



Suggested citation: Donny, Jonathan, Josh, and Sophia, eds., *Earth First!* 27, no. 3 (1 March 2007). Republished by the Environment & Society Portal, Multimedia Library. <http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/7243>

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Latin American Resistance · Do or Die · Let's Talk About Sex · Berkeley Treesits

# Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal  
Eostar March-April 2007



\$4.50 US \$7 Canada · Volume 27 #3



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**sabotage**  
industrial civilization



**earth first!**  
means no compromise in defense of the earth



# Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

Eostar March-April 2007

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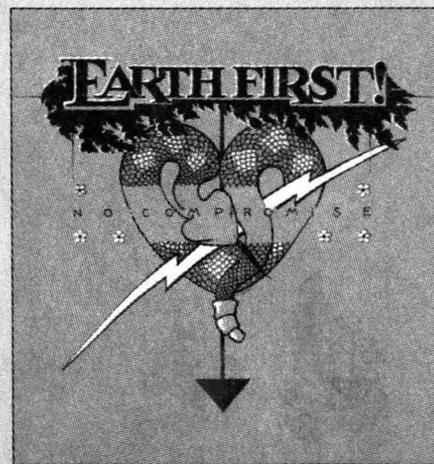
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The t-shirt contest finalists are featured on this issue's inside-front and outside-back covers. Please check the box by the t-shirt you think should win, and mail us your vote!



Send your choice to *Earth First! Journal*, POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702; (520) 620-6900; [collective@earthfirstjournal.org](mailto:collective@earthfirstjournal.org).

# Tips for the Aspiring Journal Contributor

Rather than hiring staff writers to cobble together stories from faraway sources on topics they personally know nothing about, the *Earth First! Journal* depends upon the people who know the issues best—those in the trees and at the barricades—to tell their own stories, in their own words and pictures.

In other words, if you don't write an article about what you're working on, we'll have no way of knowing about it. That's part of the *Journal's* (ideally) open, participatory and decentralized structure.

Yet if it's the movement's responsibility to contribute content to the *Journal*, then surely it's the *Journal* collective's responsibility to clearly express our needs. Here are some tips for the aspiring *Journal* contributor (that's you!):

- Familiarize yourself with the style and content of the *Journal*, and write for our audience. A radical ecological analysis, a critical yet constructive approach, and an emphasis on action and engagement are crucial components of most good *Journal* articles.

- Look through past issues (particularly recent ones) to see what has already been written on a subject. Just because a topic has been covered before doesn't mean that the *Journal* won't cover it again. However, new articles should provide plenty of *new* information.

- Don't assume that readers already know everything (or even anything) about an issue or campaign. Be sure to clearly provide necessary background information and history. When introducing people, say who they are and what they do. When describing a place, say what city/state/country/bioregion it's in. When explaining the history of a campaign, dates are crucial. Be specific!

- Be honest when describing actions. Not every action is a monumental victory. While it's tempting to describe an action using epic language, it can come across as dishonest if the facts don't match up. Acknowledging and addressing our failures is a crucial step in planning better actions in the future.

- If you're comfortable, ask friends and allies to look over the article before you send it to us. They may be more familiar with the subject than we are and can probably offer constructive criticisms and suggestions that we can't.

- Photographs need to have large dimensions (five by seven inches for the inside; nine by 12 inches for the cover) and a high resolution (300 dpi) to be suitable for publication. Conventional film cameras are generally better, since prints can be scanned at any size and resolution. Digital cameras, when they must be used, should be set to the highest possible resolution and dimensions.

Remember, these are only the most basic tips, and there are plenty more suggestions we could give folks who are interested in contributing content to the *Journal*. Call us, email us or chat with us at a gathering. That's why we're here!

—EF! JOURNAL COLLECTIVE



The newest addition to the Journal family: Donny's beautiful adopted child, osprey #788-58269

## Earth First!

### Eostar

March 1, 2007

Vol. 27, No. 3

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

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

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.

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*Earth First!* (ISSN 1055-8411) March-April 2007, Volume 27, Issue 3, 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.



# POM Wonderful Agrees to Stop Testing on Animals

BY DONNY

After a six-month campaign involving a mix of above- and underground actions, pomegranate juice maker POM Wonderful officially declared that it will no longer be associated with animal testing.

"POM Wonderful pomegranate juice has ceased all animal testing, and we have no plans to resume in the future," wrote Lynda and Stewart Resnick, owners of POM parent company Roll International, in a letter to retailers on January 17.

POM had been a target of animal rights activists because of the research it was conducting in order to show positive health benefits of its juice. One test consisted of locking week-old mouse pups—whose mothers had been fed pomegranate juice—in an oxygen-deprivation chamber for 45 minutes to induce severe brain damage. The babies were then decapitated and their brains studied. Another test involved severing the penile arteries of rabbits to simulate erectile dysfunction. The rabbits were then fed pomegranate juice, while the results were monitored by POM scientists. Other experiments were conducted in attempts to prove claims that drinking POM Wonderful would help fight heart disease, Alzheimer's disease and cancer.

While a company executive hinted in July that it would be very easy for POM to simply move its animal testing to the Lynda and Stewart Resnick Trust—thus presenting itself as cruelty-free while continuing the experiments through a front group—POM President and CEO Matt Tupper sent a letter to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) in late January, saying that neither POM nor any associated entities would participate in animal tests in the future.

Throughout the campaign, an assortment of tactics was used. Protesters in Los Angeles made their voices heard outside the homes of the Resnicks and other POM executives, encountering the expected wrath of police and neighbors, as well as the wild scene of Stuart Resnick yelling, "I don't care if you protest me for 45 years! I will never stop testing on animals!" This claim was made less than a week before the announcement that POM had decided to do exactly that.

Another group of activists, the Animal Rights Militia (ARM), released a statement in December saying that it had tampered with 487 bottles of POM Wonderful destined to be shipped to different stores along the East Coast.

"Those who drink the contaminated juice won't die like the animals in POM labs; but the diarrhea, vomiting and headaches will hopefully send a strong message that people will no longer allow innocent, defenseless animals to be tormented and killed for a health juice," read part of the communiqué. The action forced Wild Oats stores to temporarily pull POM Wonderful from their shelves.

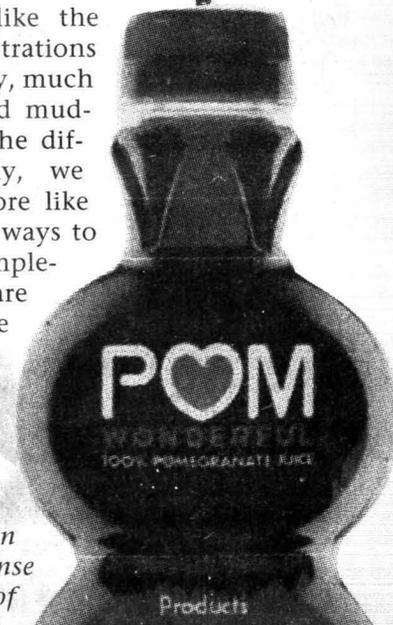
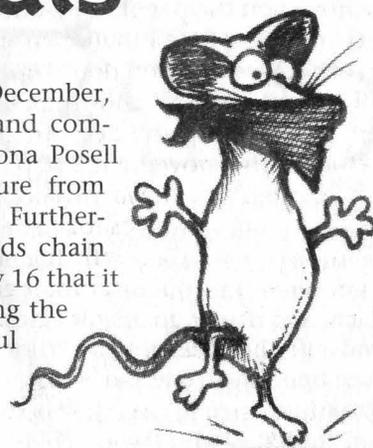
The combination of a boycott called by PETA, heat from the home demonstrations and the ARM sabotage got

fast results. In late December, POM Vice President and company spokesperson Fiona Posell resigned, citing pressure from animal rights groups. Furthermore, the Whole Foods chain announced on January 16 that it would be discontinuing the sale of POM Wonderful nationwide as of April 1. The very next day, POM made its public turnaround.

Even after this announcement, POM's veiled threats to shift animal testing to a front group prompted PETA to continue its boycott. PETA was pushing for POM to sign a statement that there would be absolutely no animal testing related to the company in any way, as other juice manufacturers, such as Naked Juice and Lakewood, have done. Tupper's letter at the end of January satisfied PETA, and the boycott is now off.

The campaign against POM Wonderful is a clear example that public pressure, when applied on many fronts, can force large companies to change their practices. It is admittedly rare to have underground actions, like those taken by ARM, coincide with aboveground organizing like the SHAC-style house demonstrations and PETA's boycott. Usually, much more public bickering and mudslinging occurs between the different factions. Hopefully, we can learn to strategize more like this in the future, finding ways to frame campaigns that complement what other folks are doing, whether or not we agree with their tactics. After all, this is about the animals in the laboratories (or about the trees or the mountains), not about how others view us.

*Donny is an Appalachian refugee, trying to make sense of life in an ecosystem full of saguaros and Beyond Bread.*



# Dear Shit for Brains

EF! Journal Collective,

My entire response to your reader survey, the reason I will not renew and the reason I am indifferent to the survival of the *Journal* is summed up in the name Ted Kaczynski.

At the time that I subscribed, I had forgotten that you listed this idiot as a political prisoner. Had I remembered, it is unlikely that I would have subscribed. The decision to list this individual as a "political prisoner" is an insult to the sacrifice and dedication of legions of direct actionists who have made and are making principled decisions to defend the wild and struggle for environmental and social justice.

What can you do now? I might consider resubscribing if you publish an article confessing your sins. Quietly dropping the listing, a tacit admission that it was ill-advised to begin with, doesn't go far enough. At a minimum, the editorial collective warrants a puking, peabrained, *agent provocateur* poodle.

—GRAVEL

P.S. Publish this as a letter to the editor and defend the listing or recant.

*Editors' note: Kaczynski himself requested to be removed from the prisoner page in 2001. Why? Because he thought that people were wasting valuable time and energy debating the appropriateness of his listing instead of taking action. We couldn't agree more.*

Dear EF! Journal,

It has been my experience that, a few times in one's life,

one will meet a stranger who communicates a very salient, unique perception. It doesn't happen often.

Now you listen to me. Sir Wilfred Thesiger died about two years ago; he was about 97. He was a British administrator in Ethiopia and Arabia (Sumerians) in the time of Haile Selassie, like in the '30s, '40s, etc. He said this: "I truly believe that the internal combustion engine is responsible for the destruction of Arab culture." So in the Lughnasadh issue, "Wolverine" lives with "no electricity, except for a phone and a truck" (see *EF!J* July-August 2005). It's kind of like saying, "I don't mine for gold, except for a little cyanide heap-leaching."

Then you get down on technology, but yet you say, "All letters must be typed or printed." What does this? A computer does this!

Like, there's this kid who comes up and wants money from me to prevent logging. So I say, "Do you live in a wooden house?" and he gets all flustered and goes away. So the point is, "It's all very well and good to protest environmentally destructive activities, but *you* use the products resulting from that destruction!" Nietzsche: "To create, it is necessary to destroy." So the emphasis should be, "Use only what is *necessary*." "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

Personally, I think this: Our society—"technologically advanced, morally primitive," "keeping busy," no matter how destructive—is always "better" than idleness, sin, laziness, freeloading and a

million other similar terms. Now you should see that if there's a market for it, people will buy and use it! Like, I was talking to this stockbroker, and I asked, "What if no one wants to buy your stock?" And he says, "There is always a market." (This guy does 10,000 trades per year.) So this "market-making" combined with the "idle hands, devil's workshop" morality, and add in the internal combustion engine, and doesn't that sound like the road to hell, good intentions or not?

I just got back from a 75-day kayak trip (solo) in Prince William Sound (PWS). I was talking to some locals. One said that there are about 3,000 otters in PWS. Legally, only native Alaskans can hunt them, and a couple of 'em have nice bedspreads made of otter skins.

The guy said that the "Exxon Valdez spill didn't ruin the herring fishery. Roe on kelp (herring roe) just went out of fashion in Japan."

I talked to another guy that lives in Mendocino. He said that there's lots of old growth left and the Fort Bragg mill has been shut down for quite a while.

I do think that lockdowns and court actions have a definite effect, but what bugs me is someone who righteously trumpets his horn in protest while consuming the very products that he protests against! Especially when the louder the protest, the more conspicuous that individual's consumption!

You advocate "non-violent protest," but you encourage people to "smash the cell phone." That

sounds violent. Violence doesn't necessarily have to be directed at people. So it's like, "Because I blow my trombone in protest, I have a right to use the products I am protesting." And the louder you blow, the more destructive you become, because, after all, the one who shouts loudest has a right to be more destructive than the quiet guy who just plain old doesn't use the product!

Also, don't use the word "zine." It's sleazy and denigrates the *Journal*. Find a better word. What if they bred a mosquito with no proboscis? Would you approve? Like, some other Alaska local asked me, "Have you ever had a moose burger?" and I said, "No." "How long have you lived here?" "Ten years." "You've had moose." So many roadkills (internal combustion again).

So torching SUVs and getting 28 years in Club Fed and yelling real loud ain't the answer, folks. You and me both have probably eaten GMOs and used a couple of two-by-fours, and there's six billion of us, so...

LV,

—JOHN MUELLER

Dear *Earth First!*,

I read the letter from Eugene who lives in New York who said one-third of all children have asthma who live there (see *EF!J* November-December 2006). Hey guys!!! How do we get everyone who lives there to start driving golf carts instead of cars? It's such an easy solution. It would save fuel. And think how much easier a golf cart

would be to repair. The traffic would actually probably go faster if everyone drove golf carts in New York! Some streets could be reserved for delivery trucks and buses. How do we inspire the people in New York City?

—TEENA

Dear editors,

Some underlying premises in the argument for utilizing the necessity defense slipped by in Mike Roselle's letter that I couldn't let pass unscathed (see *EF!* September-October 2006). The first would be that a jury could be found that is open to that argument. I believe that the majority within this empire hold to a socioeconomic perspective in which anything that has a shimmer of a possibility to open their eyes to the eco/suicide they are partaking in will be covered by the cultural blind spot within their consciousness; the "terrorists" will be perceived as a threat to the "comfort" these folks have spent their entire lives working toward.

Another being that the "moral high ground" is some antidote to incarceration, able to cure the prosecutor's poison of proving "imminent and irreparable harm" had occurred. This issue hinges on how evidence and testimony will be interpreted in court, which is at the judge's discretion. And guess who pays the judge? Yep, the same system that pays the prosecutor. Even further, since when did this government follow laws that didn't fit its *modus operandi* of control and domination?

Deluding ourselves with some culturally induced moralistic vision can be very dangerous when it blurs the reality of our situation. If you end up in a seven-by-eleven-foot cell, it isn't solved with a single answer. There's merely a change in tactics and tools. The battle rages on.

I hate to appear like I'm berating Mike, because I'm

grateful this aspect of the war has come up. I feel that the perspective that led to this discussion is the all-too-common symptom of a weak connection to our story. Something in myself fell prey to that. Without knowledge of our past, how are we to know when we are on our own path? Walking beside those who came before is inevitable, and utilizing the same river crossings and mountain passes as others is advantageous; but in blindly following their footsteps we leave no other option but to succumb to the same ends to which they fell victim. Forge the steel with the knowledge they passed down and be your own spearhead.

—A LITTLE EXPERIENCE

Dear SFB,

Well, the Operation Backfire cases are wrapping up. The Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act has passed Congress. The SHAC 7 are sitting in prison, convicted on terrorism charges for running a website. The "Green Scare" is over and done with, right?

That was the message of a letter in the last issue, arguing that the Green Scare might have served "an effective one-year term and be ready for retirement" (see *EF!* January-February 2007). Chris Calef argued that highlighting one form of repression—the Green Scare—will alienate animal rights and environmental activists from Arab Americans, immigrants and peace activists.

I completely agree that the animal rights and environmental movements must build long-overdue relationships with other social movements—not just theoretical connections but ground-level mutual aid. It's critical that activists fight back attacks on civil rights across movements and learn across movements as well—like learning from past crackdowns on the Black Panther Party and

the American Indian Movement (AIM).

But acting like all government repression is the same isn't going to get us there. There is indeed a "general climate of oppression," but addressing abuses of power in such sweeping terms ignores the very foundation of this "War on Terrorism": singling out individuals solely based on their specific political beliefs.

The "ecoterrorist" ad blitzes and public relations campaigns, the "ecoterrorism" and "animal enterprise terrorism" legislation, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF)/Earth Liberation Front (ELF) grand jury witch hunts, the "ecoterror" congressional hearings: these are all focused with precision on certain activists (and they ain't the "pro-peace" or "pro-impeachment" crowd Calef references, because those activists are not a threat).

Recognizing this won't "classify us as white, elite environmentalists." Being white, elite environmentalists will classify you as white, elite environmentalists. Ignoring the targeted nature of this scare-mongering and ignoring striking similarities to other eras of repression will not make environmental and animal rights activists more diverse or more connected to other social movements.

—WILL POTTER,  
GREENISTHENEWRRED.COM

Dear SFB,

If you see something, say something.

We saw a number of individuals facing life in prison for arsons that injured no one; we saw Californians facing 20 years for an alleged thought crime instigated by a paid FBI agent; we saw animal rights activists sentenced to several years for operating a website; and we saw the ELF and ALF become "the number-one domestic terrorism threat." We had to say something—there is a new front in the War on Dissent.

Chris Calef is right to point out that the government is intensifying its repression of immigrants with specialized legislation. The peace movement is infiltrated and undermined by undercover agents. In our cities, the police are still brutalizing the poor. Where Calef errs is his assertion that the term "Green Scare" is an exaggeration and that people should focus on more mainstream issues. To the contrary, what the environmental movement needs to do is set its roots deeper and branch out.

The recent wave of arrests of several Black Panthers accused of an unsolved shooting of a police officer in the 1970s is not a signal to put our issues aside to show solidarity, but rather to redouble our efforts to strengthen our community and *live* solidarity by organizing around common issues. The prisoners from the Black Liberation Army, AIM and those from the ALF are all political prisoners.

The arrests Calef mentioned are barely a year old. Eric McDavid is about to go to trial, Briana Waters is still in pretrial, and the federal government is still trying to track down individuals not in custody. ELF and ALF actions are still happening, and dangerous precedents are being set involving *agents provocateurs*, specialized legislation and overarching sentences. Those who are getting "reduced sentences" still face eight years and more, and the prosecution will argue for terrorism enhancement, which could add an additional 20 years. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is currently being likened to the ALF, and these generalizations will only be expanded in the upcoming years. The time to recognize the Green Scare and organize against it is now, and Calef is right—we need allies.

—MARC HURLEY,  
GREENSCARE.ORG

REPRANN TÉ A!

IRETOMA LA TIERRA!

Miami's

# TAKE BACK THE LAND

## SUPER BOWL WEEK OF ACTION

BY JHONLUNA

It's been seven months since the Miami public was made aware of the city's affordable housing emergency, though community activists have been working on the issue for years. Not only has \$3.5 million been stolen from affordable housing, but the city and county governments continue to empty viable public housing, leaving thousands of needed homes vacant while more than 40,000 families have spent years on the public housing waiting list.

Since July, activists have occupied the county hall during a press conference; erected a tent city on the lawn of Government Center; organized numerous protests and marches; and reclaimed public land for the creation of the Umoja Shantytown (see *EF!* January-February 2007). Yet even though this traditionally apathetic city has begun to demonstrate its discontent, Mayor Manny Diaz and most of the city commissioners have done nothing to address the housing emergency. Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones even attempted to pass a city amendment in January, making the Umoja Shantytown illegal and open to a raid.

When the Super Bowl brought the global media's focus to our city for the big game and its week of events, the opportunity was too good to miss. Unanticipated by Mayor Diaz, the City of Miami, or the National Football League (NFL), a diverse array of community activists, grassroots organizations and homeless folks countered the Super Bowl with the Take Back the Land

Super Bowl Week of Action. The Center for Pan-African Development, LIFFT, the Miami Workers Center, Power U for Social Change, the Service Employees International Union and South Florida Jobs with Justice were just some of the local groups heavily involved in the week of actions.

In the days leading up to the big game, Dade County activists used a variety of tactics to turn up the heat. A tent city was again erected at Government Center to function as a convergence space and to host incoming supporters and some of the week's events. Just as importantly, it added another eyesore to the fake, manicured image that had been spread over the city.

On January 31, a Tour of Shame took visiting media around the city, visiting some of the most contested sites for the Take Back the Land movement. Tour participants visited the site of the proposed CrossWinds luxury condominium development in the historic black neighborhood of Overtown; met with day laborers in Allapatah; and visited the wealthiest resort area in the US, Fisher Island. The tour then followed a worker home to Little Haiti, where reporters enjoyed a communal meal of homemade pumpkin soup.

On February 1, members of Take Back the Land, Umoja and Power U were arrested while defending two apartment units in Overtown that had been vacant for years. Community members helped open the units so that two homeless families could move in. They cleaned out dirt, dust and broken glass, and scrubbed away mold. The police were quick to arrest



those finding homes for families, although they still have not arrested the people who have stolen millions from public housing.

Later that day, there was an NFL Experience event for children at the Liberty City Youth Education Town Center. The center had been built for the 1989 Super Bowl across the street from the now-demolished Scotts-Carver Public Housing Projects. Though not listed in the afternoon's program, the Glitz and Glam Granny Cheer Squad stole the limelight. The cheer squad, predominantly elderly women and youth who once lived in the Scotts-Carver homes, busted out with all kinds of cheers for housing.

