraq, targeting Benetton in support of the Mapuche and damaging a bank with links to an immigrant-detention facility. All of the defendants are now under house arrest.

Animal Liberation

•Jon Ablewhite, TB4885, John Smith, TB4887, and Kerry Whitburn, TB4886, HMP Lowdham Grange, Lowdham, Nottingham, NG14 7DA, UK. Serving 12 years for conspiracy to blackmail a supplier of guinea pigs for vivisection.

•Natasha Avery, NR 8987, UKDS HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Serving 16 months for using abusive words and behavior toward a fox hunter.

•Dave Blenkinsop, EM7899, HMP Rye Hill, Onley, Warwickshire, CV23 8AN, UK. Serving 10 years for attacking the managing director of HLS, liberating 600 guinea pigs and planting incendiary devices under slaughterhouse vehicles.

•Rodney Coronado, #03895-000, FCI Tucson, 8901 S Wilmot Rd, Tucson, AZ 85706, USA. Serving eight months for his role in an EF! sabotage of a mountain lion hunt. Coronado is also awaiting trial for allegedly telling people how to construct an incendiary device during a speech at an animal rights gathering. For more information, visit www.supportrod.org.

•Joshua Demmitt, #12314-081, FCI Safford, POB 9000, Safford, AZ 85548, USA. Serving 2.5 years for an Animal Liberation Front (ALF) arson of an animal-testing facility. For more information, visit www.supportjosh.org.

•Garfield Marcus Gabbard, TV4271, HMP Moorland (Closed), Bawtry Rd, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN7 6BW, UK. Serving 21 months for threatening to kick a security guard during an anti-vivisection protest.

•Sarah Gisborne, LT5393, HMP Cookham Wood, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3LU, UK. Serving 5.5 years for conspiracy to damage vehicles owned by people linked to HLS.

•Peter Daniel Young, #10269-111, FCI Victorville Medium II, POB 5700, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA. Serving two years for releasing mink and foxes from six different fur farms, and awaiting trial for alleged involvement in a 1997 mink liberation in South Dakota. For more information, visit www.supportpeter.com.

Ecodefense

•Marco Camenisch, Postfach 3143, CH-8105 Regensdorf, Switzerland. Serving 27 years for using explosives to target nuclear facility power lines and for the alleged murder of a Swiss border guard. Camenisch reads French, German, Spanish and Italian fluently, as well as some English.

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

•Jeffrey "Free" Luers, #13797671, OSP, 2605 State St, Salem, OR 97310, USA. Serving 22 years and eight months for arson at an SUV dealership and for attempted arson of an oil truck. For more information, visit www.freefreenow.org.

•Christopher McIntosh, #30512-013, USP Hazelton, POB 2000, Bruceton Mills, WV 26525, USA. Serving eight years for a joint ALF/ELF arson of a McDonald's. For more information, visit www.supportchris.org.

•John Wade, #38548-083, FCI Petersburg Low, Satellite Camp, POB 90027, 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.

•Helen Woodson, #03231-045, FMC Carswell, Admin Max Unit, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127, USA. Serving nearly nine years for violating her parole by dumping a cup of red paint over the security apparatus of a federal court and making warnings ("threats") of weapons of mass destruction. In 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.

Il Silvestre

Il Silvestre is an Italian eco-anarchist group whose members have been framed for

a variety of direct actions. Except for Gioia, all the defendants listed below are awaiting trial for allegedly using explosives to damage an electricity pylon. Four other Il Silvestre members—Giuseppe Bonamici, William Frediani, Leonardo Landi and Alessio Perondi—are currently under house arrest.

•Federico Bonamici, Casa di Reclusione, Via Nuova Poggioreale 177, 80143 Napoli Poggioreale (NA), Italy.

•Benedetta Galante, Casa Circondariale, Contrada Capo di Monte, 82100 Benevento (BN), Italy. Serving 3.5 years for promoting and participating in direct action.

•Francesco Gioia, Via Maiano 10, 06049 Spoleto, Italy. Serving more than five years for promoting and participating in direct action. Gioia is also awaiting trial for escaping from house arrest.

•Silvia Guerini, Carcere "La Dozza," Via Del Gomito 2, 40127 Bologna, Italy.

