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Earth First!

Samhain/Yule November-December 2008

\$4.50 US & Canada

A Victory for the Redwoods ...WILL IT LAST?



artwork by Marco Melgradi, www.northcoastearthfirst.org

BY JAMES JAMESON

A huge sigh of relief graces the redwood coast after more than 20 years of battling with Pacific Lumber Company (PL), a 145-year-old firm in northern California, and its parent company for much of that time, MAXXAM. After 18 months of bankruptcy proceedings and decades of devastating the beautiful, dwindling old growth, MAXXAM has relinquished control. PL was bought out by Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC) and renamed Humboldt Redwood Company (HRC). HRC will own nearly 450,000 acres of redwoods in northern California.

A personal visit to treesitters was made by HRC president and chief forester Mike Jani. His presence came with praise for the activists' perseverance and dedication, and a "promise" to protect all old growth that is 250 years old or more. HRC also assured that they will initiate changes that include an end to "traditional clearcutting," a reduction in harvest rates to 55 million board feet per year for the first decade and a commitment to increasing the standing inventory of trees.

"It feels like going from being considered an environmental terrorist to being a hero in one fell swoop," said Hermes,

a forest activist who had spent the last year defending the old growth. He was momentarily speechless when told the news, adding, "This has to be one of the happiest days of my life."

But don't think that activists are taking HRC's word and walking away. They are, after all, a logging corporation. HRC has pledged to cut 30 percent fewer trees than PL, but one must keep in mind that after PL's 1986 takeover of the area, the cut rate soared 300 percent. "We'll be keeping an eye on them," said a Fern Gully treesitter, "to make sure they don't clearcut under the guise of 'variable retention' or 'group selection' (intensive forestry methods), or start spraying herbicides."

What a wonderful change this all is for a campaign that has suffered many losses, including the death of comrade David "Gypsy" Chain. Many activists have put their lives on the line every day for these trees, and on September 17, 1998, Gypsy's life was taken away by an irate logger. This year is the 10-year anniversary of his death, and reaching this victory in a campaign he gave his life for seems like a beautiful memorial.

Gypsy, North Coast Earth Firsters and supporters kept many trees standing. "Time will tell if the company will keep its promises—if so, it will be a new day for forestry in Humboldt County, and truly, an end to the timber wars as we knew them. "What a relief!" declared activist and teacher Jeannette Jungers.

It is too soon to know, but it is also a hopeful beginning. Until there is an end to all things that destroy this Earth, there will be a fight.

Action camps and nonviolence training are still happening. For more information, see page 14 or visit www.northcoastearthfirst.org.

In her spare time, James likes to build Formicidae bridges, read up on mycology and cater to her kitty, Frieda's, every need while being serenaded by her friends playing folk-punk.



photo by Nate

STEPPING OFF AFTER THE RNC PROTESTS

BY A FEW SELF-DESCRIBED ANARCHISTS FORMERLY OF THE RNC WELCOMING COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 28: The Poor People's Campaign camps out on Harriet Island along the Mississippi River in St. Paul, Minnesota. At 11 p.m. riot cops surround and forcibly evict people from their own public park. For many, the police state is inaugurated.

We who organized to crash the convention now face several realities: The (RNC) resistance is not the center of all radical organizing, the revolution will not happen overnight and this work is not any less intense now than before. For many in the Twin Cities radical community, September was only the end of the beginning.

We could use this space to discuss the successes and failures of those late Summer days, but we feel you can autonomously organize that discussion yourselves (as many have already). A better role to fill now may be this: After witnessing the police state at its most obvious in recent memory, where do we go from here, and what connections can we draw between movements represented at the RNC?

Friday, August 29: At 9:30 p.m., police burst into a meal-and-movie event in the convergence center, guns drawn. Sixty-eight are detained but released, their belongings stolen and the building trashed. The doors to the former theater hall are bolted shut.

Saturday, August 30: Raids continue. The Food Not Bombs house is awakened by automatic weapons. Targeting the Welcoming Committee, various agencies simultaneously raid two other houses, followed by more raids (including one on a permaculture education bus) in the afternoon. In response, we hold a meeting of 200 people overlooking Powderhorn Pond. During this meeting, public pressure re-opens the convergence center. Afterward, another organizer is snatched by plainclothes cops.

Fulfilling our predictions, the promises of Matt Bostrom (the officer in charge of convention security), were broken one by one. One such lie resulted in the pre-emptive raids intended to disrupt logistical organizing and scare people off the street. These raids saw the arrests of eight organizers now branded domestic terrorists and the collection of common household items like jars, paint and gray-water buckets as evidence.

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Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

Samhain/Yule November-December 2008

TURNING THE PAGES

Comrades, there is much to buzz about. As always, there is a great deal of news to report within Earth First! and all our affiliates. There are many moments to share of obvious state repression met with a solid stance by our undying community and a myriad of messages directed straight for the heart of our movement. What are these messages? They are brave accounts from the frontlines, as well as from the inside of our sewing circle, so to speak. They are the stories and tactics that are constantly interwoven into a tapestry of resistance to protect us from the cold, harsh world. They are messages of solidarity, as they will forever be, but they are also of a deep passion to strengthen what we have worked so hard to create. We hope this buzz is contagious and resonates throughout every issue of *The Journal* and strikes the chords of all who find affinity in the radical environmental movement.

The truth be told, the communities of activists we depend on in our towns, cities, states and countrylands are looking vulnerable to the sharp-fanged teeth of the machine and all its soldiers of moral defeat. The constant violation of our rights reads devastatingly loud this issue: from the Long Haul raid and fallen tree-sit of the oak grove in Berkeley, to intense infiltration and gun-drawn arrests at private homes and public convergence spaces during this year's crackdown on the Republican National Convention; from the court indictments of friends whose fate has been determined by government sentences to the painful and untimely deaths of comrades whose lives were spent dedicated to fighting the same injustices that stole them from us. It is up to us to turn the pages of our self-written history books and mark these days of now as an opportunity to learn from our losses and focus on all we have to gain.

Can you feel it? Is there a buzz in your neighborhood activating the wheels of change and effectively impacting the way we organize, communicate and create dependable bonds so that we can break through the lies of the enemy's spies before it's too late? We must grab hold of this buzz before we lose another friend to the twisted bars of the prison system, before another insurgence falls through the cracks, before we grow old without a multi-generational community of activists who can truly build upon the foundation of nearly 30 years of EF!, as well as all who came before us and work in alliance with us.

The most empowering tools of our movement are not only monkey wrenches and bolt cutters. They are also the safe spaces we create, facilitating accountability processes, welcoming radical parents back into our circles and providing kid spaces at convergences and social events. Creating do-it-yourself health clinics, taking the time for mental health discussions, seriously addressing sexual assault—how to both prevent it and cope with its aftermath—and scheduling caucuses into our workshop line-ups, compose our version of a health care system. And all of this needs to be nurtured and strengthened.

In every community 'cross the globe, feel the buzz and make it louder! Initiate, commit and consistently reaffirm all of the tactics that will allow our movement to grow stronger by our hardships, bonded by our wounds. We are survivors of state and societal repression, yet defeaters of their attempts to dismantle and disarm us. We are the defenders of all things wild, it is our responsibility to evolve and continue to protect the Earth and all her beings.

—LEAH

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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 tenth 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.

See you on the other side of the page! Love, Sophia.

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Long Haul Infoshop

Regroups After Police Raid



photos by Gregg

The police cart away a computer from long haul (left) after destroying locks and doors (right).

BY JESSE D. PALMER

A police and FBI raid of the Long Haul Infoshop in Berkeley, California, August 27, succeeded in seizing 14 computers, but failed to break the spirit of Berkeley activists. The raid occurred supposedly to figure out who might have sent University of California (UC) animal researchers threatening emails that were traced back to the Long Haul Internet connection.

No one was at Long Haul at the time of the raid. As of press time, no one has been arrested for any crime related to the raid. Seven officers with guns drawn executed an extremely broad search warrant against the volunteer-run library and radical community center. They were composed of UC police, a county sheriff and a federal agent—members of a joint terrorism task force, according to UC spokesperson Mitch Celaya.

Long Haul volunteers arrived shortly after the raid began and asked police for a search warrant. The police refused to allow volunteers inside the building and said they would only provide a copy of the search warrant after the raid. Police broke locks on doors inside the infoshop and searched files for an hour and a half, while a crowd milled outside. Police eventually seized all computers inside, including computers used in a public-access Internet room and computers used by the Slingshot publishing collective. It is clear that the cops would never have seized every computer at the public library had they traced a threatening email there rather than to a radical infoshop.

Long Haul opened to the public as usual the night of the raid, although the public access computer room remained closed for a month while volunteers sought to improve computer privacy measures. In the weeks since the raid, the community has rallied to support Long Haul with donated computers, protests and messages of support. The outpouring of support since the raid has been humbling—it is no joke to say that there is a radical community that has your back when you need it.

Long Haul volunteers are determined to resist the raid by refusing to be scared or distracted from the real struggle—defending the Earth and building community against the ravages of capitalism.

A statement of probable cause submitted by UC police officer Bill Kasiske to obtain the search warrant lists six allegedly threatening email messages sent to UC researchers in June from a computer connected to the Long Haul computer network. The police obtained records from Long Haul's Internet service provider and Google, tracing emails sent from Gmail accounts accessed through the Long Haul Internet connection. The warrant application discusses recent home demonstrations at UC Berkeley and implies that they are linked with two arsons against animal researchers that happened in Santa Cruz on August 2. The application also mentions the Animal Liberation Front.

Kasiske told the judge that Long Haul was a radical space: "I know that the Long Haul is a resource and meeting center for radical activists. I know that animal rights activists have held meetings at the Long Haul. The Long Haul's website advertises that they offer a computer room with four computers for 'activist-oriented access.'"

Given that the purportedly illegal threatening emails were sent from a public computer in June and that the raid was in August—with hundreds of people visiting Long Haul during that time—one might think that trying to find a particular person who sent six emails would be like looking for a needle in a haystack. Was the police's real intent to find a suspect, or to disrupt a known radical community center and conduct a fishing expedition of computer information from hundreds of people who used Long Haul computers unrelated to any threatening emails?

Kasiske's search warrant application sought an extremely broad search: "I know establishments that offer public computer access often have some type of system for patrons to sign in or register to use the computers. A search of the Long Haul's premises could reveal logs or sign-in sheets indicating which patrons used the computers on particular dates. This information would aid in identifying the suspect who sent the threatening email messages using the Long Haul's computers. It is likely that the suspect who sent the threatening email messages used the computers for other purposes as well. A search of the computers at the Long Haul could reveal information the suspect stores on the computers, websites the suspect accessed or other email accounts the suspect used. This information would aid in identifying the suspect. Due to the complexity of searching computer systems and the need to properly maintain evidence stored on computer systems, a detailed search would need to be conducted off-site by a computer forensics specialist."

In response, the judge issued a warrant permitting a search for "any written, typed or electronically stored documents, papers, notebooks or logs containing names or other identifying information of patrons who used the computers at the Long Haul Infoshop." The warrant also authorized search and seizure of all computers and electronic storage devices.

In general, it appears that the police did not get very much crucial or irreplaceable information during the raid, but this is mostly due to lucky timing and circumstances, not due to Long Haul's advance preparation for such a raid. It is hard to prepare for a raid in which all of one's computers are seized. FBI computer forensics experts have the means to defeat a variety of security measures.

By seizing the public access computers, the FBI got access to hundreds of individuals' personal information that may have been left on the public computers. No one knows what people left on those computers or what the FBI forensics experts might be

able to recover. Even when you hit the "delete" button on a computer, traces of your work is left on hard disk drives. Long Haul had no security measures on its public access computers (or Slingshot computers) prior to the raid. However, in the aftermath, Long Haul computer experts debated ways to make the computers more secure, even though total security is probably impossible. One idea was hard disk encryption, but instead they ended up removing hard drives entirely from the public access computers so that the computers load an open-source operating system each time they are turned on. That way, all information disappears each time the computers are turned off.

It was sheer luck that the Slingshot Collective wasn't right in the middle of making the 2009 Organizer or an issue of the paper at the time of the raid. If that had been the case, the raid could have set the Slingshot collective back weeks. As it was, just a few articles and some un-backed-up general documents were lost.

It does not appear that the police got a copy of the Slingshot mailing list (for sending out papers) or other sensitive Long Haul information. Most of that information was kept at another location on different computers. This arrangement was partly for ease of access—the Slingshot mailing operation does not run out of Long Haul—and partly out of security concerns at Long Haul. Prior to the police raid, Long Haul has been subject to half a dozen burglaries of uncertain origin.

Several dozen lawyers volunteered to help Long Haul respond to the raid, including excellent activist lawyers from the National Lawyers Guild and heavy hitters from the Electronic Frontier Foundation and the American Civil Liberties Union. As anarchist-oriented folks who are skeptical of bourgeois, mainstream legal solutions to problems, the Long Haul crew had a great discussion of the merits of using the court system to defend Long Haul against the police raid.

The real anarchist, direct-action response to a police raid is to keep Long Haul open and not let the police distract Long Haul from its mission of changing society, struggling for people over profit and defending the Earth.

Having said that, bourgeois legal action—along with protests and media action—may be a tool open to Long Haul. Generally, Long Haulers want to do what they can so that this kind of raid doesn't happen to any other infoshops in the future. That means Long Haul wants to expose the flimsy grounds for the raid and make the raid as expensive, embarrassing and inconvenient for the police as possible.

The real danger may still be on the horizon. Given the ongoing police investigation of animal rights activity, the Berkeley radical scene is getting prepared in case the police make further raids, seek to question local activists, make arrests or subpoena anyone before a grand jury.

Perhaps the most intense result of the raid was psychological. For a few weeks after the raid, there was an overall sense of tension, anxiety and trauma. Having your home base invaded by police is ugly, scary and brutal. It is hard to prepare for such a violation and it is hard to pick up the pieces afterward, but overall, Long Haul has come together. Many people have exhibited bravery, dedication and creativity in responding to the raid. The police sought to disrupt us and scare us off, but we're coming out stronger and more determined than ever.

Jesse is an activist who has volunteered at Long Haul for 15 years.

Dear Shit For Brains

(letters to the editor)

Dear Friends,

I was delaying this dispatch hoping to get news about a possible early release to a halfway house. I figured it would be nice to write with good news for once, but then, I found out that a staff member had "concerns" about me getting out four months ahead of schedule even though I'd be supervised, working 40 hours a week and paying 25 percent of my earnings to the halfway house. So, right now, it looks like a no go. Luckily, I've found a good way to drown my pain—4th Edition Dungeons and Dragons, with prison rules!

Yes, the Federal Bureau of Prisons has a thriving underground role playing scene, and I'd like to think of myself as its shining star. I started Dungeon Mastering a game a while back, throwing greedy capitalists, Earth despoilers and imperialists as the villains. And all the virtual food the players eat? Totally vegan, dude. I should write a cookbook called "Swords and Soy-cery," heh heh. Good times. Anyhow, the hardened criminals I play with got really into it, and you haven't lived until you've seen a heroin-addicted bank robber with a Firearms Enhancement say, "I ask the Dwarvish cleric if he has any potions of vitality for purchase while I discretely flash some platinum pieces." Sweet. Anyhow, having proved myself to the Scofflaw Fraternity, I was invited to play a character in one of their games. They didn't have to ask me twice. I now have a fourth level Dragonborn fighter named Lim Torrinson. Jealous much?

I don't always fit in when I play. Whenever we have to fight an animal, like a giant crocodile, I'll ask, "It's a soy crocodile, right?" I ask about Elvish child labor laws when I'm purchasing amulets of protection. And no one gets my jokes because they've all been locked up for so long. Here's a recent conversation we had during a game where I dropped several hilarious references to '80s and '90s public service announcements. (Note: I've changed the players' names to their characters' names to avoid being stuck with an ice pick.)

Troxniac: "...And by Bahamut's name, I say we stand for truth, valor, order and honor!"

Me: "And that's... one to grow on!"

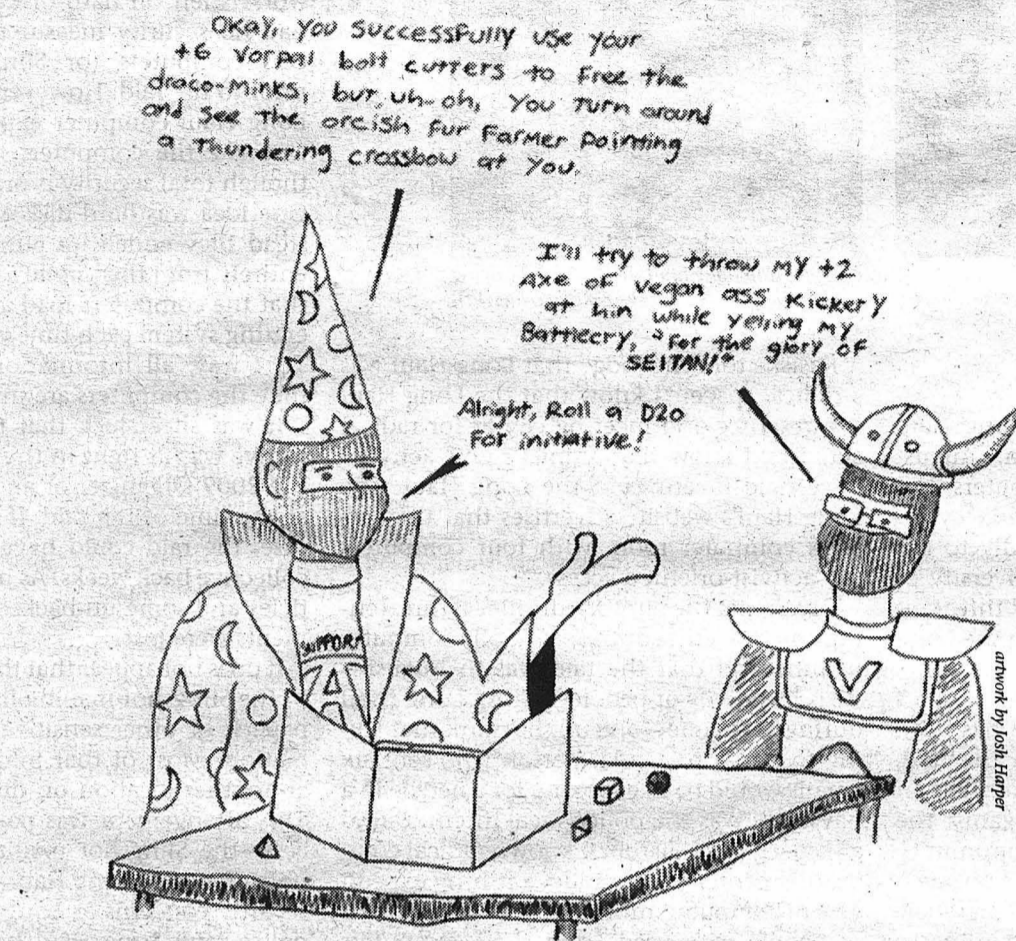
Everyone else: [silence]

Me: "Um... when you take the time to care."

Everyone else: [silence]

Me: "C'mon guys, how about 'The more you know' No? Are you fucking Amish?"

And that isn't the only example. Here's another recent series of jokes that didn't go down well.



DUNGEON MASTERS FOR ANIMAL LIBERATION!

Malach: "And what shall we call this fellowship of ours? I'd suggest the Party of..."

Me: "The Crips!"

Everyone else: [silence]

Me: "Already taken, huh? How about 'The Happy Fun-time Gang'?"

Corab: "Let's get serious. I propose that we call it the Adventurers of..."

Me: "The Christ Punchers!"

Oh well. Just because an armed career criminal doesn't appreciate Simpsons references doesn't mean I don't have fun. I'm kicking lots of monster ass lately and rolling in loot. I just got a +2 Dragonslayer Great Axe. Feel free to sit down if you start to swoon.

I know this update isn't very "political prisoner" of me, but try to understand. Prison is so dreary, and with ecological disaster on the horizon, a populace stupid enough to venerate McCain or Obama, and all the other bad news, well, sometimes, I need a little levity. I hope you are all well. Thanks for your continuing support. I'll send out a more serious update soon.

Keep fighting!

—JOSH HARPER

Dear Shit for Brains,

Today I received the September-October *EF!* Journal. As always, as I read the paper a wave of feelings hit me, everything from anger, sadness and rage, to being

so grateful and happy and proud. Almost always, these feelings arise while reading these papers. The anger, sadness, rage, etc. always stems from the corporations of mass destruction that refuse to see their detrimental effects, the punk-ass cops that rough up our brothers and sisters, and the weak snitches who rat on their own people for the sake of "freedom." Yeah, it pisses me off. However, I am also grateful for the brothers and sisters on the frontlines, thankful that the creator continues to touch the hearts of Mother Earth's warriors and proud for the ones who, despite the federal authorities' tactics, stay strong and keep their mouths shut. It is disturbing that we have to put ads in papers to remind people to keep quiet, don't you think? I hate seeing how much the list of prisoners has grown in just the last few years. Yet, I am proud to see the *EF!*ers, Earth Liberation Front/Animal Liberation Front (ELF/ALF) and others still going hard, and the family is growing to numbers that I believe scare the hell out of some of the right-winged haters that want so badly to imprison us all.

EF!, I owe you an apology. A while back, I wrote you a letter concerning Chris McIntosh. I'm sure I came across a bit shitty. The federal system is small. I run into other prisoners all the time who have met

or known some of our brothers. Our reputations seem to always precede us. I have been enlightened by several people who also know McIntosh, and I know he conducts himself differently in front of others than he does when around family. I do not find fault in you for withdrawing his name from the prisoner list. I'm sorry I doubted your judgment, *EF!*. Man, I feel shitty about this. To all who walk in darkness with hearts filled with light, stay strong! Do not break weak for these punks. Fire is beautiful, isn't it?

I am so proud of the Berkeley treesitters.

Much love,

—COYOTE

Dear SFB,

Please accept my condolences for the unfortunate choices of cover art for the last two issues of the *EF!*. On the positive side, it can only improve at this point. That, or I'm overly hopeful. Fortunately, the content was relatively unscathed. Onward!

—ED WITH KATUAH EARTH FIRST!

Dear Liberal Shit for Brains,

Now that I can shed my (illusion of) editorial objectivity, I've got two quick responses to the Mabon issue (see *EF!* September-October 2008).

First, the SFB from "A Middle-Class, White, Privileged, Able-Bodied, Straight Male" drove me up the wall.

Suggesting that a people-of-color caucus is equivalent to segregation betrays a fundamental failure to understand the intricacies of race, power and agency.

When white folks decide to separate people based on race (frequently supporting this division through force), that's segregation. When people of color decide to meet, socialize, organize or even establish permanent communities among themselves, that's *not* segregation. It's autonomy. Both situations may look the same from the outside (white folks over there and everyone else over here), but that does not mean they are the same. The difference lies in who decides to organize separately and whether this division maintains white supremacy or undermines it. These nuances must not be ignored.

Those with privilege often seem so threatened by this kind of separatist mentality—whether by people of color, women, LGBTQ folks or the working class. Maybe they consider women-only spaces or people-of-color meetings at the *EF!* gatherings as sure signs that their comfortable world is about to be flipped on its head and that their days are numbered. Are they seriously so deeply afraid of women or black folks simply speaking to one another?

To me, this misunderstanding is a clear symptom of half-baked liberalism: a chronic, debilitating and highly contagious ailment that frequently affects those who know just enough to be enraged and not enough to know why they are angry or what they are angry about. It's kind of like rabies.

Similarly, I was disappointed with Georgina Woods' report from the Australian Climate Camp. At first, I really enjoyed her account of the dress rehearsal for the post-gathering mass action.

But then, Woods had to go ruin it all by turning the article into yet another tired, petty smear against non-pacifists. Nonviolence is presented as inherently empowering, collective, selfless and effective, while the nebulous and presumably violent alternative is framed as disempowering, individualistic, ego-driven, alienating and ultimately ineffective.

Woods didn't need to do this. Too much ink has already been senselessly spilled in defending either nonviolence or militancy while defaming the alternative. What Woods and so many others still refuse to accept is the idea that nonviolence and militancy are not moral imperatives; they're tactical categories appropriate to some situations and not others.

"The tragedy of our species," Woods concludes, "will be that petty difference, egoism and vanity continue to paralyze us (yes, even activists)." If only she could heed her own advice.

EF/J 4 LIFE,

—JOSH MINETTA

Dear Snitches on the Brain,

Thanks to the EF/J for its excellent coverage of the recent Green Scare eco-arson arrests (see EF/J September-October 2008). I also thank the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) for getting involved and helping out folks affected by FBI harassment.

I do think something was missing in your coverage, however, and I think the NLG would agree. If you were to call and speak to them for any length of time, the name Lauren Regan and her group, the Civil Liberties Defense Center (CLDC), would come up. Lauren and the CLDC have been at the frontlines of Green Scare resistance since the beginning. She probably knows more about each and every case than any other human being, FBI included. She has helped each and every defendant in some way (until they turn informant).