Other autonomous actions taken during the week included guerilla art Super Bowl parties, teach-ins on gentrification, guerrilla gardening at the former site of the Scotts-Carver Projects, discussion groups about global land struggles and drum corps crashing various VIP parties.

For more information, visit [takebacktheland.blogspot.com](http://takebacktheland.blogspot.com).

*jhonluna was born 'n' raised in the county of Dade. He enjoys Miami hip-hop, Colombian ska-punk and being dreamy.*

# United We Treesit

## *The North Coast Earth First! Update*



photo courtesy [www.insurgentphoto.com](http://www.insurgentphoto.com)

BY NCEF!

As developers and logging companies push farther and farther into the wilderness, leaving a wake of destruction in their path, it is comforting to know that there are still a few places that have been left untouched. Fern Gully is one of these places, where life still flourishes for trees and plants, forest creatures and fairies.

The Fern Gully treesit village in Humboldt County is one of the longest-running forest actions in Northern California. Defenders protect a glorious grove of ancient redwood, Sitka spruce and Douglas fir trees with their hearts, minds, spirits and bodies.

Fern Gully, with towering trees including Libertal, Sundance, Patience and Watsi, has been a hotspot in recent years for forest defense actions. Maxxam/Pacific Lumber (PL) plans to log directly above Freshwater Creek, across from an elementary school. Each immense and magnificent tree in the gully stands on a steep, fern-covered slope. Destroying this awe-inspiring area would not only devastate precious habitat, it would also increase silt erosion into the already heavily sediment-impaired creek.

Fern Gully is walking distance from US Highway 101, near a residential area. It is unique for an uncut forest

to survive so close to development, especially with ancient trees vanishing at an alarming rate.

Fern Gully is in immediate danger. Months ago, when forest defenders thought the gully was in the clear due to the long-awaited expiration of PL's logging plan, PL got the California Department of Forestry to extend the plan for at least another year. After defending Fern Gully for more than three years, we will continue to guard the sacred area. Please help us save one of the last groves of ancient forest. In just a few work hours, this centuries-old ecosystem could vanish.

Meanwhile, logging has recommenced in the Nanning Creek area of the Eel River watershed, only a few miles east of PL headquarters in the soon-to-be-sold-off company town of Scotia, California. Logging in Nanning, which began 10 days before marbled murrelet nesting season ended in September, threatens to wipe out one of the last commercially owned ancient redwood stands. Forest defenders remain determined to do all they can to protect the Timber Harvest Plan, aka Timber Holocaust Plan.

The forest that remains after last year's logging in Nanning is home to endangered species, including the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet. Early morning gate blockades

(often including children), rallies, lock-downs and enduring treesits make up the short her/history to protect some of the oldest beings on Earth.

Nestled in Nanning Creek, two massive trees—dubbed Spooner and Grandma—enchant their protectors with resident flying squirrels, neighborly salamanders, and treetop fern and mushroom gardens. Spooner—more than 42 feet around and 290 feet tall—and Grandma—attached to her Siamese twin, Grandpa—rest on the edge of a cliff directly above the Nanning Creek watershed and are likely the largest trees ever defended by sitters here. With the help of traverses, treesitters are protecting the trees that hold together the steep hillsides.

After a storm in December, 10 trees near the Spooner treesit village fell to the forest floor. Due to recent logging, an area that has sustained itself for millennia is now vulnerable to one night of storms.

Please support the Earth through persistent action and participation.

For more information or to donate time, energy or resources, contact NCEF!/Humboldt Forest Defense, POB 28, Arcata, CA 95518; (707) 825-6598 (NCEF! hotline); (707) 845-9046 (direct line to ground support); (707) 618-9047 (Fern Gully pager); (707) 618-9181 (Nanning Creek pager); [www.spoonerdirect.org](http://www.spoonerdirect.org).



photos courtesy Save the Oaks ([www.saveoaks.com](http://www.saveoaks.com))

## BERKELEY TREESITTERS INSPIRE THE IMAGINATIONS OF BAY AREA RESIDENTS

BY KAREN PICKETT

It was just after 6 a.m. and still dark when the call came.

"They're raiding the grove! The cops are here with a front-end loader, and they're taking people's stuff! Call the media, and get here as soon as you can!"

The call came from a grove of trees where six treesitters have taken up residence. Ground support was getting a pre-dawn visit from authorities. Was this deep in the forest in an old-growth grove? Not exactly.... These treesitters look out over the teeming Berkeley-Oakland-San Francisco urban area, the Golden Gate bridge in their view. But many of the issues and sound bites we feed the media are the same as for those treesits in the moss-draped branches of an old-growth forest. We are always dealing with last remnants, biologically. This case is no exception.

This grove isn't habitat for any large predators except *Homo sapiens* anymore, but the oak woodland ecosystem has become increasingly rare, since most are in areas ripe for the same galloping development

that has taken over California's canyons and valleys. Any grove like this one, with trees up to 200 years old, also becomes an important genetic resource, as Sudden Oak Death Syndrome ravages many oak woodland areas not already cut down for urban sprawl. Oak woodlands have

UCB wants to level the grove for an expanded sports training facility and more parking. Since UCB went public with its plan, it has been opposed by students, the neighborhood association above the stadium, the California Oak Foundation, the California Native Plant Society, most residents of Berkeley and Bay Area environmentalists.

Three lawsuits were filed shortly after UCB went public with its decision. A fourth lawsuit was recently filed by a group calling itself Save Tightwad Hill!, on behalf of the hundreds of people who watch football games for free from a vantage point above the stadium proposed for expansion. The other three lawsuits, however, have a solid environmental foundation, including the

fact that the stadium and the grove sit next to the major and active Hayward earthquake fault. The judge granted those lawsuits a preliminary injunction on January 29, barring UCB from taking action that would change the physical environment of the project site until the lawsuits are heard in court. This means that UCB cannot cut down the trees. Whether it can

There are mountain lion sightings in these wildlands, and this humble grove is a connecting puzzle piece. It has made urbanites realize the importance of these oases, like turning a rock over in your driveway and finding little squirmies and tunnels in the soil.

become rare enough that Berkeley protects it under its Coast Live Oak Moratorium, making it illegal to cut a mature oak tree measuring more than six inches in diameter. But this oak grove is on University of California-Berkeley (UCB) land. Because UCB operates essentially as a country within a city, it gets away with refusing to comply with city law.

make other changes that would keep protesters off the site and whether it will appeal the injunction will become known soon. But in any event, it is a huge victory, and there is no doubt our momentum, visibility and public support were garnered by those arboreal crusties.

The treesit was spearheaded in December by Zachary Running Wolf (a Native American man who ran for mayor in the last election), a UCB student, an urban ecologist and a couple of veterans of northern California's timber wars who provided invaluable round-the-clock ground support. Three people took ropes, platforms and rain gear up the trees at about 3 a.m. on December 2, hours before about 72,000 people would stream by the grove and into the stadium for UCB's "big game" with Stanford University.

The inevitable raid came in the pre-dawn hours of January 12, more than a month into the treesit action. People converged in response to a call for an emergency rally at the grove. When the cops didn't immediately come back with machinery to extract the treesitters, we marched onto the UCB campus from the grove, taking the street en route to the chancellor's office. Police barricaded its doors from the raucous crowd, which included a contingent of UCB students demanding to see their chancellor. The raid and subsequent rally only strengthened and enlarged the coalition challenging UCB's plans to level the grove. The treesitters who climbed the trees on December 2, brought a new dimension to the ongoing campaign to spare the oaks from UCB's axe.

Since the treesits went up, the grove has been the site of concerts featuring musician Country Joe McDonald and '60s icon Wavy Gravy, as well as a spiral dance, which brought out the pagan community. A treesit was orchestrated by a 71-year-old former mayor and UCB alumna, an 86-year-old Berkeley city councilwoman and 90-year-old legendary conservationist Sylvia McLaughlin. The women charmingly announced that they were bringing nearly 250

years of experience to the plywood platform. As the cameras rolled, the venerable ladies climbed a ladder into an oak and held a press conference, bullhorn in hand.

Though bordered by a busy street and the UCB stadium, the grove of about 50 trees has become a mini-basecamp and direct action site. The treesits have grown to six platforms, complete with traverse lines and a tarped area for support people, who maintain a constant presence. The grove has also been a



magnet for curious visitors, including international tourists, classes of middle school kids, people with babies in strollers, dogwalkers and other passers-by. Most of these people have never seen a treesit up close. In fact, this iconic action may do more to familiarize people with the phenomenon of treesitting than famous actions by people like Julia Butterfly Hill (who has stopped by to strategize with people and offer support). Accessibility is everything here.

Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) is a beleaguered species, but oak woodlands like this one provide essential

habitat that can support a whole network of other plants and animals. As with coral reefs or wetlands, the level to which these woodlands are intact and functional is everything. Just as saltgrass reeds do not constitute wetlands, the individual oaks scattered around do not an oak woodland make. This ecosystem has particular value in the Berkeley lowlands, where it has all but disappeared.

The issues are myriad; seismic safety, urban density and aesthetics. But the biological issues, while not paramount in the court challenges, are the ones that resonate universally. Those who visit the grove are enraptured by the treesitters' stories of the nocturnal trotting of a fox they have come to know. A UCB professor who spoke at a press conference this week waxed poetic about something not immediately apparent in this small grove—the cameo ecosystem the trees hold together forms a linchpin corridor connecting wildscapes that start in the hills above UCB's land to the remarkable park system of the East Bay and the open space watershed lands. There are mountain lion sightings in these wildlands, and this humble grove is a connecting puzzle piece. It has helped many urbanites realize the importance of these oases; it's like turning over a rock in your driveway and finding little squirmies and tunnels in the soil. Oh yeah, others live here.

The repercussions of this campaign go beyond the grove, especially reaching those stepping through the door to direct action strategies and individual action. We are not so much honing the skills of climbers who will go on to other forest campaigns as bringing people to a tactic not previously in their sphere, creating community among an interesting and diverse coalition of people, and rekindling activism on the college campus.

For more information, contact Save the Oaks, [info@saveoaks.com](mailto:info@saveoaks.com); [www.saveoaks.com](http://www.saveoaks.com).

*Karen Pickett is a longtime Earth First!er whose goal in life is to keep as many trees as possible vertical.*

# CLIMATE CHANGE, LAND USE & STAR-SPANGLED GREENWASHING

BY STORM WATERS

## A Convenient Oversight

Al Gore presented the stark truth about the dire consequences of carbon emissions and global warming—as well as his personal sob stories—in the documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*. Is this a meticulously researched and well-presented political maneuver? It could be, especially since he skirted critical issues and avoided abrading major commercial and industrial interests that might otherwise subsidize his efforts. Except for a brief comment about deforestation in Amazonia and a short-but-stunning segment on a strip mine (which completely skipped over the details), there was no mention of land-use policies, or ecosystem protection and restoration. Nobody mentions that the health and biodiversity of native vegetative ecosystems is critical to climate stability on local, regional and global levels. Al Gore neglected to call out the timber, mining, drilling, grazing and

construction industries on their enormous roles in forcing climate change. Maybe it was because he didn't want to alienate them. How pathetic! Why vote for someone who can't acknowledge the truth: Corporate capitalism and its long-term pattern of globally colonizing "land-use policies" are killing life on this planet?

Every year, taxpayers shell out billions to the US McGovernment to "manage" public lands—lands that allegedly belong to you and your fellow citizens. These subsidies go right into the hands of vampires who commodify everything they can, eat it all, defecate in place and move elsewhere with their newly-acquired wealth. This leaves everyone—from wolverines to workers, from polar bears to pregnant women—with only poverty, poison and death. Those profiting from this violence call it progress and development; many others call it what it actually is: ecocide and genocide.

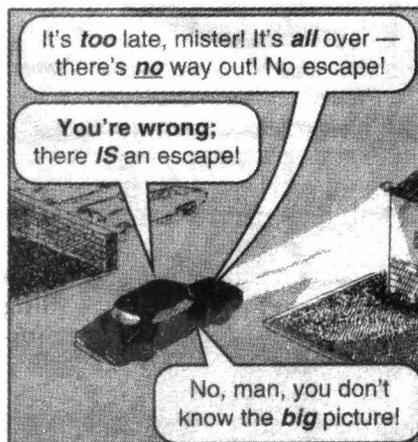
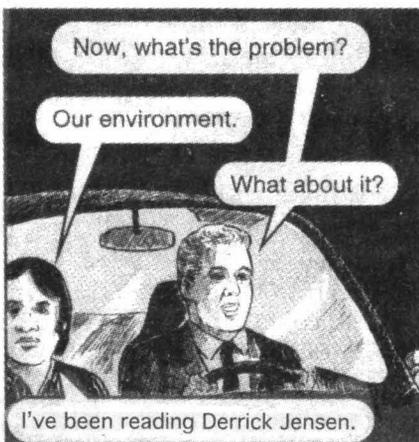
These policies are a driving force behind climate change. Taxpayers

not only subsidize the fossil-fuel industry as it defiles the atmosphere with greenhouse gases—they subsidize those who directly wipe out entire ecosystems, species, cultures and economies.

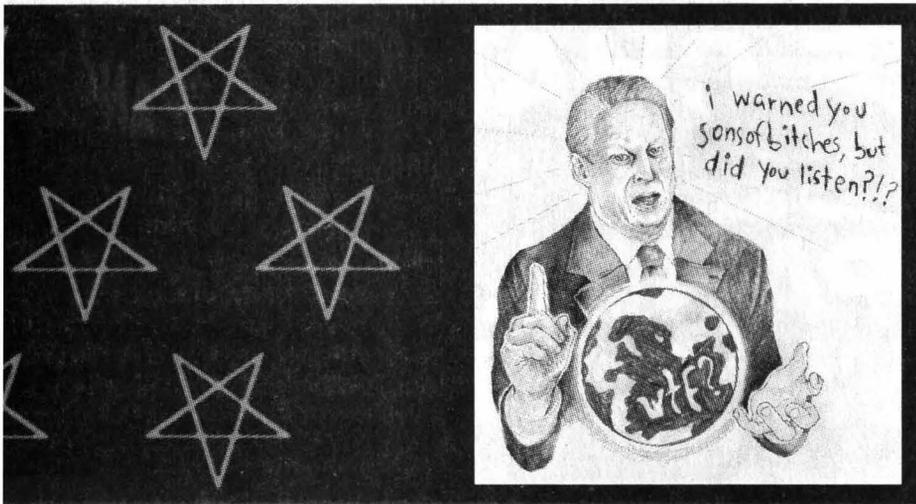
## Water is Life

Every humyn on Earth should visit the desert at least once. Nowhere else is it more apparent that water is the most critical of all "natural resources." Where there is no water, there is no life. Organisms from protozoa to large mammals (including humyns) crowd around and cling to water sources. Any activity that compromises the integrity of the natural water supply and budget for *any* ecosystem is antithetical to life itself. And while we know that road building, clearcutting, mining, drilling, agribusiness and urban sprawl invariably degrade both surface and subsurface water supplies, it is not so well understood that they also negatively impact the most important water source for any ecosystem: precipitation. Precipitation drives the hydrological cycle—locally, regionally and globally—by recharging surface and subsurface water. Changes in annual precipitation in any region will ripple through every aspect of all ecosystems in and downstream of the region directly impacted.

The Earth's ecosystems have evolved over the last 10,000 years in a relatively stable and hospitable climate, as did all life within these ecosystems—including humyns and their communities and cultures. The climate is changing due to anthropogenic global warming. Existing surface



comics courtesy Chick Publications



artwork by Austin Cho and Trouble!

## BARE BONES

### Kalahari San Allowed to Return to Homeland

Botswana's highest court ruled on December 13, that the San people are free to return to their ancestral home in the Kalahari Desert. Judges ruled two votes to one that their removal had been illegal.

The legal battle has been a major test case for establishing the fundamental rights of indigenous people. The verdict was a "victory for indigenous peoples everywhere in Africa," said Survival International, an indigenous rights advocacy group.

The San (colonially referred to as the "Bushmen") were forced to leave the Kalahari—an area the size of Belgium—after De Beers, the world's largest diamond mining company, increased operations in the area.

### Homeland Security Searches Radical Groups

Ten scientists in the US intelligence community were awarded \$200,000 in December. This is the second year John Negropon-te—now Director of National Intelligence, formerly the US's chief liaison to paramilitaries in Honduras—has doled out grants to fund innovation in intelligence gathering.

One of the recipients has plans for the money that are of particular interest to radical movements

"The plan is to sponsor a research project on the evolution of radical movements and their adoption of violence as a strategy," said Department of Homeland Security's Michelle Keeney. She wants to document patterns of rhetoric or behavior that could be used to predict moves toward violence in radical groups.

and subsurface water supplies around the globe are endangered by pollution, overuse and overdevelopment; wars are underway over this precious resource. And while many, including most of the world's eminent scientists, recognize climate change, we won't know how it will change until it actually does—and by then it will be too late.

Superimposed onto current threats to the world's existing water supplies is the distinct probability that many bioregions will heat up and dry out. Others may cool down and dry out. And many of the bioregions destined to dry out are heavily populated. What will happen to those populations when this desiccation occurs? Species in these regions are already under duress; in this unfolding scenario, they're really in trouble!

### Forests and Climate

We know that the Earth's forests—all of the Earth's forests—are the lungs of the planet. They replenish oxygen while removing carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. While true, this represents a small, albeit significant component of a very complex and poorly understood interdependency known by western civilization as "ecology."

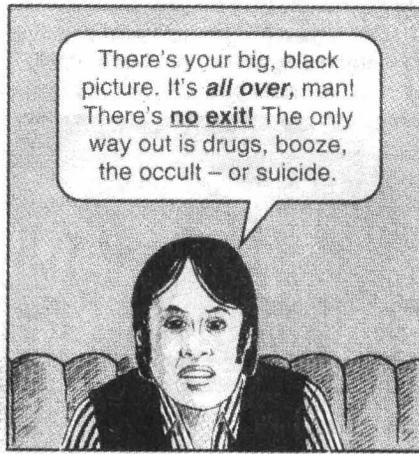
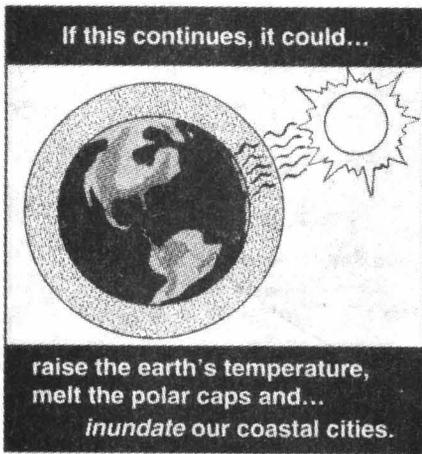
Forests act as sponges, continuously trapping, storing and redistributing water. Much of this water is infused back into the atmosphere over time through evaporation from soil, rock, water and plant surfaces, as well as through transpiration by the trees and plants themselves. This water vapor

rises with the vertical air currents associated with storm systems crossing the region, enhancing the storms' intensity and precipitation generation. The vapor is then deposited back into local and regional ecosystems as precipitation. This further enhances the hydrological cycle and recharges the water budget throughout every level of these natural systems.

For example, at its western edge, the Amazon rainforest borders the eastern slopes of the Andes—thousands of miles away from the Atlantic Ocean and only a few hundred miles from the Pacific Ocean. The moisture-bringing rain that falls over the western Amazon does not, however, originate in the nearby Pacific waters, as the high Andes Mountains block the Pacific's moisture from drifting eastward. Rather, Atlantic moisture that has evapotranspired from the eastern Amazon is transported westward by the tropical east-to-west "trade winds." The moisture lifts over the elevating terrain to rain on forest ecosystems that lie great distances from their principal water source.

Not only does this entrainment of moisture provide vapor for a rain-making weather system, it also enhances the overall strength of that system by infusing it with latent heat energy released by that condensing vapor. This intensifies the storm system by allowing it to entrain yet more humid air. According to recent research, decades of deforestation have resulted in decreased annual rainfall across the Amazon Basin—especially in the West.

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Scientists have noted similar patterns in the forest ecosystems of Central America, Africa and elsewhere. Destroying native ecosystems lowers the annual rainfall in those areas, as well as in downwind regions.

Consider the Great Plains of North America, one of the so-called "bread baskets" of the world. The weather systems that water the plains travel east across the continent from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Before these systems reach the Great Plains, they have traveled across the deserts, canyonlands, plateaus, and mountain ranges of western North America, losing considerable moisture in the process. As they approach the Mississippi Valley, these storm systems begin tapping moisture from the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the western Atlantic, resulting in plentiful annual precipitation across the eastern half of the continent.

But those storm systems are relatively dry and dusty once they reach the western plains—still too far from the Pacific, Gulf or Atlantic to juice back up with moisture. The great forests of the Cascades, Sierras and Western Rockies play critical roles in replenishing the moisture content of these storm systems as they struggle over the otherwise dry, rugged terrain. If we continue to deforest the West, what will become of North America's most fertile land, where up to half the world's food is produced? Degrading ecosystems—particularly native forests—diminishes annual precipitation over both those ecosystems and the ones downwind.

The destruction of forests and other vegetative ecosystems—like woodlands, savannahs, bogs and swamps—is accelerating globally and on a massive scale.

The deserts of the North American Southwest are dry. How much drier would they be without the sky islands (isolated forest ecosystems on the cool mountain tops) and the grasslands and scrublands just below them acting as in-house water-vapor sources to fuel passing weather systems?