•Costantino Ragusa, Casa Circondariale, Via Prati Nuovi 7, 27058 Voghera (PV), Italy. Serving 7.5 years for promoting and participating in direct action, and organizing an anti-genetic-engineering protest.

Indigenous Resistance

•Byron Shane of Chubbuck® Clan, #07909-051, USP Beaumont, POB 26030, Beaumont, Texas, 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 National Liberation Army in Mexico.

•Leonard Peltier, #89637-132, USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837, 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. For more information, visit www.freepeltier.org.

Mapuche

The indigenous Mapuche people in Chile are fighting to defend their forests from multinational companies. For more information, visit www.mapuche-nation.org.

•Aniceto Norín Catriman and Pascual Pichún Paillalao, Carcel de Traiguén—Coronel Gregorio Urrutia N° 129, Traiguén, IX Región, Chile. Mapuche lonkos (chiefs) serving five years for intimidation and "terrorist arson."

•Víctor Ancalaf Llaupe, Complejo Penitenciario El Manzano Concepción—Dirección, Camino a Penco No 450 Casilla 70, Chile. Mapuche leader serving five years for "terrorist arson."

•Jaime Huenchullan Cayul, Juan Carlos Huenulao Tricauko, Florencio Jaime

Marileo Saravia, José Patricio Marileo Saravia, Jose Nain Curamil and Patricia Troncoso Robles, Centro Detención Penitenciaria Pedro Aguirre—Cerda N° 80 y Los Confines s/n°, Angol, IX Región, Chile. Huenchullan is awaiting trial, accused of theft and intimidation. Huenulao is awaiting trial, accused of "terrorist arson." Troconso and the Marileos are serving 10 years for "terrorist arson." Nain, a Mapuche leader, is serving five years for arson.

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. For more information, visit www.onamove.com.

•Debbie Sims Africa, #OO6307, Janet Hollaway Africa, #OO6308, and Janine Phillips Africa, #OO6309, SCI Cambridge Springs, 451 Fullerton Ave, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-1238, USA.

•Michael Davis Africa, #AM4973, and Charles Sims Africa, #AM4975, SCI Graterford, POB 244, Graterford, PA 19426-0246, USA.

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

•William Phillips Africa, #AM4984, and Delbert Orr Africa, #AM4985, SCI Dallas, Follies Rd, Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612-0286, 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

•José Pérez González, #21519-069, FCI Yazoo City Medium, POB 5888, Yazoo City, MS 39194-5888, USA. Serving five years for conspiracy to destroy federal property during a May 2003 celebration of the end of the US military occupation of Vieques.

•Fran Thompson, #1090915 HU 1C, WERDCC, POB 300, 1101 E Hwy 54, 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.

Prisoner Support Groups

•Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, elp4321@hotmail.com; www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk.

•North American Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, naelpsn@mutualaid.org; www.eco-prisoners.org.

announcements

Mountain Justice Spring Break

March • Southern Appalachia

Come to Appalachia this Spring Break to see mountaintop removal for yourself, connect with local communities fighting this destructive practice and get involved in community service projects. Join local organizers in learning about, defending and celebrating Appalachian culture and ecology.

The Southern Energy Network is teaming up with Coal River Mountain Watch, the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, the Mountain Sustainability Project, the Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards, United Mountain Defense and the Mountain Links Resource Center. These groups in Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia will be hosting young people from across the nation for two educational and empowering weeks.

There will be two one-week-long sessions with a week-end convergence in between in West Virginia, and additional one-week sessions in Tennessee, Virginia and possibly Kentucky.

For more information, visit www.climateaction.net/mjsb.

Rising Tide Road Show

Spring

This Spring, Rising Tide North America (RTNA) will bring the global struggle for climate justice to the belly of the beast, connecting the dots between the overarching crisis of climate change and the grassroots struggles of communities resisting the fossil fuel industry's assault on their land and culture.

Through partnering with local environmental and climate justice organizations in each region of the US, as well as places in Mexico and Canada, RTNA seeks to amplify the voices of those most affected by climate change and the fossil fuel industry, boost support for these revolutions on the local level, and create a culture of solidarity across lines of race, class and gender. RTNA is taking a popular education approach to organizing and agitating for climate justice, employing art, music and theatre to foment life-affirming resistance.