The other thing that I would hope the NLG would tell you is that Lauren and the CLDC could really use some financial support. She runs on a shoestring budget and all too often uses her own money to help out the cause. Please help the CLDC out. They are a 501(c)3 nonprofit, so your donation can be tax deductible. Their address is: Civil Liberties Defense Center, 259 E 5th Ave, Ste 300 A, Eugene, OR 97401. If you would like more information on the Green Scare, including copies of the actual court documents, go to their website, www.cldc.org. You can also contact them at info@cldc.org or (541) 687-9180.

As a movement, we need legal support. There is no lawyer more supportive and helpful to us than Lauren Regan.

—GIN PHLEGM

Editors' note: Thanks for pointing out how people can contribute to a truly worthy cause! The EF/J was in contact with Lauren and the CLDC during the preparation of our last issue, and has been in contact with them since the Green Scare began in 2005.

Dear SFB,

A shout out to the *Journal*; thanks for helping to spread the word about so much resistance to this putrefying post-industrial world.

This is to add to all the concerns and questions raised about dealing with snitches. In my opinion, there have been some good and some not-so-good practical suggestions, but we should all keep in mind one central fact: The snitches are rotting inside. Recently, I listened as one of Eric McDavid's very closest supporters talked about how the state had turned one of the turncoats, who she had previously known well, into a shell of himself. She said he was like a robot on the witness

stand, willing to answer yes or no to whatever the state fed him. He will live with his betrayal for the rest of his life, knowing not only that others will not trust him, but that he can't even trust himself.

Sometimes people ask, "How can they live with themselves?" Unless they delude themselves at the very core of their being, which is even worse, then they can't live with themselves.

On the other hand, during his sentencing, Eric was the calmest person in the courtroom, reminding others to breathe and that everything will be all right. I've heard the same about Marie Mason at her plea hearing.

I don't mean to try to romanticize what are crucially difficult times for people of integrity caught by the illegitimate corporate state. But contrast the freedom of those whose souls are intact, though they may be in a cell or under house arrest, with the self-imprisonment of those who have turned against their closest friends and violated their most hallowed obligations. Remember, if you snitch, you are in prison forever.

—MIKE ROBE

Dear SFB,

Hey-hey, the streets runneth red with blood over here [in Iraq]. Forty-plus a day are dying and no weapons of mass destruction to be found—a falsified Bush war. Just like Nixon's Vietnam was. Same criminal advisors. At least Dick's Halliburton Inc. is raking in billions on no-bid deals, wink. The cost to US taxpayers is \$12 billion every month. War is a racket for the rich as the poor suffer. Thousands are dead, four million have fled, an entire region lies destabilized and 32,000 troops have been wounded so far. No more spilt blood for oil greed. The world is waiting for a justified impeachment. Worse than Watergate was. Scooter Libby was just the fall guy for the vice president and now pardoned by the chief, wink. Yep, the best sham-democracy that big, corporate, lobby money can buy off, wink. Shame on us all. As the neo-cons salivate to provoke and bomb Iran. Then, watch the price of oil, gas and food all escalate as planned, wink. Meat, war and capitali\$m are all murder. As the poles, ice, snow, tundra and glaciers all melt. Obama had better win come November; McCain is a war criminal who napalmed children for LBJ and Nixon, wink. The dollar, markets and housing values are all down 30 percent under Bush, so keep it up and hasten Armageddon. Only one solution=compassion for all via veganism. Then, we'll get it.

Ahimsa. Thank you,

—A DISGUSTED VETERAN

Dear SFB,

Having just finished reading the July-August 2008 *Journal*, here's a couple of thoughts.

First, I'd urge readers to re-read and seriously contemplate Rodin's "Seeds of Victory" on page 7.

Second, several other articles and many in previous issues seem to say that smashing capitalism is the key to saving the planet. Need I point out that every government in recent history has done a great job trashing the environment, regardless of the form it has taken?

Even if, by some miracle, all the world's populace suddenly embraced true ethical anarchy (my preference), the assault on the Earth would probably change little so long as people's coexistence with nature did not improve and so long as the planet remained horribly overpopulated with humans.

Similarly, the idea that the environmental restoration would commence as soon as indigenous peoples retook "their" lands (are they really theirs or anyone's in the first place?), from the colonialists is, I think, likewise misguided. Sorry to say, most indigenous people these days are just as infatuated with junk food and TV and macho pickups and materialism and unsustainable environmental exploitation as anyone else. This is not to say they have not been ripped off in many ways. Ending capitalism may (or may not) help humanity's devastating planetary onslaught. But, even if it did, it could not do much so long as people themselves did not improve their interrelationships with nature.

—LYNN JACOBS

Dear SFB/EFJ,

Thank you for support. I am out in 30 days: October 7. It's been three and a half [years] minus 14 days. I was on parole and punched up a police officer, and returned on violation. Now I know how support works and what to expect from the inside. The activism does stop because I am in a cage. In reality, it seems like my desire to destroy civilization is much higher being that I am in 100 percent domestication. I've learned that the "just so happens" don't just happen if everything seems perfect and there are lots of references to past things that are readable on the net to be more aware of my circle.

Also, I have relearned the value of not becoming a star in the media because many "green anarchist" activists have fallen by this trick. There are no anarchist stars of any flavor. I have learned that the EF/J and *Green Anarchy* are different in approach to the machine, and my opinion of sign-holding does not matter, because in the beginning, I felt the best protest sign was one on fire. Today, my opinion has not changed. However, I have realized that there are some people who will give "all" and some people who will give "some," and to judge either is fascist of me. I hope and meditate that an ELF prisoner (supported or not) remains strong, for prison is no place for people like us, because we have very little in common with convicts or guards, except that we are both alienated by a machine that needs by

any means to be destroyed. Much love to all who supported me and did not. A lesson, if there is a next time: I'll know how it really works to be an eco-prisoner in a cage with nothing. For this trip, I never stopped pamphleteering inside. I know that the people inside have the power to change things outside. Even the stone cold killers would listen to me because Earth is where their food comes from, even if it is a bit industrialized.

Please forgive me, but I want to start an online church in the name of anarchy because vegans in Minnesota, North Dakota and other places one cannot get a vegan diet religiously, nor in segregated population, nor can the hardcores get anarchist or nihilistic stuff to read. Thanks to the Church of Deep Ecology and infoshop.org, but many chaplains will not distribute it. So, I would like to have the writings of John Zerzan, Kevin Tucker, Feral Faun, Felonious Skunk, Ward Churchill, Sadie, Exile, Free and others available for prisoners. The only leg an anarchist person has to stand on legally is religion. Besides that, as I learned after 15 months in the hole, there is rebellion.

No compromise is fighting the police inside. In my short time, one guard was stabbed by a friend and chaos ran rampant for 17 days of floods and lockdowns in maximum security. Blessed is the spirit of anti-civilization. Thank you for everything.

In Solidarity,

—WASTE

Dear Earth First!

I cannot express enough my gratitude for all of the back issues (from even before I was locked up!)—reading up on action on the outside is the greatest source of inspiration and cheer. I wanted to write a bit about my case, not seeking more support, but because I believe some might find informational value in my experiences.

Half a year ago, approximately 30 police, sheriffs, detectives and federal agents raided the apartment my partner and I shared, taking 200 items and booking us (directly into isolation cells) on hundreds of thousands of dollars bail. With what could we have been charged? Of what truly awesome action must we have been accused? Arson? Vandalism? Liberations? None of the above. We were in on allegations of shoplifting.

Yes, shoplifting. We've all heard the stories of underground liberators on the run from feds for years who finally get arrested pocketing some CDs, but our case was nothing of the sort. Our only alleged wrongdoing was taking stuff. It seems that a bunch of detectives with a lot of time on their hands, likely suspicious of our penchant for "retail exploration," and certainly eager to shut down two people active in grassroots campaigning, decided to follow us around for months with the aid of tracking devices, found under our car bumper. Every time we

left a store, they were entering and requesting security camera footage. Thus, what would have been petty bullshit thefts if caught by a store employee (a few Tofurkeys from a supermarket, for instance) were turned into a damning spree of felony "commercial burglaries." Of course, total noncooperation with detectives trying to use our charges as leverage for information about local campaigns was a given for us both. In the end, [my partner] was sentenced to a year in county while priors meant that I got stuck with 16 months in state prison. This being the same sentence as an inmate who killed a pregnant woman's fetus and put her in a coma when he hit her while driving with three times the legal blood-alcohol limit and a suspended license. I do not relate this to scare anyone; the chances of this reoccurring are slim and the time one faces is minimal. And, from my brief experience in prison, I think Jacob Conroy put it perfectly—it sucks, but is "completely doable" and nothing of which to be very scared. Rather, the lesson I have found in this is twofold.

For one, our case seems to me a clear affirmation that, in spite of recent arrests and the "Green Scare," law enforcement is overall still remarkably ineffective in investigation of underground activity in our movements. The area in which we live has, in recent years, seen a great amount of fierce and unrelenting illegal activity against abusers—action after action in support of multiple campaigns. If the state's great tactical investment in this region—the closest they are getting to the local movement—is months and months spent to take a couple of visible, aboveground activists with a shoplifting habit, it is undeniable that, in large part, we have only ourselves to fear. Indeed, I have never seen any cop, not to mention two sharply dressed detectives, so utterly frustrated at someone's refusal to talk as I did in their attempt to interrogate me about local activity. Tape recorders put away, jumbled threats spewed from red faces. Without someone willing to talk, they have nothing.

That said, I must also address the fact that losing a year that could have been put toward an action in the name of a free Tofurkey is regrettable. And, having seen two friends, both high-profile activists, get rolled for shoplifting since my arrest, I am compelled to share my feelings. I am the last to condemn retail theft. Stealing from the companies that steal from us all is loads of fun, and it helps you avoid employment to focus on organizing. It is also a political act in its own virtue, but I can only speak for myself: I could be doing a lot more good free and paying for shit, saving potential arrests for the times that it is really worth it.

Anyway, much love to everyone.

In Solidarity,

—"LARRY GREG"

Climate Camp Roundup

The Climate & Anti-Racist Camp in Germany



A snapshot of the German Climate/Anti-Racist Camp.

For a
totally
different
climate

BY TADZIO MUELLER

It's all so different in Germany: black-and-green aren't the colors of an eco-anarchist movement, but rather those of the coalition between the Conservatives and the Greens that govern the city of Hamburg. Here, discussions among activists often seem to revolve less around the question of how climate change is happening, how it's fucking people over and what we could do about it, than about how climate change has been "constructed as a discourse of domination." The sense that we are fiddling while Rome burns was heightened when one of the most respected players in the "Interventionist Left" coalition, which had been instrumental in organizing the mass-blockades of the 2007 Group of Eight (G8) summit in Heiligendamm, was not booted off the stage when he responded publicly to a question about climate change by saying that he'd rather keep partying until the very end.

The Summer of 2007 changed some things. First, while the mass blockades that aimed to delegitimize the G8 were clearly a tactical victory, many of us felt that the G8 had managed to strategically outmaneuver us by focusing on climate change—a move to which we had no response. Second, some people had been to the UK climate camp that same year, and were inspired by the resonance the issue had far beyond the activist scene and by the camp itself as an action.

Things began to move. The big challenge for us this year was *not* to educate people about the existence of climate change—after all, the German government is constantly talking about polar bears, ice caps and the need to have more and more effective emissions trading. Rather, we had to establish that there is a much more radical, anti-capitalist, anti-state story that has to be told about the issue—that the point is not polar bears and ice caps, but inequality, oppression and capitalism. After that, we had to establish that this was something around which we could organize direct action within the radical left.

Driven both by the apparent weakness of the networks organizing this year's climate camp and also by the positive experiences of Heiligendamm, where radical activists had worked together beyond their usual political comfort zones, we decided to organize a camp together with the German anti-racist movement, which is much broader and has more experience organizing action camps. The port city of Hamburg was chosen as a

An Environment of Repression

How the UK Climate Camp weathered the storm and kept fighting

BY RICHARD GEORGE

An organized and over-the-top campaign, staged by the British boys in blue, was focused on disrupting the UK Camp for Climate Action. UK newsrooms were flooded with clichéd shots of hippies battling police in Kent, England. The cops' efforts partially succeeded in diverting media focus away from climate change and toward police harassment, but they also served to radicalize climate campaigners and bolster our determination to get our message across.

An early August 2 raid caught us off guard, as several hundred police stormed the climate camp site and helped themselves to whatever they could carry. Among the items taken "to prevent criminal damage" were crayons, board games, guy ropes for marquees, kitchen knives from the kitchens (still safely in their knife block), tools (wood saws, bolts and a wrench), sleeping mats, large water bottles and assorted equipment from the composting toilets.

The message couldn't have been clearer: Under the auspices of checking for weapons, the police made a naked attempt to shut the climate camp down. However, their move backfired. As police moved to confiscate our plumbing supplies, people resisted, diving on lengths of pipe and refusing to let go. After a stand-off lasting nearly an hour, the cops left us to our piping and firewood, and we put out a triumphant press release.

The constant police presence and intentional disruption took its toll. Still, workshops struggled on as people, exhausted from stress and lack of sleep, shouted to be heard over the rotors of a police chopper hovering overhead. We struggled into a bizarre routine of early morning wake-ups ("Cops on site! Cops on site!") and one memorable late-night police invasion—accompanied by their playing "Ride of the Valkyries" from a cop-car stereo (which wasn't so much scary as displaying an amusing lack of imagination).

Over time, people toughened up and started to actively resist. When a line of riot police armed with shields, batons and pepper spray entered the site on the morning of August 4, they encountered several hundred people. Hands in the air, chanting "this is not a riot," activists forced the

police back to the rear gate (now dubbed "the western front" by journalists) and launched a three-day standoff. Climate campers brought marquees, kitchens, toilets and a sound system to keep those holding the line entertained. Those arrested risked jail by publicly returning to the site, which breached their bail conditions.

Locals brave enough to cross the cop encampment (officially named Operation Oasis) were amazed to discover not terrorists or violence, but people building a sustainable way of life amid massive state repression. Everyone laughed when a family from a nearby village started harassing a bunch of coppers, demanding that they pick on some real criminals.

So, was the police's operation successful? Despite hysterical reports and the most unlikely weapons cache ever "found" (couldn't they have planted a real throwing star, not a replica?), more than 1,000 people made it to the E.ON UK power station for the day of action. Several hundred protesters breached the fences, and four individuals made it over the electric fence in a "death or glory" charge straight into the arms of waiting riot cops.

Some 26 police forces ran amok, threatening to charge an authorized march with horses, dogs and long-handled batons. A flotilla of rafts bobbed along the Medway River, defying an injunction and a local bylaw banning water-borne processions, until the police "rescued" them (a strange way to describe hijacking their safety boat and arresting its crew). We may not have stopped the giant coal-fired power station from running, but we sent a clear message to E.ON and the government: Try to build Kingsnorth 2, and we'll shut you down.

We have 100 months to stop runaway global warming. Scientists are now predicting temperature rises of four degrees or more in our lifetime. The police are paid to protect capital and corporations. Once they see that their children's lives are at risk, will they start to change sides? If not, this week shows that we won't just stand by and let them protect those who would damn us to a future dominated by climate change, rising tides and resource exploitation. Whatever they throw at us, we can, will and must resist. The impact of our failure would be far more severe than anything the state can throw at us.

good location to bring together the concerns of the two movements: On the one hand, Hamburg Airport serves as a central site for the inhumane deportation regime that protects "fortress Europe," and on the other, the newly minted "black and green" governing coalition was just about to give the go-ahead to the construction in Hamburg of a new coal-fired power plant run by Swedish power company Vattenfall.

In the end, the camp—which took place from August 15-24 in a wet field just outside the city—was a mix of success and failure. Failure, because between the two political currents that organized the camp, we never managed to get more than about a thousand people to be at the camp or the many actions that we organized (against the airport, various supermarkets, an agrofuels factory and the Vattenfall power plant construction site).

On the other hand, we also perceived the camp as a success. Before, when we had been talking about a "climate movement" in Germany, we'd at best been trying to sing something into existence that was far from real. In

August, though, sometimes it was visible—the new climate movement—in that wet field outside of Hamburg. It was visible when a spontaneous march escaped the police for several miles and almost managed to occupy the power plant's construction site en masse. It was visible when we, already beaten back once, tried again to flow through the police lines, a lone water cannon unable to stop us, and we managed to reach the site's fence. In those fleeting moments, the movement was real; lines of flight that escaped from established and well-trodden political spaces were drawn, connected with other lines in new spaces, opened new possibilities and created a new politics. In these moments, a sense of collective strength was born. The fight for a totally different climate has only just begun.

For more information, visit www.klimacamp08.net/idea.

Tadzio Mueller is an editor of *Turbulence* (www.turbulence.org.uk), and has been active in the emerging global climate justice movement. As of October, he's happily unemployed.

Photo courtesy www.umbruch-bildarchiv.de.

One HOT Southeast Climate Convergence

BY ATTILA

As wildfires burned in eastern North Carolina and Virginia, climate activists gathered in the Appalachian piedmont of Louisa County, Virginia, to strategize, share stories and build the movement for climate justice. The heat and humidity were overwhelming at the retreat center that would serve as the base for the weeklong convergence. Without a breeze, just sitting still caused profuse sweating, even for those used to the shirt-soaking Summers of the southeastern US. These first few unbearable days made the task of stopping climate criminals much more poignant.

This climate convergence, like the first southeast one in the mountains of North Carolina last year, brought together a mix of folks from different backgrounds. There were folks from Rainforest Action Network, Southern Energy Network, Rising Tide, Earth First!, Nuclear Watch South, Greenpeace and others who all shared an interest in a direct action approach to climate justice. We developed strategies against new coal and nuclear plants and talked about the importance of attacking the financial backbone of the industry. We shared skills such as media organizing, setting up tripods and constructing eco-friendly dwellings. We left the retreat center that the camp was based out of a little better than we found it by constructing rain barrels. Our camp was up the road from Twin Oaks, an intentional community whose residents were kind enough to provide tours of sustainable buildings, donate bicycles and delicious food, and enjoy a Frisbee match.

In the evenings, we were treated to panels on false solutions to climate change, dirty energy projects in the southern US and indigenous resistance to extraction projects. In addition, people watched documentaries and listened to tales of past land occupations. On the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, the folks from Nuclear Watch South lead a lantern ceremony to remember that tragedy.

A wonderful aspect of climate convergences is the diversity of people present. We start the week with an empty toolbox. Throughout the week, everyone adds their tools as we network, listen and share. Students meet with seasoned activists. The anti-nuke folks pass on their success stories to the younger generation of anti-coal activists. Some folks learn to make their first press calls, while others learn how to cause mayhem against banks funding mountaintop removal (MTR). Soon, our collective toolbox includes disaster relief, shit-kicking boots, bicycles, folk songs, strategies and everything else we need to bring down the carbon-belching leviathan.

This convergence was different than previous action camps because people were encouraged to carry out multiple actions throughout the week. Often, organizers will discourage this strategy, as actions in the middle of the camp could jeopardize the rest of the camp. However, this convergence tested the waters by handing out action guides to help activists locate nearby sites to target, resulting in mixed reactions.

A group of folks fighting the construction of a new nuclear reactor at the North Anna plant went on an informational tour of its welcome center. An amazing theatrical act occurred as different activists took turns leading a mock tour and answering the concerns of anti-nuclear folks with lies and greenwash. This was all captured by an embedded writer and photographer from the Associated Press. The staff at the welcome center were caught off guard, but tolerated the intrusion. After hours of play and chants, a safety engineer came to speak with the visitors. The visitors were so comforted by the safety of the reactor that they decided they would make the visitor center their new home. After the welcome center closed, eight people decided to stay inside and risk arrest.

Following our North Anna stunt, we became a much bigger blip on the radar of the sheriff's department. The police presence started to resemble the repression of last year's convergence. The

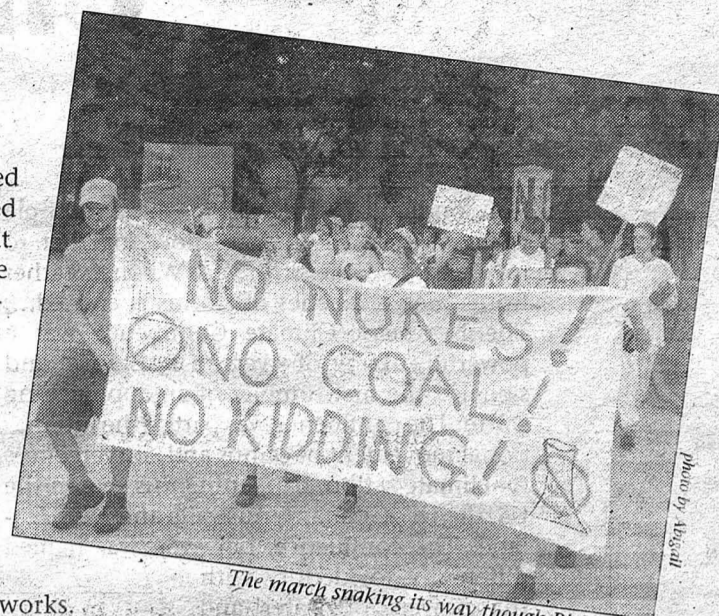
police initially delivered a Trojan horse of bottled water for the camp, but after the action at the nuke plant, their plastic offerings turned to repressive checkpoints around the camp. All of the local Bank of America branches also had police stationed at them.

As the week came to a close, a final large action was in the works.

We rolled into Richmond, Virginia, to find the entire city on lockdown in preparation for us. Bank of America still had police in front. Dominion Energy had police protection. We had them scared. Despite a massive police presence throughout the city and our major action plan derailed by law enforcement harassment, 50 activists snaked their way through Richmond in an unpermitted march, paying visits to several climate criminals. Carrying banners reading, "No Nukes, No Coal, No Kidding," people marched to the headquarters of Massey Energy, Dominion, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Bank of America.

At Massey Energy, a notorious coal company involved in MTR coal mining, activists surrounded the entrance and yelled, "Hands off our mountains!" The group then moved on to the DEQ which recently rubber stamped Dominion's dirty coal plant in Wise County, Virginia. Next, the group brought the party to Dominion, chanting "No coal, no nukes, we won't stop until you do!" The activists attempted to take over Dominion's plaza, but were repelled by police on horses. In a show of interspecies solidarity, one horse bucked a cop off its back.

In an impressive feat of stealth, two activists managed to infiltrate the beefed up security of the towering Bank of America building, one of the largest funders of the coal industry, and lock themselves to a sign outside of the customer entrance. Marchers supported the lockdown with a die-in on the sidewalk. Police cut free the two who were locked



The march snaking its way through Richmond.

down and charged them with trespassing.

One thing that has plagued Rising Tide in the Southeast since its inception is an overwhelming police crackdown. Some attribute this to the successful Carbo coal plant occupation in 2006. The past two Southeast Climate Convergences have planned large actions involving tripods and blockades, but have had to scrap plans because of police protection of key sites. Even though Earth First! gatherings always end with actions, police don't use the same preemptive force at them. In the future, we must realize that open process is less effective in this repressive era. We need to figure out how to be inclusive of new people, especially since these are usually the brave ones getting arrested, but keep the plans for targets and tactics completely quiet.

The Southeast Climate Convergence is already an effective, visible and confrontational gathering. We should elaborate on some of this Summer's strategies for next year, in order to bring that seemingly chaotic force to our opponents in the energy business. The world is ready and waiting for a confrontational front to the movement to stop climate change. This is why we face such overwhelming repression. Our opponents know that every coal plant under construction right now has angry opposition, and that if we show the world that you can halt the industry with your body, every coal plant in the country will have people blocking the gates (and, hopefully, the rail lines). We are on the right "track," and soon, we will have stopped the carbon criminals.

Seven German Banks Attacked in Solidarity with UK Climate Camp

The following is a communiqué received by Germany's Direct Action News soon after the attacks:

"On the night of Thursday, August 14, in Berlin, we made seven attacks on Deutsche Bank, Commerz Bank, Allianz AG and Dresdener Bank. The locks to the banks and the card-readers were glued and 'No to UK Coal' was spray painted. Deutsche Bank is the single biggest European investor in agrofuels in Latin America—funding projects by Agrenco, Archer Daniels Midland, Brazil

Ecodiesel, Bunge, Clean Energy Brazil, Cosan and Sao Martino.

"Agrofuels, far from being an environmentally preferable alternative to fossil fuels, are responsible for deforestation, industrial agriculture, increased carbon emissions and soaring food prices/starvation. Along with Allianz, Deutsche Bank is also one of the biggest shareholders in UK Coal, which currently plans to build seven new coal-fired power stations across the United Kingdom. Commerz Bank finances at least

three agrofuel companies: Agrenco, Bunge and Tereos. Dresdener Bank is a subsidiary of Allianz AG. The targets chosen are related to both climate change and capital.