Southern Appalachia hosts some of the most intricate, biodiverse forest ecosystems on Earth. Because they survived the last ice age, these ecosystems played a major role in the biological revitalization of the continent after the glaciers receded 10,000 years ago. These forests, nestled among the steep, relatively high slopes and narrow valleys and "hollers" of these ancient mountains, greatly increase the available water vapor in the lower levels of the atmosphere. This is where the Great Smoky Mountains got their name; the fog that collects in the valleys, basins and vales of those magnificent mountains is water vapor trapped by the forests and held in place.

Strong, low-pressure systems crossing the continent pull warm, humid air from the nearby Gulf and southwest Atlantic waters up over the mountains, bringing copious rains and occasional wet snowfalls. The steep, rugged terrain further lifts this humid air, enhancing precipitation over the entire bioregion. The fairly fertile soils and warm, wet climate of the last 10,000 years allowed the evolution of these biotic cathedrals that people living in Katúah have come

to know, love and protect. If we tamper with that source of moisture and heat, what will global warming mean for Southern Appalachia in the coming decades? Clearcutting, mountaintop removal, strip mining, livestock production, motorized recreation and urban sprawl will heavily and immediately impact the precipitation across Appalachia—and to the east and northeast as well. This will happen even if the coal is never burned and the timber never processed. It's no secret that these activities must cease. But that will not be enough. In fact, that is not even half of the task at hand.

### Money for Restoration, not Devastation

All remaining native ecosystems must be fully, permanently protected. This is not open to debate. Our lives depend upon it. Beyond that, we must launch massive, long-term eco-restoration projects to recover as much of the previously existing native ecosystems as possible. We must immediately begin to knock down superfluous structures, take out dams, remove roads and pavement, restore wetlands and waterways, replant native flora and reintroduce certain native fauna. These projects must involve indigenous peoples, scientists, working people, students and others. But where will the money for such efforts come from?

Remember corporate welfare, those taxpayer subsidies gobbled up by Wall Street to "develop" public lands? It amounts to billions and billions of dollars (and that's saying nothing of the Pentagon's budget!). While many of these restoration efforts may appear to fail at first, we must start somewhere and, if necessary, engage in a trial-and-error approach. In many places, these efforts may be wiped away by the unforeseen and overwhelming consequences of climate change. Through it all, we must try. We will learn much from our efforts. Even now, corporate scientists in the employ of the timber industry are encouraged to "forecast" the desiccation of remaining forest ecosystems in order to justify a get-the-cut-out-before-it-all-dies-off approach toward the world's remaining native forests. In many cases, the forests or wetlands will die off as a result

of now-inevitable climate changes, but they will be compost for the wooded savannas or prairies that replace them. If these ecosystems are denuded ahead of time, nothing will replace them but ecological, social, and economic poverty.

Now we see the US Climate Action Partnership, a new alliance between mainstream "environmental" NGOs and some of corporate capitalism's ugliest monsters—Dupont Chemicals, General Electric, Alcoa, Caterpillar, Duke Energy, Pacific Gas & Electric, the Florida Power & Light Group, PNM Resources, BP, Lehman Brothers, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Environmental Defense, the Pew Center on Global Climate Change and the World Resources Institute. This is capitalist carpetbagging at its worst. What will this new entity accomplish besides monopolizing the development and marketing rights to every form of alternative technology imaginable?

Will "green" politicians like Al Gore work to shift subsidies away from extractive interests and toward massive eco-restoration efforts on public lands? Such subsidies would not only allow coordinated, locally overseen responses to inevitable climate changes, but would also employ millions of people currently colonized out of their livelihoods by the corporate entities causing global warming. This could mean jobs for everyone—including extractive-industry workers, urban and rural poor, youth, immigrants and veterans. Instead of accruing student loan debts, youth could spend time working to restore

rivers and streams, wetlands, forests, savannas and native species. Entire communities could be fitted with renewable energy, precipitation-harvest systems, local food production and weather-proofed housing. Is Gore the savior he makes himself out to be? It's not likely. As vice president, he forgot about his book, *Earth in the Balance*. Will the US Climate Action Partnership help? No. The response to global warming is being commodified.

We can no longer afford to sacrifice *any* remaining wild or semi-wild ecosystems. Not only that, but we can no longer afford to sacrifice any modified ecosystems that have partially recovered from previous colonization and degradation. Whatever changes global warming brings to this planet, we must mitigate them through comprehensive efforts toward ecosystem preservation and restoration. Life itself depends upon it. Most importantly, we must settle on a defining concept to explain "eco-restoration" to so many others. That defining concept is an ancient and sacred one: wilderness. We must do our best to bring wilderness back throughout all our restoration efforts, even those in urban settings. Restoration equals rewilding! Let's get started—we're about out of time.

*Storm Waters holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in atmospheric science, and has also worked for a living. Storm is a Revolutionary Ecologist focusing on the overlap of environmental, eco-indigenous and humyn rights issues. He specializes in the interrelationships between climate and weather in ecosystems, wildlife, and wild humyn cultures. He is a co-founder of Rising Tide North America.*

## BARE BONES

### Syngenta Threatens the Cradle of Potatoes

Biotech corporation Syngenta is threatening the world's center of potato diversity—South America's Andes Mountains—with a designer potato that sprouts only after application of a particular chemical.

In response to the possibility that any of the 4,000 unique varieties of potatoes could become contaminated, a coalition of indigenous Andean farmers launched an international protest against Syngenta on January 12.

"Syngenta disregards our culture, values and our right to use the tubers that our peoples have nurtured for millennia," said Alejandro Argumedo of Asociación Andes.

"We feel greatly disrespected by corporations that make a single genetic alteration to a plant and then claim private ownership, when these plants are the result of thousands of years of careful breeding by indigenous people," he added.

### FDA Approves Eating Flesh and Liquids from Cloned Animals

In a December 28 report, the US Food and Drug Administration ruled that consuming the bodies and milk of cloned animals is safe for humans. The agency also said that it would not require distributors and manufacturers to label products that contain cloned meat or milk.

Since the advent of animal cloning, the government has asked farmers to keep products from cloned animals off the market, but there is no enforcement mechanism for this request. In the wake of this report, food safety advocates fear that cloned products will soon enter the US food supply.





# Doodá Desert Rock!

BY ELOUISE BROWN

On December 12, the citizens of Burnham, New Mexico, put their collective foot down in opposition to the proposed Desert Rock power plant. This facility would be the third coal plant within a 20-mile radius and the third economic hit to the impoverished Navajo (Diné) Nation. Is a people's culture and tradition really worth the annual \$50 million that would be taxed for toxic emissions during the first four years of operation?

Toxic emissions levels from industry are already lethal in the region. Local citizens and non-profit organizations have compiled statistics about health care, insurance, financial stability and environmental issues. They have looked at endangered cultural philosophies in an industrial existence. The people cannot afford another suicidal decision on a power plant with disputed benefits for the community. The price will be high for the Diné. We will pay with our lungs, our health, our descendants and the land that defines our people.

Doodá means "absolutely no!" in Diné. Doodá Desert Rock (DDR) is a

grassroots movement to defend Diné elders' livelihoods and existence. These are things that define the experience and function of a fading people. They define the very purpose of being Diné. It is inclusive to all people who appreciate the ground they walk on. Educated youth, traditional elders, environmentalists and wildlife conservationists have pulled together to make this effort a multicultural and multigenerational fight against the deadly impacts of coal-fired power plants everywhere.



The DDR movement has been in existence for the last three years but has rapidly accelerated since December 12. This acceleration is the direct result of intervention from the elders, who would be forced to relocate for a minimum of 40 years if the coal plant is built. They would have to abandon

their homeland, ancestral burial sites, sacred prayer locations and animal feeding grounds, all for the sake of the 400 permanent jobs the plant would bring. Divided up, these jobs translate to \$16 per individual per month, but how long would that last?

Coal-fired power plants are a dangerous and obsolete form of industrial technology in a world of possible alternatives. Is a human soul worth \$16 a month? Would you sell your backyard for the construction of a toxic facility? Do we still have a

voice in our nation? Is our health still considered? Why do we elect officials if we have no say? Think about how our kids will feel while wearing goggles and an oxygen mask, knowing their lives will be shorter than their parents'.

The people of DDR have asked these questions, in the Diné language, to the Diné elders who would be directly impacted in Burnham. Various local and worldwide organizations oppose this coal-burning site. The \$2.3 billion and 580 acres on the Navajo Reservation that would be used for the plant should be used for environmentally friendly projects that would help the people and the nation as a whole.

Elders and local residents were not informed of the progress or status of the proposed Desert Rock project. It is not a done deal. The sole purpose of DDR is to defend and preserve our lands, water, air and people—not for ourselves but for generations to come. Our core philosophy is to protect our future from within—not with corporate bias, political influence or self-destructive economic development. We want cultural preservation for all humanity, equal and alike.

As a resident of the Earth, you are involved. Maybe you are not directly involved now, but eventually you or your children will be. We extend our

gratitude to our supporters for all of your contributions. We welcome all who wish to save sacred indigenous lands from corporate intrusion.

To learn more about our struggle, visit [www.desert-rock-blog.com](http://www.desert-rock-blog.com).

*Ms. Elouise Brown is a full-blooded Navajo army veteran born Tachii'nii, for Ashiihii, matrilineal Kiiyaa'aanii, patrilineal Ta'neezahnii from Littlewater, New Mexico (located in the northeastern region of the Navajo Reservation). Ms. Brown is a lifelong advocate for human rights and indigenous rights, and is a cultural traditionalist, who now serves as the president of Doodá Desert Rock.*

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## Resistance Grows to Proposed Coal-Fired Power Plant on Navajo Nation Land

BY TEMPLE?

In late 2006, drilling for the environmental impact statement of a massive new coal-fired power plant began on Diné elder Alice Gilmore's grazing land near Burnham, New Mexico. The drilling started without Gilmore's knowledge or consent, and company workers and police refused her requests to see permits. Two weeks later, on December 12, Diné elders and youth set up a blockade on an access road to the drilling site. Restraining orders were served shortly after, and protesters were forced to a different location, which has now become a permanent protest camp.

Diné Power Authority (DPA) and Sithe Global are behind the proposed 15,000 megawatt plant. Two other coal-fired plants, Four Corners and San Juan, are within a 20 mile radius and already send a cloud of brown smog over the northern horizon. If Desert Rock is built, it would send an additional 10.5 million tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere per year, including carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide, sulfur oxide and mercury. This would increase New Mexico's net emissions by 16 percent.

Sithe claims the plant and the nearby strip mine will bring 1,000

temporary construction jobs and 400 permanent jobs. But who will be working these jobs? It will not likely be residents of the Burnham area. This is not just an environmental issue, but an example of ongoing cultural genocide that the US and its business interests have been waging against native peoples for centuries. The proposed 580-acre construction site currently contains homes, ancestral burial sites, sacred prayer locations, farmland and grazing lands. The overwhelming majority of the power produced by existing plants is exported to huge cities, such as Phoenix and Las Vegas. The power will not be sold to California because it does not meet the state's clean energy standards. All the while, many residents in rural areas of the reservation live without electricity or running water.

On January 20, the resisters moved their camp back to its original site, where they have been their under 24-hour police surveillance. Support is still needed! Food, money and firewood are helpful, and people presence is important!

For more information, visit [www.desert-rock-blog.com](http://www.desert-rock-blog.com).

*temple? would like to give mad props and much love to the Fresno crew.*

## BARE BONES

### Mountain Lion Hunts Face New Setback in Arizona

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has announced it is scrapping a planned mountain lion hunt in Arizona's Kofa National Wildlife Refuge.

A federal court ruled in August that the FWS must analyze the cumulative impact before it opens refuges to hunting. Regardless, in December, the agency announced plans for a hunt. But a few days after the public comment period expired, Refuge Manager Paul Cornes said the hunt had been suspended so the FWS could concentrate on preparing new cumulative impact guidelines.

The FWS and Arizona Game and Fish Department have faced serious opposition to mountain lion hunts in the past, including hunt sabotage by Chuk'shon EF! (see *EF!* May-June 2004).

### Rare Batfish Found to Be Super-Cleaner of Coral Reefs

The rare batfish was discovered to be the only one of the 27 fish species studied that removes the thickest growths of algae in the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. Other fish have been known for their reef-cleaning abilities, but a study released on December 20, announced that the batfish is the only fish that can clear out the problem blooms that can overrun and kill a reef. That the batfish is so rare is troubling for efforts to remediate coral reefs.

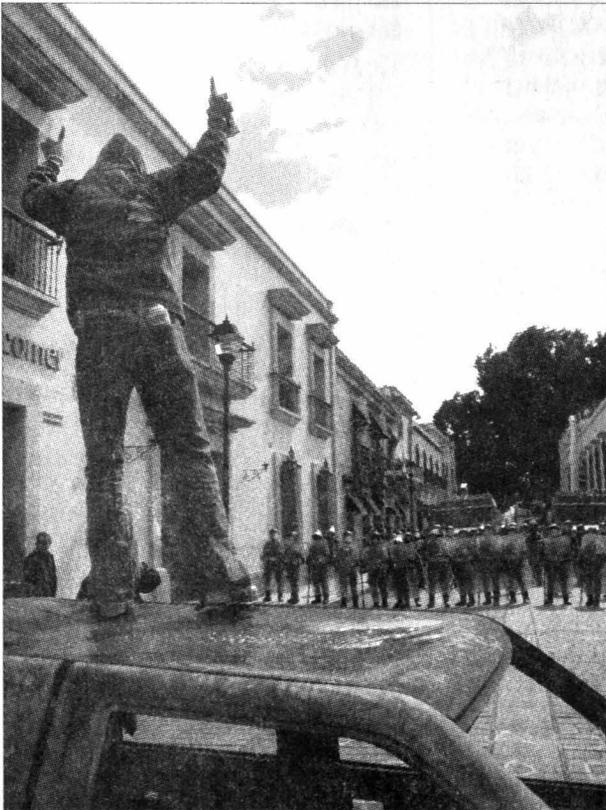
"It's like a garden," said David Bellwood, one of the study's authors. "You use a lawn mower to keep grass under control, but if you neglect it for too long, trees will grow and then you need a chainsaw. [The batfish is] an underwater version of a chainsaw."

# No Estamos Todos

## Repression and Continuing Resistance in Oaxaca

BY BARUCHA CALAMITY PELLER

In an attempt to finally do away with the months of uprisings in Oaxaca, the dirty war-style repression used by the Mexican government increased on November 25 and the following weeks (see *EF!* January-February 2007). Torture, disappearances, fabricated confessions extracted from political prisoners, arbitrary detentions, assassinations and threats are among the many tactics the Mexican government has used to repress dissent in Oaxaca. More than 200 people were arrested during and after the battle on November 25. Of those prisoners, 60 are still imprisoned today. Many of the Oaxaca movement's participants remain in hiding or are on the run.



photos by Calamity

The immediate pretext for the increased repression was the massive march that took place on November 25. The seventh march of its kind, it drew hundreds of thousands of Oaxacans, who marched seven miles into Oaxaca City's *zocalo* (central square), which had been occupied by thousands of Preventive Federal Police (PFP) for nearly a month. The protesters set up barricades around city blocks where police, flanked by water tanks, stood in full riot gear. Although the plan was to surround police and camp for 48 hours in the center of the city, a skirmish erupted when police shot tear gas at protesters. During the seven-hour battle that followed, police began to advance outwards from the *zocalo* toward the People's Popular Assembly of Oaxaca (APPO) encampment in Santo Domingo Plaza and were met by the militant resistance of the Oaxacan people. During the battle, 36 government buildings and expensive hotels were set on fire. By nighttime, the protesters were forced to retreat and the PFP, soon to be joined by the Federal Investigative Agency and state and local police, began a massive operation that spread out over the entire city. That night alone, more than 200 people were arrested, 25 were disappeared, and at least three were killed by paramilitaries.

Following the night of November 25, the insurrection in Oaxaca

went into hiding; many people stayed inside houses or left the state completely. The government issued more than 600 federal warrants for the movement's participants and their families. Police carried out numerous house raids, entering private homes and arresting the people inside. They entered schools in search of teachers from a chapter of the National Education Workers' Union and terrorized the school children. More than one hundred political prisoners were taken by helicopter and airplane to a prison in the state of Nayarit, north of Oaxaca. There, they were kept out of communication with the outside world for several weeks before being transferred back to Oaxaca.

In light of this repression, the movement shifted its focus onto the hundreds of political prisoners who are suffering both physical and psychological torture—including rape, constant beatings, threats to assassinate family members and electrical shocks. In early January, the Mexican newspaper *La Jornada* reported that 16 male movement prisoners had been raped inside prison. Police and government agents forced prisoners to sign fabricated confessions stating that people critical of the state's repression, such as human rights activists, had paid them to burn government buildings. Police have attempted to extract information from the prisoners, demanding to know the whereabouts of other movement participants and the identities of people in photos, threatening to assassinate prisoners' family members for non-compliance.

Among the prisoners, there are people who were never involved in the movement but were taken off the street by police on November 25 or the following days. There have

also been arrests of so-called APPO "leaders" that the government has identified, such as Flavio Sosa, who was arrested in Mexico City in early December. These arrests were inconsequential in terms of quieting the movement, since the Oaxaca uprising has been widespread and largely non-hierarchical.

Juan Carlos Garcia Cruz, for example, was taken off the streets in mid-January and driven to a remote place outside of the city, where the police beat him until he passed out, placed a gun in his hand and took photos. He now faces charges relating to carrying arms. Among the prisoners still remaining in jail for

mostly young anarchists and university students. Similarly, Governor Ulises Ruiz has blamed people from outside of Oaxaca.

On January 8, the PFP handed over control of Oaxaca City's *zocalo* to 4,000 state police. Solidarity encampments that had been set up outside the prisons were violently evicted by state police during the month of January. Dozens of friends and family members of prisoners were arrested at these encampments but released a short time later.

Despite the continuing deaths, disappearances, threats and arbitrary detentions, the Oaxacan movement continues. On February 3,



*A Oaxacan woman confronts the PFP with a mirror reading, "We are rapists."*

crimes allegedly committed on November 25 are two anarchists, Oscar Santa María Caro and Sacramento Delfino Cano Hernández, who were arrested on November 30. Santa María is a known member of Resistance Against Animal Torture. They face multiple charges, have endured physical and mental torture in jail, and have been told that female prisoners will be raped if they do not confess their crimes. Both face bails of more than \$20,000.

The attorney general of Mexico has made a statement based on information from the military and the security departments. He says those responsible for the damage on November 25 were

another giant march was held, drawing 150,000 people and showing that the resistance remains popular and widespread, despite repression. People continue to organize despite the government's tactic of arresting movement "leaders."

For more information or to donate to the anarchist political prisoners, visit [www.noestamostodxs.blogspot.com](http://www.noestamostodxs.blogspot.com).

Write to eco-anarchist prisoners Oscar Santa María Caro and Sacramento Delfino Cano Hernández at CERESO, Miahuatlán de Porfirio Díaz, Oaxaca en Hall B, Cell 5, Mexico.

*Calamity has been stirring up trouble in the Americas for the better part of a decade now.*

## BARE BONES

### Australia's Worst Earthquake Caused by Mining

The most damaging earthquake in Australia's history was recently determined to have been caused by humans. Killing 13 people, injuring 160 and causing \$3.5 billion of damage, the 5.6-magnitude quake resulted from changes in tectonic forces caused by 200 years of underground coal mining.

The new findings on the quake—which struck Newcastle, New South Wales, on December 28, 1989—came from Christian Klose of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Klose added that the monetary damage done by the earthquake exceeded the total value of the coal extracted in the area.

### Klamath River Dams May Be Removed

The Department of the Interior and the National Marine Fisheries Service ruled on January 30, that four dams along the Klamath River must be modified or removed to allow passage for salmon. Located on the Oregon-California border, the river was once home to the third-largest salmon runs in the West.

PacifiCorp, the Portland, Oregon-based energy company that owns the dams, is responsible for complying with the ruling. Modifying the dams would cost an estimated \$300 million, while removing them would cost \$101 million less. Although PacifiCorp has threatened to raise energy rates to cover costs regardless of their decision, they are under considerable pressure from customers and taxpayers to choose the cheaper removal option.

# TIERRA Y LIBERTAD: LAND, COLONIALISM AND THE STRUGGLE IN OAXACA

BY SEAN DONAHUE

Images from Oaxaca have fueled the imaginations of activists around the world—people pouring into Oaxaca City to defend striking teachers and drive the police out; women banging on pots and pans, marching into television and radio stations, and taking over the airwaves; people building barricades to protect their neighborhoods from paramilitary thugs; pitched street battles with riot police.

But the struggle in Oaxaca is not primarily an urban one. The movement that took control of Oaxaca City has taken hold in rural communities throughout Oaxaca, where people have driven out corrupt municipal governments and even some foreign

In reality, it's the continuation of a struggle that began with the Spanish conquest of Mexico and the rise of capitalism in Europe, a struggle between an ideology that sees the world as a collection of commodities to be bought, sold and exploited to maximize profits, and a group of much older cultures that value the deep connections between land and people. The Spanish conquest of Mexico coincided with the height of the witch burnings in Europe. In both Europe and the Americas, the eradication of sacred traditions that saw the world as alive was necessary to transform the land and the minerals beneath it into commodities. On three continents, the intertwined powers of church and state jailed, tortured

by the influx of gold from the Americas challenged the power of the old ruling classes, which was based on land. A new power began to arise, based on money, trade and the beginnings of capitalism. With it came a new ideology: the mechanistic model of the universe, which saw the world as made up of separate objects that had no inherent life, could be viewed and examined in isolation from one another, and could be exploited without constraint. For this new economic order to be accepted, old ideas of the dynamic interrelatedness of the universe and the sacredness of nature needed to be broken down."