In addition to offering a "main event," the road show is available for longer tour stops of up to a few days to do more in-depth workshops.

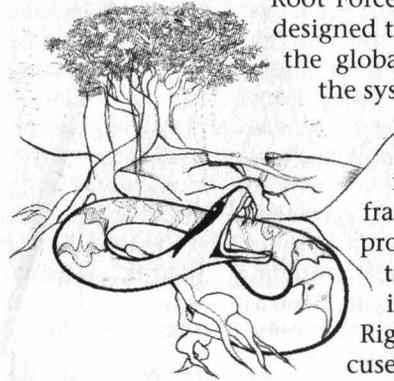
RTNA wants to hear from you! Are you engaged in a climate-related campaign or community project? Would you like to work on a tour stop in your area? Can you host us in your town? Get in touch with us!

For more information, contact RTNA, roadshow@risingtidenorthamerica.org; www.risingtidenorthamerica.org.

Root Force Road Show

Spring • Western US

Are you tired of talking about "the system" and ready to do something about it? Are you looking for a way to fight the onslaught of corporate globalization beyond summit hopping and buying fair trade?



Root Force is a strategic campaign designed to exploit weak points in the global economy and hasten the system's collapse. Using direct action, Root Force pressures all those involved in specific infrastructure construction projects in Latin America to end their participation in ecocide and genocide.

Right now, Root Force is focused on forcing the cancel-

lation of La Parota Dam in Mexico and the Anillo Periférico Highway in El Salvador.

The Root Force Road Show will be traveling the western states this Spring. Learn about globalization from puppets, hear stories and see slides from communities of resistance in Latin America, and find out what *you* can do to demolish colonialism at its foundations. The road show is currently in planning stages, so get in touch today to organize a stop in your town!

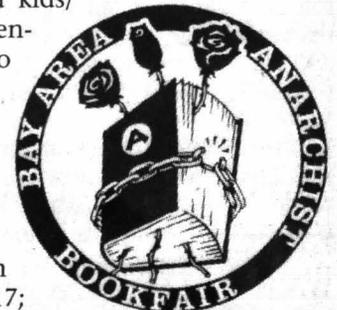
For more information, contact Root Force, POB 1302, Tucson, AZ 85702; info@rootforce.org; www.rootforce.org.

12th Annual Bay Area Anarchist Bookfair

March 17-18 • San Francisco, California

Bound Together Books is hosting the annual Anarchist Bookfair in San Francisco, on March 17-18. It will be held in Golden Gate Park, at the San Francisco County Fair Building (Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way). The weekend will feature more than 50 anarchist publishers and vendors, and will include a spoken-word program. There will be free bike valet service, a kids/family space, food by Arizmen-di bakery and café, and no cover charge.

A six-foot table for both days costs \$100. For more information, contact the Anarchist Bookfair Committee, c/o Bound Together Books, 1369 Haight St, San Francisco, California 94117; (415) 431-8355.





Asheville Global Report

News from the Front Lines

Winner of ten
Project Censored awards



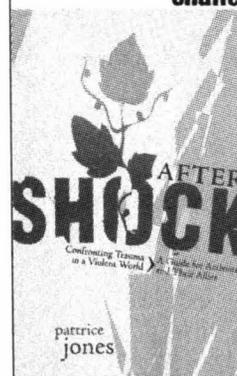
Subscribe for weekly delivery:
Six months for \$30
One year for \$60

Or visit us online at agrnews.org
Asheville Global Report is a tax-exempt
501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

For a free sample issue, clip this ad and send to:
AGR, PO Box 1504, Asheville, NC 28802

Name: _____
Address: _____

**"a light in the dark for those of us who have dared to
challenge the status quo" - Jeff "Free" Luers**



AFTERSHOCK
Confronting Trauma in a Violent World
A Guide for Activists and Their Allies

patrice jones

ISBN: 1590561031
Lantern Books, Flashpoint Series
\$15 (Green Press Initiative price)

www.aftershock.patricejones.info

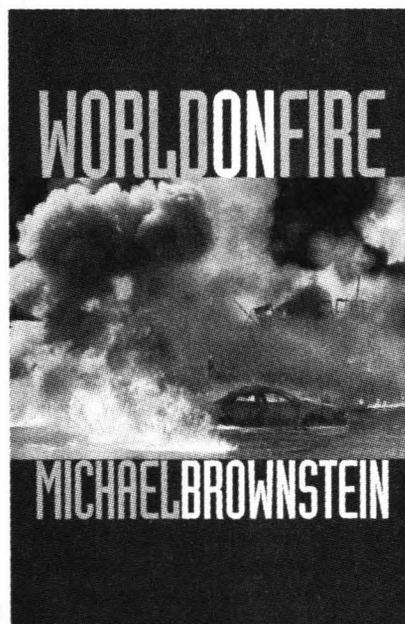
Now on MySpace!