"Exploitation of the environment and people by state and industry go hand in hand. They cannot be separated, and both must be attacked. This attack coincides with the end of the UK Camp for Climate Action and the beginning of the Climate and Anti-Racist Camp near Hamburg. Social war, not climate chaos!"

The Northeast Climate Confluence

Mixing Rivers of Resistance

BY LIGHTNING

A confluence is the point where multiple rivers or weather patterns flow together to mix and become stronger. When weather fronts merge, a series of storms is created.... The Northeast Climate Confluence was a powerful mixing of rivers of resistance, and signaled the first rumbles of an approaching storm. The confluence was part of the international movement of camps and convergences for climate action, happening this year in the US, the UK, Germany, Australia and New Zealand. The confluence, however, was named differently to identify with the powers of water and weather, and give ourselves a guiding metaphor.

What came out of it all sure felt different. One workshop facilitator, who had been active in Critical Resistance and Anarchist People of Color, wrote us to say, "I was most impressed by the real diversity of the participants. I've never seen a leftist event as ethnically and generationally diverse." The confluence of cultures created a space where people who normally wouldn't cross paths could share stories of struggles, find common ground and have fun. With a killer open-mic, outdoor film screenings, kick-ass music shows and a late-night campfire, the confluence also highlighted the incredible talent from people around the northeastern US. At the campfire, a beautiful hybrid musical culture emerged as beatboxing and freestyling mixed with banjos and old-time tunes. It was a beautiful thing to experience, and it all turned out better than our highest hopes... but it was the hardest thing in the world to create and pushed all of the organizers to the limit.

The gap between "environmental" activism and "social" activism is huge. This separation is unacceptable and is a self-perpetuating bottleneck for all those interested in forging a new world. While it is important to theorize origins of oppression and the destruction of the natural world, and to create spaces for working on our shit, it is absolutely necessary to organize in anti-racist and multi-racial settings in the face of planetary collapse. This means prioritizing the struggles, voices and needs of those who have been targeted by generations of colonialism and oppression at the center of the movement, rather than "bringing in more people of color" to a whitey-dominated space. With this, comes a hard process of questioning some basic assumptions and letting go of some EF! sub-cultural norms.

First of all, the confluence was an alcohol- and drug-free space, which came at the expressed request of recovering alcoholics and First Nations indigenous organizers who have been dealing with the destructive legacy of alcohol and drugs being used as tools of colonization. Second, we prioritized making the space accessible, both for those in wheelchairs and those who had never been camping before. For accommodations, there was a mix of woods, fields and buildings. Days of work were put into making a wheelchair-accessible outdoor compost toilet. There was bus transportation provided from major cities. The food provided from the outdoor kitchens had vegan, meat and dairy options, but no pig products were included because of those who observed Muslim eating restrictions or kept kosher. The

most important thing was that, for this to work, we had to facilitate a space where many felt comfortable and no one would interrogate the boundaries of someone's needs. These considerations paid off well—what emerged was a powerful linking of revolutionary movements that each came away stronger, more informed and inspired for the fight ahead.

An important element for shaping the confluence came from a "Points of Unity" platform, which linked different revolutionary politics and was used to screen who could present workshops. This foundation started by stating that "the systems that are



Attendees at the Northeast Climate Confluence practicing clown insurgency tactics

destroying the planet are rooted in colonialism and oppression. We therefore recognize that combating climate change is not solely a matter of addressing carbon emissions, but also confronting the institutions that attack our communities and cultures, as well as our Earth." Several of these points were quite controversial and did a great job of screening who came. For example, we said "we recognize that support for indigenous struggles includes the right of Palestinians to freedom and self-determination." By being explicitly anti-Zionist, the confluence became a clearly anti-colonial space that turned off colonial-minded individuals who mask themselves as supporting justice and the environment.

It was also very important for us to make clear statements in support of reproductive justice and prison abolition, and against the racism of anti-immigrant overpopulation arguments. We understand that environmentally-based arguments around "overpopulation" have been used to justify racist and xenophobic population control programs, such as targeting women of color with sterilization campaigns and with the dangerous testing of birth control drugs. As such, the politics of population control must be understood as a form of modern eugenics. Furthermore, since we are against the entire police and prison state, we must understand that borders and immigration agents are a major element of the same police state that has locked up our comrades in the Green Scare. At the confluence, we broke these big issues down and developed ways to unite struggles.

Workshops spanned a diversity of issues that all connect to a larger picture in which our very survival and the planet's survival is at a crossroads. The workshops included topics such as confronting Zionism in social movements, building disaster preparation networks, reconciling disasters and ability liberation, teaching radical urban sustainability, supporting political prisoners, thinking about food sovereignty, establishing community healthcare and building youth-led organizations.

The Youth Track was a separate set of workshops by and for a diverse group of urban and rural youth aged 13-18. Their topics spanned from climate justice to anti-oppression, food sovereignty to the Black Panthers. The highlight of this came when a former political prisoner from the Black Liberation Army was talking to the youth about being in a revolutionary movement, complete with battles with the cops, jailbreaks and assassinations of movement leaders. He said, "I know folks can hear this and not want to get involved; it can be scary." Before he could continue, though, a fiery youth spoke up, saying, "I'm not scared. How do we join up?" We all have a lot to learn from the youth!

In the last few years, we have witnessed Hurricane Katrina and the Green Scare—two tragedies that show that the escalating ecological collapse is paralleled with a terrifying police state that will stop at no ends to kidnap, displace and kill off those who it considers undesirable. "Cages and Walls," a panel at this gathering, connected the prison industrial complex, immigration raids and the overall struggle. One panelist, who has worked extensively with Mumia Abu

Jamal, echoed some words of Mumia's: "No matter where you live, we're all living on death row." So, we might as well fight as if our lives depend on it!

The other featured panel was "Indigenous Struggles for the Land" and was made up of nine indigenous organizers from what is considered the US (specifically from upstate New York, where the confluence was held), Canada, Ecuador, Puerto Rico and Palestine. For many, this was the high point of the confluence. As we heard similar stories of colonization and resistance from around the world, the energy built. A clear day turned windy as a storm approached. The panel closed with two Palestinian women emphasizing the need for solidarity with Palestinian resistance and that all indigenous struggles come down to reclaiming stolen land. As the panel closed, the storm had arrived with high winds and lightning. With amazing coordination, the outdoor kitchens were moved inside, tents were brought down and the next block of workshops reorganized themselves through the chaos. It felt as if the thunder and lightning gods had heard us, and had come to introduce themselves! The storm blew through fast. As it moved on, it left us with fields glistening in the evening sunlight. The most incredible double rainbow provided a perfect dome over the large tent where the indigenous panel had just been held!

Have no doubt—there is a rainbow at the end of this coming storm. As we danced in a pulsing circle around the fire pit during the closing ceremony on Sunday, we could feel the strength from a diverse unity that would carry us through the turbulence to a very different world on the other side. This is just the beginning....

Lightning is sick of endless bullshit debates and enjoys striking out in movement against all forms of colonial oppression and life-destroying institutions. In their time off, Lightning enjoys sparking hearts and minds, and piercing the fogs of fear.

FLAM

The ALF of Mexico



BY OLIVE

The industries and individuals responsible for the exploitation of animals in Mexico City and surrounding areas ought to watch their backs and their businesses. The Frente de Liberación Animal México (FLAM) shows no signs of slowing its deliverance streak.

Over the last two months, and certainly throughout this past year, FLAM has placed much trust in the handbook of the disruption of animal cruelty as they hit the shops, restaurants, labs and homes of those directly connected to the cruelty of animals.

"Animal liberation is not just two words in zines or on websites, T-shirts, tattoos or patches. Animal liberation is not just words spoken at animal rights meetings, words shouted at peaceful demonstrations or rumors spoken about different people. Animal liberation is deeds, fury turned into action, a radical response against the anthropocentric system of domination, the love for freedom. It's what few dare to carry out. It is a challenge to authority, to society, to the system and to its institutions. It is a fire that spreads and that is unstoppable. It is insurrection," declared one FLAM communiqué.

The main tactic for this group of animal rights activists in recent months has been spilling blood-red

paint at various KFCs and Burger Kings, pet stores and fur shops, meat and dairy businesses, university labs and homes of bird breeders. Dozens of attacks have been committed in this manner. Paint is not used sparingly at these stops, where the walls, floors, windows and shelves are often left covered by the color of the blood of our tortured friends. FLAM has used some incendiary devices this year, but has also chosen tactics that leave their messages in writing for the business owners—and, more importantly, the public—to see as plain as day.

"Meat is death" and "eggs are torture" are a couple slogans left this September during a night attack on a number of businesses. "It is very important to show the facts of these businesses to the public, to ask about what is hidden in packaged products and their 'beautiful and artistic' plates filled with death and suffering," stated FLAM. In early September, a visit to the "great white gates" surrounding pharmaceutical company Novartis, a customer of Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), became stained with red paint and a clear message: "Novartis, cut ties with HLS."

The autonomous chapters of FLAM have shown much solidarity with their nonhuman friends by throwing stones at the windows and illuminated signs of their profiteers, which

occurred at least five times during the month of September. An estimated 35 doors of meat markets have been glued shut, accompanied by slogans and the symbols of FLAM emblazoned on its targets' properties—erasing any doubt as to who or what has come to disrupt business as usual. In a communiqué from early September, the group wrote, "We know that these are small things, but for us they are important and big." This is also an approach the group has taken when it comes to its targets: it does not matter if a business is large or small.

On August 17, while visiting the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (the national university) in Mexico City—where reportedly 15,000 rats and 18,000 mice are housed and sold to other industries for experimentation—FLAM launched paint bombs at the building and windows. The group reported that this action was the first time a FLAM activist was arrested. A minor was released without charges or fines, and bravely sat through interrogations asking for the names of fellow activists. The group involved in this action wrote that they were able to learn from the experience and see how their mistakes, as well as their successes, can help them in future actions, and acknowledge the possibility

of more government investigations into their work.

Late August saw the liberation of 23 rabbits from a pet store in Mexico City when, in broad daylight, the defenseless creatures were rescued in front of the shop owners and nearby merchants. On September 2, the owner of a restaurant, who raises "cockfighting" roosters, fell prey to an action that left him exposed to his community. Though the "sport" is a tradition of Mexico, this disgusting and dishonorable human fascination needs to be dismantled. The activists left the message, "stop killing animals," on his property for neighbors to discover and proceeded to his place of business to spill paint. In mid-September the FLAM-Comando Verde Negro daringly entered the home of a bird breeder and made sizable holes for the captive birds to fly from their cages, never to return again to a life behind bars.

FLAM enjoys hitting many targets on a given night, as well as making hits night after night. The blood-pumping excitement of their liberating actions is also freeing them from the crushing pressures of society to adhere to a life that accepts cruelty to animals as a legitimate business. As one communiqué states, "A fire to modernity, stones to consumerism, we break the systematic yoke."

Col. Sanders image courtesy PETA.

Global Day of Action Against State Terror in Aotearoa/New Zealand

BY ASHER

Demonstrations and protests were held around the world on August 30 for the global day of action to "Drop the Charges" against the 20 people arrested in the nationwide state terror raids of October 15, 2007, in Aotearoa (New Zealand).

On a cold and miserable day, the cries of "No More Police State!" echoed through central Auckland as more than 200 Maori, trade unionists and left wingers joined a rally to defend the arrestees known as the Urewewa 20 and remember the state terror raids of the previous October 15. Images and sounds were projected against the courthouse in support of the global day of action. International indigenous support was present with First Nations *manuhiri* (guests) from Turtle Island (the Americas). About 150 people went on a lively march through the capital city, Wellington, and stopped at the police station for a shaming history of police violence. Later they passed by Labor Party candidate Grant Robertson's office, which nearly resulted in a very large broken window.

Overseas, banners were hung and fliers were handed out in Hamburg, Freiburg and Berlin in Germany; Basel and Lausanne in Switzerland; the Congo; and Melbourne in Australia supporting the call to drop the charges. Fundraisers and awareness-raising events were also held in Vancouver, British Columbia, and Tucson, Arizona. Many international groups also signed on to the solidarity statement prepared by the October 15 Solidarity collective.

On October 15, 2007, more than 300 police carried out dawn raids on dozens of houses all over Aotearoa. Police claim the raids were in response to "concrete terrorist threats" from



Solidarity goes a long way.

indigenous activists. The reality, however, included heavily armed police terrorizing an entire township. To date, no evidence of the so-called terrorist plot has been revealed.

Police arrested 16 indigenous, anarchist, environmental and anti-war activists, including Tuhoe, Te Atiawa, Maniapoto, Nga Puhī (all Maori *iwi*, or tribes) and *Pakeha* (non-indigenous) people. A 17th person faced unrelated drug charges stemming from a raid on his house. Police wanted to charge 12 people under the Terrorism Suppression Act, but the Solicitor-General denied the police permission to proceed. After four weeks in jail, everyone was released on bail. On February 19, police raided more properties, arresting three additional activists. All were released on bail with strict conditions that

same day. A woman, who was arrested on April 17, also faces charges under the Arms Act.

The 18 defendants face 290 charges of illegally possessing firearms and Molotov cocktails. This is despite the fact that only a handful of weapons, (many legally owned and registered) were found during the extensive police raids. Many of the firearms people have been charged with possessing have never even been proven to exist.

Court Update

September 1 saw the start of the depositions hearing, which is a pre-trial hearing where the Crown presents its evidence and the judge rules on whether there is enough for the charges to proceed to trial. At the time of this writing, the hearing (now into its fifth week) is ongoing, and it is unclear what the outcome will be.

Early in the hearing, the judge issued extensive suppression orders, making it illegal, and potentially punishable by an indefinite jail sentence and/or an unlimited fine, to discuss anything that is said or occurs inside the courtroom. This applies to corporate and independent media, public talks, leaflets and any other media resource.

During the course of the hearing, police have conducted an intimidation campaign against the defendants and their supporters. On September 9, one of the defendants and his partner were arrested after police accused the defendant of scratching the car of Aaron Pascoe, the lead officer in the raids. Both were released on bail after several hours in a cell and face charges of willful damage, assaulting police and resisting arrest.

For more information, visit www.october15thsolidarity.info.

British Court Rules Direct Action OK

On September 11, six Greenpeace activists were acquitted for attempting to shut down a coal-fired plant in Kent, England, on the grounds that they had a "lawful excuse" because the plant was causing so much property damage around the world due to global warming. The jury was told that the Kingsnorth Power Plant emits 20,000 tons of carbon dioxide everyday, the same amount as the 30 least polluting countries in the world, combined.

The defense attorney called NASA climate expert James Hansen, who told the court that more than one million species would be made extinct because of climate change. Hansen calculated that Kingsnorth alone would be proportionally responsible for 400 of these extinctions. This verdict marks a significant turning point for the climate change movement.

Brazil Says Rainforest Destruction is Up Sharply

Brazil's National Institute for Space Research has been using satellite technology to report on the alarming degree at which the Amazon is currently being destroyed. The last three years had shown an encouraging decline of deforestation.

Now, the deforestation average has jumped to twice the original amount. There has been a 228 percent increase since August of last year. Sixty to 70 percent of deforestation is due to large-scale cattle ranches, soy farms, extensive logging and bio-fuel cultivation.

Urban Shield Portrays Activists as Terrorists

Beginning at 6 a.m. on September 17, the San Leandro, California Police Department's tactical team conducted the nation's largest security drill yet at the University of California, Berkeley. This propaganda exercise, which portrays activists as violent, is a tactic of public manipulation courtesy of project Urban Shield.

The cops enacted terrorism scenarios in which animal rights activists are holding hostages at gun point. It was complete with role-playing, fake blood and weapons. The officers used real weapons that had been modified to fire soap caplets. They participated in 25 different tactical scenarios over a 48-hour period.

The staging is in response to the amount of anti-vivisection activism in the area and is a follow-up to recent crackdowns on activists. The drill was hosted by the Alameda County Sheriff's office and was made possible by grants from the Department of Homeland Security.

Tomato Pickers Get It Their Way

Wages for Florida migrant tomato pickers have been kept incredibly low for the last 20 years. Specifically, workers who supply Burger King have not received any raise in that time. These workers are finally getting some relief after the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) conducted a long-term campaign pressuring Burger King to raise the wages of its supplier's impoverished workers. Hesitantly, Burger King followed the suit of Taco Bell and McDonalds, who gave their workers' raises in past years.

Because of CIW pressure, Burger King agreed this past May to pay farm workers an additional penny per pound of tomatoes. This is certainly an improvement from earning a piece rate of about \$0.45 per 32-pound bucket.

Security Becomes Main Cost in UK GM Crop Trials

Biotechnology firms in Britain have been lobbying the government to clamp down on the vandalism of trial fields for genetically engineered crops. Current laws make it mandatory for the precise location of each crop trial to be disclosed in advance on a government

Bare



Bones

website. Activists in Britain have had such success in destroying the genetically modified (GM) crops that only one trial took place last year—an ongoing study for the development of potatoes that would become resistant to extensive discoloration and wilting. In previous years, 20-30 trials were conducted each year in the UK, and about a 1,000 a year in the US. Since the cost of 24-hour security heavily outweighs the cost of the trials, it is more difficult for universities to proceed with their research.

GM companies are advocating for hidden locations and a register that is shared only with people who can prove they have good reason to know these undisclosed locations or for the government to pay a share of the security costs. The companies are also promoting harsher penalties for activists caught destroying crop fields.

Court of Appeals Delays Snowmaking in Northern Arizona

The federal appeals court that approved a plan for wastewater snowmaking on land outside of Flagstaff, Arizona, that is sacred to indigenous tribes is giving its opposition time to make an appeal to the US Supreme Court. The request was granted by the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals on October 3 to delay any construction at the Arizona Snowbowl ski resort. The ski area would use 1.5 million gallons of contaminated wastewater per day for snowmaking on the 205 acres of religious land.

Not only does the US Forest Service decision to make snow out of recycled wastewater violate the Endangered Species Act, but wastewater snowmaking also presents obvious and extreme health risks. In addition, Snowbowl's proposed development would require the clearcutting of more than 100 acres of rare alpine forests for new runs and lifts.

It is important to note that the Supreme Court only takes about one percent of the cases it receives.

Quitovac Dump on Tohono O'odham Land Canceled

Over the last few years, multiple actions have taken place to pressure the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Mexican Environmental and Natural Resources department (SEMARNAT) to cancel a proposed dump on native land.

In secret last year, Mexico issued a federal permit for the dump. The EPA was aware of this, according to documents that have surfaced. However, Pima County officials in Arizona said this violated an international agreement, which required Mexico to inform Arizona officials of the dump, due to its proximity to the border. The site is 25 miles south of the boundary.

"The EPA's environmental racism against Indigenous peoples must come to an end, and helping to protect Quitovac is a place to start," said Ofelia Rivas, an O'odham tribal member.

The Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers Meet Once Again

For 100 years, the Milltown Dam has blocked the confluence of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers, located on the eastern edge of Missoula, Montana. The dam has

acted as a barrier to millions of cubic yards of sediment washed down from Butte, Montana, copper mines. It was routinely declared a "high hazard" dam by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Since the March 28 removal of the Milltown Dam, fish of all species have been able to migrate unhindered past the former dam site, and their populations for many miles upstream and downstream will likely increase. Additionally, the arsenic contamination in groundwater will dissipate within a decade—perhaps in as soon as four years, according to models. The risk of downstream releases of metals will be permanently eliminated, and there will be no risk of dam failure that would send millions of tons of contaminated sediment downstream.

UK Officials Fork Over Large Reward to Animal Rights Protesters

The Kent, England, police force has offered a restitution of more than \$70,000 in compensation to animal rights campaigners, including supporters of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), after they were prevented from joining a protest against livestock exports in July 2006. Lawyers for Kent police offered each of the 32 protesters approximately \$2,200 in an out-of-court settlement, following a claim brought against the force alleging that the group was unlawfully denied the right to protest.

Rainbow Warrior Boarded by Police

A number of arrests were made on September 8 when Greenpeace activists took action in Israel's Ashkelon harbor to protest the new coal-burning power plant planned to be built there. Israeli Coast Guard boarded the activist's vessel, the *Rainbow Warrior*, on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. The police moved in when the flagship entered a restricted area of the city's port, but not before the activists spray painted the slogan "Quit Coal" on the side of the ship that was unloading coal.

This action was in retaliation to the use of coal for energy production at the Ashkelon power plant. The Israeli government has plans to build a second electric power plant, also to be fueled by coal. There were a number of arrests made of the activists, who were from Israel, Germany, France and Holland.

Anti-Mining Leader Assassinated in Guatemala

Antonio Morales was assassinated on the morning of August 7. He was shot four times in front of his house near the Inter-American Highway. Morales was a national leader of some of Guatemala's most well-known indigenous organizations and has worked actively to oppose large scale mining projects, hydroelectric projects and the privatization of water. He adamantly fought GoldCorp's Montana Mining Company.

In his last days, Morales had told people of threats made against him by armed groups that operated in the region. It is common for activists in Guatemala to be threatened and intimidated, especially for participation in human rights defense work.

Blue Ridge Roundup

BY WILLIE

Blue Ridge Earth First! (BREF!) formed late in the Summer of 2007 with the primary goal of injecting direct action into the growing popular resistance to Dominion Power's proposed coal plant in Wise County, Virginia. Since then, we've kept ourselves busy with actions, fundraising, alliance-building and organizing. Having formed mostly from direct action rookies, we got some on-the-job training disrupting the banks that fund coal. We built collective power by collaborating with community groups, students and nongovernmental organizations circulating petitions, bird-dogging the governor and exhausting regulatory processes in attempts to fend off the coal plant. After a Winter of bank actions and more "designated channels"-type tactics, we were ready to do what we came together to do—put ourselves in the way of Dominion's day-to-day operations.

Arriving with the morning commuters to Dominion's corporate headquarters in Richmond, Virginia, on April 14, a blockade consisting of three activists and two cement-filled trashcans was quickly and easily deployed across the only road in and out of the lavish office complex. The early morning sun shimmered off the James River flowing alongside Tredegar Street, providing a little eco-inspiration for the task at hand. As the lockdown got comfortable and the traffic began to back up, about 20 supporters holding signs and banners assembled in the road. The largest of these read, "No Coal, No Compromise, Earth First!"

The blockade was established just before 8 a.m. After about 20 minutes, police arrived on the scene and informed us that we all had to get out of the road or we would be arrested. The support rally moved to the sidewalk, but the lockdown did not budge. Law enforcement refused to disclose what charges would be filed, but made vague threats of felonies if the blockaders failed to cooperate. The protest lasted for about two hours before the cops removed the blockade, releasing the lockdown participants with only citations for impeding the flow of traffic.

On May 8, BREF! returned to Dominion's headquarters—not to prevent the suits from getting to work, but to make sure they carried with them a message for CEO Tom Ferrel. A dozen activists, including many from the coalfields, stood on the river-walk adjacent to Tredegar Street holding a banner that read, "Tell Tom we won't stop until you do!"

If he didn't get the message in May, then he surely did on June 30 when Earth First! showed up at the riverfront office for the third time in three months. This time, four individuals lined up across the road, arms secured into lockboxes, while a fifth dangled overhead in a climbing harness. The climber's rope was slung over a footbridge above the road and anchored on the other end to a steel barrel lockbox located at the center of the blockade.

As traffic again backed up into the heart of the city's financial district, media made their way to the scene on foot. Police, however, found it more difficult to navigate the situation, with congestion preventing them from getting to the blockade for a full hour. Once present, cops spent two more hours trying to figure out how to get everyone out of the road without causing BREF!'s climber to fall 20 feet down to the pavement. Eventually, the lockboxes were cut and the climber descended after law enforcement began tampering with the rope.

As police cut through the final lockbox, random arrests began. In addition to the five individuals comprising the blockade, seven others were apprehended. All of the protesters were issued traffic citations for blocking the road, and charged with obstruction of justice and impeding the flow of a rescue vehicle—both misdemeanors. The charges were uniform for everyone, regardless of the fact that seven of those arrested had followed police officers' prompts as to where they could stand without getting arrested.

While the traffic tickets resulting from the first blockade were easy to pay, the outcome of June's action will be with us for a while. Most of those arrested agreed to a plea bargain requiring each one to complete 200 hours of community service in Richmond over the course of the upcoming year.

The climber, whose defiance of gravity evidently indicated a more grave threat to corporate security, is required to serve 225 hours of service. Two other protesters who chose to take it to trial have been sentenced to 215 hours. The extra 15 hours were apparently handed down to punish the activists for having the audacity to exercise their right to due process.

BREF! originated as an offshoot of Mountain Justice. As such, we have always been deliberate in our organizing to consider the

delicate dynamics of Appalachia's (or any community's) insider/outsider culture. Informed by past experiences, we have prioritized building solid relationships between members of our collective and the coalfield residents most directly impacted by the power plant. While we were building direct action pressure in Richmond, we were also present at meetings, social events, hearings and service projects in Wise County. Our first actions were a good distance from the coalfields. (Richmond is about 5.5 hours from St. Paul, Virginia, where the proposed coal plant is to be built.) This provided a comfortable space for local scrutiny, discussion and feedback. While a few of our friends remained nervous about breaking the law—even in the case of nonviolent civil disobedience—the majority were excited and supportive of the blockades.