The same ideology that drove witch hunts in Europe led British, French, Spanish and Portuguese colonizers to try to wipe out the traditional religions of the Americas. But that conquest never fully succeeded in southern Mexico, where indigenous languages, religions and values have survived 500 years of genocide. And as a result, the question of communal land has remained a contested one throughout Mexican history.

During the Mexican Revolution of 1910, Emiliano Zapata united an army of mostly indigenous people from throughout southern Mexico around Oaxacan anarchist Ricardo Flores Magón's demand for "*Tierra y Libertad*" ("Land and Freedom"). The Mexican government had given away massive amounts of land to foreign corporations, leaving many landless, homeless and unable to grow enough food to feed their families. Though Zapata's forces never achieved full victory, they succeeded in forcing the government to launch a program of agrarian reform that returned land to the poor and declared that certain land couldn't be leased or sold, only passed down in a family from generation to generation. Those rules were enshrined in the 1917 constitution.



*Indigenous Triqui women march in Oaxaca.*

corporations, and revived traditional indigenous forms of government. And though the uprising was sparked by the government's brutal repression of a teachers' strike, it has grown into a movement against an economic system that has devastated Oaxaca's ecology and people.

and executed practitioners of nature-based religions, and divided up the land among the members of a rising white middle class.

Anarcha-pagan author Starhawk describes some of the forces at work: "In the 16th and 17th centuries in Europe, new economic stresses caused

Rural revolts in the 1970s forced the Mexican government to allow poor communities to invade large tracts of land owned by foreigners and give those communities collective title to the land.

But all of that changed in the 1990s. No longer held back by its struggle against communism, global capitalism sought total global dominance. Having pillaged much of the Earth, corporations hungry for timber, minerals, oil and land pushed into areas that had previously eluded control, causing direct confrontation with surviving and resurgent cultures that remember the Earth is alive.

In order to clear the way for the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), President Carlos Salinas amended the constitution in 1991, making all land subject to sale and lease, and allowing all land to be used as collateral for loans.

Throughout Oaxaca, corrupt municipal governments began selling off collective lands to corporations. Coca-Cola came looking for water. Mining companies including Kennecott Exploration, Continuum Resources and Fortuna Silver came looking for uranium, silver and gold. Boise Cascade and International Paper bought up land for eucalyptus plantations. Harken and Duke Energy planned massive hydroelectric projects to power the sweatshops of Central America and northern Mexico. Developers built gated communities for foreign executives and US retirees coming into the region and profiting from the corruption. The new developments depleted aquifers and dumped sewage into cornfields. When people spoke out, they were beaten, threatened or jailed on false charges. Even before last Summer's uprising, Oaxaca had far more political prisoners than most other Mexican states.

Then came the collapse of the corn market. People have grown corn in Oaxaca for 10,000 years. It is the basic staple of people's diet and plays a central role in traditional cultures. After NAFTA was passed, massive corporate farms from the US Midwest began dumping cheap corn on the Mexican market. US taxpayers subsidized the corporations' purchase of massive amounts of petrochemicals to increase their yield, and Oaxacan

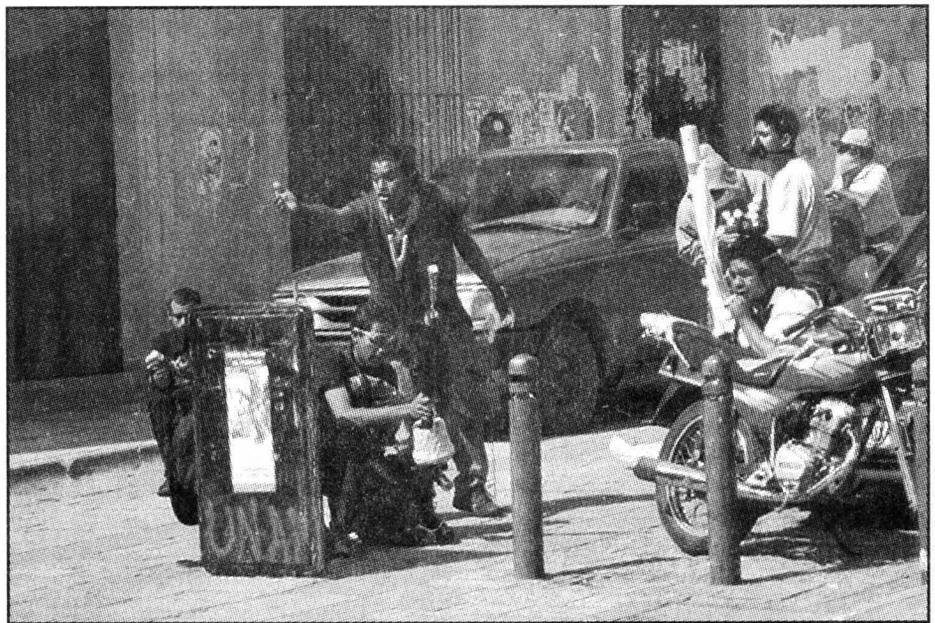


photo by Arnie

Students resist the PFP in Oaxaca's streets.

farmers simply couldn't compete. They took out loans to try to survive, defaulted and lost their land.

To add insult to injury, much of the corn that arrived from the US was genetically modified (GM). Some of it had even been labeled unfit for human consumption. When farmers tried using some of the GM corn as seed, the pollen from their GM crops drifted into neighboring fields, contaminating the oldest corn strains in the world. Some communities have enlisted elders to identify and destroy corn plants that don't look familiar, but it may be too late. Genetic drift can be very hard to contain, and certainly other species have been contaminated as well.

And so hundreds of thousands of young Oaxacans were forced to leave home to look for work in sweatshops in northern Mexico or in the fields, factories, warehouses, restaurants and hotels of the US. Families that have been on the same land for thousands of years, communities that resisted the invasion of the Aztec Empire and survived Spanish attempts to assimilate them or wipe them out, are now witnessing the loss of an entire generation, forced to leave the land and the culture that grows from it. In many communities, the only young people left are the handful who were able to go to the university, become teachers and return home.

Miguel Angel Vasquez, of the Oaxaca City-based human rights and popular

education group EDUCA, says, "If migration is the individual response to this economic crisis, then the conflict in Oaxaca is an example of a collective response."

After helping city-dwellers take control of the state capital in June, many rural Oaxacans brought the struggle home to their communities. Fourteen counties have established autonomous governments. They are demanding new forms of development that respect the Earth, their culture and their human rights. And while police have, for the most part, regained control of Oaxaca City, putting down the rebellion in the countryside is much harder.

Right now, Oaxacans are on the frontlines of a struggle against a global economic order that is killing their culture and killing the Earth. Just as Oaxacans took the struggle from the city back to their own communities, we need to bring the struggle north, opening new fronts by taking action against the corporations that are profiting from exploiting Oaxaca's mountains, rivers and forests. As Zapatista Subcomandante Marcos has said, "Oaxaca is not just an emergency, it is an example to be followed."

Sean Donahue is a poet, activist and freelance journalist living in Bangor, Maine. He was active in the Massachusetts Earth First! campaign to defend Mount Wachusett. He traveled to Oaxaca with a human rights delegation in December and hopes to return later this year.

# THIS IS WHAT DEVELOPMENT LOOKS LIKE



BY DAWN PALEY

Infamous for hosting a large nickel mining project from the early '60s until the mid-'80s, the area surrounding the town of El Estor, in northeastern Guatemala, is back in the spotlight. Three years ago, Vancouver, Canada-based Skye Resources took up the reins of its predecessors, promising another round of development and jobs for local people. For the locals, however, round after round of violent evictions are the most striking characteristic of the mining company's presence in the region. In response, many people are reclaiming the land that has been stolen from them.

In mid-September, after years of living five or more families to a lot in the overcrowded town of Chichipate, more than 400 families moved onto lands owned by the Guatemalan nickel company *Compañía Guatemalteca de Niquel (CGN)*, a subsidiary of Skye Resources. The vast majority of the people who have taken part in these "land invasions" are Mayan Q'eqchi' *campesinos*. Their principal desire is to have enough land to support their families through subsistence agriculture.

Barrio Revolución is one of the newly settled communities that has sprung up in recent months on historically unused and unproductive lands. In spite of severe adversity, including forced evictions, community members have built and rebuilt

thatched-roof houses and a communal hall, organized regular meetings and started planting corn and beans.

I first visited Revolución in early December, shortly after the first eviction. There was a tangible sense of hope in the air.

Elder Doña Fidelia explained at the time, "We are recuperating our lands, not invading them. Some of us were born on these lands, before any mining company arrived in the area. [The nickel companies were] not here first, our parents were." In 2004, the nickel

in defending their lands—activities they paid for with their lives." Stories such as Fidelia's are not out of the ordinary for the *campesino* population in the area, many of whom have lost friends, leaders and families in the internal armed conflict that plagued Guatemala for 36 years.

Although some things have undoubtedly changed since the signing of the Peace Accords in 1996, CGN-Skye Resources has worked to maintain a climate of fear and uncertainty, particularly since land reoccupations began in

September. Locals I met with in December told of biweekly helicopter fly-overs, fruitless meetings with company representatives who would not allow community members to bring legal representation or translators, and the horrifying night of November 12, when hundreds of police and army personnel arrived to remove people from the lands.

This first eviction was carried out illegally, without a judicial order. In

statements reminiscent of the days of EXMIBAL, eyewitnesses related that groups of police and soldiers were deployed from within the boundaries of company property—some using company vehicles—to evict people from their homes.

Revolución was faced with a second eviction order in late December. This Christmastime eviction appeared to be an attempt by CGN-Skye Resources to "go legal"—to follow the procedures for eviction from private land as dictated by Guatemalan law. On the morning



A house in Barrio Revolución is set ablaze.

photos courtesy James Rodriguez

company EXMIBAL, in the region since the '60s, was bought by Skye Resources and began exploration on the renamed Fenix Project as CGN.

In the heart of Revolución, the community cemetery bears testament to Fidelia's words, with headstones dating back to the 1920s. When EXMIBAL began to buy and clear lands in the '60s, the people living there were coaxed or forced out; some were murdered. In a steady voice, Fidelia explains what happened to her parents, who "physically participated

of December 27, the people in Revolución were organized and expecting the worst. It was only by listening to a local radio station that residents learned the eviction would not take place. The sense of relief was fleeting, however. Another eviction notice was filed for January 8.

In El Estor on the evening of January 7, it was evident that something was amiss. Dozens of police vehicles clogged the thoroughfares of the nearby town of Rio Dulce. It was clear that evictions were imminent.

Mustering at the headquarters of CGN-Skye Resources at eight the next morning, 430 police—supported by approximately 200 members of the

military—traveled the road to Barrio Unión, a reoccupied community made up of about 70 families. Public prosecutor Rafael Andrade Escobar read the eviction notice. The community was given time to vacate, and houses were dismantled by CGN-Skye Resources workers.

A second eviction happened later that day in a community called La Pista, where residents had decided to vacate before the police arrived. Their structures were dismantled with less care than in Unión, and some were burned. As night fell, locals speculated about the eviction of Revolución.

The morning of January 9, the police and army mustered again at the CGN-Skye Resources headquarters. Police trucks lined the road in a grim parade, stretching for hundreds of yards, each carrying four or more heavily armed, black-clad policemen. Armed private security guards rode in a white pickup, wearing company shirts. Other security guards were positioned on the cliffs along the roadside. From above, a helicopter carried out flyovers of Barrios Revolución and La Paz. At about 9:45 a.m., the convoy began to roll toward Revolución.

Instead of sending a public prosecutor to read an eviction order, elite squads of riot police entered

the community, moving up the river that runs through the center of the community. Police then encircled the area, closing the people of Revolución into the western portion of



*A Q'eqchi' womyn argues to save her home.*

the community, where many were congregated in the meeting hall.

Surrounded by police, about 50 people waited for the public prosecutor to read them the eviction notice. Among them were about a dozen women—including a mother holding her infant—and a few younger children.

In the distance, an orange spot appeared. As it grew, brown smoke began to rise up into the air; a house on the other side of the river was burning.

Public prosecutor Andrade stood aside while a second house was set on fire, and then a third. He claimed that there was no signal on his cell phone, so he could not order his men to stop burning. He claimed that he would have the Public Ministry press charges against the company employees that were burning the houses in Revolución.

When asked why company employees were burning homes, Andrade responded, "I handed authority over that section of the area over to a [CGN-Skye Resources] lawyer."

After nearly every home in the eastern section of Revolución was on fire, the two dozen people hired by the company to destroy homes finally stopped. While heat continued to radiate from the smoldering structures, approximately 60 members of the army

filed across the field and into the forest surrounding the community. Ceasar Bora, of the National Indigenous and *Campesino* Coordination Committee, described the situation as having "the same characteristics that we saw in many other cases during the internal conflict [in the 1980s]."

Their houses now reduced to charred wood, the community remained sealed in by the police and army while Andrade ordered the residents of Revolución to dismantle the remaining homes.

Speaking as tears ran down his face, one man said, "They just burned my home. Where will my children sleep tonight?"

Andrade quickly left to carry out a fourth eviction, in La Paz. After the disaster in Revolución, the eviction in La Paz seemed peaceful, though the legal grounds for it were heavily contested.

More evictions were planned for the coming days. Hundreds of *campesino* families had been made homeless in less than 48 hours. As the afternoon wore on, the people of Revolución and La Paz tirelessly dismantled the remaining homes under heavy police supervision. A sprinkle of rain turned into a heavy afternoon shower, and there was nowhere to go for shelter. As the people of these communities stood alongside the highway with their belongings, one thought was universal: "Development brings eviction. Development brings displacement."

Even as community members deal with the loss of their homes and possessions, the depth of their desire to live sustainably from the land remains profound. Unless the company and the government of Guatemala radically change their strategy, or the Canadian government decides to intervene with the activities of Skye Resources in Guatemala, this conflict will intensify.

Welcome to 2007. This is what development looks like.

*Dawn Paley is an independent journalist from Vancouver, British Columbia.*

# ATROCITIES AND METAL

BY DONNY

Guatemala has a long history of being ravaged by metal mining. Companies from the Global North, most recently and notably Canadian companies, think they can come into Guatemala and do whatever they want. So far, that seems to be disturbingly close to the truth.

With impunity, they steal land that families have lived on for generations. They poison the rivers and the soil. They hire paramilitaries—company workers, if you ask them—to terrorize communities. Sadly, this is nothing new, and an end doesn't seem to be in sight.

Glamis Gold is a Canadian mining company operating a large open-pit mine, called Marlin, near the municipalities of Sipakapa and San Miguel Ixtahuacan in San Marcos, Guatemala. Marlin is the largest gold mine in Central America, with gross annual earnings of \$1 billion.

In the nearby communities, people's lives have changed drastically for the worse since the mine came in 2002. Water sources have become contaminated with cyanide and heavy metals,

products of gold mining that often spill out of their pits and into the surrounding ecosystem.

Many communities have grown used to drinking water laced with arsenic, mercury and lead. Others don't even have it that good, and need to travel to other communities to get ahold of potable water. The contaminated water, of course, affects the health of the crops that people grow for subsistence.

Imagine what living like this does to a person's health—especially in areas where it's difficult to get access to decent health care, even if someone can afford it. Quality hospitals are few and far between, and often don't have the resources to deal with the grave illnesses caused by the metal mining.

Because of the obvious negative impacts, these mines typically face resistance from the locals. In addition to other tactics, it's not uncommon for the affected communities to hold a vote on whether to allow a mine in the area. Overwhelmingly, the communities will reject the mine—but even legally binding tallies rarely seem to affect whether or not the

mining company moves ahead with its plans. In the end, the communities with the strongest opposition prove to be the communities that face the harshest repression.

Barrio Revolución is a prime example of this pattern (see page 20). At the turn of the new year, it was one of the largest and most organized communities to be affected by Canadian nickel mining company Skye Resources. Since then, it has been burned to the ground and seen its residents harassed and intimidated by pickup trucks full of men with guns. The situation was essentially given the government's blessing by the presence of a public prosecutor, who was in charge of carrying out the eviction notice used as justification for the repression.

Rape and murder have also been committed by the thugs hired by these northern metal mining companies. Whether the perpetrators are police, the army or people from communities disconnected and far away enough to take the blood money offered by the mining companies, local people are suffering so that metals and profits can be extracted from their land.

## Frontlines

### Alaska Highway Given New Direction

Alaska's Lynn Canal Highway was given a new and more appropriate direction early last Winter, when a group of so-called vandals yanked alignment stakes, flagging and survey control points along 11,300 feet of highway, causing \$37,000 of damage. If they get their way, the new direction for this highway will be straight down.

The Lynn Canal project entails cutting a roundabout highway through some of Alaska's most beautiful and rugged countryside, opening up potentially oil-rich areas that were, until recently, inaccessible (see *EF!* November-December 2006).

### Direct Action Stalls Gas Pipeline Construction

For many months, Welsh activists have been using direct action to stop the construction of National Grid's new gas pipeline.

In November, several activists entered the village of Trebanos and occupied the unfinished pipeline for more than a week.

On January 9, a group of activists occupied a crosswalk on the Trebanos construction site's access road. Construction was stalled off and on for three weeks, until five activists were arrested in the same crosswalk on January 31. Activists locked down to cranes at another pipeline construction site in Alltwen on January 16. Work was stalled for more than five hours.

The unfinished pipeline is slated to be Europe's largest—up to 150 miles long and as wide as a highway. It has already cut through numerous ancient forests, farms and residential areas, often after locals were misled about the company's intentions.

### Shell-Sponsored Art Exhibit Receives Makeover

Shell's annual "Wildlife Photographer of the Year" exhibition, held at the London Natural History Museum, was corrected this year when activists splattered thick, black oil across the glass fronts of the exhibition's photos. The Shell-sponsored photos were color shots of the same pristine wildlife that is threatened by the company's constant

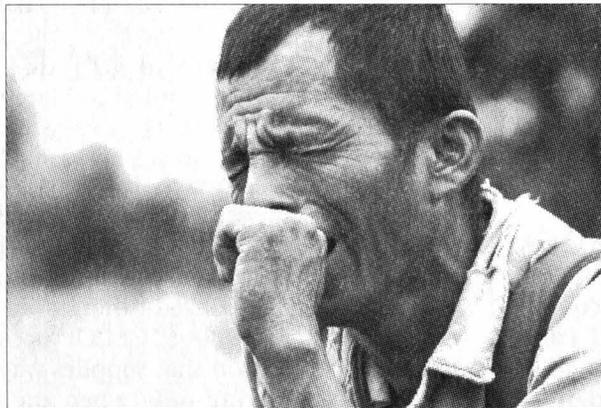
# MINING IN GUATEMALA

The environmental destruction caused by Marlin and other open-pit mining projects in Guatemala is massive, considering that there were 418 mining exploration licenses active at the end of 2004 alone. The damage comes in three basic stages: exploration and surveying, extraction, and treatment of the minerals.

The exploration stage involves the preparation and construction of access roads and base production camps, formation and widening of wells, and sample taking—all of which have severe ecological impacts.

Extraction is when most of the irreversible destruction occurs; hills and mountains are destroyed. During the treatment phase, toxic chemicals like cyanide, lead and zinc are used to separate the profitable metals from the "waste." Gases from these processes contaminate the air, and ground water is poisoned by the residue of treatment chemicals. Accidents and leaks during the transportation of the chemicals are also frequent occurrences.

Cyanide is fatal to animals—including people—and interferes with photosynthesis in plants. It can be inhaled, swallowed or absorbed through the skin. Lead, a carcinogen,



A Q'eqchi' man sobs as his community burns.

causes serious effects in pregnant women, including miscarriages and developmental damage to the fetus. It is particularly damaging to children, but is toxic to adults as well.

Now, a group of business owners and political elites supportive of Skye Resources has publicly stated that it is organizing "Civil Patrols." During the internal armed conflict in the 1980s,

Civil Defense Patrols massacred entire villages and carried out scorched-earth campaigns across Guatemala. The use of the term "Civil Patrol" is hauntingly similar to the name of the groups that carried out terror and genocide not that long ago. This connection is intentional. The mining companies mean business, in the worst sense. In the name of the ecosystems and those who dwell in them, this has to stop. It's that, or a future of dead zones and dead people.

For more information on the impact of metal mining on indigenous people in Guatemala, visit [www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org).

*Rights Action, an environmental and human rights organization, assisted greatly in the formation of the two articles in this issue focusing on metal mining in Guatemala. Beth Sanders also helped gather information.*

*Donny had his eyes opened to the realities of life in Latin America during his various travels. His gaze has remained south since returning to the US.*

defilement of the Earth with gas and oil exploration and production.

Before authorities dragged them out, the 20 activists dropped a banner inside the museum, renaming it the "Make Nature History Museum."

## Rising Tide Says "No New Oil-Fired Plants"

Two members of Rising Tide North America (RTNA) dropped a banner from a billboard located near the proposed site of Progress Energy's new oil-fired power plant in Woodfin, North Carolina, early on the morning of February 6. The banner read, "Burning Oil Ain't Progress—No New Woodfin Power Plant."

From her perch on the billboard, one activist explained, "Given the increases in droughts, hurricanes and massive species extinction that we are already experiencing as a result of climate change, burning oil for electricity is totally insane. In the face of total government inaction, regular people need to take action to transition our society away from fossil fuels."