Get the latest news and information
from the *Earth First! Journal*, including:

- Local event invitations,
- Submission deadline alerts,
- New issue announcements,
- Reports to the movement, and
- Much, much more!

www.myspace.com/earthfirstjournal

"Now's the time of the motherfuckers . . ."



"Bold and ambitious, *World on Fire* engages the great issues of the day, mixing the personal with the political, demanding attention be paid, continuing in the American tradition of Whitman, Ginsberg, and Pound. Here is a howl for the twenty-first century."

—Eric Schlosser, author of *Fast Food Nation*



OPEN CITY BOOKS

www.opencity.org

Subscribe to the Earth First! Journal

...the radical environmental journal

Name _____ \$500 Lifetime Subscription \$40 Surface Mail, International

Address _____ \$25 Regular Rate (\$22 low income) \$40 Air Mail, Canada or Mexico

City, State, Zip+4 _____ \$40 First Class \$50 Air Mail, International
(US \$, no foreign checks)

Tel. _____ Country _____ \$40 Anonymous Envelope

Email _____ \$75 Corporate or Law Enforcement Rate \$ _____ DONATION

Send me a free Keep It Wild EF! music compilation with my subscription

Mail: Earth First! Journal-subscriptions
POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702

Online: www.earthfirstjournal.org

Credit Card Orders

circle one: Visa / MC

_____ Exp. date _____

EARTH FIRST! DIRECTORY

ARIZONA

Catalyst Infoshop

109 N McCormick St, Prescott, AZ 86301
(928) 443-8525; info@catalystinfoshop.org

Chuk'shon EF!

sabthebastards@hotmail.com

Flagstaff Activist Network

POB 911, Flagstaff, AZ 86002

(928) 213-9507; info@flagstaffactivist.org

Phoenix EF!

phoenixef@excite.com

Tucson EF!

az_earth_first@hotmail.com

CALIFORNIA

ACT UP! San Francisco

1884 Market St, San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 864-6686; actupsf@hotmail.com

Direct Action Fund

POB 210, Canyon, CA 94516

Free Mind Media

546 Pacific Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

info@freemindmedia.org

Long Haul Infoshop

3124 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, CA 94705

(510) 540-0751; slingshot@tao.ca

North Coast EF!

POB 28, Arcata, CA 95518

(707) 825-6598

Santa Cruz EF!

POB 344, Santa Cruz, CA 95061

cruzef@cruzio.com

Sierra Nevada EF!

935 F St, Fresno, CA 93706

collective@sierranevadaearthfirst.org

smartMeme Strategy & Training Project

2940 16th St #216, San Francisco, CA 94103

info@smartmeme.com

COLORADO

Wilderness Study Group

University of Colorado, Campus Box 207,

Boulder, CO 80309

wsg@colorado.edu

CONNECTICUT

Environmental Library Fund

25 Newtown Tpke, Weston, CT 06883

(203) 227-2065; remyc@prodigy.net

FLORIDA

Jeaga EF!

POB 961, Lake Worth, FL 33460

(561) 547-6686; jeagaearthfirst@riseup.net

INDIANA

Boxcar Books & Community Center

310A S Washington St, Bloomington,

IN 47401

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

KANSAS

Solidarity! Radical Library

1109 Massachusetts St, Lawrence, KS 66044

(785) 865-1374

MAINE

Maine EF!