Activism is about action, and organizing is about building the relationships that lead to action. In September, the organizing efforts of Earth First! in Virginia's coal country produced the fruit of that labor. As is EF! custom, our merry band found ourselves awake and active well ahead of the sunrise one Autumn morning. On September 15, a crew consisting of activists from near and far deployed at the construction site of Dominion's latest climate crime scene. Students for a Democratic Society, Rainforest Action Network (RAN), Rising Tide, BREF! and Mountain Justice activists took their places blocking the entrance to Dominion's local office and one of the entrances to the construction site itself. While two individuals shut the gate leading into the worksite and locked themselves to it, eight others positioned steel-drum lock-boxes across the road and locked down. Everything was in place by 5:45 a.m.

As St. Paul police, state troopers and Wise County sheriff's deputies trickled in over the course of an hour, protesters leisurely enjoyed the mountain sunrise and some lively old-time music. The cops (who, with one exception, were reportedly pretty laid back) took this time to amass back-up and call the fire department to cut through the lock-boxes.

Earth First! could not have executed this action alone. Organizers from the half-dozen groups involved made a sincere commitment to hatch an action that first and foremost realized the vision of local community members. Using the messaging of local activists, the blockade included two lockboxes with solar panels affixed to the top powering an LED-lit sunrise on a banner that read, "Renewable jobs to renew Appalachia."

By 9:45 a.m., the entire lockdown ensemble and the police liaison had been placed under arrest. They were all charged with trespassing, unlawful assembly and resisting arrest. Two of the 11 face additional charges of "soliciting or encouragement," which basically means that the Commonwealth Attorney is alleging these individuals to be ringleaders of the action.

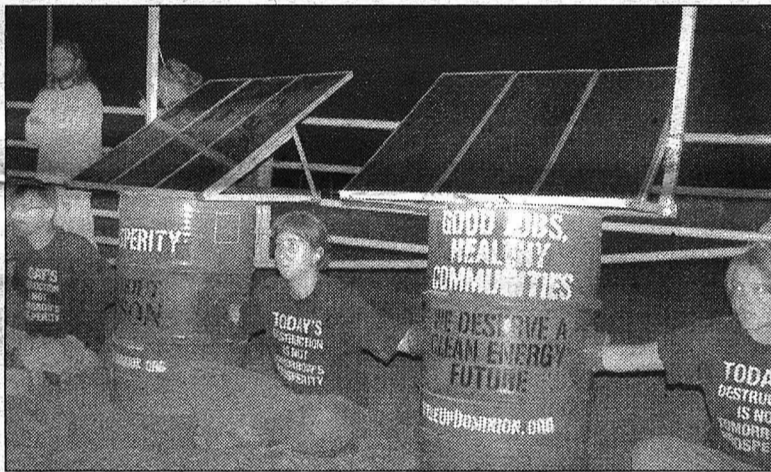
After the protest, the mood was positive. One local radio DJ provided listeners with supportive updates of the morning's events. Friends in the area called the Mountain Justice campaign house to voice sentiments of gratitude and solidarity. By the time the arrestees were released that evening, a locally organized vigil had been present at the jail for hours. Thanks to local support and involvement, this action not only hit our target, but also provided a positive experience for continued movement building in coal country.

Support from afar had an equally impressive impact as the day unfolded. That afternoon, several time zones west, RAN activists managed to thoroughly punk both Dominion and Bank of America in one go. While Dominion CEO Tom Ferrel was addressing a Bank of America investors' conference in San Francisco, RAN jedis hijacked his power point and projected images from the morning's protest onto the screen behind him. This went on for 20 minutes before a conference tech managed to get things back on track.

The legal repercussions of these past few months are taking up a bit of our energy right now, but we knew from the start that we, as BREF!, could not alone carry out all the direct action needed to stop this coal plant. It is not secure or sustainable to try to bring an ever-flowing current of new blood into our collective to keep actions up. Rather, while we continue to organize direct actions as one affinity group, we plan to focus much of our energy over the coming months on training and organizing support for others to utilize direct action and affinity group techniques in their own efforts. In the meantime, Dominion's dirty coal project is trudging along with the added weight of legal challenges and direct actions. As Tom Ferrel must know by now, we won't stop until they do!

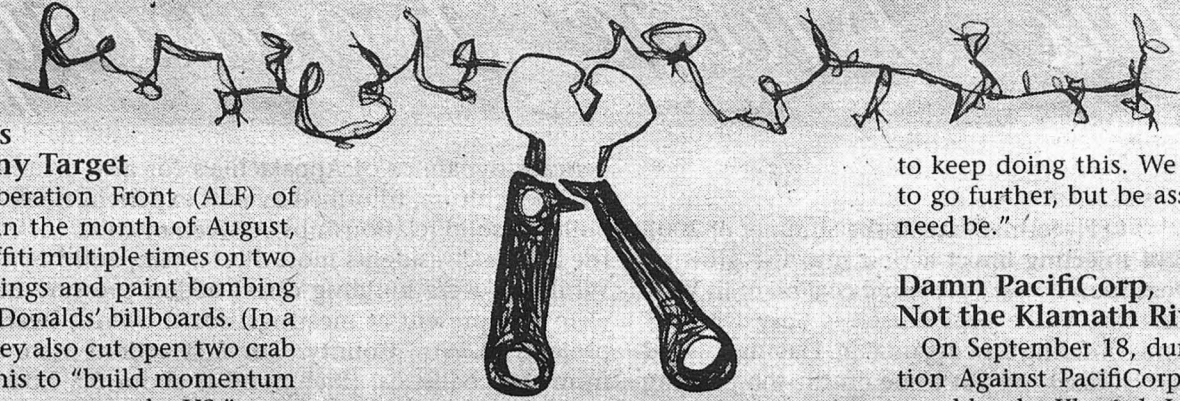
For more information, visit www.bluridgeef.com.

Willie is a musician and activist from several little towns in Virginia's mountains and foothills.



Hey, this is still healthier than coal!

Frontlines



Fast Food Joints Always a Worthy Target

The Animal Liberation Front (ALF) of Kansas was busy in the month of August, spray painting graffiti multiple times on two different Burger Kings and paint bombing and graffitiing McDonalds' billboards. (In a separate action, they also cut open two crab traps.) They did this to "build momentum against animal abusers across the US."

Then, in Santa Cruz, California, on August 25, three windows were broken and a surveillance camera was knocked off the roof of a McDonald's. According to a post on Santa Cruz Indymedia, it was vandalized because it is a symbol of American capitalism, worker exploitation, rainforest destruction and invasive surveillance—and because it is a sponsor of both the Summer and the Winter Olympics.

German Activists Sow Sweet Corn Resistance

The destruction of genetically modified (GM) cornfields on August 20, in the region of Unterfranken, Germany, and on August 23, in the region of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, left no GM fields in either region.

A communiqué from the Schleswig-Holstein action explained that the GM corn, Monsanto's Mon810-sort, was smashed "for a world not only without GM products, but also without the exploitation of people and other forms of life, and the destruction of living spaces."

Enough Mink Released to Form an Army

The North American Animal Liberation Front Press Office (NAALFPO) has reported the release of at least 14,400 mink in four separate actions since mid-August.

First, on August 22, it received a communiqué from South Jordan, Utah, reporting a raid on the McMullen Mink Farm that set 300 mink free.

The next week, an ALF communiqué arrived at NAALFPO reporting that 4,000 more captive mink had been released, this time in Aldergrove, British Columbia, Canada. The now-free mink were released near Aldergrove Lake Park, which the communiqué states will provide 200 acres of wetlands in which the mink will be able to survive.

Next, on September 10, between 100 and 150 mink were freed in Scio, Oregon, from the S&N Mink Farm. The reporting communiqué explained that the rescuers were "inspired by the recent liberations in Utah and British Columbia." Describing the scene inside the farm, they wrote of thousands more mink at the farm, "crammed sometimes six and seven at a time into filthy, feces-encrusted cages." The farm also held foxes, which were "yearning to be free, rattling their own cages with vengeance."

On September 22, a fourth mink liberation, this time at the Lodder Fur Farm in Kaysville, Utah, was reported. It included the release of an astounding 10,000 mink, the destruction of all of the farm's breeding records, and the vandalizing of trucks and an electric perimeter fence.

The Aldergrove ALF summed it up: "Operation Bite Back is in full force. Let these arrows be our tears."

The ALF started the anti-fur-industry Operation Bite Back in the early 1990s.

Decrying Monsanto in Melbourne

In Melbourne, Australia, on August 27, the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) vandalized the office of Monsanto-owned Seminis, a company that sells GM fruit and vegetable seeds. The ELF scrawled all over the building, declaring Seminis "scum," among other things.

High-Speed Rail Construction Halted in Italy

In the early afternoon of August 28, 13 people locked down to the construction site of the high-speed train (TAV) line near the town of Zaratamo, Italy. Construction workers returning from lunch were unable to enter the site until police came and cut the locks. Those locking down explained that the train wasn't being built for the residents of Zaratamo or the surrounding region, and that the TAV project's "waste of public money and ecological barbarism" would enrich a small group of people under the wing of government institutions.

Construction and eventual use of the TAV will cause noise, air and electromagnetic pollution, landscape destruction and other environmental problems.

Miami to Los Angeles—Night Actions for Our Cousins

Underground animal rights activists are struggling to free nonhuman primates that are, at least in the US, still imprisoned, tortured and experimented on. On September 10, the ALF opened the cages of 20 or more primates trapped at Worldwide Primates in Miami, Florida. Worldwide Primates is run by Mathew Block, who has continued his career as a vivisection supplier after finishing a one-year prison sentence for illegally smuggling baby orangutans into the US.

On the night of the liberation, an unknown number of primates escaped to the relative safety of nearby fruit orchards.

Across the country and just a week later, in California, the ALF torched a University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), van. This makes it the second recent UCLA van arson that, along with the theft of three other UCLA vans, has been intended as a message



to the UCLA to stop promoting and conducting vivisection.

The communiqué read in part, "New classes, expensive books, oh, and burning vans. That's right, we are back to work.... Let's... hope that the UCLA regents make some good choices so that we don't have

to keep doing this. We don't want to have to go further, but be assured that we will if need be."

Damn PacifiCorp, Not the Klamath River

On September 18, during the "Day of Action Against PacifiCorp," which was sponsored by the Klamath Justice Coalition, 200 people including indigenous people, fishers, local residents and environmentalists marched in Portland, Oregon, to demand that PacifiCorp remove four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River that block 300 miles of salmon spawning territory and raise water temperature levels promoting the growth of toxic blue-green algae.

The march was preceded by an anti-dam banner drop over I-84, and followed by a 70-person occupation of the area in front of the Portland PacifiCorp office, effectively disrupting business.

Fur Sellers Decorated With Red and Stone

In a recent report from German Direct Action News, the ALF attacked a fur-selling fashion shop in Magdeburg, Germany, on the night of September 28. Giving shattered windows and appropriate paint decoration to the shop, the ALF stated in their communiqué that they attacked the drab death-dealers with "red color and stone in honor of the Day of Decentralized Action Against the Fur Trade."

They went on to say, "Not only are the store's owners and clients responsible for thousands of murders carried out annually against sentient beings, but also the public with its silence. We will never accept animal exploitation, and we won't stop until every cage is empty."

Rainforest Action Network Scales Wall Street Flag Poles

On October 1, the Rainforest Action Network (RAN) protested the \$700-billion Wall Street bailout and the entire economic system by scaling the 40-foot flagpoles behind the Merrill Lynch bull statue in New York's financial district and hanging a 150-square-foot US flag with "Foreclosed?" written simply across it. On the ground below the flagpole climbers, more than 30 people rallied against Wall Street's financial practices.

RAN's Global Finance Campaign has, for the last eight years, urged US financial institutions to curtail their perpetual large investments in environmentally unsustainable and socially unjust projects. However, according to one of the flagpole climbers, "Today's crisis can be tomorrow's opportunity. Our financial system is collapsing, and we now have an historic chance to address these problems."

World Farm Animals Day Brings Some Freedom

In honor of World Vegetarian Day (October 1) and World Farm Animals Day (October 2), two lambs, two chickens and 10 hens were liberated from exploitative farms on October 1 in Aotearoa (New Zealand).

According a communiqué received by Animal Liberation Aotearoa from anonymous activists, "The myth of Aotearoa's clean, green countryside masks a deadly truth: that this countryside is home to pain, suffering and murder. When you drive in the country, what you see is land stolen from indigenous inhabitants, hills and streams stripped of their native forest cover and animals trapped on pastoral and factory farms. These animals are waiting to be killed, their babies ripped away from them and their bodies abused."

Earth First! Roadshow

Spring and Summer 2009

BY EF! ROADSHOW CREW

From the Earth First! Organizers' Conference and Winter Rendezvous in the Sonoran desert this February to the Round River Rendezvous in Cascadia this Summer, a band of eco-rebels will be crossing the US empire to renew a fighting movement that can stop this industrial nightmare from choking the life out of the Earth.

The need for resistance in solidarity with the wild has never been louder or clearer than it is today; the roadshow is a great tool for growing that resistance. The origin of Earth First! itself is credited to a few roadshows that kicked it all off in the early 1980s. Building on this tradition, we are akin to a fellowship crossing Middle Earth to amass insurgents to face Mordor head-on.

Listservs and Websites Aren't Enough

This roadshow's primary intention is to strengthen our radical grassroots ecological network. For almost 30 years, we have been an organized voice bridging conservation biology, grassroots community organizing, road blockading and eco-sabotage. In the past five years, we have seen our numbers and experience-level in the EF! movement decline drastically. Yet, our place has never been more urgent. New groups are popping up across the country, but they are detached from many of the groups, history and skills that came before them. We can't afford to stumble and make the same mistakes over again.

We need to reconnect to the multi-generational aspect of Earth First!, which has fallen by the wayside in recent years. We need to broaden our network's base—from radical rural grandparents to revolutionary urban youth. We need to re-establish lost relationships with scholars and scientists who resonate with us. We need to re-inspire musicians and artists to contribute their passion to our battles.

When it comes down to it, solid movements are based on strong personal relationships, and real relationships don't go very far over the internet. We need face-to-face interactions to build trust—and support—for each other.

For the Life of the *Earth First! Journal*

At a time when internet communication is facilitating the end of

print media, including many mainstream news outlets, we are challenged to sustain our movement's basic, primary medium of communication: the printed *Earth First! Journal*. Doing this means boosting the subscription/distribution base, plain and simple. And the roadshow is a chance to do that across the country.

If, or when, the lights go out, we will have three decades of photos and stories that we can hold in our hands, read out loud to each other by firelight and pass on to the next generations.

The *EF! Journal* has survived where other activist publications have faded because there is a base of community support and movement input that is rare in other print media projects. If this publication is lost, it will be a blow to all of our efforts to defend our land, our water, our neighborhoods, our animal-relations and the entire amazing wild process of life's evolution on this planet.

Where Are We Going?

If you live in the US, there is a good chance that we will be coming close enough to your home for you to get involved. The Earth First! Roadshow will be starting at the Organizers' Conference in Arizona and ending at the Round River Rendezvous in Cascadia. The schedule so far looks roughly like this:

March: from the Deserts into the Swamps

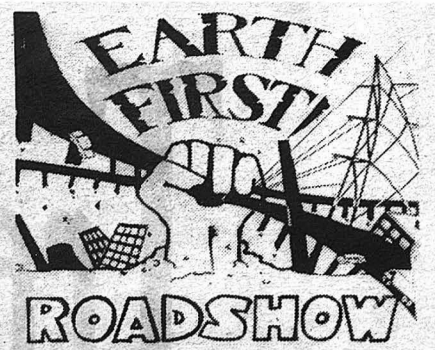
April: through the Foothills up to the Northwoods

May: across the Great Lakes and the Great Plains

June: around the Wild Rockies out to the Pacific Coast

Do you want to set up a quick stop at the local community center or college campus? Does your community want to plan a three-day regional weekend gathering with direct action trainings and sessions on Earth First! history, vision and strategy? Or maybe something in between? Are there pending action plans that we could lend support to en route? A primary goal of the tour is to build the skill-base of our network. If you are looking to have specific areas of interest covered, let us know; and we can tailor the stops to meet local/regional desires.

For more information, or to join or book a stop, contact (330) 423-1823; earthfirstroadshow@gmail.com; www.earthfirstroadshow.wordpress.com.



A LONG STRANGE TREESIT (a tale from the Berkeley oaks)

BY KP, CRICKET AND MILLIPEDE

Why should a wilderness defense movement concern itself with urban treesitting? Is it really worth it—risking our lives, our freedom, expending tremendous amounts of time, energy and resources—to save trees that aren't even a forest? Also, is nonviolence always the way to go? We were an urban treesit that defended itself against violent extraction attacks. Here are some of our stories.

"They came from everywhere: from across the country and over borders, and some from just down the street," reflected Karen Pickett, a long-time Earth First! organizer. "Where the people who scrambled up the trees in Berkeley's Memorial Oak Grove did *not* come from is the usual places, like other treesits and various EF! direct action campaigns."

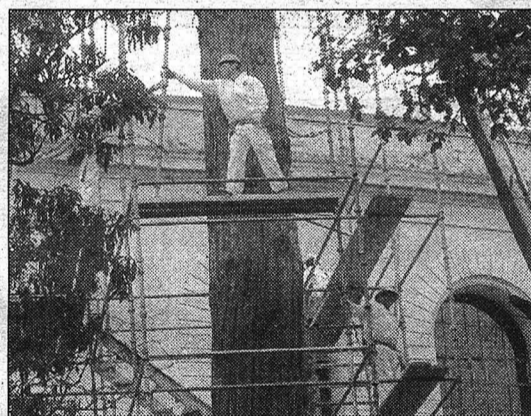
"Many of us were only vaguely political travelling kids wandering the country looking for something to do, someplace to be for a while, when we washed up in the Bay area and heard about the oak grove," said tree itter Millipede. "The grove was like a sweet slice of autonomy that was very appealing to me. Having the big wide open squat in town be a tree village was an incredible thing. The usual culture of self-destruction gave way to something much more interesting..."

The grove attracted a cross-section of heart-felt, talented people who grew together into a strong and loving community. The more repression the cops, the extractors and the university brought down on us (UC Berkeley holds claim on the land), the more allies we found that we had.

"Maybe the best thing that ever happened to us was last November when the university decided that it was going to starve out the treesit," said Millipede.

They erected a double barbed wire fence and posted a heavy police and security presence around our encampment, waiting to arrest anybody associating themselves with us. After a few lean weeks in the trees, we had a Thanksgiving Day action. Students, neighbors, the Native community, environmental activists and a group of older women who later grew to become the Grandmothers for the Oaks came out, all very determined to get us water and food. The action was a success, and

for a long time the police were unwilling to physically stop or arrest elder women for doing resupply. The Grandmothers kept coming back every week. And our grandmothers are tough. Ms. Barbaro charged a police line in her motorized wheel chair to get someone water one time. Stephanie had to walk with a cane for weeks and get her ankle x-rayed after police (crying behind their sunglasses) threw her to the ground in a food and water scuffle. Bev-I's been arrested god knows how many times....



Scaffolding goes up around Redwood.

While treesitting is notorious for attracting a following of mostly young, white men, we found ourselves among a diverse and mostly harmonious community in the canopy. Monday Moon Day, our weekly sister circle, grounded the campaign in a strong (trans inclusive) female presence—both on the ground and in the trees. Additionally, people of color have been involved in all levels of this campaign. Most of the treesitters, in the end, were people of color.

According to treesitter Cricket, "We created a family.... It became a struggle about so much more than a grove of trees; we created a community.

"One of the most important things about the oak grove was the defense of the treesit," added Cricket. "In June, our tree village was attacked by numerous climbers, five cherry pickers and a giant 300-foot crane, and police from all over California to hold back the crowd gathered on the ground. Very often in the US, people hold out in hard-to-get-to places or they lock down to make extraction last

longer. We chose a different approach. Treesitters damaged or took equipment, threw piss and escalated to throwing shit. In some cases, when extractors attacked people, treesitters were *not afraid to fight back*. It took 23 hours over the course of two days to destroy our tree village and cut our traverse lines.... Eventually, some people had to do some weeks in jail. In the end, we had poured all of our time, energy and passion into the oak grove, and we all felt that it was worth it."

After the June extractions, the treesit persisted for months, but at a dwindled and hardened capacity. Police clashed with grandmothers and other ground supporters, attempting to starve the remaining treesitters out. A 24-hour encampment swelled on both sides of the police barricades surrounding the treesit, and the legal team persisted, always buying us more and more time. The last stand of the Berkeley treesit started where it began, in a redwood tree sometimes called Helen, but usually just Redwood. Redwood was occupied first by Zachary Running Wolf, and protected by Huck Finn, Nesto, Mando and Shem to the bitter end.

The four remaining treesitters, confined to the redwood tree by "strategic pruning" (a battle in itself), watched for several days as the grove was cut down around them. On September 9, a scaffolding structure took shape, surrounding the redwood tree. The chief of police appeared in the bucket of a 300-foot crane. Finally, surrounded by cops and extractors on all sides, the university offered a deal to the treesitters. They promised to form a committee for community input in future land use decisions by UC Berkeley if the treesitters would come down. As a final slap in the face, the university now refuses to acknowledge the September 9 agreement and shows no signs of moving forward on it with the community. "Another broken tree-ty," Zachary Running Wolf has said.

A thin strip of trees is all that remains of the grove where many friends once stood. They have been cut down, dug out and eaten by giant machines. The longest running urban tree sit in North American history has drawn to a close.

Says Karen Pickett, "Now the trees are gone. The revolutionary spirit grows."

Treesitting Works!

A Breakthrough in the Battle Against PL/MAXXAM

BY JEFF MUSKRAT

It's official! Or, at least as official as you can get as far as a promise from another greenwashed capitalist corporation. Nanning Creek and Fern Gully have been promised by Mendocino Redwoods Company (MRC) head forester Mike Jani to be "protected." It's hard to believe this news, or to accept this promise from an employee of a corporation owned by GAP (the clothing company).

I have to admit that I am beyond shocked. It's almost as if I will wake up from this dream where dedicated activists actually win the three- and six-year long battles against the infamous, now bankrupt, Pacific Lumber (PL), which was recently bought by Humboldt Redwoods Company (HRC). I'm even more shocked about how cooperative and helpful MRC/HRC has been. Good intentions and public relations aside, I only hope MRC/HRC keeps its word about not cutting our old growth. I still don't agree with what MRC/HRC calls sustainable forestry, which actually uses mono-cropped trees along with herbicides and clearcuts to manage crippled forests.

All company politics aside, we have such a noble victory to celebrate! So many wonderful and dedicated people were involved in the Nanning Creek and Fern Gully actions over these years, whether it was local businesses who donated the bread of the movement, or specialized and daring climbers who risked their lives to be the first up in these amazing trees. Thanks to the many caring and concerned community members to equip treesitters with gear to make them safe and comfortable, and to those who spent hundreds of nights on the trails, hiking in gear and supplies instead of sleeping.

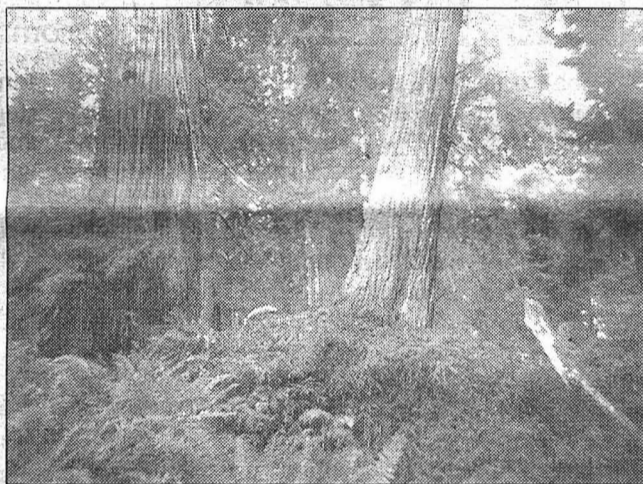
Above all (great pun), there were the treesitters. These are the true heroes and heroines of both campaigns. Imagine the patience and dedication it took for these people to stay calmly and peacefully in a coast redwood hundreds of feet above the ground to eat food that was dumpstered or sometimes half-eaten by tree critters, like pesky-but-cute flying squirrels. To drink creek water full of tannins and silt. To suffer from dysentery and persistent staph infections. To wonder how long it will be until you see someone from the ground, or sit hoping the loggers won't return to hurl insults and shoot their guns in the air.