Police and firefighters eventually removed the two RTNA activists.

## Spanish Slaughterhouse Torched

On January 11, saboteurs set ablaze a slaughterhouse in Santa Comba, Spain. The Spanish Animal Liberation

Front is believed to be responsible for setting the fire, although no one has yet claimed the action. The fire was centered on the slaughterhouse's killing floors and refrigeration units.

Before the fire was set, the nighttime saboteurs propped the doors open with tape, allowing all 160 cows to escape.

The fire caused \$6.5 million of damage and rendered the slaughterhouse useless for at least six months. It was apparent to investigators that the saboteurs had intimate knowledge of the slaughterhouse, since they knew the best escape routes for the animals and which targets would be the most costly.

## West Bengalis Drive Out Special Economic Zones

This Winter, people living in Nandigram, West Bengal took action when government and corporate thieves tried to make their land into two Special Economic Zones (SEZ)—destined to become a "chemical hub" and to host a Tata Motors factory. Residents collapsed bridges and blockaded all roads leading to nine villages in the area.

On January 19, notification for the SEZ was withdrawn, but the price was high. One leader of the anti-SEZ movement and at least eight other residents were either assassinated by SEZ proponents or killed in violent clashes throughout the first weeks of January.



# "EVEN AT THE COST OF OUR LIVES

INDIGENOUS MEXICANS CONTINUE TO RESIST  
DAM DESPITE MURDER, STATE REPRESSION

BY JONATHAN

*Campesino* (subsistence farmer) resistance continues against construction of La Parota dam on the Papagayo River in Guerrero, Mexico (see *EF!* November-December 2004). The dam would create a reservoir 30 miles north of Acapulco, submerging 34,000 acres of forest and farmland and displacing more than 25,000 people—with an estimated 50,000 more directly affected. The dam is part of the Plan Puebla Panamá's Central American Electricity Interconnection System and if built, would provide power to the US.

On-the-ground resistance to the megaproject is spearheaded by the Council of *Ejid*os and Communities Opposed to La Parota Dam (CECOP). Composed of members of 36 indigenous communities that would be among the displaced and affected, CECOP was formed in 2003 to stop the dam. For them, it is clear that compromise is not an option. The CECOP declaration, "Three Years and Six Months of Resistance and Dignity," released in December, says, "We... declare our decision to defend our lands and the water of our Papagayo River even at the cost of our lives."

Despite several legal rulings in CECOP's favor, construction of access roads to the proposed dam site continues. In July 2005, the Agrarian Unit Court (AUC) of Acapulco issued an order forbidding the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE) from any further dam construction. Nevertheless, in April 2006, CECOP discovered that access roads leading to Dos Mayos Hill, the site of the dam's curtain, were being built. Construction on dam maintenance roads has also begun, although the state of Guerrero claims that in spite of the fact that the roads can be found on the plans for La Parota, the construction has nothing to do with the dam and is instead aimed at "development" for local communities.

The strongest legal argument against the dam is another AUC decision from October. This states that the permission obtained by the CFE to expropriate land for construction is invalid and that the CFE is not allowed to enter lands owned by several communities in resistance.

The community meetings at which this permission was supposedly obtained were in clear violation of the law. At some, cops attacked anti-dam *campesinos* outside the meetings with rocks, batons and teargas, while other meetings were held outside of the districts they purported to represent and featured paid voters from other regions of the state.

Although the laws are clearly in CECOP's favor, the movement has eschewed a strictly institutional approach. In addition to maintaining six roadblocks to prevent the CFE from construction sites on *campesino* land, CECOP has utilized other, more direct strategies. For two days in April 2006, CECOP occupied and shut down a pumping station that supplies water to 800,000 Acapulco residents, leaving only when the mayor of Acapulco made a personal appearance and pledged to take their demands to then-President Vicente Fox.

But in the conflict zones, CFE-employed, pro-dam *campesinos* guard heavy machinery and threaten CECOP members, saying there will be deaths if dam resisters approach the proposed building sites. These are not empty words: On January 13, CECOP member Benito Jacinto Cruz was found dead on a stream bank a short distance from his home in the community of Huamuchitos. He had been shot in the right cheek. He is the sixth to die as a result of the struggle.

On par with the physical violence against anti-dam *campesinos* are the social problems the dam is bringing to their communities. The division between pro- and anti-dam members of affected communities is deep. Neighbors no longer speak to neighbors, formerly friendly relationships are now tense, and families are divided. The "Three Years and Six Months" declaration speaks of the social fabric coming undone. "[The government is] looking for confrontation between *campesinos* in order to send in the police or the army, and build the dam walking over the bodies of many and the imprisonment of others."

Stopping the dam's construction is a primary goal of the US-based Root Force campaign, which publicizes information about financial backers, investors and others who stand to profit from La Parota, so that autonomous affinity groups can take direct action against them. The project will be unable to continue if heavy pressure to the dam's backers in the Global North causes these companies to withdraw their support. Root Force is currently focusing on the retail chains CompUSA, Sears and Kmart, all owned by or otherwise associated with Mexican entrepreneur Carlos Slim, who is the top bidder for dam construction.

For more information, contact Root Force, POB 1302, Tucson, AZ 85702; [info@rootforce.org](mailto:info@rootforce.org); [www.rootforce.org](http://www.rootforce.org).

*Jonathan tried really hard, but his bio isn't nearly as clever as trouble!'s was last issue.*

# HONDURAN DAM CAUSES TWO DEATHS

BY MIRIAM MIRANDA  
TRANSLATED BY ROSALIND GILL

The debate over the viability of the Patuca Hydroelectric Dam and the Honduran government's plans to go ahead with construction has finally brought the megaproject to the attention of the nation's public. The government's plans overlook public interest and fail to consider the serious environmental consequences for the indigenous Miskitos and Tawacas.

For more than 10 years, there have been plans to build a series of dams on the Patuca River, the second largest river in Central America. These dams would be part of the Plan Puebla Panamá (PPP), which envisions the construction of an unknown number of dams to supply energy to the US through the Central American Electric Interconnection Initiative.

After a trip to Taiwan last October, Honduran President Manuel Zelaya announced that he had obtained \$250 million in financing for the construction of the Patuca Dam, which would flood the surrounding forests to create a 72-square-mile reservoir. The project is to be carried out by the Tai Power Company, which has been granted a 15-year concession for energy production.

Although an environmental permit has not been issued for dam construction, serious infrastructure planning for the project is already underway. This is somewhat like what happened in *Alice in Wonderland*: the sentence is being given before the charges have been made. According to statements by the Taiwanese Embassy's Commercial Office, a team of Taiwanese engineers visited the Patuca region

in December to determine the size of the area that the reservoir would cover and whether the area contains any archeological ruins.

In mid-December, local press reported opposition to the project from the inhabitants of the areas that would be flooded. Despite this opposition, President Zelaya announced that the government was determined to proceed with dam construction.

Several days later, on December 20, two activists from the Olancho Environmental Movement (MAO) were arrested and then murdered by National Police agents at a police station close to the dam site. The death of the MAO activists is part of a campaign of intimidation against those who defend Honduran forests.

The MAO is a courageous organization that has decided to defend the forests of Olancho, Honduras' largest state, against the massive destruction being carried out in that part of the country. The destruction of the forests is endangering the country's water supply. In the last 20 years, water levels have dropped, and rivers have suffered irreparable sedimentation. The destruction is happening so rapidly that it may not even be feasible to maintain the water levels necessary to keep the Patuca Dam functioning on a permanent basis. People lecture us about our need for a national energy plan and insist on the need to construct megadams, but they fail to consider the fate of the Honduran forests and the role they play in the sustainability of our rivers.

The Honduran government plans to ask the US Army Corps of Engineers, as part of the Nature Conservancy's

Sustainable Water Management Program, for advice on the Patuca Dam project.

The Nature Conservancy, a monster that is one of the mainstream environmental movement's sacred cows, was recently the subject of an extended investigation by the *Washington Post*. The investigation revealed that the organization had used questionable environmental practices, was involved in real estate speculation in preservation areas and has been known to use intimidation tactics in its bids to manage protected areas. Involving the Nature Conservancy as an adviser on the project creates further doubt as to the viability of the project and raises concerns about long-term consequences.

The PPP is supposed to protect biodiversity through the related Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC), but to date MBC officials have remained silent regarding the future destruction of the Patuca River—one of the most important parts of the corridor. The indigenous and black peoples of Mesoamerica have come to see unprecedented duality in the actions of MBC officials. On the one hand, officials permit the construction of megadams; on the other, they stand in the way of land claims by inhabitants who have lived on and looked after the land for centuries.

We can only hope that the death of the MAO environmental activists is not a sign of increased repression and future imposition of projects through force.

*Miriam Miranda is a member of the Executive Committee of the Honduran Black Fraternal Organization. She has been an activist in the indigenous movement for more than 15 years.*

# ARMED WITH VISIONS

*Clear as cut glass & just as dangerous*

## BEWILDERED

Pixel size simultaneously shrinks and grows  
We see so much  
In the so little that is left  
Technology can calculate a million  
Species formulae per second  
But that does nothing to address  
The inadequacy of all those perfect answers

Look: maybe the tinkering should have stopped  
With ball bearings and spokes.  
Like any addict, our society puts up a good front  
How well we can function  
Not really sick  
Denial as a way of waking up every morning.

It's like this: part of my little toe  
Aspires to be a scale on a horned lizard someday  
But it's not gonna happen  
If the biologists at the party  
Are debating the merits of helmet laws and Bruce  
Springsteen  
On the day the senate voted  
To give a great arctic wilderness to the oil companies

—Jenny McBride

## Blank Verses

How do you write a poem about  
a dying forest  
or an empty white turtle shell  
How compose a sonnet to a poisoned  
aquifer  
or a starving polar bear cut off from  
the ice floe that feeds him  
How do you write an ode about spilled  
tears for a dying planet  
What meaning is held in a page  
left blank because beauty is dying  
Can you write a poem about  
money made at the cost of all life  
All songs become dirges without  
music and soon without sound  
and poems a blank sheet matching  
the dry mountain stream beds of  
springs to come

—Sid Bridges

# PSSST

Pssst...*Quit your job. (You know who you are.)*

Become a baker, dress-maker, home-builder, weaver, furniture maker, gardener, flute-maker, clothing-maker, beer-maker, candle-maker, solar oven builder, builder of solar hot water heaters, cobbler, healer, yogi, shaman, dancer, singer, musician, herbalist, boat-maker, bicycle repair person, potter, tool-maker, hunter, gatherer, brick-maker, actor, trader, artist, innkeeper, or something else useful, local and non-destructive. Or, do many things, and enjoy the variety.

Sell to your neighbors. Buy from your neighbors. (Everyone is a neighbor who shares the same water source.)

Learn about the land, plants and animals around you.

Create a new social security in a circle of friends.

Spend more time with your family.

Work harder in certain seasons. Hang out and cuddle up in others.

Take it easy when you or a loved one is ill. Or when the weather is especially beautiful.

Travel less, and slower, where you please, and with less pressure.

Breathe fresher air. Drink purer water.

Daydream more. Remember your dreams.

Create.

*It's your life.*

(Their promises of security are not true.)

Even the CEOs will enjoy getting back in the garden for a change.

Change the world.

*Pass it on.*

—Djinn

Send poems to  
Warrior Poets Society  
P O B 14501  
Berkeley, CA 94712-5501  
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## YOU AND ME AND YUAN MEI

Yuan Mei is the most popular poet  
in two thousand Chinese years,  
but here in the suburbs of literature,  
nobody knows but Yuan Mei.

As I wander with my book of poems,  
I'm listening to a hundred birds  
and one chainsaw at the beaver pond,  
though I see no one but Yuan Mei.

The sun breaks through the warm rain  
just as the noise goes back to hell,  
and now I'm high as the summer of love—  
all this beauty for Yuan Mei.

But there's a ball and chain of fear inside  
and I don't know how to talk about it,  
except of course to Yuan Mei.

I'll sit here till my head burns,  
beside a gang of drifting ducks  
that waits patiently for bread crumbs,  
from lunch with Yuan Mei.

Tonight I'll write all this down  
and then I'll read his book again,  
home in bed with Yuan Mei.

I walk around this small heaven  
and see people taking pictures,  
and they don't see anything  
except their damn pictures.  
Is everybody crazy,  
except for Yuan Mei?

I tear down signs for a timber sale,  
and wonder if Ashcroft and Rumsfeld  
will soon be torturing Earth Tribe poets,  
people just like Yuan Mei.

There goes the chainsaw again—  
life in the modern world.  
What will happen to ducks and creeks,  
and you and me,  
and books like this by Yuan Mei?

—Craig Oare

# NORTHERN BISON CAMPAIGN



photos courtesy National Park Service

BY KALANU

If you need any proof that humankind's best intentions for wildlife conservation can go horribly awry, look to northern Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park (WBNP).

This remote sanctuary, located twelve hours north of Edmonton, is a long way to look indeed. With only eight full-time employees and fewer than 10,000 visitors annually, there are few people who have ever laid eyes on the last wild bison in Canada. Yet from this remote region came the ancestors of all bison in North America. And now, the bogus threat of disease control threatens to put an end to a lineage that goes back tens of thousands of years.

When the dust settled after the mass bison slaughter of the late 19th century, there were only a few hundred wild bison in North America, divided between two national parks in Canada and the US.

Readers will be familiar with the story of the bison of Yellowstone National Park (see *EF!* March-April 2006). Last year alone, more than 1,000 buffalo were slaughtered while trying to access winter forage outside the park. The slaughter has continued this year, with a public hunt claiming almost every bison that has left the park.

The trouble for the northern bison began in 1925, when the Canadian government decided to ship more than 6,000 bison north from Buffalo National Park in Wainwright, Alberta, to remote WBNP, on the boundary of Alberta and the Northwest Territories. In Wainwright the infamous "cattalo" experiments were conducted, in which

cattle and bison were crossbred, infecting the buffalo with brucellosis and tuberculosis in the process.

The latest plan to eradicate Canada's last wild herd of bison came in early 2006, when a report commissioned by Parks Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service was submitted to the federal government, outlining the feasibility of depopulating the park of bison and replacing them with a new herd of "healthy" animals. (A similar plan was submitted and subsequently given the green light by the Mulroney government in 1990. However, public outcry to what became known as the "Armageddon Option" caused the feds to pull the plug at the last minute.) These new plans call for a ten-year depopulating of the park, and a ten-year repopulating with healthy bison from the governments' Wood Bison Recovery Program. The latest news on this issue is that *in vitro* fertilization is being researched in order to create test-tube bison for the park.

Setting aside the obvious injustice of killing the last herd of continuously wild bison in the country, there will be several years during this plan when the park will be completely devoid of bison. This is one of the factors that the government would like to mitigate, but honestly, how can you mitigate removing the keystone species from such a fragile ecosystem? How would this plan affect the wolves, who now rely on bison as their primary source of food? How would this affect the other animal populations, who would become a greater source of food for the wolves? How would this affect the local indigenous communities, who still rely on the presence of the buffalo as strongly as they did in the days of the great herds? Without the buffalo

trails creating fire-breaks and without the buffalo agitating and fertilizing the soil to make it suitable for plants and grasses, would erosion and excessive evaporation of groundwater negatively impact the world's last wild flock of whooping cranes, which nest *only* at WBNP and the surrounding area?

Also disturbing is the fact that the eradication plan's most basic assumption—that disease is decimating the bison population—may not even be true. Seventeen years ago, when plans to eradicate the herd came dangerously close to being implemented, the chief biologist in charge of the plan claimed, "If nothing is done, the herd will likely drop to as low as 1,000 animals." The population of the herd was indeed declining at that point, having gone from 11,000 in 1970 to around 2,000 by 1992. Since then, however, the herd has increased to more than 4,500 animals, suggesting that if disease was ever a factor in the decline of the bison population, then perhaps these animals have begun to adapt. As renowned wildlife researcher Lu Carbyn said, "We may be seeing evolution happening right before our eyes."

Since the 1960s, the Canadian government has been engaged in a bison restoration program that has involved relocating wood bison from Elk Island Provincial Park to various public and private reserves around the West. Though the founding animals of the Elk Island herd were removed from WBNP in the late 1950s, the Canadian government considers them a separate subspecies of bison from those in WBNP, which they consider a plains bison/wood bison hybrid. This, and the possibility of disease transmission, have led the government to consider the northern bison a threat to their restoration efforts, as well as to local livestock operations.

Despite the fact that a clear genetic divide has never been proven to exist between wood and plains bison, a subtle form of racism has been employed in the battle to eradicate the WBNP herd. Calling the northern bison "diseased hybrids," officials propose to replace them with "pure, healthy wood bison." The debate over this distinction has created a clear line in the sand for those in favor of and those opposed to eradication. The lure of the mythical, pure, wood bison has even led some groups over to the side of the government, including the World Wildlife Fund and several prominent First Nations tribal members.

On the side of preservation are those who recognize that purity is a dangerous myth, and that if the national bison restoration program is to succeed, mixing of the "races" will be impossible to stop—that is, if there ever was a genetic difference in the first place. In 1991, Dr. Valerius Geist, professor emeritus of environmental science at the University of Calgary wrote a paper entitled, "Phantom Subspecies: The Wood Bison Is Not a Valid Taxon but an Ecotype." Geist proposed that the differences between the two subspecies were the result of environmental and not genetic factors.

So what are they trying to do here? Replacing a "diseased hybrid" herd with a supposedly "pure" herd that may or may not remain disease-free, while causing serious damage to the fragile wetland ecosystem and the local subsistence economy, based on an as-yet-unproven threat to nearby cattle and buffalo ranching operations?

It comes down to an issue of protection. Plans to eradicate the bison are never and will never be about protecting them. Like the situation in and around Yellowstone, any and all actions taken against the buffalo are really taken as a measure of protection for the livestock industry. Can these two opposing forces be reconciled? Can industry and wildlife coexist? Or will we have to make a choice?

Those on the side of livestock have already made this choice, without a thorough examination of the factors involved. The bison of Yellowstone are under continued attack, and the "Armageddon Option" for the bison in WBNP continues to gain support.

Some of us would choose bison if we had to, yet we have time to concentrate further studies on this issue. That's why we've formed Save the Wild Bison Canada, a grassroots campaign dedicated to bringing this issue into the public consciousness and exploring options that will achieve permanent protection for this important herd. Save the Wild Bison Canada's Northern Bison Campaign will bring together wild bison advocates from across Alberta and the world to fight the misinformation and industry influence that threatens one of the world's most genetically diverse herds of bison. The people of the buffalo have put a stop to these plans before, and we will



remain vigilant of any threat to these bison until they are afforded permanent protection.

For more information, visit [www.savethewildbison.org](http://www.savethewildbison.org). For information on the buffalo of Yellowstone National Park and the Buffalo Field Campaign, visit [www.buffalofieldcampaign.org](http://www.buffalofieldcampaign.org).

*Kalanu is a former coordinator with Buffalo Field Campaign, and the current coordinator of Save The Wild Bison Canada.*

# Y'all OTTER leave them WOLVES alone

BY LISA Z

Gray wolves are doing so well in Idaho since their re-introduction more than 10 years ago that proceedings to delist them under the Endangered Species Act began this January. Good news—until Governor CL “Butch” Otter proclaimed on January 11, “I’m prepared to bid for that first ticket to shoot a wolf myself.” Thus began plans for a 550-wolf killing spree.

Otter’s speech was given to about 300 hunters, who were angry with the low number of elk they’ve been able to bag in recent years. Delisting, for them, means a chance to take out their aggression—in the form of flying bullets—on what they perceive as the reason for their hunting ineptitude.

The release of 66 Canadian wolves into Idaho, Montana and Wyoming more than a decade ago has resulted in a current estimated population of 1,229 wolves, or 158 packs. A large bulk of that population, about 650, has settled into northern and central Idaho, where elk and other big-game hunting brings in millions of dollars yearly.

Unfortunately, many hunters are not well educated on the basics of the wolf-elk relationship or the history of their bioregion, and make false assumptions about how one population affects the other. For example, hunters are having a hard time spotting elk and, at the same time, are finding scores of wolf tracks. The elk have indeed become harder to spot, because they’ve had to adapt to a new predator. No more fancy-free days of foraging out in the open fields; more often, they have to seek cover in tree stands, out of sight from wolves and hunters alike.

In truth, the wolves have created a healthier ecosystem and a stronger elk herd. Wolves also keep the elk’s grazing in check along streambeds, where vegetation provides habitat for birds, fish and other animals.

Idaho Fish and Game’s (IDFG) own statistics show that hunters have been *more* successful in the past three years as the number of wolves has increased. IDFG also states that as of 2005, “Elk and deer populations are at ecologically

sustainable numbers, and wolves account for less than 10 percent of all elk and deer deaths in Idaho.”

That’s right: Elk are at a *sustainable* number. Tales of legions of elk herds hearken back to the early and mid-twentieth century, when massive wildfires, logging and lack of natural predators created the ideal habitat for an artificial population boom.

A recent University of Idaho poll shows that 46 percent of Idahoans welcome the wolves, so it’s not fair to say that the state is full of only trigger-happy wolf-haters. Most people agree that it’s time to take wolves off the endangered list and give management to the state, and many people understand that the wolves are not responsible for declining elk herds.

Both Montana and Idaho’s delistment plans say that wolf hunting would be allowed as long as there are at least 15 packs of 10 wolves each—five more packs than Otter thinks there should be. Wyoming’s post-delistment

plans said that wolves would be treated like coyotes and could be shot on sight on private land. The Wyoming plan was rejected by the feds.