POB 917, Belfast, ME 04915

maineef@yahoo.com

People's Free Space

POB 4875, Portland, ME 04112

info@peoplesfreespace.org

MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Direct Action

POB 484, Somerset, MA 02726

massdirectaction@riseup.net

MINNESOTA

Church of Deep Ecology

POB 16075, St Paul, MN 55116

(800) 862-7031;

contact@churchofdeepecology.org

Forest Ecosystems Action Group

2441 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55405

paarise@mtn.org

MISSOURI

Community Arts & Media Project

POB 63232, St Louis, MO 63163

mberry@riseup.net

MONTANA

Buffalo Field Campaign

POB 957, West Yellowstone, MT 59758

(406) 646-0070; buffalo@wildrockies.org

Wild Rockies EF!

INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS

AUSTRALIA

EF! Australia

POB 161, Norseman, WA, 6443, Australia

efoz@earthfirst.org.au

EF! OZ-Jervis Bay

POB 295, Nowra, NSW, 2541, Australia

BELGIUM

EF! Belgium Support Group

belgium2005@groenfront.be

CANADA

Elaho EF!

earth_first@resist.ca

Ottawa EF!

ottawaeearthfirst@resist.ca; ottawaeearthfirst.

blogspot.com

CZECH REPUBLIC

Car Busters

Krátka 26, 100 00 Prague 10, Czech Republic

420-274-810-849; info@carbusters.org

EIRE

An Talamh Glas (Green Earth)

atgblue@yahoo.com

ENGLAND

EF! Action Update

12 London Rd, Brighton BN1 4JA, UK

mail@actionupdate.org.uk

Leeds EF! c/o CRC

16 Sholebroke Ave, Leeds LS7 3HB, UK

0113-262-9365; leedsef@ukf.net

London EF!

84B Whitechapel High St, London E1 0, UK

eflondon@ziplip.com

London Rising Tide

62 Fieldgate St, London E1 1ES, UK

0770-879-4665; london@risingtide.org.uk

Manchester EF!

22a Beswick St, Manchester M4 7HS, UK

mancef@nematode.freerve.co.uk

Road Block

POB 164, Totnes, TQ9 5WX, UK

020-7729-6973; office@roadblock.org.uk

GERMANY

EF! Germany

green.rage@web.de

ISRAEL

Green Action Israel

POB 4611, Tel Aviv 61046, Israel

NETHERLANDS

ASEED Europe

Plantage Doklaan 12 A, 1018 CM,

Amsterdam, Netherlands

31-20-668-2236; aseedeur@antenna.nl

Vrienden van GroenFront!

POB 85069, 3508 AB Utrecht, Netherlands

netherlands2005@groenfront.nl

NIGERIA

Environmental Rescue International

20 Dawson Rd, by Forestry Junction, Benin

City, Nigeria

environmentalrescue@yahoo.co.uk

RUSSIA

Ecodefense!

POB 1477, Kaliningrad, 236000, Russia

0112-44-84-43

SOUTH KOREA

Green Korea United

110-740 #605 Korean Ecumenical Bldg 136-56

Younji-Dong, Jongro-Gu, Seoul, South Korea

82-2-747-8500; greenkorea@greenkorea.org

(406) 961-0171; odinswyrd@yahoo.com

NEBRASKA

Environmental Resource Center

(308) 432-3458; buffalobruce@panhandle.net

NEW YORK

Central New York EF!

POB 35463, Syracuse, NY 13235

(585) 802-8330; cnyearthfirst@riseup.net

NORTH CAROLINA

Katúah EF!/Roadkill Faction

POB 1485, Asheville, NC 28802

Uwharrie EF!

bison12@wildmail.com

OHIO

Hock-Hocking EF!

(740) 592-2581; info@easternforestdefense.org

The Wire: A Community Resource Center

21 Kern St, Athens, OH 45701

(740) 589-5111; thewire@riseup.net

OREGON

Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project

27803 Williams Ln, Fossil, OR 97830

Cascadia EF!

POB 10384, Eugene, OR 97440

ef@cascadiarising.org

Cascadia Rising! Ecodefense

POB 12583, Portland, OR 97212

(503) 493-7495; action@cascadiarising.org

Green Anarchy

POB 11331, Eugene, OR 97440

collective@greenanarchy.org

PENNSYLVANIA

EF! Philly

earthfirstphilly@riseup.net

Species Traitor/Black and Green

POB 835, Greensburg, PA 15601

primalwar@hotmail.com

RHODE ISLAND

Ocean State EF!

oceanstate_ef@riseup.net

TENNESSEE

Three Rivers EF!