Not everyone involved in forest defense can be a treesitter. It takes a very special type of person. I could never stay long myself; I got too stir crazy while trying to live portions of my life on a four-by-eight-foot



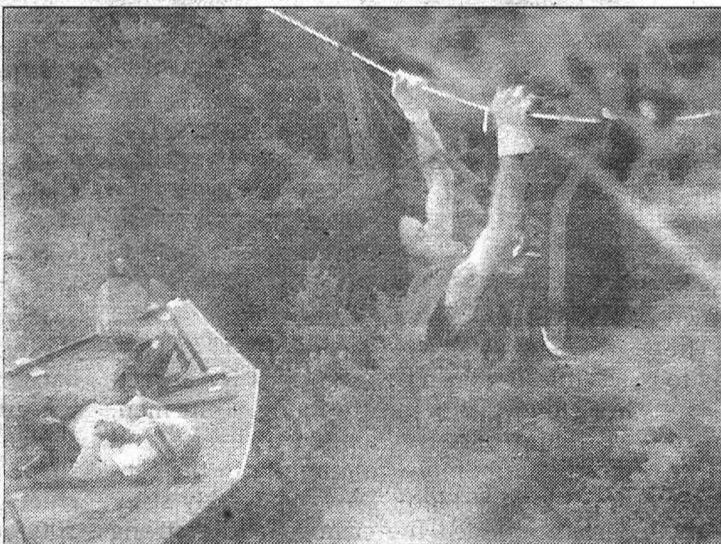
HRC president Mike Jani visited forest defenders personally to deliver the news.

photo by David "Soul" Askaripour, forestdefenders.com



Patience and Leaner, two trees at Fern Gully

photo courtesy North Coast EPI



David "Gypsy" Chain, happily in the canopy at the Liberty sit

photo from EPI archives

sheet of plywood suspended high above the ground. I, along with those others who did the ground work and understood the sanctity of what we were trying to accomplish, always felt that the sitters deserved the best that we could get for them.

Our tactics were never compromised. Our actions were always peaceful and nonviolent actions. Safety was of the utmost importance, especially concerning climbing, dealing with the cops and social interactions.

So many beautiful, wonderful and diverse activists came through these majestic forests. It's amazing to meet people who are our universal brothers and sisters, who have

the same goals and passions for protecting life and doing what is truly right. It is easier to advocate for humans and animals, because most human beings can feel compassion for both. It is harder for our society to recognize the importance of protecting all lifeforms, including trees, because most people are too busy to consider their individual impact on the larger scale of existence. There is nothing sacred, unfortunately, for the few who control us and our environment.

We had so much diversity in our movement, particularly for the Pacific Northwest. We had international sitters. We had sitters who would stay one night, others who would stay for a few years. We had visitors who climbed hundreds of feet for an interview or just to give a treesitter a hug. Complete strangers would hike out to bring food, dump out piss jugs, bury shitbuckets and have the time of their lives dodging cops and security on the way up or down steep hills. People sent up cookies baked with love and kindness. Lifelong friendships were forged. Many of us would have returned season after season, year after year and even decade after decade to defend both of the groves.

Treesitting was never a guaranteed solution to prevent the destruction of both groves. If we waited out the time limits that the groves were allowed by the California Department of Forestry (CDF), there was still the uncertainty of what would happen in the future. PL ignored offers to buy the groves, even from major conservation groups. However, PL's plunder of the forests finally timed out.

Sadly, most of the more than 200,000 acres owned by PL has been stripped of the old growth, along with much of the second growth. In 2008, more than 22 years after MAXXAM took control of the once local and somewhat sustainable PL, 10 years after forest defender "Gypsy" was murdered

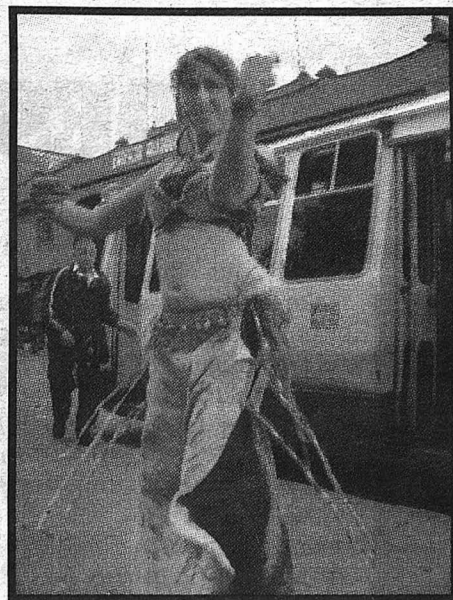
by a tree faller, Humboldt forest defenders can say that treesitting *does* work. It seems to me that peaceful, nonviolent actions can be safer, sustainable and most effective high in the branches of the trees, protected and free from the chaos and confusion of society below.

May the forests be with you, may you be the light you wish to see in this world, and may you seize the opportunity to do something courageous, inspiring and creative to build the world we all dream of and deserve.

For more information, visit www.efhumboldt.org; www.humboldtforestdefense.blogspot.com.



A Heartfelt Tribute to Sali



BY DONNY

In the early morning of September 15, Sali Eiler was brutally raped and murdered in a ramshackle cabin outside of San Jose del Pacifico, in the southern mountains of the Mexican state of Oaxaca. Sali's death has come as a crushing blow to many activists in the US and Mexico.

Sali, 20, was living in Oaxaca City at the time of her death. She had been living and working with the Indigenous Popular Council of Oaxaca-Ricardo Flores Magón (CIPO) off and on since the Summer of 2007. CIPO is a community-based organization that stands up for the rights of poor and native communities in Oaxaca. Most recently, Sali had been acting as a witness for people facing repression. Before her death, she had been staying with the family of a witness to the murder of Earth First!er Brad Will in Oaxaca City in 2006. Because of her unyielding commitment to defending the human rights of Oaxacans in danger, Sali recently noticed that she'd begun to be followed around Oaxaca City. It's unknown if this had anything to do with her death.

When not in Mexico, Sali lived primarily in Tucson, Arizona. Born and raised in Eugene, Oregon, Sali's primary home for the last few years has been Tucson.

Sali has been involved in a wide array of campaigns. In 2003, going by her forest name, Ratty, she was active with the all-womyn treesit in Unit 6 of the Straw Devil timber sale in her native Oregon. Two years later, Sali was the youngest persyn arrested defending an area known as the Biscuit timber sale—the largest timber sale in US history.

More recently, while in Tucson, Sali was heavily involved in No More Deaths, a group dedicated to helping immigrants crossing the Mexico-US border stay alive by leaving water in the desert and monitoring various known immigrant trails. Sali

was primarily a coordinator of supplies for the Mariposa crossing, outside of Nogales, Sonora/Arizona. She devoted her time to organizing food deliveries to a camp on the Mexican side of the border where immigrants are brought after they are caught illegally crossing through the US.

Sali was also a contributor to the *Earth First! Journal*, writing about indigenous resistance to illegal logging in the mountains of Oaxaca. When in Tucson, she brought smiles and laughter to the *Journal's* mailing parties.

In addition, Sali sang in the Tucson-based punk band, Cizaña. I had the good fortune to play drums in Cizaña with her. We just completed a three-week tour through Mexico in June, letting Sali off on the southern end of the tour to travel back to Oaxaca and resume her work with CIPO. The outpouring of support since Sali has died from the people we met on that tour has been amazing. She is certainly one who touched an incredible amount of people very deeply.

Sali's body was discovered on September 24, 10 days after she died, by a man who was feeding some dogs and smelled something disturbing. She was identified within a day, but the Mexican government did not seem interested in investigating what had happened. Instead, friends of hers in Oaxaca, traveling to various locales and calling other friends on the phone, connected the dots and located her killer.

The killer showed up at a popular squatted community space in Mexico City with stab wounds and bruises (inflicted by Sali during his attack on her). After punks at the squat questioned him and verified information with people in San Jose del Pacifico, Sali's friends were convinced they had the murderer. They threw a party on September 26, explicitly to get the psychopath in a certain place at a certain time. The killer showed up, was confronted, admitted

to killing Sali and promptly had the living crap beat out of him. Eventually, the beating stopped and the scumbag was handed over to the police.

Those of us who knew Sali well will remember her as an inspiration. While only 20 years old, she had been traveling since she was 15, living exactly the life she wanted to live. She was one of those special people who know what they want and seize it. She was full of energy and passion, obsessively belly dancing at every chance she got, playing her banjo when she found a moment and injecting a sense of light-heartedness into the lives of those around her. At a memorial in Tucson the night many of us found out about her death, I couldn't suppress an image of Sali seeing all of us devastated and mournful, coming up to the circle with a wry grin, saying, "Shiiiat, y'all are some suckaasss. Get up and dance, chikitossss!"

A few days after the news of Sali's death spread among her friends in the US, the body of Kirsten Brydum, a San Francisco-based activist, was found in New Orleans with multiple gunshot wounds in her head. Kirsten was an organizer with the Really Really Free Market in San Francisco. At the time of her death, she was on a speaking tour with a group seeking to link anarchist projects around the US. Many people die every day, but it's so hard to function when these genuinely good people, coming from the same general community of activists, die in so narrow a timeframe.

It can be tempting to speculate that the US or Mexican governments were somehow involved in both of these deaths (as some have done), but we need to realize that, broader than a focused government crackdown on specific activists, general violence against wommin remains a tragically widespread problem. It's so crucial that those of us who perpetuate patriarchy and male

dominance actively address those issues—within ourselves and our communities. Too many wommin have suffered. For the sakes of Sali, Kirsten and wommin everywhere, this needs to stop.

Donny still finds it hard to believe that he'll never see Sali again. He's hoping she's somewhere with lots of space to belly dance.

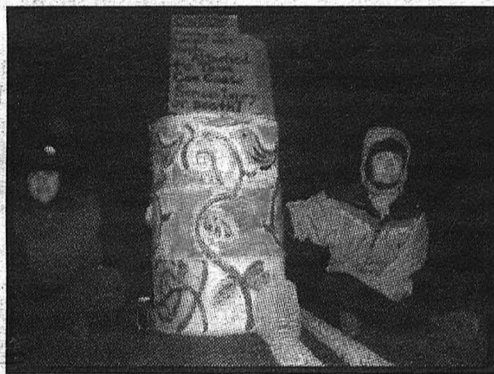


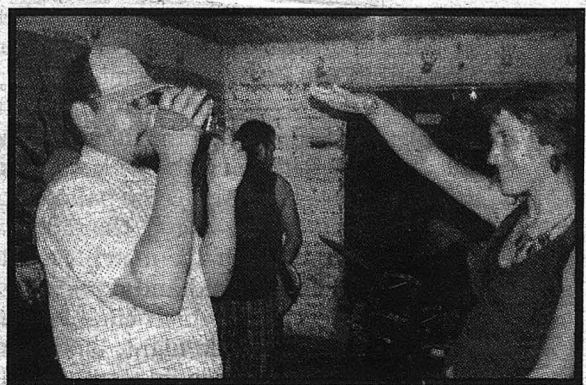
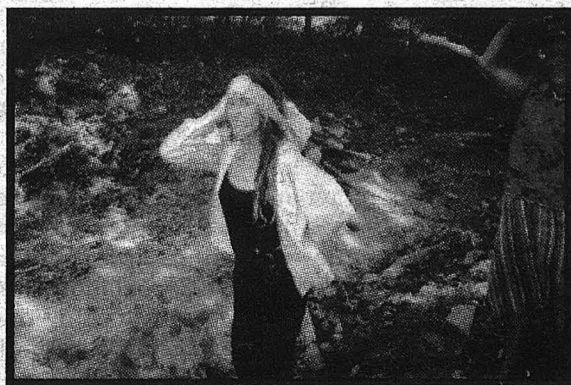
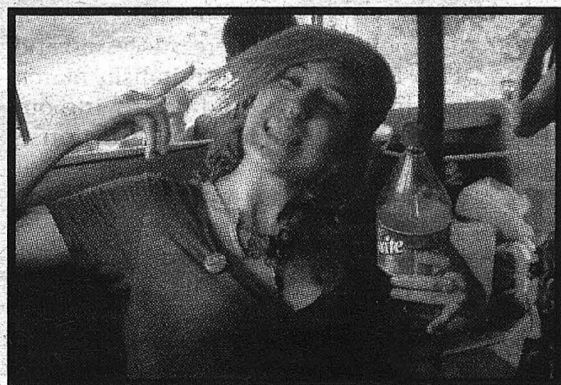
photo courtesy "a Biscuit defender"



photo by Steve Johnston



all other photos by Anne Wesley or unknown



DESCENDING ON THE DNC

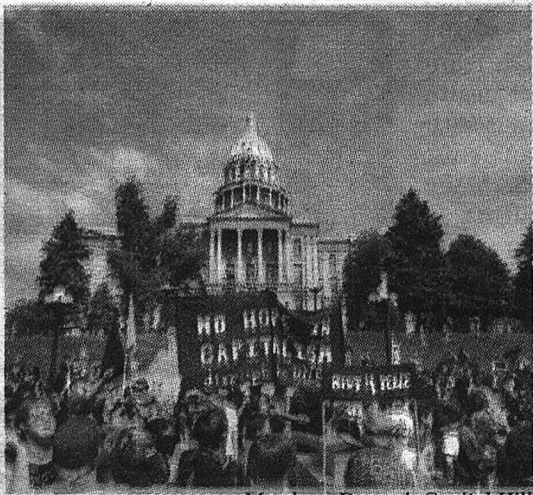
BY ROCKSLIDE

Like salmon coming home to spawn, every four years the two major political parties in the US come together for a week of posturing and partying in what they call the Democratic National Convention (DNC) and the Republican National Convention (RNC). And like bears to a salmon run, protesters from all over the country come to try to disrupt these political spectacles. Every four years, we organize mass mobilizations to protest the political powers that be and make our voices heard over the din of politics. Invariably, this culminates in mass demonstrations and direct action, mass police repression and arrests, and usually no significant impact on the symbolic political hullabaloo going on inside. While on a tactical level, the DNC was no exception (disruption of the actual DNC proceedings was low), the bonds created and strengthened during the protest organizing were invaluable. The DNC protests succeeded in generating momentum and propelling organized folks on to the RNC, where much more direct street action was seen. The DNC also saw a heightened focus on environmental issues, continuing the trend of land issues taking a prominent role in anti-capitalist struggles.

The Buildup and Action

There was much speculation and excitement in the lead-up to the DNC. Unconventional Action, a loose national network of anarchists and anti-authoritarians, worked to draw parallels between the two conventions and oppose them as manifestations of a single failed political system. Unconventional Denver organized four days of diverse actions to disrupt the DNC. During the planning, it discussed how the protests and the convention would negatively affect local communities with \$50 million being funneled to local law enforcement to further oppress homeless folks and other communities already being stepped on. The DNC was billed as the greenest convention ever, and a need to seriously confront green capitalism was also a component of the protests.

The first day of protests was the Sunday before the convention started, August 24. It was a day of liberal anti-war marches organized by Recreate '68 (R68) and the Alliance for Real Democracy (ARD). A few thousand people showed up to lethargically protest within the limited and isolated "approved parade route." Once that anti-war rally finished, the ARD-organized "funk the war" march took off from the other side of the city and made its way peacefully down the sidewalk toward downtown. Upon reaching downtown, Unconventional Denver lead a much more rowdy breakaway, Reclaim the Streets-style march down the main pedestrian mall and into the streets of the financial district, blocking traffic and the light rail system with 800-900 folks dancing to sound systems hidden within large pink tanks. Proclaiming "no hope in capitalism," the anarchists had the day, disrupting the flow of the DNC before it started and making a ruckus in front of the major downtown delegate hotels.



March on Denver's Capitol Hill

photo by El Marco

Independent of the main Sunday actions, a group of EFlers pulled off a Yes Men-style, political theater action at one of the corporate "sustainability" fairs where green capitalists were busy hawking their wares. Posing as representatives of the Green Coal Advocacy Board, well dressed EFlers passed out free samples of green coal (coal spray painted green) to unsuspecting attendees. Attendees were finally let in on the secret with a pamphlet stating that the only way to make coal green was to paint it. After passing out hundreds of chunks of green coal to confused and amused passersby, the leftover coal was confiscated by riot cops who considered it a weapon. (They were right—Against the planet!)

Hot on the success of the Sunday action, radicals plunged into the Monday night anti-capitalism bloc and the no-business-as-usual disruption of parties and fundraisers. The plan was to assemble the black bloc within the Festival of Democracy, an event with music and activities happening in Civic Center Park and being organized by R68. The plan hit a snag when the thousands of attendees expected by R68 failed to materialize and the park was dominated by people there for the black bloc. This led to the police surrounding the park. After attempts to step off the march, the bloc was met by pepper spray and riot cops, ending with the march corralled a half-block into downtown. When all was said and done, about 100 people were arrested on Monday evening, which curtailed fundraiser disruption actions planned for later in the night. Blockading plans slated for Tuesday were called off so folks could regroup and be ready for Wednesday.

On Wednesday, events heated up again with a rowdy, unpermitted march against green capitalism, with about 500 people snaking through downtown Denver. The march started with an impassioned speech by a veteran EFler and made its way past the headquarters and corporate offices of such DNC funders as Connoco Phillips, Newmont Mining, Encana Oil, CH2Mhill, Xcel Energy and Utility Engineering Corporation (which is involved in I-69 construction). In front of thousands of onlookers, we loudly proclaimed a need for solutions to the global climate crisis beyond the farce of a greener capitalism. We passed leaflets out during the march telling folks just what we were up to (one thing lacking from other actions). Overall, the anti-green-capitalism march was a success in causing a spectacle that counteracted the Democrats' green image and got into the heads of unsuspecting political tourists.

From the anti-green-capitalism march, it was off to the Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) march where Rage Against the Machine and other musicians were wrapping up a free concert to thousands of demonstrators. A contingent of Iraq veterans in full uniform lead 5,000 supporters on a permit-free four-mile trek directly to the Pepsi Center where the democrats were having their rally. The IVAW intended on marching directly into the police line to deliver a letter demanding an end to the war, expecting to be arrested. Instead, the police avoided a media disaster and tried leading the veterans into the freedom cage (whoops!). Eventually the Democrats agreed to meet with a representative of IVAW. IVAW called the march a success, but left the rest of the folks at the march itching for a fight.



Black bloc standing its ground

photo by El Marco

Thursday, the final day of protest, yielded an immigrants' rights march which saw a thousand or so folks marching on an overpass next to Mile High Stadium, where Barack Obama was to give his acceptance speech.

Thursday, the final day of protest, yielded an immigrants' rights march which saw a thousand or so folks marching on an overpass next to Mile High Stadium, where Barack Obama was to give his acceptance speech.

Outcomes and Lessons

While we did not succeed in shutting down the DNC or significantly disrupting the proceedings inside the Pepsi Center, there were a lot of positive outcomes and lessons to take home from the convergence. First, anarchists were by far the strongest and best organized group at the DNC protests. Using our anti-authoritarian and horizontal organizing structures, we were able to stay above the internal divisive politics of hierarchical organizing seen in the other protest groups. We took center stage in the media during the week, and consistently turned out the most effective and creative actions, despite fewer numbers and smaller budgets than other protest groups. Sadly, we relied too much in our tactical planning on large crowds drawn by other groups. These crowds never materialized, leaving us at a disadvantage in some of our actions. In the future, we need to bring the crowds and have those crowds ready for action.

We were also successful at framing political debate in terms of resisting capitalism and the political system. We were able to tie ideas such as ecological devastation, the police state and war together within the larger framework of oppression brought on us by capitalism and authoritarian government in a way that seemed concise and well reasoned.

Most importantly, we gained strength and experience by coming together to organize a mass mobilization with diverse folks from across the country. We were left feeling energized and excited for the RNC and whatever lies ahead. One of the goals of the DNC protests was to energize folks for the RNC and leave them hungry for more.

Other lessons included not biting off more than we could chew, and having contingency plans for however many people show up to an action. Spreading ourselves thin over four days of action led to hastily planned and overlapping actions, which ended up not happening due to limited resources. We learned that starting the organizing process early is also a must. Unconventional Denver did not finalize our action plan until January 2008, which did not leave enough time to spread the message effectively across the country and give people ample time to mobilize their own communities for the protests.

From an environmental standpoint, there were successes and interesting notes from the DNC. The anti-green-capitalism march against the corporations supporting the DNC and destroying our Earth brought home the point that environmental destruction is intimately linked to the capitalist and political system and that these issues need to be addressed together. Actions like the green coal handout are important in getting this message into people's minds and countering the massive greenwashing going on. The clean coal lobby was out in force at the DNC, passing out fans and buttons touting the virtues of clean coal without even explaining what it is. It is smokescreen campaigns like clean coal that need to be forcefully countered. ----->

Breakin' the law

...FROM THE RNC PROTESTS

continued from page 1

Eight alleged "leaders" of the Welcoming Committee were held for nearly the duration of the convention. Nonetheless, we kept organizing all week—showing that authorities still don't understand the concept of leaderless groups! The real result of the climate created by the raids, though, became clear on Monday.

Monday, September 1: Turnout for the peace demonstration is smaller than expected. At noon, blockades go up, mostly soft and mobile. The National Guard arrives. Tear gas and pepper spray waft through the city. Journalists and medics are not safe from brutality. Police mass-arrest a crowd (mostly bystanders) under the Mississippi's bluffs. Above all, activists mix with delegates forced to leave their busses and walk to the convention hall. The black bloc targets property; the riot police target everybody. Shortened ostensibly due to Hurricane Gustav, the convention nonetheless goes on. Hundreds are arrested.

We witnessed an exciting influx of young and newer activists but we had a decided shortage of activists more experienced at direct action. Regardless, the wide diversity of actions in St. Paul brought the numbers and makes us optimistic about the next few years. Even after windows were smashed and squad cars trashed, local organizers across the political spectrum remained united against the emerging police state.

The corporate news described hundreds of anarchists belonging to the RNC Welcoming

Committee wrecking mayhem. We wish our "criminal anarchist enterprise" was that big! In reality, up to 1,000 people acted autonomously under their own banners: Freedom or Death, Bash Back, Funk the War. On the street, solidarity was strong. The medics, legal team, kitchen, communications team (until they were raided) and independent media all brought their (A) game.

Tuesday, September 2: Members of the Oceti Sakowin (Seven Council Fires) of the Dakota Oyate reclaim land surrounding Coldwater Spring, near the site of the Minnehaha Free State. Claiming their inherent right to this sacred site, they conduct ceremonies and establish a camp for cultural teaching. After facing off with Homeland Security, they receive a four-day permit and camp until Saturday.

To end the day, the Poor People's Campaign leads an unpermitted march, riddled with undercover, four miles through downtown. After finishing at sunset, the crowd is chased up the street by tear gas and met by concussion grenades coming from the opposite direction.

Police tactics on the street were intense, but the police state also manifests itself in less obvious ways. We see direct parallels between the tactics of local, state and federal law enforcement in Minnesota, and the tactics used by federal agents against Earth and animal liberationists across the continent.

Unsurprisingly, the tactics of the Green Scare are now being used against all radical organizers. This includes defining effective

and necessary political activism as terrorism (Minnesota defines terrorism as an act that interferes with the "exercise, operation or conduct of government [or] lawful commerce"); conspiracy charges aimed at groups solely responsible for logistical organizing, reminiscent of the SHAC 7 case (see *EF!* November-December 2006); and the use of paid informants, against both the Welcoming Committee and various affinity groups.

Thursday again, September 4: The convention goes out with a bang—actually, flash-bangs. Anti-war marchers play cat-and-mouse with the storm troopers until police use snowplows to corral and arrest 396 people after dark.

In all, more than 800 people were arrested while resisting the convention or while trapped in the police riots. Hundreds of freedom fighters were charged with felonies. Thus far, only about two dozen felonies have stuck, and, with pressure, charges may still be reduced.

If you remember one thing from St. Paul, we ask that it be this: In the eyes of the government, we may be terrorists simply for talking about direct action, but we are supporting state-issued terrorism by not doing actions the way we want them to be done.

See you in the streets, the courts and the forests.

For more information, visit www.rnc8.org; www.coldsnaplegal.org; www.twincities.indymedia.org.



photo by Nick Bause

A wave of protesters in Minnesota

FELONY CHARGES FOR RNC ARRESTEES

More than 800 arrests were made during the RNC this year in St. Paul, Minnesota, though a vast majority of these numbers currently have not been charged. Aside from the RNC 8 there are fourteen individuals facing felony charges to date. Many of the more serious arrests have been connected to FBI informants, who yet again, plague our communities and actions.

Significant arrests include:

•David McKay, arrested in conjunction with a residential search warrant, and Bradley Crowder, arrested for disorderly conduct—both from Austin, Texas. They are being charged

with "unlawful possession of firearms"—namely Molotov cocktails—and face up to 10 years in prison. Their cases are the result of an investigation by an FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force. Both men were unknowingly working with two FBI informants. McKay and Crowder have been indicted and remain incarcerated in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

•Matthew DePalma, from Flint, Michigan, who was also arrested for possession of Molotov cocktails, is being charged with "possession of unregistered firearms." DePalma unknowingly shared his plans with an FBI informant who has been

working with the FBI for at least five years. Jarringly similar to the case of Eric McDavid, the informant allegedly asked DePalma to contact him once in Minneapolis, and allegedly drove him around to buy the supplies to construct the Molotov cocktails he was arrested for possessing. DePalma also faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

•Jason Sparks, from Fridley, Minnesota, was arrested on "criminal destruction of property" charges for allegedly smashing a window at a First National Bank Building in St. Paul. Though masked in the photos that led to his arrest,

Sparks' dyed hair and facial piercing were used as alleged evidence to link him to the crime, as was another photo of Sparks allegedly kicking a cop car.