Otter’s plan to slaughter 550 wolves is not only revolting, it would mean that if there were 100 wolves left in Idaho and one died, they would be right back on the endangered species list.

Already, in 2006, the feds granted Idaho the right to let wildlife agents and ranchers shoot wolves that prey on cattle. As of September, wolves had killed 19 cows and 120 sheep in 2006, while humans killed 35 wolves.

The delistment process will take about a year to complete. After that, IDFG still has to decide the details of where, when and how many wolves may be hunted. Court challenges against delistment are also expected.

Feel free to contact Otter at the Office of the Governor, POB 83720, Boise, ID 83720; (208) 334-2100; [www.gov.idaho.gov/ourgov/contact.html](http://www.gov.idaho.gov/ourgov/contact.html).

Lisa Z was born and raised in northern Idaho. She has never hunted elk, but has blown kisses to a few of them. During the Cove/Mallard Campaign in 1994, she dressed as an EFler for Halloween.



artwork by Brian Bowes ([brianbowesart.com](http://brianbowesart.com))



A **belly-tickling, use-my-powers-for-good wolf** to **Bao Xishun** for saving the lives of two dolphins in Fushun, China, by reaching down their throats and pulling plastic shards out of their stomachs. The dolphins had swallowed pieces of the plastic surrounding their pool and were suffering from depression and appetite loss. Veterinarians approached Bao—a Mongolian herdsman, who at seven feet, nine inches is the world's tallest living man—after previous attempts to remove the plastic failed. After towels were wrapped around the animals' teeth, Bao reached his three-foot-six-inch arms down their throats and pulled out the plastic. The dolphins returned to good health after the procedure.

A **climate-tampering, logic-defying, would-be-hilarious-if-it-weren't-so-deadly-serious poodle** to **US scientists** for researching ways to mitigate the effects of global warming by blocking sunlight from reaching the Earth. Moronic suggestions for blocking solar rays include putting a giant screen into orbit; launching thousands of tiny, shiny balloons; and releasing into the atmosphere microscopic sulfate droplets that would mimic the cooling effects of a volcanic eruption. University of Arizona astronomer Roger Angel has already started plans for a space sunshade: trillions of ultra-thin plates which, if deployed one million miles above the Earth, would block roughly two percent of sunlight over the entire planet.

## Wolves and Poodles

A **molotov-throwin', solidaritizin', revolutionizin' wolf** to **Greek anarchists** for scores of recent actions in solidarity with anarchist prisoners (who are facing charges stemming from a May 2006 European Social Forum march) and students protesting the privatization of the university system. In January alone, action-hungry anarchists occupied two university campuses, a mayoral mansion, a government office and two radio stations; firebombed banks, political headquarters and tax offices; and executed multiple attacks on riot police. A letter from hunger-striking anarchist prisoners reads, "The solidarity that so many people have shown us has... given us strength and courage in these difficult days. What can be more important than to know that we are not alone?"

A **patriarchy-smashing, thirsty-for-justice wolf** to the **Mazahua Women's Army in Defense of Water (MWADW)** for its efforts to gain access to clean water, and to the **Mazahua men** for supporting the all-women action. Although a massive water distribution system crosses their lands en route to nearby Mexico City, many Mazahua must walk long distances to find clean water for daily use. In March 2006, rifles and machetes in hand, the MWADW marched to Mexico City to storm the industry-led World Water Forum. Since shutting off valves at a distribution station on December 11, the women have maintained a protest camp outside the station. According to one member, the communities' men have taken on a support role, in addition to their daily work to support their families.

A **sleeping-with-the-enemy, oh-wait-you-are-the-enemy poodle** to the **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** for naming former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt as its new chairman. Babbitt has made a career out of paying lip service to environmental causes, and the WWF has made a career out of greenwashing—a perfect match. The WWF's environmental idiocy includes endorsing the Canadian seal hunt and participating in the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency's Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program, the largest animal-testing program of all time. Babbitt most recently made headlines for legally representing the Arizona Snowbowl ski resort in its efforts to expand trail area and use wastewater to make artificial snow (see *EF!* May-June 2006).

A **part-of-the-problem, we-see-right-through-you poodle** to **four mainstream environmental groups** for joining the newly formed United States Climate Action Partnership. **The Natural Resources Defense Council, Environmental Defense, the World Resources Institute and the Pew Center on Global Climate Change** joined up with such upstanding corporations as Caterpillar, BP American, Alcoa, DuPont and General Electric in order to produce a set of proposals for use during the creation of legislation on climate chaos. According to one partnership member's CEO, the aim is to create policy while President Bush is in office, realizing that future political climates may be "less sensitive to the needs of business."

# Our Bodies,

BY SOPHIA

I am disgusted when I see women's bodies being used to sell a product. The item being sold is almost always a useless piece of crap. Then, the women themselves are commodified—they are dressed and coiffed in order to fit society's idea of what is appealing, and they are shown stooping to adore the piece of crap or the man who possesses it. A woman's sexuality is used to lure remote people in: either men who are supposed to desire her or other women who are supposed to wish that they had her image.

The use of models' bodies in advertising is one aspect of the objectification of women, which is in turn one face of the exploitation of women. This objectification means that women are seen and used only as physical objects. Like objects, they are put on display. Their true physical beauty is ignored and replaced by an empty, standardized, nearly-impossible-to-achieve beauty that serves both to lower women's self-esteem and to dehumanize them.

Objectification serves capitalism by keeping women buying beauty products. But by trying to make women into objects instead of humans, objectification also attempts to justify a more general exploitation—whether for sex, labor or advertising.

It follows that this capitalist rationale is echoed in reference to the Earth. They try to make us forget that the Earth is alive and has inherent value of its own, and they attempt to commodify it, divide it up and sell it.

This capitalist system encourages a domination mentality, implying that since it's OK to dominate women, it's OK to dominate nature, and vice-versa. Correspondingly,

the movement to liberate the Earth and the movement to liberate people assigned a female identity are inextricably and beautifully linked. We cannot achieve liberation by uplifting environmental causes with one hand and holding down women with the other.

Because of this, it is quite disconcerting to imagine using popular advertising's methods to sell the environmental or animal rights movements. But surely no one would do this—every environmentalist understands the links between the domination of women and the plight of non-human life, right? Wrong.

I recently came across a couple of disturbing examples of campaigns using women's sexuality to sell environmental causes. We environmentalists are angry when animals are treated as possessions, yet it appears that some of us are willing to objectify women to sell ideas. We want to keep people from making money off nature—be it from fur, timber sales or greenwashing—yet some campaigns are using archaic and unrealistic images of skinny models to promote their causes.

I don't care whether the models have clothes on or not. I love naked bodies, but the promotion of model-bodies entirely removed from reality only brings us further from a loving understanding of what nature itself has given us.

In the following instances, models' bodies are used in a way that is harmful to other women's self-esteem by displaying a sensationalized image of female sexuality. In addition, the women are used simply as hooks to draw people in, and the display of their bodies has no actual bearing on the issue and no place in building a more positive world for women. These campaigns focus on building environmental

movements but completely fail to create a world free of oppression for all.

The first example I came across was a campaign to shut down Indian Point, a nuclear power plant in New York State. One extremely vocal man in this fight said that he was determined to find the prettiest girl on the Internet to support his campaign, and he did, indeed, find a model to stand beside him. One of their main publicity stunts—doing a photo shoot in front of this nuclear power plant—brought lots of traffic to the campaign website. Photos from the shoot, some of which were readily hung up in the power plant's lunchroom, depicted the model posing



Dominique Swain, age 21 in this photo, is known for playing the title role in the film *Lolita*, when she was 17.



Model Betcee May in front of the Indian Point nuclear power plant

# Our Causes

in heels in front of the reactor, as well as lounging on a hybrid car. How could this be attracting people who really care about the environment? It doesn't make sense to appeal to people using a method that needs to be obliterated.

Since the photo shoot last Summer, other organizers have held a festive protest to shut down Indian Point, invited anti-nuke activist Helen Caldicott to speak and thrown a "Rock the Reactors" music concert. Which works best at drawing people into a movement: a model, a speaker or a concert? Which methods are the most relevant?

Most of us have heard of the next example because of the controversy that followed it: People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals' (PETA) "Rather Go Naked..." campaign. One of the campaign's billboards features a naked young woman in an alluring pose in a classroom setting, writing on a chalkboard, "I'd rather go naked than wear fur." While it's a relief that the giant ad is not selling cigarettes or cars, who are we trying to speak to here? How does this make

all of us non-model-like women feel? In fact, how does the skinny, shaved, perfectly tanned woman feel about herself?

One of our causes is being glorified by the image of a young schoolgirl, naked, being punished. Maybe in a different context we could use images like these to explore power relationships through sex, but in this case, they are normalizing the absurd identity of "little girl" that has been used to keep women down for so long. The same line of reasoning is used to keep the Earth from being liberated: Woman and nature are both just helpless, ever-producing objects to be admired but then exploited, our resources stolen for use by the capitalist structure and the men in power.

Some of the models in the "Rather Go Naked..." ads are painted like animals, some are made up to look dead, and some are holding (Playboy?) bunnies in front of their breasts. Most of them look like that two percent of the population that fits the hairless supermodel standard. I don't want to recruit people who don't think twice about this view of women. Instead, we should focus our energy on involving people in our struggle who enjoy seeing beautiful people and animals with all the hair and fur that nature bestowed on them.

Many of the models and spokespeople that PETA uses are celebrities. While I believe in the responsibility of every



2004 World Naked Bike Ride, Seattle

photo by John Cornicello

famous person to open the eyes of as many of their fans as possible, grassroots movements will always be based on the work of the many real people who passionately care about them. And these activists work because they truly find happiness in the natural places of this planet or the eyes of a freed animal, not in the image or approval of a celebrity.

The two campaigns mentioned obviously learned to exploit women's bodies from the long and pervasive history of exploiting women for commodity advertising. And now this tradition is being seamlessly passed down to the latest commercial rage: buying "green." Already, in the ad-riddled pages of the supposedly conscious magazines sold on the shelves of so many health-food stores, women's ever-smiling and sexualized bodies are the main selling point for all sorts of green and organic products.

There is a counterpoint to all this noxious exploitation: There are women and other people who choose to use their natural bodies in a positive way to make a point. If women's struggles and the struggle against the exploitation of nature are so closely linked, why not turn these negative images of women on their heads, and use our self-expression and our knowledge of the interconnected struggle in front of us to advance feminist and environmental causes at the same time?

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What follows are some examples of campaigns in which people chose to use their bodies to promote various environmental causes. Without selling themselves short in the process, they manage to show both the strength and the positivity of their sexuality and bodies at the same time. These projects also feature people who are already a part of the movement. They are real people, not celebrity models.

One awesome, non-sexual, body-positive project is the World Naked Bike Ride (aka Critical Ass), which aims to make the roads more welcoming to cyclists, promote bikes as an alternative to oil dependency, encourage healthy attitudes toward the natural human body and connect on-lookers to all of these causes through the smiles provoked by non-threatening, naked bicyclists. I took part in this in Chicago in 2004, and in Ithaca in 2005, and the bike rides are only expanding worldwide. The annual ride, which features the motto "As Bare as You Dare!," is a strictly platonic community affair, juxtaposing bare human skin and the glory of a breezy bike ride with the roughness of the car-ridden pavement.

The naked part of "naked cycling" has an important message of its own: We are great how we are, and we want to bring things back to the most basic, intimate level—without cars and without clothes. The use of our bodies in an environmental campaign is not at all backwards. It only becomes a problem if they are not also being used to liberate *us*.

Chicago-based Topless Humans Organizing for Natural Genetics (THONG)—which has been a part of various anti-biotech actions, from infiltrating biotech events to putting on a "Bio Burlesque"—is more overtly sexual and represents a sex-positive, fun and inclusive environmentally-related movement (see *EF!* January-February 2005).

Next I want to mention a project that has much more complex implications. Fuck for Forests (FFF) is an online porn site ([www.fuckforforest.com](http://www.fuckforforest.com)) started by a young couple in Norway that features activists, well, doing it. While it mostly contains footage that traditionally appeals to straight men and women, anyone can donate their homemade pictures or videos, with all proceeds going to environmental causes.

While I don't believe that porn is inherently bad, it often blatantly degrades women. Can it have a place in raising money to defend forests, promoting wildlife, or even drawing the lines between sexuality, a healthy relationship to the human body and a healthy natural world? Recently, FFF bought a chunk of old-growth forest in Costa Rica with \$100,000 they raised the previous year. Should your community or group accept money raised from such a cause? That's a question better left for each group to decide on its own.

FFF is an underground initiative drawing in willing participants. You have to seek it out to find it; it's not plastered on any old billboard downtown, like PETA's ads. However, a campaign like this needs to be done very carefully; there is a bad precedent for modern internet porn against which FFF should always be struggling.

The website includes mostly women, some men, but not many other genders. A full range of body types is not included, but the people aren't incredibly skinny (except for one of the founders, who is featured prominently on the site). The people featured are not airbrushed or implanted, and their pictures feature them doing whatever they want to be doing. The participants are self-motivated and are in it for the forests, not the money. Most importantly, they delegated themselves to be models—they were not sought out by FFF because FFF thought those particular people would bring them better ratings.

One of the most important points in FFF's favor is that it includes open sexuality in its basic philosophy. It is not just there as a ploy to draw any schmuck in. On its website, FFF is very up front in explaining its philosophy about the importance of open sexuality. It states that FFF was started because "sexuality and nature are connected.... Open sexuality is often looked down on as something dirty and strange. We felt sexuality had been treated like nature, with disrespect. So why not use pure, open-minded sexuality to put focus on that unnatural way of treating the planet? We also felt that a lot of the established nature organizations make too many compromises... some organizations in Norway even work together with

the oil industry. We felt something had to be done."

But to find a very different form of "porn" a lot closer to home, we need look no further than our very own Katúah *EF!*, which made a charming, black-and-white "X-Raided" calendar several years ago, featuring photos of covert actions done in little more than an identity-hiding bandana. This calendar shows us as we really are: beautiful, unashamed of our actions and—at least some of us—happy to indulge other activists' desires and humor to raise a few bucks.

Let's keep it real. We need to call out any environmental organization that isn't holding true to a no-compromise worldview, either by catering to sleazy corporate interests or by stooping to the oppressive, mainstream habit of using our bodies against us for any kind of gain. These corrupt tactics will only hold us back, now and in the future.

Rather, we need to work to liberate both our bodies and the natural world simultaneously. These struggles will succeed best when we fight hand in hand. It is only when we are all liberated that any individual among us—forest, animal, or any shape or type of human—can be truly free.

*Sophia believes in nudity, love and fighting back.*

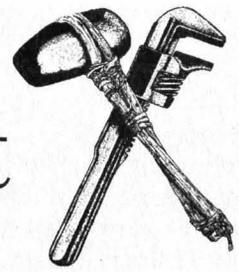


Leona and Tommy, Norwegian founders of Fuck for Forest

photo courtesy: Fuck for Forest

# blast from the past

Eostar 1999 *Earth First!* Journal



## *Mrs. Claws Refutes 12 Myths, Accusations and Obfuscations About Santa's Helpers*

BY MRS. CLAWS

### **1. Burning things is easy.**

In an attempt to make civil disobedience (CD) seem nobler, some would like to dismiss the Vail, Colorado ski resort fires as a simple and careless act of flicking a Bic. However, a close examination of what happened last October reveals an action that required much research, expertise and commitment.

The saboteurs knew where Vail was most vulnerable, and they knew the terrain. They torched a mile-long series of targets at 11,000 feet above sea level. According to an incendiary manual, 10 gallons of fuel is needed to destroy a small building; a larger building requires more fuel. This means the elves had to carry in over 800 pounds of fuel at night through deep snow. They pulled this off at an altitude that would later cause arson investigators to be ill just from walking around.

Like true elves, they were able to blend into the landscape, slipping past all the hunters and hikers that swarm the mountainside in early Fall. They knew the area well enough to elude police blockades and helicopter searches. If this raid was similar to published accounts of Animal Liberation Front (ALF) arson attacks, then there would've been lookouts, radio communications, monitoring of police frequencies, timing devices, getaway vehicle(s) and weeks of reconnaissance....

### **7. The Earth Liberation Front (ELF) action didn't stop the logging, so it was ineffective and unjustified.**

This is a bizarre assessment coming from forest activists. When treesits, tripods and barrel lockdowns are removed and the cutting of trees commences, do we condemn those protesters who put their necks on the line? Blockade techniques, no matter how extravagant, can only forestall logging for a matter of hours once the police move in. The resumption of logging does not mean failure.

The effectiveness of CD is measured by its ability to (1) draw attention to the issue, (2) interfere with the orderly workings of the machine and (3) raise the overall cost of doing business. This is equally true for sabotage. The Vail fires were remarkably effective when assessed according to these criteria. Overnight, people across the country learned about the imperiled lynx, that the ski industry is not as benign as they previously thought and that Vail Associates is up to no good. The nationwide media coverage was especially fortuitous considering that Vail Associates' customer base extends to the East Coast.

If you still wish to cast negative judgment on the fires, think about this: We will never know how Vail Associates and its customers would've responded if local environmentalists had kept the message focused on the lynx and the Two Elk Roadless Area during the media circus that ensued. Vail Associates would have felt much greater pressure if spokespeople from the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society and Ancient Forest Rescue had stuck to the issue instead of playing the power-politics game of condemning another group to make their own group more respectable. Furthermore, these groups squandered a golden opportunity by not being proactive and using all this media attention to call for a boycott of Vail Associates.

### **8. The ELF put more visible activists at risk.**

The ELF did no such thing. We legitimize government repression and abuse of power by thinking in these terms. It is the government that uses grand juries and federal agents to harass and intimidate. The government basically sends the message, "Nobody step out of line, or we're going to hurt innocent people." This is terrorism by the state. Grand juries in their political incarnation are the kinder, gentler equivalent of random police beatings or government death squads. The severity is different, but the purpose is the same: to instill fear and mistrust and to disrupt all forms of resistance. We must never accept the myth that we are responsible for "bringing down" repression upon ourselves or others....

### **10. Property destruction is violent.**

Discussions about violence must encompass scale. Such everyday actions as using profanity and raising one's voice can be considered "violent" on some level. But this is not the same as institutional violence where animals are confined to cages for their entire lives, where people are homeless while others build mansions and where corporations are allowed to decimate entire species for profit. Against this backdrop, property destruction is just and entirely nonviolent. To argue otherwise is to belittle the very real suffering inflicted daily by institutional violence. From the very beginning, EF! was different from other environmental groups because property destruction was accepted as an important tool in the toolbox. In so doing, EF! enlarged the debate. Not everyone in EF! chooses to use this tool, but those who condemn monkeywrenching are in the wrong movement.

*For the rest of Mrs. Claws' article, see EF!J March-April 1999. Back issues of the EF! Journal are available for \$5 each. Order our near-complete, 27-year set for \$500.*

# Do or Die

## An Interview with Editors of the Late, Great, British Journal of Ecological Resistance

BY PANAGIOTI

*Earth First! Journal: Can you describe Do or Die's (DoD) inception and inspirations?*

Do or Die: DoD started in 1992, within a year of EF! starting in Britain. It pushed a green anarchist, direct action perspective. At this time, EF! was split and was half liberal and half radical. Early on, DoD was supposed to carry more news and was

supposed to be more frequent, coming out every three months or so. It started as a 24-page, photocopied zine. It kind of mutated into a massive book over time.

DoD never fulfilled in Britain the role the EF! Journal has played in the US. The Journal is the official voice of EF!, with the editors accountable to the gatherings. However, DoD was always a voice of EF!. It explicitly gave publicity to sabotage and had a no-compromise attitude. Some people in the movement didn't like it at first and even tried to expel DoD from EF!. The EF! Action Update (EF!AU) worked more like the Journal: It had a rotating editorial collective and was accountable to gatherings.

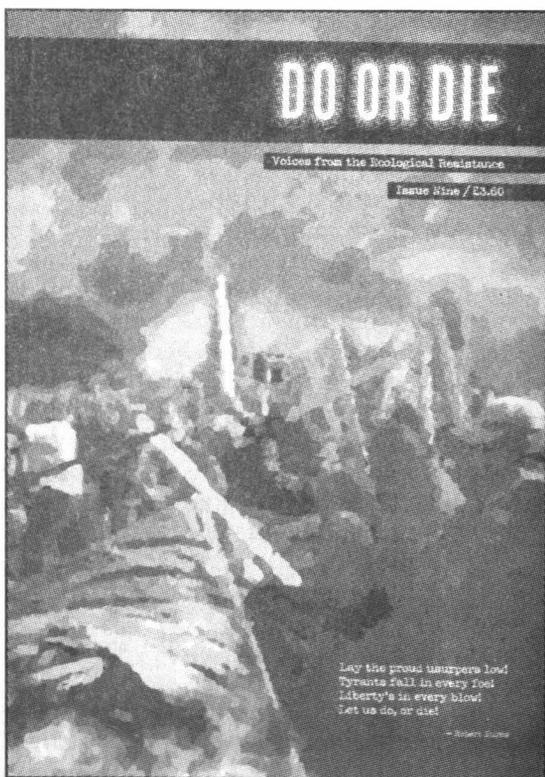
DoD was always all voluntary; no one was ever paid to work for DoD. Also, DoD was pretty much always anonymous; no writers, photographers or artists were credited. This is something that is pretty much taken for granted in the EF! scene in the UK but is more unusual in the US. Some of the articles in DoD were written by people on the editorial collective, but there were probably 50 or 60 contributors per issue. An article being in DoD

didn't necessarily mean it was written by us or that the editorial collective supported everything in it, so there was a lot of stuff in DoD that contradicted other stuff in it.