POB 16309, Knoxville, TN 37996

(865) 633-8483; annbonnylives@yahoo.com

UTAH

Wild Wasatch EF!

8790 W 25800 N, Portage, UT 84331

(435) 866-2137

VERMONT

Save the Corporations from Themselves

169 Main St, Brattleboro, VT 05301

(802) 254-4847; larrysvt@hotmail.com

WASHINGTON

The Evergreen State College

Environmental Resource Center

2700 Evergreen Pkwy NW, Cab 320,

Olympia, WA 98505

(360) 867-6784; erc@riseup.net

The Last Wizards

james@lastwizards.com

WISCONSIN

Madison EF!/Infoshop

1019 Williamson St #B, Madison, WI 53703

(608) 262-9036

WYOMING

Teewinot EF!

POB 1329, Jackson, WY 83001

(307) 690-6961; teewinotef@wildrockies.org



Some of the benefits of being listed in the EF! directory include: exposure for local and regional campaigns; free advertising space in the *Journal*; merchandise discounts; and bulk copies of the *Journal* for the price of postage. For more information, contact the EF! *Journal*, POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702; (520) 620-6900; collective@earthfirstjournal.org.

earth first! organizers' conference and winter rendezvous february 22-26 · austin, texas

The world around us is changing every day, and all animal and plant life will have to adapt and learn to live together in new ways. In this spirit of change and facing new challenges, the 2007 Earth First! Organizers' Conference (OC) and Winter Rendezvous will be hosted at the Rhizome Collective's brownfield in Austin, Texas, on February 22-26. This 10-acre brownfield is being modified into a community park and learning site for sustainable urban living. In the meantime, Rhizome has graciously allowed us to use the space for this event. (We must emphasize that the OC will take place *only* at the brownfield and not at Rhizome's headquarters. Questions regarding the OC should *not* be directed to Rhizome.)

The OC location is an interesting juxtaposition of nature and civilization; people used to dump their trash and environmental contaminants here, but now nature is beginning to thrive again. With a little work and community effort, the brownfield can become a greenfield. It abounds with many examples of the diverse lifeforms found in Texas, with cactus growing side by side with mesquite and oak. The weather in late February is cool yet sunny, and the wildflowers are beginning to bloom and paint the landscape.

The brownfield has a solar shower and one outhouse, with more to be built before the OC. There is space available for about 10-15 parked cars in the brownfield and on surrounding streets, but it is a residential area—so carpool as much as possible! Please do not bring any dogs because there are feral dogs in the area. This way we can avoid dog fights, which are dangerous for both animals and people.



There will be access to the community kitchen at Rhizome, where Austin Food Not Bombs, in collaboration with the OC organizers, will cook the meals and transport them back to the brownfield.

The gathering's first three days will be devoted to single blocks of discussions focusing on different aspects of our movement and directions it might be taking in the future. Rising Tide and Root Force will be presenting ideas during this time, and we ask that other groups please contact us if they want to ensure their subjects are addressed. There also will be space and time available for individuals to speak.