•David Mahoney, who traveled from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, faces two charges each of "terroristic threats" and "assault" for allegedly dropping a 50-pound sandbag off an interstate highway overpass in St. Paul. The bag landed harmlessly, out of the way of traffic. Authorities say Mahoney was identified by a visible tattoo. If convicted of these crimes, Mahoney faces up to twelve years in prison and a \$24,000 in fines.

➔ As far as the DNC being the greenest event ever, there was little sign of this beyond some recycling bins around town and a few hundred free bikes available on loan to the public. Great excesses were still seen in the lavish parties (crashed by many anarchists—wine liberation!), and there were no truly sustainable policies discussed within the convention.

Where To Go From Here

A lot of momentum generated leading up to the DNC and RNC protests has carried over past the conventions. There is much discussion going on as to where anarchists go from here as far as organizing both locally and for future national convergences. There have also been talks of keeping the Unconventional Action network functioning to provide support for organizing strong, coordinated convergences and local actions.

There have been call-outs for actions on November 5, the day after election day (and it's Guy Fawkes Day!), and for a national convergence

for the inauguration in January. Actions beyond this will depend on how networks develop over the next month or two, and how the network holds up for these actions. From an Earth First! perspective, it is important to plug EF! campaigns into this national network and take advantage of national coordination efforts.

From a local perspective, the DNC protests have mobilized radical environmentalists in Colorado to form Colorado Earth First! to combat the resource extraction boom currently taking place here. From opposition to oil and gas development on the western slope of the Rockies to fighting coal and mineral mining across the state, look for more awesome actions coming out of Colorado. For more information, contact colorado_earthfirst@riseup.net.

Rockslide is a mad-scientist, Cascadian kid who somehow ended up on the other side of the mountains in Denver. He is going to spend the winter rounding up all of the Earth First!ers lurking around Colorado so they can raise hell with the drilling and mining companies. He also wants to shout out to all the kids in Unconventional Denver for being so badass.

A Letter from the RNC 8

Dear Friends, Family and Comrades,

We are the RNC 8: individuals targeted because of our political beliefs and work organizing for protests at the 2008 Republican National Convention (RNC), in what appears to be the first use of Minnesota's version of the USA PATRIOT Act. The eight of us are currently being charged with Conspiracy to Commit Riot in Furtherance of Terrorism, a second-degree felony that carries the possibility of seven and a half years in prison. We are writing to let you know about our situation, to ask for support and to offer words of hope.

A little background: The RNC Welcoming Committee was a group formed in late 2006 upon hearing that the 2008 RNC would be descending on Minneapolis-St. Paul, where we live, work and build community. The Welcoming Committee's purpose was to serve as an anarchist/anti-authoritarian organizing body, creating an informational and logistical framework for radical resistance to the RNC.

We spent more than a year and a half doing outreach, facilitating meetings throughout the country and networking folks of all political persuasions who shared a common interest in voicing dissent in the streets of St. Paul while the GOP's machine chugged away inside the convention.

In mid-August, 2008, the Welcoming Committee opened a convergence center, a space for protesters to gather, eat, share resources and build networks of solidarity. On August 29, as folks were finishing dinner and sitting down to a movie, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department stormed in, guns drawn, ordering everyone to the ground. This evening raid resulted in seized property (mostly literature). After being cuffed, searched and ID'd, the more than 60 individuals inside were released.

The next morning, the Sheriff's department executed search warrants on three houses, seizing personal and common household items and arresting the first five of us: Monica Bicking, Garrett Fitzgerald, Erik Oseland, Nathanael Secor and Eryn Trimmer. Later that day Luce Guillen-Givins was arrested leaving a public meeting at a park. Rob Czernik and Max Spektor were arrested on September 1, bringing the number to its present eight. All were held on probable cause and released on \$10,000 bail on September 4, the last day of the RNC. These arrests were preemptive, targeting known organizers in an attempt to derail anti-RNC protests before the convention had even begun.

Conspiracy charges expand upon the traditional notion of crime. Instead of condemning action, the very concept of conspiracy criminalizes thought and camaraderie, the development of relationships, the willingness to hope that our world might change and the realization that we can be agents of that change.



Conspiracy charges serve a very particular purpose: to criminalize dissent. They create a convenient method for incapacitating activists, with the potential for diverting limited resources toward protracted legal battles and terrorizing entire communities into silence and inaction. Though not the first conspiracy case against organizers—not even the first in recent memory—our case may be precedent-setting. Minnesota's terrorism statutes have never been enacted in this way before, and if prosecutors win this case against us, these laws will only be strengthened as political repression expands on ever-broader fronts. We view our case as an opportunity to demonstrate community solidarity in the face of repression and to establish a precedent of successful resistance to the government's attempts to destroy our movements.

Right now we are in the very early stages of a legal battle that will require large sums of money and enormous personal resources. We have

already been overwhelmed and humbled by the outpouring of support locally and throughout the country, and are grateful for everything that people have done for us. We now have a Twin Cities-based support committee and are developing a national support network that we feel confident will help us through the coming months.

This immense initial show of solidarity has inspired us to turn our attention back to the very issues that motivated us to organize against the RNC in the first place. What's happening to us is part of a much broader and very serious problem. The fact is that we live in a police state. Some people first realized that in the streets of St. Paul during the convention, but many others live with this reality their whole lives. People of color, poor and working class people, and immigrants are targeted and criminalized on a daily basis. We understand what that context suggests about the repression the eight of us face now. Because we are political organizers who have built solid relationships through our work, because we have various forms of privilege—some of us through our skin, some through our class and some through our education—and because we have the resources to invoke a national network of support, we are lucky, even as we are being targeted.

And so, while we ask for support in whatever form you are able to offer it, and while we need that support to stay free, we also ask that you think of our case as a late indicator of the oppressive climate in which we live. The best solidarity is to keep the struggle going, and we hope that supporting us can be a small part of broader movements for social change.

For better times and with love,

—The RNC 8

For more information or to donate, visit www.RNC8.org.

Updates

More Clampdowns Against the Six Nations

Angered by the blockades and other forms of resistance that indigenous Six Nations people around Brantford, Ontario, Canada, have implemented to drive colonial developers off of their land, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have attempted to show their strength through a series of harassing arrests.

In the September-October 2008 *Earth First! Journal*, there were accounts of native people going to development sites around Brantford and shutting down construction. They informed the workers that building would no longer be permitted, and then occupied the sites.

More recently, on August 31, the OPP raided one of the construction blockade sites, arresting two native teenagers. Later the same day, an indigenous man was pulled from his van by the OPP and held incommunicado for hours. In the same scene, his 14- and 16-year-old children were arrested. Parents were not allowed to talk with their jailed children.

A week and a half later, on September 10, Janie Jamieson, a native woman from the Brantford area, was driving with her one-year-old son. They were followed by her sister, who had two teenagers in her car. All were leaving an occupied construction site in Brantford. "Then, I saw a nonnative man with a closely shaved head pulling on her truck door with one hand while violently punching the window with a closed fist," recounted Jamieson

of her sister's car. "I feared she was under attack by skinheads, as there were several unmarked cars blocking her in."

Jamieson turned her car around as quickly as she could and discovered skinhead-looking OPP and Brantford City Police officers surrounding her sister and the two teenagers—who were now being handcuffed. One of the youths was the son of Boots Powless, a prominent Six Nations activist and active member of the occupations around Brantford. Jamieson managed to place some tobacco in the hands of the teens before they were hauled off to jail.

Throughout these events, an issue that Six Nations activists keep reminding people of is that all of "Canada" is unceded land. The Six Nations members aren't Canadian and don't acknowledge the colonial laws settlers have placed upon them. Obviously, the OPP feels differently.

For more information, visit www.mohawknationnews.com.

Repression in Santa Cruz Continues

During the last week of September, three individuals in Santa Cruz, California, were visited by the FBI and were served court orders to surrender DNA samples. The visit was provoked by a supposed violation of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. Meanwhile, a separate womyn in Santa Cruz was served a federal grand jury summons to appear at the federal courthouse on October 23. After FBI agents were unable to find yet

another individual, state officials repeatedly returned to that person's parents' home and threatened the parents with arrest. Eventually, an arrest warrant was threatened for the missing individual.

Many of these acts of repression appear to be in response to the August arsons of a University of California professor's home and another professor's car (see *EFJ* September-October 2008). This roundup is the most recent in the ongoing repression that has hit Santa Cruz since the first house raid this past February (see *EFJ* May-June 2008). The same house was raided again after the August arsons mentioned above.

It is important to note that no one has publicly claimed responsibility for the August pyrotechnics. The North American Animal Liberation Press Office has publicly announced that it has not received a communiqué for the arsons. Still, the FBI is choosing to target those present during the February house raid.

Repression around the San Francisco Bay area is becoming more and more intrusive. In late August, a womyn was visited at work in Oakland by FBI agents who were attempting to collect information on two specific individuals based on leads from a flier. Agent Andrew Myers, the same agent that served the grand jury summons in Santa Cruz, was also present for the Oakland visit.

For more information, visit www.indybay.org/animalliberation.

Continuing repression against animal activists in Austria



BY ANONYMOUS

Animal rights and other social justice movements have been increasingly successful in the last few years. Therefore, a number of measures have been taken by authorities to curb those activities. At first, police investigated criminal activities only. Then, in a new twist, the attack fell on groups that were not criminal themselves, but that were deemed to publicly support criminal activity because of, among other things, their use of websites where campaign targets and successful criminal acts were published.

However, in the latest phase of state repression in Austria, efforts to curb the movement have reached a new dimension. Since 1997, noncriminal, grassroots, confrontational campaign tactics were being used to reach realistic reformist goals in Austria like a fur farm ban (1998), a ban on wild animals in circuses (2002), a ban on battery cages (including enriched ones) (2005), a ban on all experiments on apes (2006), a ban on caging rabbits (2007) and an increasing number of department stores deciding to stop selling fur. Such new advances apparently started to cost the animal industry so much that, as early as 2004, after the battery farm ban was secured, increasing repression was being felt by the movement.

Documents have since surfaced that show that government officials met in 2004 with animal industries representatives from the fur, factory farming and hunting industry to combat animal rights. Wide-ranging surveillance started, demonstrations were being banned, animal rights groups were being increasingly harassed, little bylaw infringements were being prosecuted with hefty fines and the political opponents of animal

rights campaigns were supported by police media experts to portray activists as terrorists.

When this did not deter animal rights campaigners, authorities decided to escalate the confrontation further. At the end of 2006, a special police unit was formed from officers from anti-terrorist homicide divisions. Altogether, at least 32 people took on the explicit task of effectively destroying the animal rights movement in Austria. However, notes from the first meetings of those people reveal that they were faced with the fact that neither of the targeted animal rights groups were either involved in criminal activity or even supported it publicly on their websites.

To start a fishing expedition for any kind of evidence, the largest bugging operation ever conducted in Austria was set in motion. More than 30 activists had their bank accounts monitored. More than 20 activists had their phones tapped and emails read. Seventeen activists were followed by police for months. Two cars had tracking devices put on them. Undercover agents were infiltrating the groups. Three meeting places had their entrances permanently filmed. In addition, two private homes, a coffee house meeting place and several animal rights offices were bugged. After 18 months of such surveillance, the police had come up with no evidence whatsoever that could be used against those activists. The surveillance showed that none of the observed had committed a criminal act, planned a criminal act or organized a criminal act for others.

So, a new law, which had been introduced in 1993 and had been updated in 2002 after the 9/11 attacks in New York City, was to be used: §278a criminal organization. This law says that you shall be convicted of having formed a criminal organization and be put in prison for up to five years if you are part of an organization that tries to influence politics or economy, shields its activity from authorities in some way and sometimes does criminal acts to further its goals.

This law was now applied to the seven most active aboveground

animal rights groups in Austria. State prosecution did not consider each of them separately to be a criminal organization. Instead, it considered all of them together to form one big criminal organization that includes any individual who the groups might not know personally but who commits criminal acts for the same aims, i.e. animal rights. The seven aboveground animal rights groups were considered the legal wing of a criminal organization to which all underground activists supposedly belonged, as well. This gigantic criminal organization was allegedly responsible for each and every criminal act in the animal rights context in Austria ever.

This ludicrous idea meant that the "evidence" against activists suspected to be in this criminal organization was of the following kind: It was enough to participate in demonstrations and campaigns, encrypt your computer, organize national and international animal rights gatherings or generally support one of the seven grassroots organizations.

On May 21, police struck. Twenty-three anti-terrorist police units with 35-50 officers each attacked the seven offices and a number of private homes at the same time in the early morning. They smashed in doors and stormed into bedrooms with guns drawn. Thirty-eight activists were pulled out of bed at gun-point and arrested. Their houses were searched for many hours, and 10 of the most prominent activists were held indefinitely. DNA was taken by force and compared to DNA traces at scenes of animal rights related crimes, but no positive results were found.

Although none of the house searches, surveillance or DNA tests lead to any evidence against the accused, their time in jail was extended for months on end. Only after an intensive national and international political



Austrian animal rights activists protest Kleider Bauer's use of fur half a year before the May 21 raids.

photo courtesy Animal Liberation Workshop

campaign was the minister of justice forced to release the activists on September 2, after they had spent 104 days in jail. Still today, no charges have been brought. Nonetheless, all seven animal rights offices are still empty: without computers, membership data, film and photo archives, cameras of any sort or any other material. Also, none of the individuals involved have recovered any of their belongings from the police. Police have started to investigate all the thousands of people who have spoken to these activists on the phone in the last two years. Reports of two more raids have already surfaced. Every single animal rights activist in Austria is now a suspect.

The state prosecution has announced that charges of criminal organization will be brought before Christmas. Police and state prosecution are still set on pressing ahead and trying to convict as many activists as they can with this absolutely ludicrous type of "evidence." On the other hand, the Green party and the Social Democrats have made clear their intention to scrap the §278a at the next opportunity in Parliament. However, that opportunity might never arise, as neither of the parties might be in government much longer.

The decisive battle is now over whether this full scale attack on legitimate political activism, a logical consequence of the ever-increasing anti-terror hysteria with its repressive laws, is going to prevail. This would mean the end of human rights as we know them. Or, will free speech, the right to protest and the right to freely associate politically be upheld?

An Indigenous View on

THE ECONOMIC COLLAPSE

BY KARAKWINE AND MNN STAFF

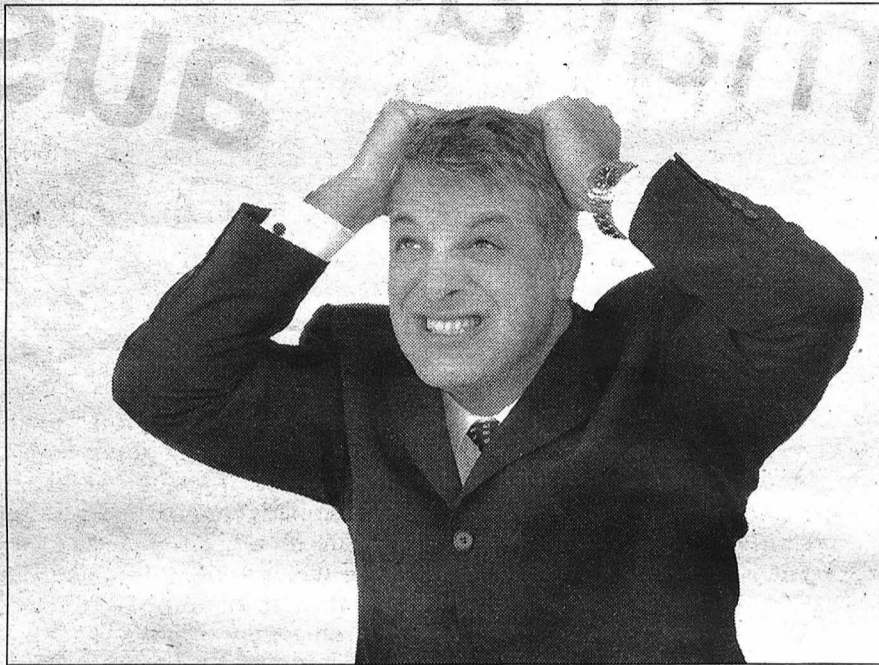
Who would have thought that artificial economies and their worthless paper currencies, based on the theft of indigenous resources, would come tumbling down? Greed and oppression can't go on forever. These foreigners have been wheeling and dealing with goods stolen from us. Remember, they came here with nothing! Every inch of Onowaregeh (Turtle Island) they stand on is unsundered indigenous territory. We are the caretakers. We will never give it up.

This economic collapse has been a long time coming. It looks like we indigenous will have to hang onto our hats and ride out the storm. The destruction and pillaging of our Mother Earth has to stop. She has to be cared for. We are still the trustees of everything over, on and beneath the land. We still have our lives. We still have our families. We still have the future generations to look out for. The colonists think they have to "conquer" nature and its caretakers, us. What are they afraid of?

Onowaregeh was occupied and ruined by a class of white European men who set up an individualistic capitalist exploitation system. The few elites made products with our resources, sold them, and set up banking and monetary systems that were backed by the gun. Their highest ideals were racism, individualism, greed, grabbing other people's property and accumulating more wealth than they needed. The driving principle is that the white race is superior and could enslave and kill indigenous people. The lower order settlers were infected, as well. They have a similar mentality of exploitation and victimization. Anyone who

came here could grab our land and make a homestead.

Today, settler society is divided between the parasites and those who work for them.



Sorry, guy. Party's over.

photo courtesy anythingblack.net

The parasites' economic fantasy is to endlessly put value in the circulatory process they've created. They create nothing, steal everything and sell it to each other. The US and Canadian production bases have been totally eroded. The dollar must be backed with armed force to steal other people's resources.

Now, the US government is taking money from the taxpayers and giving it to the bankers who caused the problems in the first place. Instead of charging the bankers with criminal acts of treason and conspiracy, the financial industry buyout went to the head gangsters.

The public is crying out for major change to end the colonial, racist, greedy system. They have to look at indigenous culture and harmonize their society with ours to survive. They need to renew all their arrangements with us to live, think and govern themselves so that the parasites are pushed

aside. Sacrifices are necessary or humanity will destroy itself.

There is another world, a world of resistance. Our fate rests in our own humble hands. Indigenous people have survived. We've kept our philosophy, our notions of governance, our duties to Mother Earth and our way of life—which has been terribly damaged. We have been able to resuscitate it and bring it back to health. We all have our strengths. We have an enormous, evolved consciousness. People are beginning to see through this capitalist fraud.

We are still here because we have always resisted.

Is this a catastrophe or a blessing? Can we hope that there will be no more oil and minerals taken out of our land; or water polluted and dammed; or trees clear-cut and depleted; or skies, ground and rivers destroyed beyond habitation for us

and every other living being; or money to buy weapons to carry out wars and commit more human rights abuses?

Let's look at it positively. People will have to learn how to live with less. Our communities and relations with our neighbors will have to become stronger. We'll find out that, by working together, we can not only survive, but we can also have fun.

The US and Canada are guilty of killing and oppressing us to take control of everything we had. In exchange, they gave us genocide, worthless treaties, empty words and, now, their debts. The thing is, they have no credit or credibility with us. Let them implode.

We need to return to respect for the land and each other. Is it too soon to commence the drums rolling so we can start dancing and singing?

This is a compilation of two Mohawk Nation News articles.

Saving Iceland Targets the International Aluminum Industry

BY SAVING ICELAND

Disrupting the Aluminum Conference

The 11th International Conference on Aluminum Alloys (ICAA) was met with angry protests on September 25. Activists from the environmentalist network Saving Iceland disrupted the proceedings at a university in Aachen, Germany, where Rio Tinto Alcan (RT Alcan) was holding lectures for the conference. RT Alcan is an international mining group and a leader in the aluminum industry. During one of RT Alcan's lectures, activists set off fire alarms, threw stink bombs, triggered a high volume alarm (suspending it out of reach by green and black helium balloons) and strewed the auditorium with information leaflets. The aim was to call attention to

the aluminum industry's singular involvement in ecological destruction in Iceland and on a global scale.

The ICAA conference is a weeklong event held at a different international location every two years. This was its first appearance in Germany, and it was conducted simultaneously with an aluminum trade fair in Essen, Germany, about 50 miles away. This double event was sure to call together all major players in an industry that still tries to present itself—somewhat successfully—as having a green conscience. Alcoa, another global aluminum company, has now been included in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index for the seventh year in a row.

"There is no level on which the continued expansion of the aluminum industry can be pursued sustainably" said Andreas Jager of Saving Iceland. In India,

for example, bauxite is open-cast mined and refined into aluminum, stripping rainforest-covered mountains, displacing tribal people from their land and polluting the water supply. In Australia and Jamaica, virgin forests are destroyed for the same prize—and with the same toxic consequences.

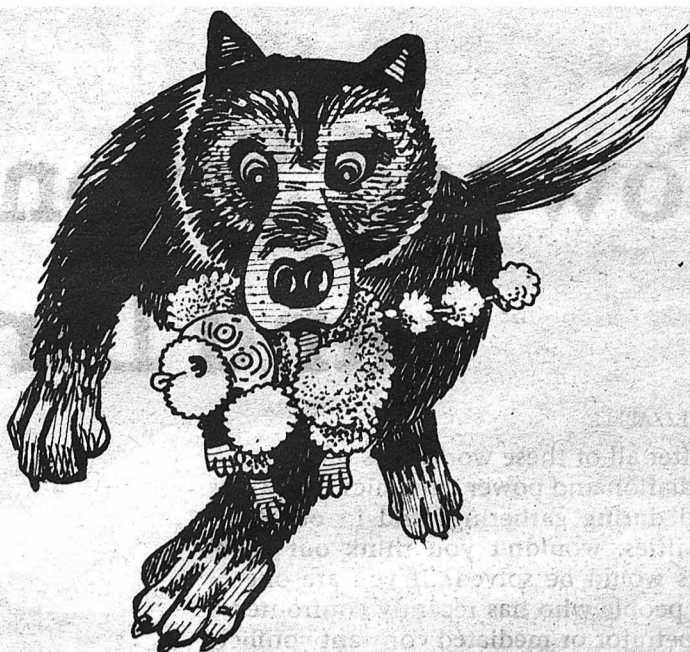
In Iceland, the country's unique natural landscape is being raided for its energy potential by these multinational invaders. The world is finally waking up to climate change—the effect of our high-energy dependence—but the process of aluminum production requires colossal quantities of electricity, for which it plans to block and harness every glacial river, exploit every geothermal field, and transform Iceland's wild beauty into a spent and polluted wasteland dotted with smelters.

Saving Iceland's Fourth Direct Action Camp

Over the course of three weeks in July, Saving Iceland pointed out the destruction that would be done to the unique, not yet devastated geothermal areas where plans are underway for new projects. The activists kept busy, stopping the first day of construction on a new smelter, creating a road blockade in front of an already existing smelter and steel iron-blending factory, and attending a public meeting with farmers who are also fighting Landsvirkjun, the national energy company that has plans to build three new dams on the Thjorsa River. Saving Iceland also organized an open meeting with the Icelandic anti-war movement about the aluminum industry's links to arms production.

An action on July 25 disrupted business at Landsvirkjun

Wolves & Poodles



A let's-see-your-Critical-Mass-and-up-the-ante wolf to those bike riders on the Los Angeles Freeway, the **Crimanimals**. This loose group of bikers that formed in April has taken the once-a-month Mass rides and stepped them up a notch to spice up the overcrowded "rush" hour. The Crimanimals reported that drivers were seen busily text messaging while the two-wheeled wonders weaved in and out of lanes. During a second organized Crimanimals ride in May, a banner was hung from a freeway overpass, reading, "Ride a Bike, You'd Be Home by Now," helping to bring the bizarreness of seeing bikers on the freeway into context. A video of the group shows masked riders, a tall bike and even the occasional roller blader (that's unfortunate). Let's see who will raise the ante next.



A royal-pie-in-the-face, half-congratulatory, what-in-the-hell-are-we-doing-giving-her-a-wolf?, let's-hope-somewhere-there-are-folks-doing-more-noteworthy-deeds wolf to "**Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth**, for ordering her guards to patrol the 55,000 acres of her Scottish Estate, Balmoral Castle, by bicycle. Besides the switch from Range Rovers to black mountain bikes, Balmoral has gone through a number of changes in recent years to better distribute power between the natural and human worlds. The castle and the accompanying cottages on the grounds generate all of their power from the nearby stream, and a yearly total of 50 tons of organic waste is recycled into compost. Unfortunately, the Queen herself has not yet switched from motor power to peddle power.