Anonymity was a point of principle, mostly in response to the repression of known "leaders" and "personalities."

Anonymity was a point of principle, mostly in response to the repression of known "leaders" and "personalities": Judi Bari in EF! in the US and Arkangel in the British animal liberation movement at around the time that EF! was starting in the UK. It seemed sensible to avoid a cult of personality. There was an awareness of how EF! in the US had been split by groups forming around particular charismatic individuals, like Dave Foreman or Bari.

It also needs saying that the people involved in putting together DoD were not "writers" or "journalists." Pretty much everyone involved in DoD spent more time on actions than they did on DoD. We did not want to be journalists, reporting on other people's struggles; we wanted to report the voices of the people involved





in the struggles themselves. If we couldn't bully them to write for us, we would often interview them.

*DoD* was produced by, and largely aimed at, a few hundred people in the UK eco-scene. Although it had a wider circulation than that, it was produced with this audience in mind. But *DoD* was also really popular with all sorts of people who often didn't like each other at all. For example, lots of more traditional anarcho-communists really liked *DoD*, as did lots of conservationists. The magazine was big enough that most people just read the bits they liked and ignored the rest. We'd get comments from more traditional anarchists saying that they really liked it, but it was a shame about the articles about beaver restoration or Native American spirituality. And then we'd get almost exactly opposite comments from other people who liked the beavers but weren't so into class struggle.

*DoD* was at its strongest when it had the most contributors and also when the editorial collective was at its largest (around six, as opposed to around two at some other points).

There was more of an international focus in later issues, possibly due to a slow down of ecological resistance in the UK. There was less local day-to-day stuff happening than there had been in the mid-1990s. The movement as a whole gained a more international perspective. *DoD* reflected that as people started looking at the wider causes of what they were fighting.

*EFJ*: Describe *DoD*'s role and influence in the UK eco-anarchist movement.

*DoD*: Basically, what happened within *EF!* was that we won. *DoD* was relatively unpopular at the beginning, as was the political perspective it represented. *DoD* was essentially trying to fulfill the same role that *Live Wild or Die!* did in the US: a radical anarchist fringe publication trying to ginger things up a bit. When we say that we won—meaning that the green anarchist perspective went

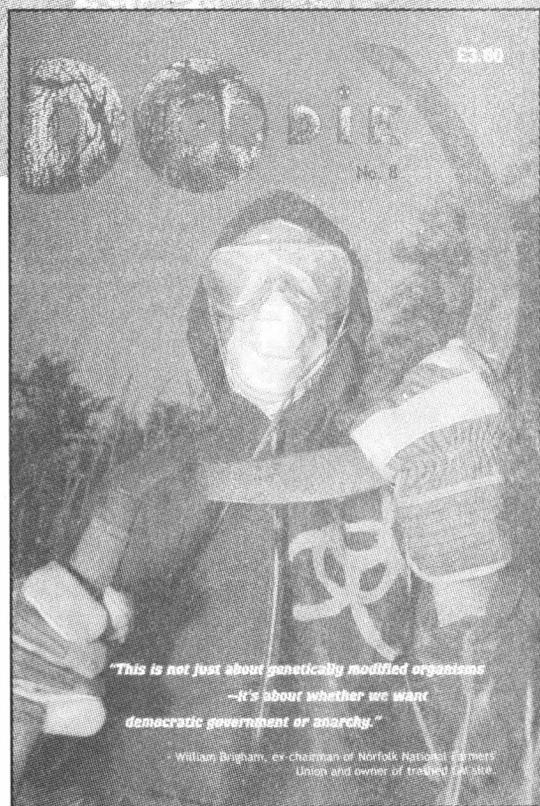
from the minority to the majority perspective within *EF!* in the UK over the course of the '90s—it's not quite as arrogant as it sounds. This may have been partly due to our efforts but is probably due more to people's own experiences of resistance over time. People dropped much of the nonviolent, pacifist ideology, moving more toward an anarchist position and supporting sabotage actions.

*EFJ*: How long did *DoD* run for? Why did it eventually cease production?

*DoD*: *DoD* ran from 1992 to about 2003. We stopped it because most of the people in the editorial collective did not personally want to do it anymore and wanted to move on to other things, and we didn't want to hand the project over to an entirely different group of people who would have made it into something entirely different. We didn't stop producing *DoD* for financial reasons, although our "suicide note" in the last issue led some people to this assumption. Nor did we stop producing the magazine because of lack of popularity,

The green anarchist perspective went from the minority to the majority perspective within *EF!* in the UK over the course of the 1990s.

distribution problems or because we thought it had no point anymore. Right up to the end, there was no lack of submissions, sales or things to write about. It wasn't that we felt it wasn't relevant anymore or wasn't



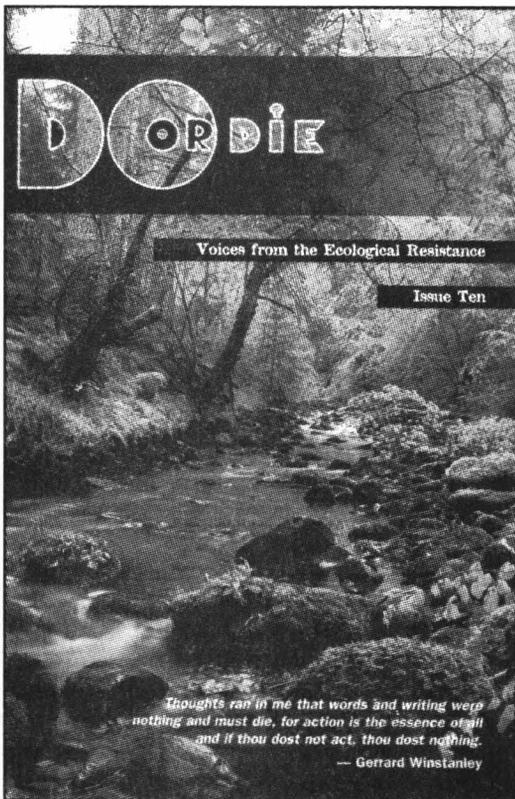
serving a useful purpose. As one ex-collective member memorably said, "Kill it while it's good." Ideally, *DoD* would have carried on, it's just that there weren't enough people who actually wanted to carry on with it.

Another reason behind ending *DoD* was a desire to actually *do* some of "The Four Tasks" (i.e., "Growing Counter-Cultures," "Putting Our Thumb in the Dam," "Preparing for Crises" and "Supporting Rebellion Beyond the Core"), not to just produce the world's biggest English-language anarchist journal.

*EFJ*: Let's focus a bit on *DoD* number 10, the last issue. What kind of response did you get to the "Down with the Empire! Up with the Spring!" ("DwE") article?

*DoD*: Some of the ideas from "DwE" were originally circulated in a discussion document in 1997-98. Its real first appearance was about a year before issue 10 came out in July 2003. When part two of the article ("The Four Tasks") was circulated as a free pamphlet that became known as "The Little Gray Book" at the *EF!* Winter Moot, it stimulated things. People acted on what it said and gave some good criticism that was incorporated

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“DwE” influenced one half of the movement more than the other, but even this wasn’t black and white. Various people have used “DwE” to justify what they were already doing. People on both sides have quoted it, picking and choosing different bits to suit their purposes.

*EF!J: What do you see occurring within the EF! movement at the present?*

DoD: Ecological resistance had a heyday in the mid-’90s, although it wasn’t obvious at the time. This has only become clear in retrospect. From the perspective of people who lived through that, the situation now must seem like a bit of a comedown, but there’s still quite a lot going on in the UK. There are at least five active permanent protest sites; we just had the Group of Eight protests in 2005; large numbers of people from the radical ecological movement in Britain have gone to defend the wilderness in Iceland; and we also just had the Camp for Climate Action this Summer, where several hundred people tried to shut down the biggest carbon-dioxide-producing power station in Britain (see *EF!J* November-December 2006).

In some ways, the movement has been a victim of its own success. For example, because of the campaign against road building, the government cut the road-building program to almost nothing. There were far fewer protest sites, not for any bad reason, but because there wasn’t as much need for them.

In the mid-’90s, the radical ecological movement was really the only game in town—the only thing going on with any life or vitality in a very moribund political scene. Every other radical tendency was in decline. For a few years, it was *the* socio-political trend to which everything else had to

orient itself. Everyone wanted to jump on our bandwagon. The mainstream environmental movement had to reposition itself relative to us; the anarchist movement had to do the same. Aspects of this movement were picked up in fashion, music, radio and television. There was even a point where it was *de rigueur* for every soap opera to have its own road protester character. By comparison, today’s radical ecological movement seems not so significant, but that may be partly because there’s more going on in other areas.

The radical environmental movement is bigger than EF!, which existed before there was a big wave of ecological direct action. Now that that wave has come and gone, it exists again as a network of groups, individuals and social centers, most of whom probably don’t call themselves EF!. But in a way, that’s not much different from how it has always been. There are still EF! gatherings every Summer, attracting 200-300 people, and occasionally Winter Moots. There are fewer EF! groups, and the network itself is less visible. You could say it barely exists, but then it has barely existed or existed in a very underground, invisible way for most of its existence. Many of the most famous EF! campaigns were never done under that name: the Third Battle of Newbury, Road Alert and the Genetic Engineering Network. Even in the heyday of ecological resistance in the UK, EF! was often a largely invisible part of it. Many EF!ers chose not to use that name and worked under a variety of “flags of convenience,” using different names for different actions.

One reason EF! now might *seem* more non-existent is lack of infrastructure. The *EF!AU* has stopped, *DoD* has stopped, and pretty much the only thing that keeps EF! existing as a thing is the Summer Gathering. There’s actually a lot of stuff happening on a local level, but half the time we don’t even know what we are doing, let alone anyone else. When there have been national campaigns, like the

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into the final version. The common response was, “Good strategy, shame it’s too late. Why didn’t you write this when we still had a movement?” The answer to this is probably that the author was too busy *being in* the movement when it was in its heyday to be able to stop and think about it. He sat down afterwards to strategize.

The starting point for “DwE” was a need to change because of changing demographics. People were getting older, having kids and getting jobs; it was becoming harder and harder to live as a traveler.

Reactions to “DwE” over the past three years have been varied. “DwE” said that summit demonstrations were a good thing, but the article was popular with those that opposed them. There was a divergence within the movement between those who were more into the anti-capitalist/anti-globalization thing and those who were more into the green anarchist/primitivist angle.



anti-roads thing, there has been more of a sense of national unity and more of an awareness of what everyone else was doing, of what we were doing as a collective entity.

So maybe that's a problem with the non-existence of *DoD*: It was one of the things giving us some national-level infrastructure, a communication channel among ourselves and between us and the rest of the world.

*EF!J*: Do we need another *DoD*-style publication? Is there still an existing movement that would make use of a publication for "voices from the ecological resistance?"

*DoD*: One criticism of *DoD* was that our creating such a huge, well-produced magazine was "shading out" other independent media publications. We now see that this criticism is the rubbish that we always suspected it was. *DoD* died ages ago, and nothing has sprung up to replace it. Lots of things, like the Iceland campaign or the Climate Camp, will probably go pretty much un-analyzed and un-recorded.

It's hard to say what the influence of *DoD* will be. *DoD* will retain some long-lasting influence because it's a book and is kept on people's bookshelves when they throw away magazines. It survives better in libraries and archives than zines. Newsprint decays.

*DoD* preserves generational information and ensures that our underground history won't be lost as people get older, drop out and clear out their old pamphlet collections. *DoD* is endlessly referenced by academics. What survives for posterity will be a view of history based largely on what academics write. When we're all 70, and the actions of our youth have been totally rewritten and distorted by historians, *DoD* is going to be one of the only surviving sources for the actual voices of the people involved.

We never exploited *DoD*'s potential as much as we could have. We could have gotten much wider distribution. We could have sold about 100 times more copies in the US if we'd had some way of sorting out

the distribution. It's just that it was a boring, bureaucratic job that no one really fancied doing—we wanted to have lives instead.

*EF!J*: What do you think of a proposal that the Journal change format to be less frequent but larger, with more analysis and a broader scope, accompanied by a more regularly published "action update?" Did that model seem effective for disseminating news and ideas in the UK?

*DoD*: We can't really give advice to folks in the US. But that said, the way it worked with the combination of the *EF!AU* and *DoD* wasn't bad. The *EF!AU* was always written in a pretty neutral, objective way because it had to keep everyone in the movement happy; it couldn't too obviously take sides. The idea of something serving as the official voice of a movement and also taking sides in ongoing arguments is pretty problematic. The *EF!AU* just did news, information and contacts. Also, it's worth pointing out that there weren't only the *EF!AU* and *DoD*. Various other publications did, and still do, come out of the radical eco-scene and the various overlapping direct action, anti-capitalist, anarchist scenes.

*EF!J*: Is there anything else you want to discuss or mention?

*DoD*: There should have been more about climate change in "DwE." There should have been more on preparing for crisis.

"The Four Tasks" of "DwE" will be affected by climate change. Things are speeding up more than anyone thought. The hotspots analysis is still useful, but we're farther down the road than anyone thought. In "DwE," we said to give the hotspots 10 years and then maybe shift to coldspots. We probably haven't got that long.

But even then, the idea of switching to coldspots is still assuming that habitat destruction is the main

**Down With The Empire!**

After over a decade of radical ecological resistance in Britain, it's time to look back on our actions and look forward to our future.

It's time to **celebrate** our resistance: digger diving, window smashing, pleasant picnicking, coffee occupying, hoodie wearing, GM crop trashing, equat arachidng, sun lit lovin', machine hoarding, treeliving—total fucking anarchy. It's time to **mourn** for our moment. Over the last decade thousands of species have been wiped out of existence. Vast forests—charred stumps. Coral reefs bleached dead by warmed seas. Millions starved within the prison of civilisation. Wild peoples massacred, enslaved and pauperised. It's time to **strategise** how to make a real impact on this apocalypse. Look seriously at our strengths and weaknesses and pull together to **resist**. The empire is powerful but the spring is growing. It's a struggle like no other, but with love, luck and hard resolve we can **transcend**.

**Up With The Spring!**

problem. If the Amazon catches fire, we're in a different place altogether.

The increasing realization of the severity of the climate crisis affects different people in different ways. Some people think it's too late and have given up. Other people are inspired to take action *now*, like those at the Climate Camp.

Discussion of collapse is becoming increasingly common in the mainstream. People are now thinking that they will live to see the collapse. This was not necessarily true of eco-radicals in the early '90s. At that time, we were getting bigger and stronger, and the problems didn't seem quite so insurmountable. The opinion then was that you were involved in these politics because you thought that you could save the world. Now that's not necessarily true. There's no implicit assumption that we can save it; there's less hope.

For more information, visit [www.eco-action.org/dod](http://www.eco-action.org/dod); [www.earthfirst.org.uk](http://www.earthfirst.org.uk).

# “SOME SORT OF ANTI-SNITCH”

AN INTERVIEW WITH GREEN SCARE GRAND JURY RESISTER JEFF HOGG

BY MARLENA GANGI

The largest roundup of eco-activists in US history began with the launch of the FBI's Operation Backfire on December 7, 2005. At a national press conference in January 2006, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and FBI Director Robert Mueller unveiled a 65-count indictment targeting the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and the Animal Liberation Front (ALF). Gonzales proclaimed a "vast ecoterrorist conspiracy" the country's number one domestic terrorist threat.

At the same time, the radical activist communities of the Pacific Northwest were targeted in what many have come to see as nothing more than an FBI witch hunt, in which the grand jury system is used as a tool of intimidation. The city of Eugene, Oregon, with its relatively large population of eco-activists and anarchists, has been hit particularly hard.

Caught up in this FBI "fishing expedition" was Eugene resident Jeff Hogg. With the feds using his activist past and work with the Earth First! Journal as fodder for criminalization, Hogg was arrested in May and jailed for six months because he refused to testify before a grand jury even after being granted immunity for his testimony. He was released last November.

*Earth First! Journal:* Can you talk a bit about where you grew up and what it was that moved you to environmental activism?

Jeff Hogg: I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area, near

the ocean, redwood forests and oak savannas. My parents used to take me on hikes with an amazing naturalist named Ms. Terwilliger. I spent a lot of time playing in the surf, and you really get to hang out with a lot of animals in the right spots. Tide pools always fascinated me. This early bonding with nature and my mom's occasional involvement in

anti-nuke groups probably influenced me. There was no specific event, though, just getting more educated and becoming more mature and less selfish. Bonding with nature helped me work through the damage of growing up "civilized."

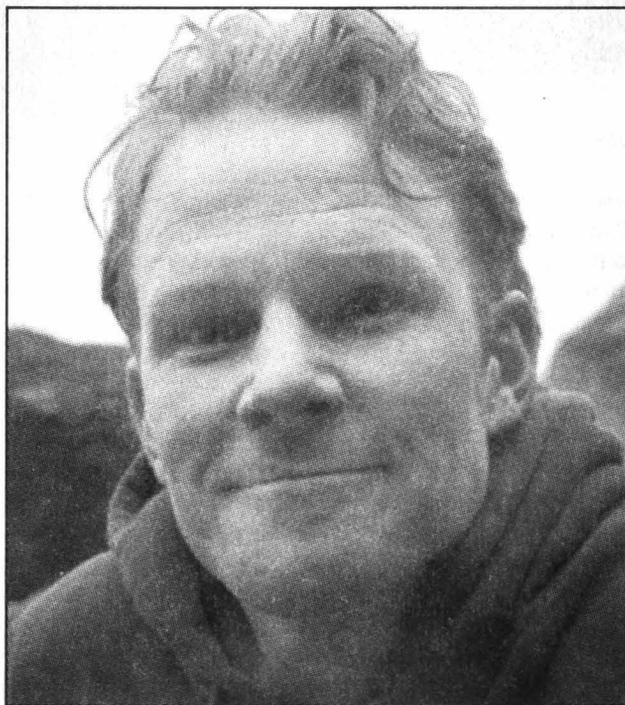
*EF!J:* Can you talk about what you witnessed regarding police oppression while living in Eugene?

JH: I witnessed the police pepper-spraying treesitters and targeting critical mass rides and peaceful protests. After the 1999 World Trade Organization protests in Seattle, things were twice as bad. Marches were met with lines of riot cops. There were FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives agents all over my neighborhood, and many

people I knew were subpoenaed starting in 2000. I definitely had some close calls in the streets, but I wasn't into marching around for the sake of clashing.

*EF!J:* What was your feeling as you were first approached by law enforcement? Were you surprised that you were shortly thereafter subpoenaed?

JH: I had a lot of anxiety when I was first approached. It was in the parking lot at my nursing school after class.



photos courtesy Jeff Hogg

Grand jury resister Jeff Hogg

They made veiled threats of charges if I was uncooperative. I was only surprised that they took less than a week to subpoena me. They told me to have my lawyer call the Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA), and I hadn't even found a lawyer yet.

*EF!J: Describe the day that you were called before the grand jury. Did you go in expecting that you would be taken into custody on that day?*

JH: I felt like it was very likely. I had met with the AUSA previously. He said he would compel testimony, and I said, "No, you won't."

*EF!J: What was your jail experience like? Did you feel in any way singled out because of your activism?*

JH: Not really. The inmates generally respected me for taking a stand, even if they didn't agree with my politics. Some people thought I was weird but many thought I was some sort of anti-snitch—which wasn't really accurate, but I was happy with that kind of status.

*EF!J: Do you actually fall into some sort of federal criminal category now? Is there some "official" labeling of "suspected terrorist" that will now follow you throughout your life?*

JH: Great question. I've been wondering that myself. I know that a subpoenaed "animal" activist was denied entry into Canada and then harassed by the US Border Patrol for four hours because, as they put it, she had attended a protest. This type of McCarthyesque crap seems to be getting more common. It's scary, eh?

*EF!J: Can you talk about your conditions of release?*

JH: There are no conditions. My subpoena was dropped.

*EF!J: What comes next for you? How are you picking up the pieces of your life?*

JH: I finally got my old job back after the New Year, but I can't get back into nursing school until next year. It has taken me a while to acknowledge the pent-up tension from the anxiety of this experience and start to let go of it. When I got out, I was saying I was fine, but I was drinking every day and feeling pretty depressed. Still, I was so happy to be out. I can't wait until all I have to think about is prisoner support. My life is greatly complicated by being friends with someone who cooperated.

*EF!J: Does that present any feeling of conflict?*

JH: I may be less conflicted than other people close to me, which still causes great stress in those relationships. I don't seem to have a major problem with supporting most cooperating prisoners if they were pushed into that scenario by other snitches. To me, they are still people who put their lives on the line for the Earth. I don't support their cooperation, but I have empathy for their situation,

and I honestly don't know what I would do if I were in their shoes.

Once an informant starts the dominoes falling in a case like the Oregon one, it's hard to stop that, and if someone does, that person will spend decades in prison. But with information from people stupidly running their mouths to the wire and the second informant being involved in almost every arson that occurred, the feds suddenly had all kinds of ways to lean on many people.

Someone was going to crack, and they did, and so on. That kind of momentum is huge. No one wants to spend the rest of his or her life in prison. And there really was no reason to believe the feds were bluffing with the current political climate.