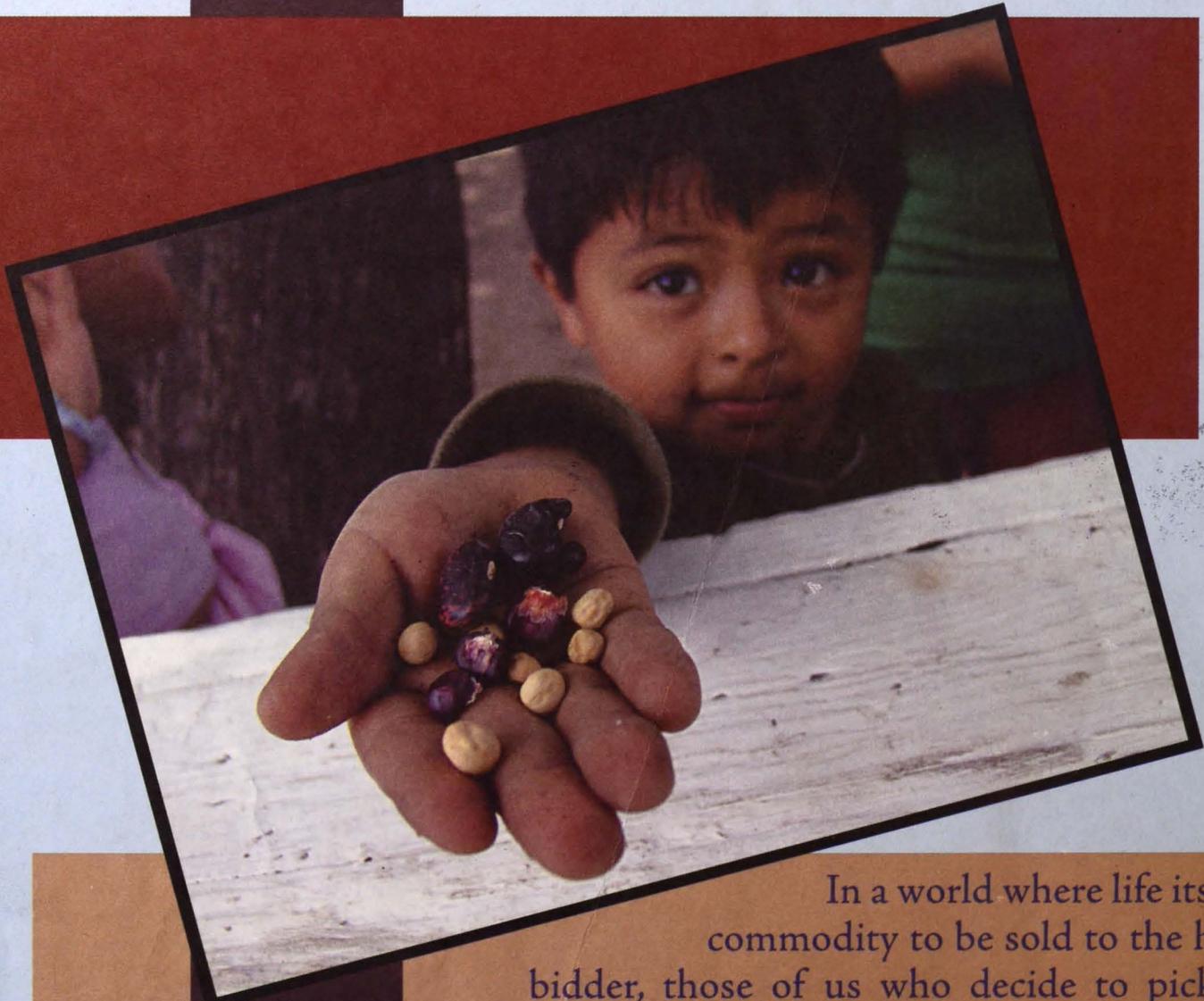
There will be a crucial anti-oppression and sexual assault workshop that everyone is encouraged to attend. Oppression needs to be addressed in the movement and in all aspects of our lives. We hope to have an open discussion, so that all feelings can be expressed.

The traditional "Night to Howl" will be held on Saturday, transitioning the OC into the Winter Rendezvous. The Rendezvous will consist of an open forum for a variety of issues, activities, workshops and learning.

What to bring: camping gear including tents/tarps, sleeping bags, etc. (even though this is the city, there is no shelter at the brownfield); personal water containers; personal eating utensils including dishes, cups and cutlery; personal food and food to donate; warm clothes (it gets chilly at night); musical instruments; rain gear for the possible storms; and toilet paper. Hope to see y'all there!

For more information, contact (210) 316-6014; (210) 834-1014; efoc2k7@hotmail.com; www.geocities.com/efoc2k7/index.html.



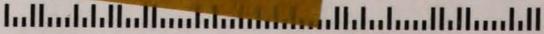


In a world where life itself is a commodity to be sold to the highest bidder, those of us who decide to pick up a shovel and work the unused land around us, to take back our stolen land and lives, to grow our own food, literally hold the seeds of revolution in our hands.

Daily Planet Publishing - *Earth First!*
POB 3023
Tucson, AZ 85702, USA

Address Service Requested

710 245 P74 ALL FOR ADC 320
5/1/2007
BRON TAYLOR
3815 NW 22ND TER
GAINESVILLE FL 32605-5832



Periodicals