A brownie-points-for-the-probably-too-politically-powerful-leader-of-the-pack wolf to the general president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, **James Hoffa**. Hoffa recently rejected offshore drilling and has pulled out

of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coalition. That may not seem like much to wolf about, but Hoffa and the 1.4 million Teamsters have also been rallying loud and proud these days against the Columbian Free Trade Agreement and Coca-Cola, demanding human rights policies in solidarity with the workers of Columbia. Hoffa has also been emphatic about clean air, telling protesters in Oakland, California, "It's time to stop poisoning the environment," in reference to the need to adopt sustainable clean truck programs at US ports and borders.

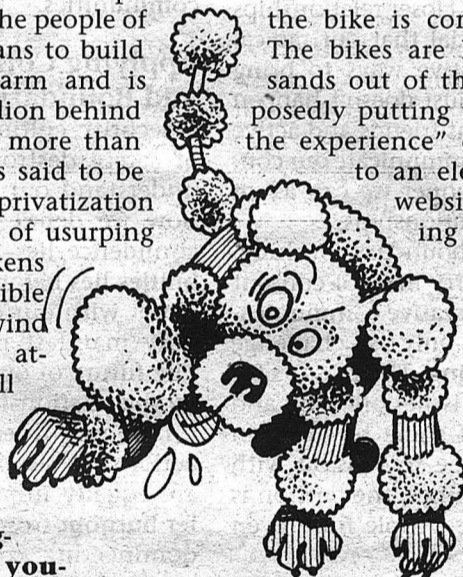
A throw-us-a-bone-here-'cause-we're-not-buying-it, nope, no-matter-how-many-millions-you've-given-to-charity poodle to the new pride of Texas, oil-tycoon-turned-wind-farmer **T. Boone Pickens**. Now that the 80-year-old man is rich beyond our wildest dreams, he sees hope for a better day and wants to provide sustainable energy for the people of his country. Pickens has plans to build the world's largest wind farm and is throwing some of his \$4 billion behind the "Pickens Plan." We are more than slightly skeptical. Pickens is said to be primarily interested in the privatization of water and is a magician of usurping natural sources. Once Pickens manages to own this incredible amount of land for his wind farms, he'll also own the attached water rights—and will gladly drain the aquifers to sell this water back to Texans. Touché, T. Boone. We're onto you!

A please-stop-pretending-you-care-about-the-planet, you-make-us-puke poodle to the world's biggest poser, MTV. That's right, MTV is not the greened-up network it is trying to portray in its environmental activism campaign, the "Green Crusade." The reported aftermath of its green reality show

on a "deserted island" leaves us with no choice but to doubt its pathetic commitment to the environment. After the filming of the latest Real World/Road Rules Challenge wrapped up, the Tree Climber Coalition made a mission to the show's location in the Republic of Panama. It discovered a trashed area of the rainforest (normally off-limits to people), the remains of an MTV set and the discarded scripts of the not-so-Real World. An aim of MTV's crusade is helping to make climate change less "abstract" by promoting ways viewers can make a difference, like unplugging their cell phone chargers and "turning down the thermostat by one degree." Even Al Gore knows that's not enough!

A greenwasher's-wet-dream, expensive-as-hell, alternative-to-cars-for-lazy-hipsters poodle to the electric bike. The electric bike boom is looking grim for those of us opposed to car culture and the not-so-environmentally awesome made-in-China lead-acid batteries the bike is commonly powered by. The bikes are helping to get thousands out of their cars and are supposedly putting the "pleasure back in the experience" of cycling, according to an electric bike enthusiast website. With speeds ranging between 12 and 30 miles per hour, these ridiculous inventions are not only dangerous to other cyclists and pedestrians (due to jump speed and motorized riders not paying enough attention), but cost a pretty penny at \$350 on the low end and \$3,000 at the extreme

end. This new trend in transportation is also not going to help anyone lazy enough to ride an electric bike get an ounce of exercise, making us wonder, "WTF, electric bike riders, WTF?"



headquarters to draw attention to Alcoa's human rights abuses in its Honduras factory: Activists set off fire alarms and dropped a banner reading "evil work." On July 28, the camp shut down a geothermal drill site in Hellishei by occupying its power control room. August 1 saw the final action of the camp, which was a lockdown to the gates of an RT Alcan smelter in order to point out the company's links with arms production and warfare.

International solidarity during the Saving Iceland Summer action camp also resonated throughout Switzerland and

Italy with actions in front of Icelandic embassies and at the headquarters of Alcoa, Glencore and Impregilo.

RT Alcan's Environmental and Human Crimes

Saving Iceland's work has had an impact. It is raising awareness of the global impacts of bauxite mining in the context of increased aluminum production. Saving Iceland protests RT Alcan's bauxite mine expansion in the West Congo and Jamaica. In Iceland, RT Alcan's smelter in Hafnarfjörður is being upgraded to increase production, and the Budarhals

Dam is being constructed to power the smelter expansion.

Rio Tinto has also been accused of subjecting its workers to being poisoned in mines, having security guards shoot locals looking for small amounts of gold in one of its mines, and having union members spied upon and fired. It has also hired mercenary forces against local populations protesting its operations on New Guinea and surrounding islands.

In a move outside of the usual form of solidarity with the Saving Iceland campaign, the Norwegian government sold almost \$1 billion in shares of RT Alcan because of the company's Grasberg mine

in West Papua, which has devastated the land of the Amungme and Kamoro tribes. Norway sold all of its shares in RT Alcan after its Council on Ethics recommended the government exclude the company from its government pension fund.

People all around the world are waking up and becoming aware of the destruction caused by the global aluminum industry, as well as the situation in Iceland. There is much grassroots opposition to RT Alcan and its plans to create more hydro-powered aluminum factories in Iceland.

For more information, visit www.savingiceland.org.

Toward Stronger Communities and Direct Actions

BY JEZABELL

After all of these workshops on consent, mediation and power dynamics that we've held during gatherings and in our communities, wouldn't you think our problems would be solved? If you are one of the people who has recently confronted a perpetrator or mediated constant conflicts in your community, you know otherwise. Most Earth First!ers can easily recite a definition for consent. Yet, many of us still have trouble communicating our needs, boundaries, capabilities and intentions.

Consent, communication, mediation, security culture and support are some of the best community-building tools around. They are equally useful for those engaging in direct action. We must continue to spit in the face of repression while safely enacting our wildest dreams. Learning how to do that is an urgent journey we need to take.

Communication and Mediation in Radical Spaces

On a day-to-day basis, we collide head first with manipulation. Sometimes even our close friends can push our boundaries. Many of us have watched subtle negative personality traits whirlwind out of control, devastating others' lives and debilitating their communities. When are we going to help each other address these problems?

Someone's negative personality traits that already exist in their everyday interactions can sometimes bleed into closer relationships more intensely. It is crucial that our radical communities create positive ways to bring attention to this, which just doesn't happen enough. The sooner we, as friends and active community members, communicate our concerns with others, the sooner we can adapt and develop healthier relationships.

Basic manipulation, boundary pushing, domination and the blurry lines of consent are all reasons for more creative communication. Intimate violence is only one challenge our communities are facing. The reasons for confronting all of these issues are long and many. The capability of some to function positively can be lost due to tension with others. In some communities, the tension is so thick that it prohibits people from even attending meetings.

Which is harder, mediation and support for a rape in our community or addressing someone's domineering personality early on? Mediation is phenomenal and much needed. However, simply employing honest communication can be a tool used more openly and regularly to address basic joys, concerns and disagreements. Additionally, if communication leads to mediation sooner, everyone benefits and we might prevent a few things from fucking up our lives.

Those who enter mediation processes for perpetrating often display dominating traits beforehand. This is not surprising. The surprising part is why their friends or fellow community members did not mention this to them sooner. Many "demand lists" from survivors request that perpetrators analyze their controlling mannerisms, leading many people to ask, "Why did we wait so long to tell them?"

Some Thoughts on Consent

The application of consent in our daily lives is a responsible first step. Discussing what consent means and using it safely is important. There are numerous ways to positively manifest consent. Yet, we need to discuss how

consent can sometimes lead to manipulation and coercion.

As mentioned in the article "Radically Safe" (see *EF!* March-April 2008), "Consent means that you are fully prepared to hear 'no.'" This means that rephrasing the same request is not allowed. Wearing someone's will down through repetitive requests is also not acceptable. The intention of consent is for healthy communication. It is not a way to validate your negative intentions.

By incorporating consent into our everyday lives, it becomes easier to apply consent to more stressful situations. Everyone has boundaries. Taking consent out of the sexual realm allows us to better discover and understand each other's boundaries. Intentionally pushing others' boundaries is unacceptable. Instead, supporting each other's boundaries leads to stronger, healthier and more capable communities.

Applying Consent, Communication and Boundaries to Direct Action

Security culture is only one component of safely destroying capitalism. Once we understand our basic boundaries—such as how we define friendships or where our confidence lies—a true sense of our capabilities lies before us. As we work and grow closer with our companions, our trust will only manifest itself in our direct action. The future of our movement is determined by the relationships we foster now.

Listening to each other while discussing actions and supporting each other afterward are equally important. Many activists suffer burnout from the stress of negative and domineering group dynamics. The added stress of engaging in lock downs or taking actions with more serious consequences could be a recipe for mental disaster. The state is constantly attempting to sabotage our sabotage. We must learn to develop good relationships with each other to help prevent cooperation with the state.

While rigging a platform in a tree before sunset or running through the streets with your heart pounding are not ideal times to address power dynamics, pre-existing negative power dynamics can provide affinity groups much trouble if they aren't addressed. Direct action environments are often high stress, with points of legal vulnerability. The last thing any group needs is to have breakdowns in dynamics and communication.

Throughout the process of planning actions, consider your present group dynamics. Are you positive everyone is capable of respecting consent? Is everyone comfortable with the distribution of work? What about the gender, race and age breakdowns in your group? Like the saying goes, "Check yo self, before ya wreck yo self!"

The notion that nonconsensual activity could lead to jail or prison is a pretty

important concept to respect. When boundaries aren't respected, it could mean losing a member of your group in the short run. In the long run, it could lead to cooperation with the state. If people don't feel supported and respected before and during actions, what will keep them from leaving the anarchist community or snitching?

What Does This All Mean?

During this Summer's bioregional round-up at the Round River Rendezvous in Ohio, stories of actions by numerous new and old *EF!* chapters were told. We heard tales of friends that have fallen victim to the Green Scare. We found disgust in hearing that, at the Winter Organizers' Conference, there was a cooperating snitch (Frank Ambrose) present, recording much of the gathering from a hidden wiretap. Although the heightened repression that began in 2005 is becoming more apparent, we are slowly actualizing our dreams of increased action.

The recent article "Green Scared: Preliminary Lessons of the Green Scare," printed in *Rolling Thunder*, Issue 5, stressed the dire need for better community dynamics. One excerpt reads, "We need to learn how and why efforts to destabilize our activities succeed." It later states, "Open discussion of problems—for example, gender roles being imposed in nominally radical spaces—can protect against unhealthy resentments and schisms." The outcome of unhealthy communication was also highlighted: "By the time Operation Backfire grand juries began following up on real leads in Eugene, many who could have come together to oppose them were no longer on speaking terms."

In the light of increased repression and imprisonment, we must be able to support ourselves and each other. The support by 75 copwatchers in response to a house raid in Santa Cruz, California (see *EF!* May-June 2008), was a beautiful expression of a caring community. While already imprisoned, Daniel McGowan's refusal to cooperate with his grand jury summons this Summer is an amazing example of what a persyn is able to do when they have a good support base. Also, having the capability to support yourself mentally is very important. While we will always have the *EF!* community's support, we should also be capable of autonomously supporting ourselves, too.

We are presented with an assortment of possibilities for the future of our movement. A few glaring facts hold true, though. Widespread ecological devastation will not cease on its own, nor will state repression. Let our future be one that creates communities full of strength and support—one that will take advantage of the odds in our favor and win.

For more resources on oppression, visit www.earthfirstjournal.org and click on "anti-oppression policy."

Armed with Visions

CLEAR AS CUT GLASS & JUST AS DANGEROUS

An Encounter

Reading about the trees of Chile
as I wait for the sun to come out
I hear a humming
in the fuchsia bush
outside the open door of the bodega —
the hummingbird!
I step outside and wait
by the rain-wet dripping red and purple flowers
it flies toward me,
a greenish profile
then suddenly dips under a flower near me
and I look down at the most
brilliant flashing orange —
the top of its head
then it looks up and sees me
a look a human would have
of "Wait! That shouldn't be there!"
but also of silent curiosity
an instant of us sharing a moment
of our lives together
acknowledging each other
in our brief existence
in the wonder of life
then just as suddenly
the presence leaves me,
flitting so imperceptibly fast away
to another reality
leaving me in joy
that I lived to experience that moment.

—Karen Coulter

written December 29, 2006
of a Green-Backed Fire Crown Hummingbird
near Pucon, Chile

What Is That Sound?

Ah, the sound of
natural world
rubbing up against
man-made world

Tree branch against
tin roof

—R. Swan

Standing on Centuries of Pine Needles

Our feet soundlessly pass through
patches of moonlight
lightly as breath

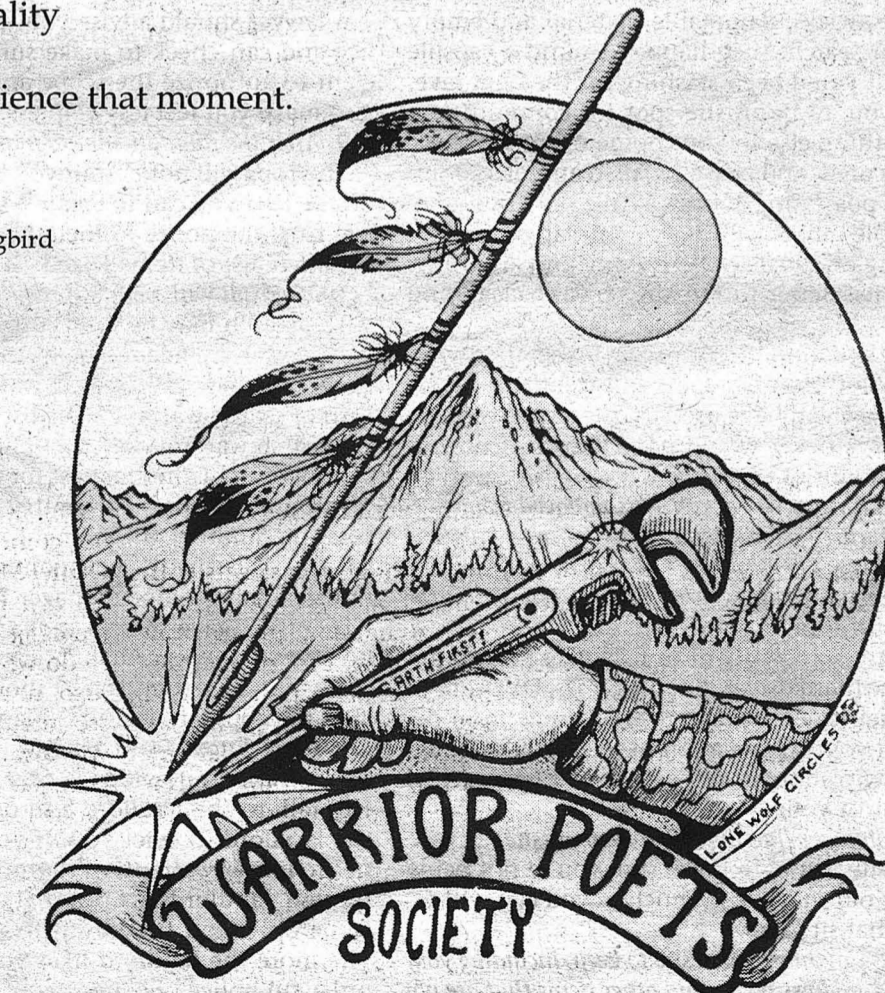
not just the moon
catches my hair
but the black shadows of
sleeping trees
fill my eyes

not just the milk-white filament
of stars
appearing between pine branches

but the fresh living smell
of creek water and rotting leaves
has saturated my senses

and I no longer know where
you begin or I end

—JEAN VARDA



Here We Are

here we are
we must do
what is difficult
we must do
what is necessary
we must be

we must be
the bay
polluted & pissed in
used, abused
trying to support life
we must sustain

we must be
the rainforest
slashed & burned
choking, smoking
trying to breathe
we must regenerate

we must be
the ocean
jumped in & dumped in
crashing, thrashing
trying to wash
we must cleanse

we must be
the Earth
ridden roughshod
quaking, spinning
trying to survive
we must live

we must be
the worm
stepped over & on
wiggling, wriggling
trying to burrow
we must be
humble

we must be
the other
feared & hated
mistaken, misunderstood
trying to communicate
we must be
compassionate

we must be
ourselves
proud & vibrant
scarred, scared
trying to be
we must be
better

here we are
together & alone

—DAN BROOK

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

Ask an EF! Lawyer ... when the feds *don't* knock



This independent media activist's room was trashed during an FBI search last May.

photo by Luke

Dear EF! Lawyer,

A number of places have been raided over the past few months (St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Denver, Colorado, around the conventions; Santa Cruz and Berkeley, California, around people targeting vivisectors). What can people do in advance to prepare for a raid by the FBI or police at home or in a storefront? What are some lines of defense people may be able to implement in common raid scenarios?

—US OUT OF MY HOUSE!

Dear House,

To get an answer about how to prepare for a raid, I asked the man I often describe as the most investigated person in America. I speak of former Earth liberation front spokesperson Craig Rosebraugh. From 1997-2006, Craig's home and office were raided numerous times, as he was subpoenaed to appear before eight grand juries and once before Congress. (For details, read his book, *Burning Rage of a Dying Planet*, available at www.arissamedia.org.)

Craig was kind enough to write us a list of 10 actions you can take to protect yourself from any state-supported-thug raid:

1. *Ensure anything possibly incriminating to you or others is removed from the premises.*

Here's an example of how Craig's first bit of advice works. Let's say the brownshirts have a search warrant allowing them to search for plans for incendiary devices, wicks, flammable material and empty milk cartons. If, during that search, they happen to find a capsule of ecstasy in your house that you'd been stashing for the next rave, they'll be thrilled to take you away on the spot for committing a felony, even if they find nothing else in your home or office. Then, you'll be charged and prosecuted, and possibly jailed and placed under supervision for years for possessing ecstasy. While under supervision, your probation or parole officer will be able to visit your home at any time with no warning and inspect everything and anything. That's scrutiny no one wants. Better to remain squeaky clean and avoid the hassle.

Even worse, the opposite situation might occur. If they raid your house searching for ecstasy, and stumble upon an incendiary device and plans to use it (or evidence you have used it), then you're facing years in prison, but the thugs never would have known if not for your possession of a tiny amount of ecstasy.

2. *Ensure anything incriminating to you or others is removed from your computer. This may entail clearing histories and caches on web browsers and wiping free space on all drives. This shouldn't have to be said, but just emptying the trash on your computer is not getting rid of the file. That file can still be accessed. The file needs to be wiped clean.*

When they come searching, expect them to take every computer and electronic storage device (hard drives, floppies, CDs, DVDs, flash drives, etc.) they can get their thieving fingers on. I know from defending people in court that your typical attempt to erase files is useless. You must develop some computer savvy or they'll have a field day collecting evidence against you.

3. *Back up any necessary computer files and store them offsite.*

If you store anything offsite, though, make sure you're not being followed to that site, and avoid that site as much as you can. Otherwise, Big Brother will raid that site also.

4. *Remove from the premises anything you desire to keep, including your writings, photos, books, music, address books and other items that are not replaceable.*

Better yet, give this stuff to someone when you know you're not being watched and let them place these items somewhere undetected. That way you'll avoid the problem discussed in the third suggestion. Tell this person nothing, and their ignorance will protect them and you.

5. *Whether or not you remove them from the premises, take a picture of all valuables.*

Taking a picture of your valuables will help you support your claims for them later. It will also remind you of what they might or might not have against you.

6. *Have a plan in place so your pets are taken care of in the event of an arrest warrant. Provide a trusted friend with a copy of your house key. The trusted friend must be someone who is able to be reached and who can respond immediately.*

A search warrant often comes hand in hand with an arrest warrant, so you might find yourself suddenly carted away. Planning for your friend's help in advance will help you remain levelheaded and keep your pets safe.

7. *If possible, plan ahead of time to contact someone who can alert the news media to the raid. The one thing law enforcement doesn't appreciate during raids is being watched.*

The government is like a rapacious cockroach, preferring to operate in the dark and in secret. Exposing government abuse to the media can embarrass the government and may even limit its abuse of you. Remember, whenever they feel uncomfortable, your leverage against them improves.

8. *If possible, plan ahead to have an attorney willing to assist you in the event of a raid.*

A lawyer should advise you to say nothing whatsoever to the police and can check to make sure the search warrant is legally sufficient to authorize the scope and focus of the search. A lawyer may also make you feel less helpless.

9. *After the raid, attempt to make a complete list of all items seized.*

The cops will not permit you to supervise the search, but you must do the best you can to create a list of missing items because you can not trust the police to include in their "return of search warrant" a complete list of items seized.

10. *Consult with your attorney on the best way to proceed.*

The search may be subject to legal attack. If so, the court will not consider any evidence obtained from the search! Your lawyer will need to review the "search warrant" (the order to search), the "return of search warrant" (the list of things they stole when executing the search warrant) and the "affidavit for search warrant" (where the cop justifies his/her request for a search warrant).

I wanted to bring up another issue to consider, as well. In Minnesota this Summer, a National Lawyer's Guild (NLG) office was raided by cops claiming to be responding to a hostage situation. A friendly, unthreatening office manager led the gendarmes into the peaceful NLG office, gave them a tour and showed them how there were no hostages—just peaceful political activists at work. The cops were eventually persuaded to leave without wrecking the office, but very soon after the cops left, the NLG's landlord evicted it from the premises.

What I know from reading thousands of police reports is that cops, even if no evidence of a crime is found at a home or office, will talk to the landlord and do or say what they can to convince the landlord to evict you. If your landlord is cool, they will know not to pay any attention to the cops' unlawful threats or lies. Often, though, landlords are not that cool. It might not hurt in such a case to be open and friendly with your landlord long before any raid. The more the landlord likes you, the more likely they are to resist unlawful police pressure.

Any raid will be an extremely unpleasant and invasive experience. However, by planning in advance and following adequate security precautions, you can prevent it from devastating you.

Do you have a legal question? Contact Stu Sugarman, quixote516@yahoo.com. Please write "Dear EF! Lawyer" in the subject line.

when will he be free?

An Update on Political Prisoner John Graham

Amid all the other recent tales of government repression, the case of John Graham now rises to the surface. Graham was indicted in 2003 for allegedly killing his sister in the struggle and the American Indian Movement, Anna Mae Aquash. It is widely believed that the FBI itself is responsible for her death since it initially tried to cover up her identity and true cause of death when her body was found on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in February of 1976. At the time, an FBI-supported death squad was operating on the reservation and more than 60 AIM members and traditional Lakotas were killed.

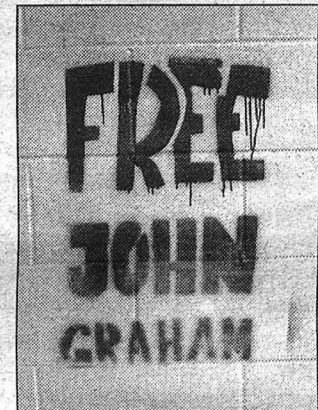
Graham's original indictment was dismissed before his October 6 trial when his defense brought up that point that neither Graham nor Aquash were



registered to a tribe recognized by the US government (they both belonged to tribes in Canada). Prosecuting crimes that take place on Indian reservations by people not recognized as "Indian" is considered a state, not a federal, concern.

However, Graham was not freed; he was re-indicted almost immediately, this time with Richard Marshall, another former AIM member also accused of being a part of the warrior Aquash's murder. The prosecution was pushing for December 9 for the trial, which would have left the defense short on time to prepare for the trial and possibly forced jurors to rush their deliberation to get home for the holidays. The trial was finally scheduled for February 24, 2009, the anniversary of the date on which Aquash's body was found.