Cooperator and non-cooperator become less well-defined categories when you look at the specifics of what led to them cracking this case. Many people seem to have a dogmatic lack of empathy for some "cooperators." This perspective doesn't mean I support cooperation. Just like supporting these prisoners doesn't



*A modified stop sign in Eugene, Oregon*

mean I support arson. And honestly, some people I can't feel sorry for. But beyond this, I feel compelled to support my close friend through the prison experience. I don't support her actions, but I feel what she did was forgivable. Some people have been spreading speculations with no factual basis about extraordinary cooperation on her part. While I don't believe this because I know her well, I can understand why some people can never trust her again. Some people want to demonize her; some who knew her still think she has some integrity.

I find it hard not to feel empathy for people being manipulated and pressured by their lawyers, the prosecutors, and their families. I guess it goes to show what someone is in for if they take a clandestine road. People with typical emotional and social lives just aren't cut out for the pressures and isolation of it, whether they are caught or not. It's easy for people to judge what's happened without understanding this reality, without experiencing the isolation of jail, the psychological manipulation of profilers, the betrayal of others. I'm sure promises were broken, but I think there has been enough condemnation, and it is time for compassion now that the cases are almost complete. In the end, I think compassion is the only radical path; destruction can only be one tiny part of that and only when it is based in that.

*Marlena Gangi is a Portland, Oregon-based photojournalist. She dedicates her activism to fighting oppression and all that it manifests.*

# 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

•Natasha Avery was released from prison under electronic monitoring on January 10, after serving 16 months for using abusive words and behavior toward a fox hunter.

•Rodney Coronado, #03895-000, FCI Tucson, 8901 S Wilmot Rd, Tucson, AZ 85706, USA. After serving eight months for his role in an EF! sabotage of a mountain lion hunt, Coronado is scheduled for release on March 23. He 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](http://www.supportrod.org).

•Donald Currie, TN 4593, HMP Whitmoor, Long Rd, March, Cambs, PR15 OPR, UK. Serving an "indefinite sentence" of at least six years—with no fixed release date or upper limit—for arson against targets linked with the vivisection industry. He has been moved to the above address.

•Joshua Harper, #29429-086, FCI Sheridan, POB 5000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA. Serving three years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC). He has been moved to the above address. For more information, visit [www.joshharper.org](http://www.joshharper.org).

•Joseph Harris, TN5728, HMP Lewes, Brighton Rd, East Sussex, BN7 1EA, UK. Serving two years for damaging the property of people associated with Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). In December, his sentence was reduced from three years to two.

•Christopher McIntosh, who is serving eight years for a joint Animal Liberation Front (ALF)/Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arson of a McDonald's, no longer wishes to be associated with

animal and Earth liberation struggles, and has asked to be removed from all prisoner support lists.

•Nadia Winstead, who was found in contempt for refusing to testify about SHAC before a grand jury, successfully appealed her contempt order in December and no longer faces imprisonment.

•Peter Young was released from federal prison on February 1, after serving two years for releasing mink and foxes from six different fur farms. Additionally, state charges against Young relating to a 1997 mink liberation in South Dakota have been dropped.

## Awaiting Trial or Sentencing

•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](http://www.trearrow.org).

•Nathan Block, #1663667, and Joyanna Zacher, #1662550, Lane County Jail, 101 W 5th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401, USA. Awaiting sentencing for involvement in a series of ALF/ELF actions.

•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](http://www.supporteric.org).

•Daniel McGowan and Jonathan Paul are free on bail, awaiting sentencing for a series of ALF/ELF actions. For more information, visit [www.supportdaniel.org](http://www.supportdaniel.org).

•Briana Waters, who is free on bail, is awaiting trial for her alleged involvement

in an ELF arson. For more information, visit [www.supportbriana.org](http://www.supportbriana.org).

## 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.

•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.

•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.

•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 SHAC. For more information, visit [www.supportjake.org](http://www.supportjake.org).

•Joshua Demmitt, #12314-081, FCI Safford, POB 9000, Safford, AZ 85548, USA. Serving 2.5 years for an ALF arson of an animal-testing facility.

•Darius Fullmer, #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](http://www.shac7.com).

•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.

•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](http://www.supportlauren.com).

•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.

•Kevin Kjoanaas, #93502-011, Unit I, 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](http://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.

•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](http://www.andystepanian.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 Ederra; Carcel de Pamplona, C/San Roque Apdo 250, 31080 Iruñe, 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](http://www.freefreenow.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<sup>®</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.mapuche-nation.org).*

## 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](http://www.onamove.com).*

•Debbie Sims Africa, #OO6307, Janet Holloway 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](mailto:elp4321@hotmail.com); [www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk](http://www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk).

•North American Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, [naelpsn@mutualaid.org](mailto:naelpsn@mutualaid.org); [www.ecoprisoners.org](http://www.ecoprisoners.org).

# announcements

## DEEP GREEN RESISTANCE: CONFRONTING INDUSTRIAL CULTURE APRIL 6-8 • DEERFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Deep Green Resistance (DGR) will be a weekend of exploring long-range strategy, direct action, oppression, peak oil, civilization, natural living and more. Additional workshop and discussion proposals are welcome.

DGR will be held at the Woolman Hill Conference Center, a Quaker retreat in rural western Massachusetts. The center includes dormitory-style bedrooms, shared bathrooms, a large kitchen and many meeting spaces.

The cost is \$80-150, sliding scale, including room and board, with some scholarships available.

The registration deadline is March 21.

For more information, contact [deepgreenresist@yahoo.com](mailto:deepgreenresist@yahoo.com); [deepgreenresistance.blogspot.com](http://deepgreenresistance.blogspot.com).

## 2007 GREAT LAKES ANARCHIST GATHERING APRIL 13-15 • TOLEDO, OHIO

The 2007 Great Lakes Anarchist Gathering will be an opportunity for Midwest anarchists to exchange knowledge and ideas, form a more tightly knit community and have a lot of fun doing it.

Workshop and presentation slots are still available but are filling quickly. So far, topics include prisoner support, hand-to-hand combat and community gardening, along with presentations from John Zerzan, Kevin Tucker (*Species Traitor*) and *Fifth Estate* magazine.

An optional, ten-day survival camping excursion will take place immediately following the gathering.

For more information, contact [ypea@riseup.net](mailto:ypea@riseup.net); [midwest.azone.org](http://midwest.azone.org); October 15th Anarchist Collective, [october15ac@hotmail.com](mailto:october15ac@hotmail.com).

## NEW YORK CITY ANARCHIST BOOKFAIR APRIL 14 • NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

The first-ever New York City Anarchist Bookfair will be a one-day exposition of books, zines, art, film/video, panels, presentations, skillshares, and other cultural and political works.

The bookfair will be held at Judson Memorial Church, 55 Washington Sq S, between Thompson and Sullivan streets. Food and free childcare will be available.

For more information, contact [info@anarchistbookfair.net](mailto:info@anarchistbookfair.net); [anarchistbookfair.net](http://anarchistbookfair.net).

## 22ND ANNUAL RIVERCANE RENDEZVOUS APRIL 15-22 • LAFAYETTE, GEORGIA

In an effort to support sustainable human civilization through the preservation of indigenous cultures and healthy ecosystems, Earthskills Rendezvous, Inc. (ERI) is offering a week of experiential workshops with elders and traditionalists from the Eastern Band of Cherokee, as well as primitive technologists and archaeologists.

Workshops may include flint-knapping, friction-fire, hide-tanning, basketry, wild-schooling and more.

Registration is \$350, with reduced rates for youth and children. This includes a campsite, two meals per day, hot showers, toilet facilities, firewood, water, workshop instruction and most materials.

For more information or to register, contact ERI, Georgia Office, POB 10, Marble Hill, GA 30148; 866-RVR-CANE; [www.primitiveskills.org](http://www.primitiveskills.org).

## BIOJUSTICE 2007 MAY 6-9 • BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BioJustice 2007 is a weeklong celebration of sustainable food and alternatives to corporate health care. It is being organized by a diverse coalition of activists, farmers, scientists and concerned citizens who oppose the Biotechnology Industry Organization's (BIO) conference at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center on May 6-9.

BIO will bring thousands of executives, lawyers, public relations firms and corporate scientists to Boston to promote genetically engineered food, unaffordable medications and dangerous "biodefense" research. Through parades, rallies, educational events, music, a free health clinic and free, non-genetically modified food, BioJustice 2007 will build popular resistance to BIO and highlight community-based alternatives.

Organizers are looking for: local folks to help organize; herbalists, doctors, nurses and street medics to volunteer at the free clinic and at demonstrations; food and monetary donations; and help cooking meals.

Folks are also encouraged to participate in the Seed Sow Road Show—a four-day, 100-mile bike ride from Providence, Rhode Island, to Boston—directly preceding BioJustice. The ride will stop at gardens, farms and schools along the way to highlight sustainable alternatives to the BIO agenda.

For more information, contact [spokes@riseup.net](mailto:spokes@riseup.net); [squash@riseup.net](mailto:squash@riseup.net); [www.biojustice2007.org](http://www.biojustice2007.org).

## MONTRÉAL ANARCHIST BOOKFAIR AND FESTIVAL OF ANARCHY MAY 19-20 • MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC, CANADA

Now in its eighth year, the Montréal Anarchist Bookfair and Festival of Anarchy is the largest anarchist event in North America.

The bookfair is scheduled for May 19 and will include book and information tables, readings, films, walking tours and more. May 20 will be a full day of anarchist-themed workshops and presentations. A Festival of Anarchy with numerous anti-authoritarian events is planned for the entire month of May.

While the deadline for workshop proposals has already passed, organizers will be accepting table requests, art and film proposals, and festival events until April 1.

For more information, contact Montréal Anarchist Bookfair, 1500 de Maisonneuve Ouest, Ste 204, Montréal, Québec H3G 1N1, Canada; [anarchistbookfair@taktic.org](mailto:anarchistbookfair@taktic.org); [anarchistbookfair.taktic.org](http://anarchistbookfair.taktic.org).



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

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

To apply, send your resumé with a letter of interest to the *Earth First! Journal*, POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. Please forward a writing sample, activist history and the names of some EF! activists who can vouch for you. For more information, contact (520) 620-6900; [collective@earthfirstjournal.org](mailto:collective@earthfirstjournal.org).

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# EARTH FIRST! DIRECTORY

Find the EF! group nearest you. If you don't see one, start one!

## 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@sierranevadaeearthfirst.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) 588-9666; 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

### **Confluence/Community Arts & Media Project**

3022 Cherokee St, Saint Louis, MO 63118

mberry@riseup.net

## MONTANA

### **Buffalo Field Campaign**

POB 957, West Yellowstone, MT 59758

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

## 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**

Kratka 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.freeseve.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

**Wild Rockies EF!**

(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; anniebonylives@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; corpsave@sover.net

**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

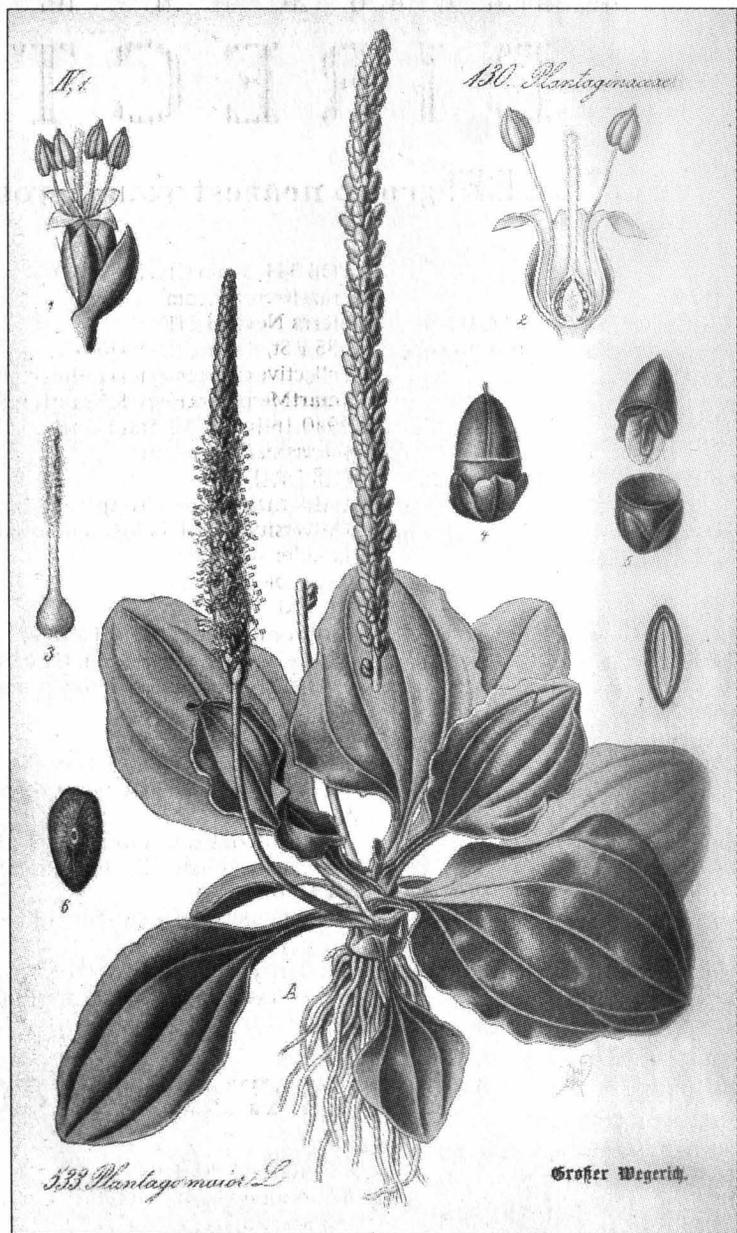
(608) 262-9036

**WYOMING**

**Teewinot EF!**

POB 1329, Jackson, WY 83001

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



The common plantain (*Plantago major*) is a medicinal panacea. A tea made from its leaves will heal stomach problems and lung disorders. Chewing its leaves will relieve toothaches. Leaf poultices soothe sores, burns, cuts, insect bites and other skin irritations, and its seeds are known for their mucilage and fiber. The plantain is a small but widespread piece of healing wilderness living in your backyard.

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.

# Warrior Tales



BY BEN PACHANO

*Flaming Arrows: A Compilation of Works by Rod Coronado, 119-page book, 2007.*

From the day he burst onto the international ecodefense stage, Rod Coronado has been more than an activist—he has been a veritable force in the First World movement for total liberation.

Today, Rod is facing years behind bars for allegedly giving out information that is easily found on the Internet (see *EF!* May-June 2006). If you don't yet know why the feds have it out for this guy, this is the book for you. If you already know who Rod is, but your old collection of *Strong Hearts* is tattered beyond repair, you may give a shout of joy at this compilation. If you are looking for a way to support a warrior in trouble or for a wonderful resource to inspire and renew our resistance movements, you need to get this book.

The first 20 pages of the compilation consist mostly of articles originally published in the *EF! Journal*. The middle consists of excerpts from the *Strong Hearts* zine that Rod put out during his first prison term in the '90s. The last third is a slightly edited version of the 1997 zine *Memories of Freedom* by the Western Wildlife Unit of the Animal Liberation Front.

In these pages you'll read inspiring, firsthand accounts of actions from coyote liberation to lynx rehabilitation, sunken whaling ships to torched laboratories. You'll read about topics from the Canadian seal hunt to the struggles of the Irish Republican Army, and see how Rod synthesizes issues of animal, human and Earth liberation through the lens of an indigenous person fighting the forces of colonization.

In August 2006, Rod wrote a statement from prison (included in this compilation) in which he said, "[In the past,] I chose to engage sometimes in the destruction of property.... No longer do I personally choose to represent the cause of peace and compassion that way.... Don't ask me how to burn down a building. Ask me how to grow watermelons or how to explain nature to a child. That is what I want to grow old doing."

As the forces of destruction continue to crack down on our resistance movements, some warriors will be faced with the choice between retirement and martyrdom. I'm

not talking about people who abandon radicalism for a comfortable nonprofit paycheck; I'm talking about people like Rod, Jeff "Free" Luers or the current batch of non-cooperating Operation Backfire defendants—people who will never be out of the feds' spotlight even when their prison terms are done (until the system collapses, that is—another reason to get to it!).

If we want to ensure the long-term viability of our movements, we need to support these warriors as they transition into the elders that we are going to need over the long haul. In a project like *Flaming Arrows*, I see two ways of doing this.

First, support the person. All proceeds from the sale of *Flaming Arrows* go directly to Rod and his family to help them with the enormous financial burdens of imprisonment and mounting a legal defense.

Second, keep their actions alive. An action does not end when the ashes grow cold or the district attorney says, "Case closed." It lives on as long as the story is being told, informing and inspiring the actions of a new generation.

A legend is told that the great Apache warrior-shaman Geronimo never actually died, that the man who surrendered to the US military was not the one who had hounded it for a quarter century. I don't know if Geronimo really rides free in the mountains of the Apache homeland today. But I do know that every time my friends and I camp in those mountains, we tell stories of Apache resistance, and the warriors of this place speak to us across the ages.

So buy this book, and read it. Read it out loud and retell its stories in living rooms and around campfires, at birthday parties and on war parties. Let these warrior tales be the sparks that ignite

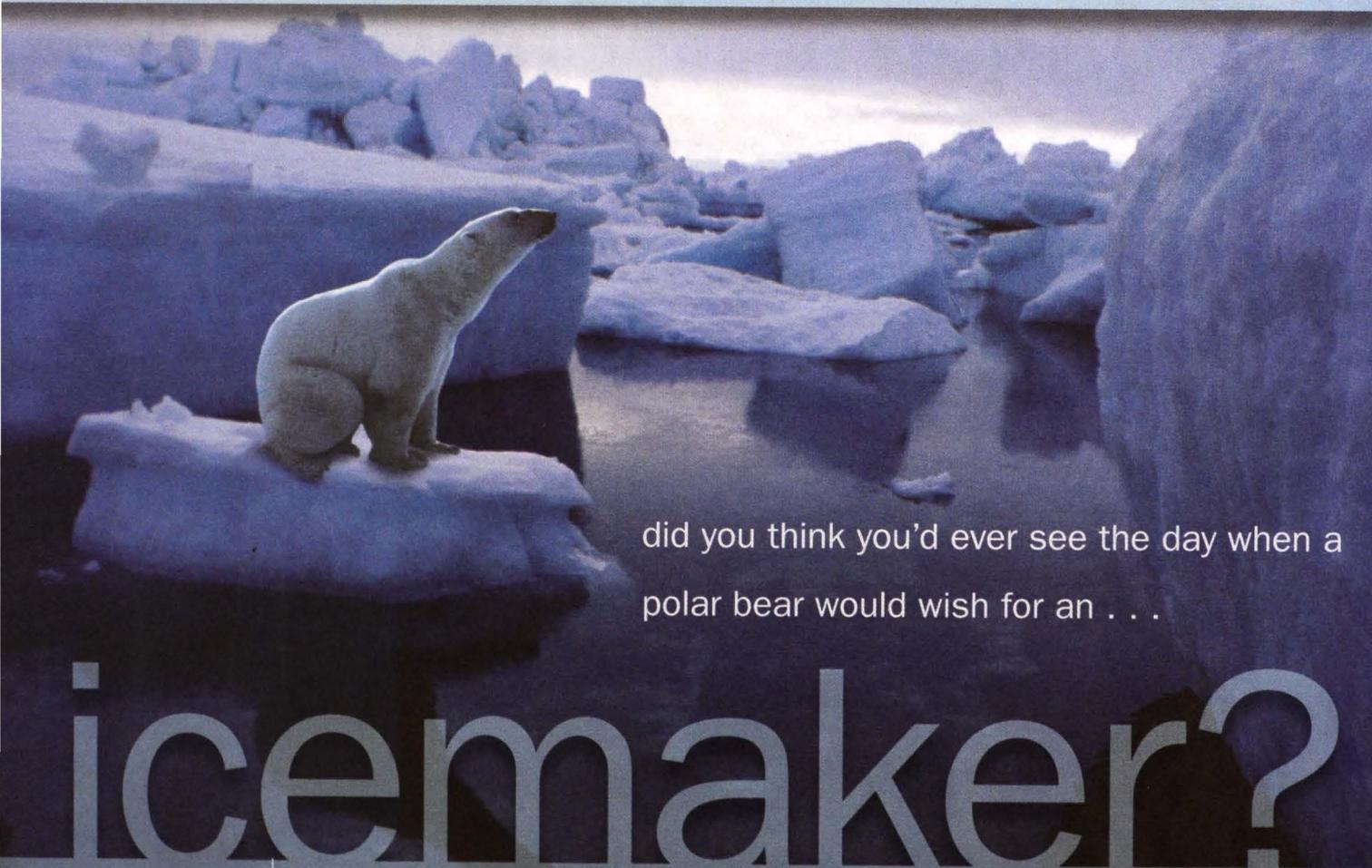
your own flaming arrows. And remember to aim high.

*Flaming Arrows* is available for \$12. It is published by the Institute for Experimental Freedom. To obtain a copy, go to [flamingarrows.mountainrebel.net](http://flamingarrows.mountainrebel.net) or send a blank money order to *Flaming Arrows*, c/o IEF Press, POB 372, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

For more information about Rod and his case, contact Support for Rod Coronado, POB 732, Tucson, AZ 85702; [info@supportrod.org](mailto:info@supportrod.org); [www.supportrod.org](http://www.supportrod.org).

*Ben Pachano works with Root Force.*





did you think you'd ever see the day when a polar bear would wish for an . . .

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