For more information, visit ourfreedom.wordpress.com; www.grahamdefense.org.



photos courtesy ourfreedom.wordpress.com



The Bees Are Swarming

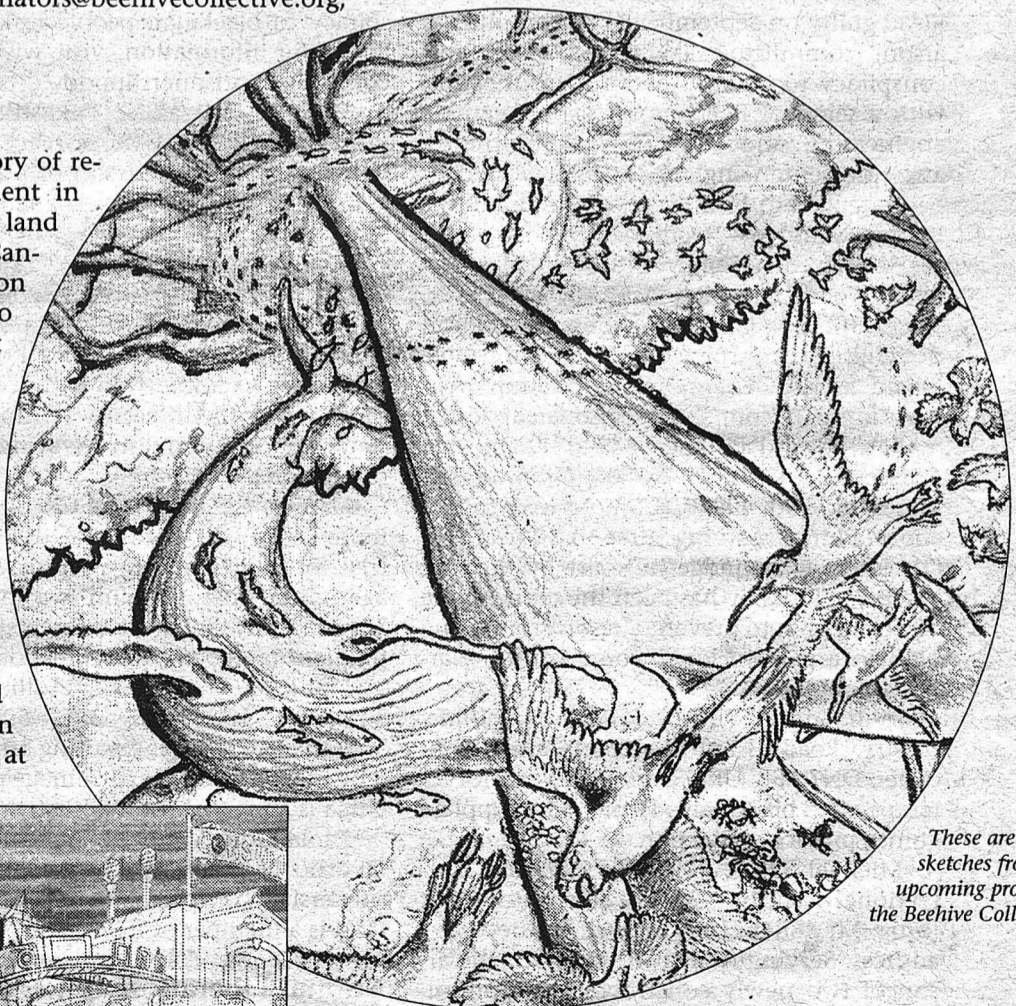
The **beehive design collective**, a radical-education nonprofit, is cross pollinating around the entire US this Fall and coming Spring with workshops, picture lectures and residencies at education centers, community organizations and all venues, large or small. The bees are hard at work with two massive, new graphics campaigns, and are eager to present them across the country as effective works-in-progress. For more information, or to book the bees, contact pollinators@beehivecollective.org; www.beehivecollective.org.

Mesoamerica Resiste! and Resist Atlantica!

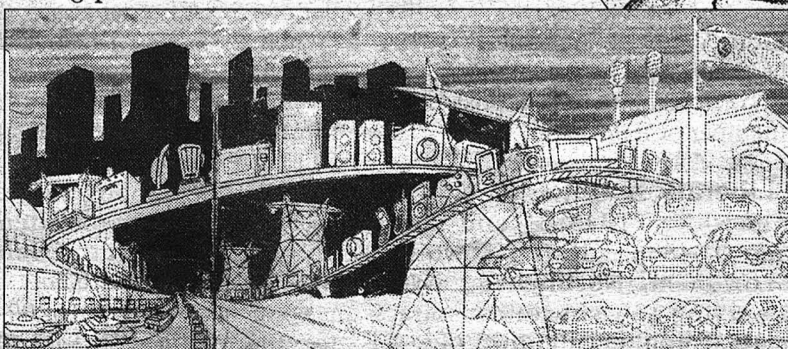
The *Mesoamerica Resiste!* graphic, while telling the story of resource extraction, militarization, and (under)development in Latin America, is strikingly relevant to the fight for local land control in the northeastern areas of the US and Atlantic Canada. Using these graphics as a springboard for discussion and information sharing, the Beehive Collective works to analyze and dismantle the forces at work in our capitalist society through a metaphorical lens of stories from the natural world.

The True Cost of Coal

Bees have recognized an urgency for the creation of education materials about surface mining and mountaintop removal and their explosive collision with the historical and cultural landscapes of Appalachia. Our goal is to support the already robust organizing of coal-field residents and resisters, climate change activists and organizations with an elaborate multi-fold poster and an accompanying resource "tool kit." Visit our coal blog at beehivecollective.blogspot.com.



These are some sketches from upcoming projects by the Beehive Collective.



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 or sentencing, it is best not to discuss their cases or related topics with them. Although some prisoners are listed together, they must be written to separately. Prisoners can obtain a discounted subscription to the *EF!* Journal by sending a book of 10 42¢ stamps to POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. Individuals who want to sponsor a prisoner's subscription should send \$20 to the same address.

Prisoner and Legal Updates

•Dan Amos, VN7818, HMP Winchester, Romsey Rd, Winchester, SO22 5DF, UK. Moved to the above address. Plead guilty for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportdan.

•Tre Arrow, 70936-065, FCI Herlong, POB 800, Herlong, CA 96113, USA. Moved to the above address. Serving 6.5 years for two counts of arson for burning logging trucks, and a sand and gravel company's vehicles. Under a plea agreement, Arrow will receive credit for time served since March 2004 in Canadian and US jails, leaving less than two years in his sentence. For more information, visit www.trearrow.org.

•Byron Shane of Chubbuck© Clan, #07909-051, FCI Tallahassee, 501 Capital Circle NE, Tallahassee, FL 32301, North America. Moved to the above address. Serving 80 years for aggravated assault of federal agents, escape and bank robbery. "Oso Blanco" funneled money that he stole from banks to the Zapatista Army of National Liberation in Mexico.

•Sarah Gisborne was released from prison after serving more than three years for conspiracy to damage vehicles owned by people linked to HLS.

•Marie Mason, Clinton County Jail, 1347 E Townsend Rd, St Johns, MI 48879, USA. Plead guilty on September 11 to committing arson, committing aggravated arson and conspiracy to commit arson in connection with a series of ELF actions against genetic engineering and development. Currently awaiting sentencing, Mason is expected to be sentenced to 15-20 years. For more information, visit www.freemarie.org.

•Heather Nicholson, VM4859, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. On trial at press time. Plead not guilty for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/shacukprisonersupport.

•Rev. Edward Pinkney #294671, Ojibway Correctional Facility, N5705 Ojibway Rd, Marenisco, MI 49947, USA. Moved to the above address. Serving three to 10 years for "threatening" a judge in court by quoting *The Bible*. Pinkney has been the cornerstone of a campaign to prevent a resort from being built in a park in low-income Benton Harbor, Michigan.

•John Smith, TB4887, HMP Lindholme, Bawtry Road, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, DN7 6EE, UK. Serving 12 years for attempting to blackmail a farmer who supplied guinea pigs for vivisection.

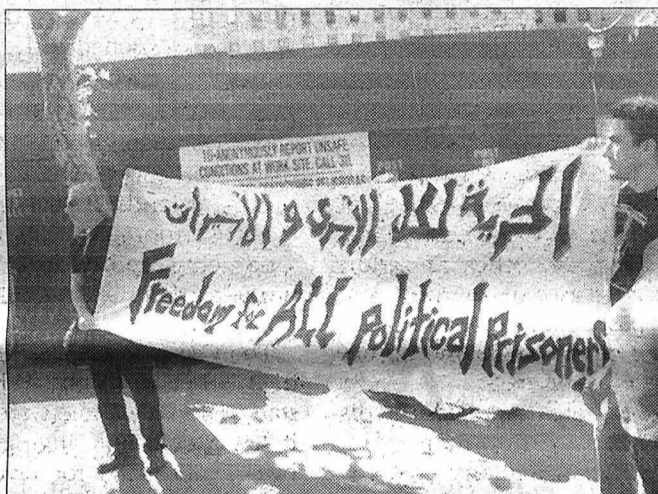
•Michael Sykes, #696693, Handlon Correctional Facility, 1728 W Bluewater Hwy, Ionia, MI 48846, USA. Moved to the above address. Serving four to 10 years for the arson of two newly constructed condominiums, trying to chop down an 80-foot utility pole and attempting to chisel through cement in his jail cell.

•James "Waste" Tucker has been released after completing 3.6 years for the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arson of a construction site.

Awaiting Trial or Sentencing

•Mumia Abu-Jamal, #AM8335, SCI Greene, 175 Progress Dr, Waynesburg, PA 15370, USA. Awaiting resentencing to either life in prison or death. Abu-Jamal, a politically active journalist, was framed for the murder of a cop in 1981. For more information, visit www.freemumia.org.

•Gregg Avery, TA7450, HMP Winchester, Romsey Rd, Winchester, SO22 5DF, UK. Awaiting sentencing for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/shacukprisonersupport.



A banner at a recent Jericho Movement march in New York City

•Natasha Avery, NR8987, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Awaiting sentencing for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/shacukprisonersupport.

•Vaggelis Botzatzis, Dikastikes Fylakes Komotinis, TK 69100, Greece. Awaiting trial for the alleged arson of a bank, a car dealership and two cars owned by an energy company.

•Mel Broughton, TN9138, HMP Woodhill, Tattenhoe St, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK4 4DA, UK. Awaiting trial for conspiracy to blackmail and possession of explosives in connection with the campaign against Oxford University's primate lab. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportmel.

•Daniele Casalini, Casa Circondariale, Via Burla 59, 43100-Parma PR, Italy. Awaiting trial for allegedly using explosives to damage power lines. Casalini is a member of Il Silvestre, an Italian eco-anarchist group and frequent target of state repression.

•Francesco Gioia, CC Sollicciano, Via Girolamo Minervini 2/R, 50142-Firenze Sollicciano FI, Italy. Awaiting trial for allegedly using explosives to damage power lines. Gioia is a member of Il Silvestre.

•Paola Gori, Via delle Macchie 9, 57124-Livorno LI, Italy. Awaiting trial for alleged subversive conspiracy to rob a post office. Gori is a member of Il Silvestre.

Animal Liberation

•Jon Ablewhite, TB4885, 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.

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

•Donald Currie, A3660AA, HMP Parkhurst, Clissold Rd, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX, UK. Serving an "indefinite sentence" of at least six years—with no fixed release date or upper limit—for arson against targets linked to the vivisection industry.

•Lauren Gazzola, #93497-011, FCI Danbury, Rte 37, Danbury, CT 06811, USA. Serving 4.5 years for conspiracy charges stemming from her work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.supportlauren.com.

•Joshua Harper, #29429-086, FCI Sheridan, POB 5000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA. Serving three years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.joshharper.org.

•Sean Kirtley, WC6977, HMP Stafford, 54 Gaol Rd, Stafford, T16 3AW, UK. Serving 4.5 years for organizing legal demonstrations against Sequani, an animal-testing company. For more information, visit supportsean.wordpress.com.

•Kevin Kjonaas, #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.

•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.

•Kerry Whitburn TB4886, HMP Lowdham Grange, Lowdham, Nottingham, NG14 7DA, UK. Serving 12 years for attempting to blackmail a farmer who supplied guinea pigs for vivisection.

•Sarah Whitehead, VM7684, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Serving 15 months for burglary charges after rescuing an abused beagle from a dangerous home and nine additional months from a prior suspended sentence for rescuing more than 100 animals from a pet breeder who was later prosecuted for animal abuse. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportsarah.

Ecodefense

•Grant Barnes, #137563, San Carlos Correctional Facility, POB 3, Pueblo, CO 81002, USA. Serving 12 years for the ELF arson of SUVs.

•Nathan "Exile" Block, #36359-086, FCI Lompoc, 3600 Guard Rd, Lompoc, CA 93436, USA. Serving nearly eight years for ELF arsons at an SUV dealership and a hybrid poplar farm.

•Marco Camenisch, Postfach 3143, CH-8105 Regensdorf, Switzerland. Serving 18 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.

•Jeffrey "Free" Luers, #13797671, Columbia River Correctional Institution, 9111 NE Sunderland Ave, Portland, OR 97211, USA. Serving 10 years for arson at a car dealership and attempted arson of an oil truck. For more information, visit www.freefreenow.org.

•Eric McDavid, #16209-097, FCI Victorville Medium II, POB 5700, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA. Serving 19.5 years for

An Account of Marie's Plea Hearing

BY JEZZABELL

While on house arrest for six months and wearing an electronic ankle tether, Green Scare defendant Marie Mason refused to sign a plea agreement forcing her to name other activists. Two hours before the September 5 deadline to sign an agreement, federal prosecutors offered a revised plea agreement that required naming only cooperating snitch Frank Ambrose. If Marie did not accept this agreement, she knew that prosecutors were planning to ask for life in prison in the western district of Michigan, along with superseding indictments, more trials in other districts and states, and multiple life sentences.

On September 11, family, friends and activists filled the back of a US District of Western Michigan courtroom. They were there supporting Marie during her plea hearing for the four counts she was arrested and charged with in March 2008. At the end of the morning Marie pleaded guilty to two counts of arson and one count of conspiring to arson. She left the courtroom after the state stole her right to leave home.

Her first arson charge was for her involvement with an arson at a University of Michigan office where research on genetically modified (GM) crops was conducted. The second was for the arson of logging equipment elsewhere in Michigan. While explaining how the university arson was conspired, she mentioned how the introduction of GM crops leads to the destabilization of communities. In regard to the judge's questions about

the logging equipment's use in interstate or foreign commerce, she explained how, through the globalization of capital, anything could be construed as a vehicle for foreign commerce.

US Attorney Hagen Frank referred to Marie's actions as "domestic terrorism, plain and simple." He also stressed how someone could have been hurt due to the university office window breaking. Low and behold, as with every other case of ecological defense, nobody was hurt in the University of Michigan action or any other of Marie's actions. Near the conclusion of the trial, Frank requested that Marie be put on house arrest with no leave.

According to the plea agreement sentencing guidelines, the prosecution is attempting to sentence Marie to a minimum of 15 years and a maximum of 20. A restitution obligation of more than \$4 million is currently on the table, though this amount may change prior to sentencing. While the terrorism enhancement act is mentioned within the recommendations regarding sentencing, it remains unclear if and how it may apply to Marie's sentencing. Her original third charge has been dropped by the US Attorney's office. Marie will not face charges for any of the other 12 actions she was accused of—as long as no other past actions come to the attention of the courts and no new ones are committed.

Marie's plea agreement disclosed no new information and harmed no one in any way. Lauren Regan of the Civil Liberties Defense Center said this in regard to Marie Mason's plea agreement: "I state with unequivocal confidence and knowledge that Marie

has been absolutely stalwart in her commitment to not cooperate with the government and to do no act that would damage the larger environmental movement in any way." Marie's plea agreement names no one anywhere within it besides Frank Ambrose, and it was his recordings of wire-tapped conversations with Marie that led to her initial arrest.

Outside of the courtroom, before everyone parted ways, Marie shared many inspiring words. "I don't want to see anyone crying," she said. She radiated nothing but gratitude and optimism. There were hugs all around, and everyone brimmed with mutual appreciation and excitement. We thanked her for her strength and more than 20 years of dedication to the movement; Marie thanked us for our support and the energy we are putting into our campaigns.

The night before the hearing, worries arose that there would not be ample support in the courtroom. We made phone calls that night in a last minute attempt to rally up the presence that was needed and deserved. This resulted in carloads of people from Indiana and Illinois joining friends in Michigan in the courtroom. As the road to sentencing approaches, we are hoping others are organizing to be present.

The Green Scare is stealing our friends left and right. When the state stole Marie from us in March it left a constant ringing in our hearts. The need for revolutionary solidarity is calling now more than ever. That calling will not stop until Marie and everybody else is free. If you, too, are feeling that call shaking your ribcage,

join us in solidarity through support and increased action!

Marie's trial is currently set for February 5.

For a copy of Marie's plea agreement, information on how to donate or other information, visit www.freemarie.org.

A Letter From Marie

Dear Earth First! Folks and friends,

Thank you so much for your support and encouragement these past difficult months. I've been constantly inspired and uplifted by the continuing resistance to the destruction of the Earth, and the building of the community in long relation to all the creatures and beings with whom we share it. This has been the mission of Earth First! for all of the years that I have known it. No compromise in defense of Mother Earth!

I greatly appreciate the support given me to make this painful, but I believe ethical and necessary, decision to accept this plea offer now. As I understand my situation, this is the lesser of two evils. I have happily spent my life agitating, organizing and fighting for a better world, and have considered it a great privilege to do so. I am confident that we, as a movement, will accomplish the changes in human attitudes and behavior that are so vital to our collective continued survival. We will win because we must win. The world depends upon our dedication, vision and action. Though I am caged by the state, my heart is with you and all that you do. You have my love and faith, now and always.

For the Earth,
—Marie Mason

Marie Mason Update

conspiracy to destroy the US Forest Service's Institute of Forest Genetics, a cell-phone tower and power plants. For more information, visit www.supporteric.org.

•Daniel McGowan, #63794-053, USP Marion, POB 1000, Marion, IL 62959, USA. Serving seven years for ELF arsons at a lumber company and a hybrid poplar farm. For more information, visit www.supportdaniel.org.

•Olga Aleksandrovna Nevskaya, UU163/5, 7 Otryad, pos. Dzerzhinskiy, Mozhaysk 140090 Moskovskaya oblast, Russia. Eco-activist serving six years for arson, criminal damage and causing explosions in protest of the war in Chechnya. Due for release in 2009.

•Jonathan Paul, #07167-085, FCI Phoenix, 37910 N 45th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85086, USA. Serving 4.25 years for the Animal Liberation Front/ELF arson of a horse slaughterhouse and meat-packing plant. For more information, visit www.supportjonathan.org.

•Briana Waters, #36432-086, FCI Danbury, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811, USA. Serving six years for the ELF arson of the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture. Waters insists she was not involved. For more information, visit www.supportbriana.org.

•Joyanna "Sadie" Zacher, #36360-086, FCI Dublin, Camp Parks, Unit E, 5701 8th St, Dublin, CA 94568, USA. Serving nearly eight years for ELF arsons at an SUV dealership and a hybrid poplar farm.

Indigenous Resistance

•Leonard Peltier, #89637-132, USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837, USA. Peltier, an AIM 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.

MOVE

The MOVE 9, members of an eco-revolutionary group, were framed for the murder of a cop and sentenced to 30-100 years each. Delbert Orr Africa's parole hearing is scheduled for November. The others were denied parole this Spring. For more information, visit 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, USA.

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

•Edward Goodman Africa, #AM4974, SCI Mahanoy, 301 Morea Rd, Frackville, PA 17932, USA.

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

Other Political Prisoners

•Rodney Coronado, #03895-000, FCI El Reno, POB 1500, El Reno, OK 73036, USA. Serving one year for distribution of information

related to the assembly of explosives and weapons of mass destruction. Be aware that the prison may punish Coronado for receiving radical materials in the mail. For more information, visit www.supportrod.org.

•Fran Thompson, #1090915 HU 1C, WERDCC, POB 300, 1101 E Hwy 54, Vandalia, MO 63382-0300, USA. Before receiving a life sentence in the early 1990s for shooting a stalker in self-defense, Thompson was active in animal rights and environmental campaigns.

•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 with bullets inside to officials, and robbing a bank and burning the money.

Prisoner Support Groups

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

•National Jericho Movement, POB 1272, New York, NY 10013, USA; www.thejerichomovement.com.

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

Lights! Camera! Direct Action!

An anarchist review of *Battle in Seattle*



BY J. ROGUE WITH ANDREW HEDDEN

I spent my 19th birthday in the cold and rain, breathing in tear gas and fleeing the police. It was 1999, and I was in Seattle, joining with the tens of thousands who descended on the city to protest the World Trade Organization (WTO)'s first Ministerial Conference in the US. I was sympathetic to the myriad of issues represented by the various sections of protesters, from the environment to workers' struggles to access to medicine. I proudly marched with my banner that read, "Think the WTO is bad? Wait 'til you hear about capitalism!" The reasons to oppose the WTO were a thousand-fold, but central to me was the larger system at play: global capitalism.

My fellow anarchists worked alongside union members, people dressed as sea turtles and other activists of all kinds in an effort to shut down the WTO's meeting. The diversity of the protesters brought with it a diversity of tactics, and anarchists participated in many, from locking down in intersections and doorways to squatting a building downtown to breaking the windows of targeted multinational corporations. While the debate about the protests and their aftermath has seen hundreds of opinions, perspectives and critiques, there is one thing most can agree on: The 1999 WTO protests brought American attention to global economic issues. In addition to successfully shutting down the meeting, activists in the US illustrated an awareness of and resistance to the WTO's repression and exploitation of peoples across the globe.

Almost 10 years later, the protests have inspired a feature film. Directed by Stuart Townsend, *Battle in Seattle* is a clearly well researched fictionalized drama taking place during the WTO protests. The pacing and general narrative is quite accurate to the events as they actually unfolded. This new, sympathetic attention to a pivotal moment of the anti-globalization movement brings up many old questions and debates, most of which linger on today. The movie itself is engaging and likeable, with plenty of well staged action to keep the viewer's interest. Michelle Rodriguez, badass as always, makes a fierce anarchist. (In the interest of disclosure, I watched *Blue Crush* three times and *Blood Rayne* twice just for Rodriguez.) The intentions of the film are clearly sympathetic to the protesters and seek to bring to light the motivations and ideas of the activists, which have not been well represented by the media.

The film is independently produced and not a product of Hollywood, though it uses a Hollywood style to capture its audience. Like the popular Oscar-winner *Crash*, it weaves together individual stories and illustrates how they connect. For an effort as collective as the WTO protests, this approach ultimately focuses too much on individual people. One of the shortcomings of the film is the fact that it is composed of anecdotes. Certainly, to be an entertaining movie, one has to tell the story of some compelling characters, but when telling the story of the WTO protests, this causes some key ideas to slip through

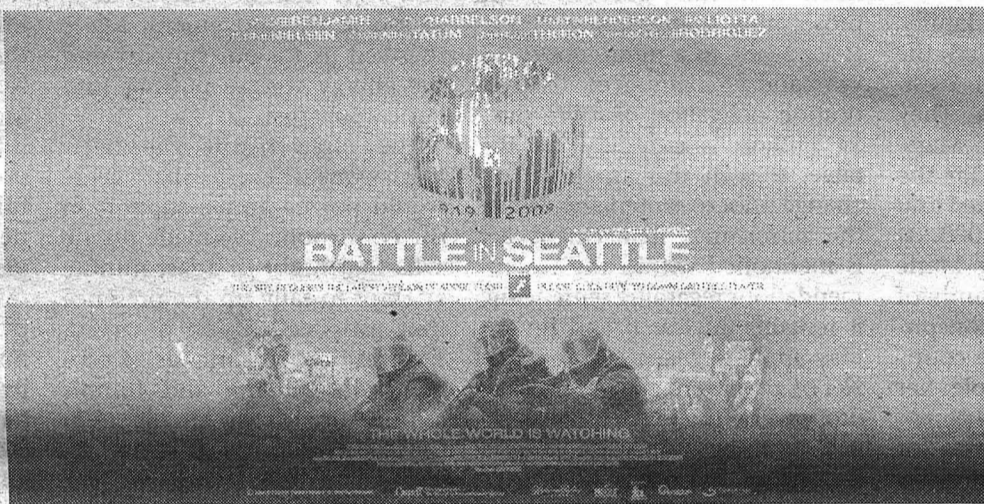
the cracks. By focusing on the personal lives and motivations of a handful of characters, we miss the greater, systemic causes at play.

Consequently, the film focuses on the isolated "mistakes" of both the Seattle police, and to a lesser extent, the media. There is not a larger awareness of the fact that institutions like the WTO rely on media whitewash of their activities and a negative portrayal of protesters, not to mention police repression. Cops fighting protesters is par for the course given the greater violence of the WTO (poverty, white supremacy, etc.). Corporate

as Elizabeth Martinez's "Where Was the Color in Seattle?") and gender (such as the Rock Bloc Collective's essay "Stick It to the Manarchy"). While some of the main character roles were people of color, the film lacks any important dialog regarding the general whiteness and affluence of the protest demographic. As organizer Hop Hopkins explains in the WTO protest documentary *This is What Democracy Looks Like*, "Solidarity doesn't mean we don't talk about issues that separate us.... You've got to take it a step further. Race, class, gender, sexism, heterosexism, the whole nine yards.... If that's not in your analysis, then you're only half-stepping, and you're not really working for revolution."

By devoting more screen time to bouts of melodrama and hot, intense protest action than actual ideas, the film's politics are exciting but sterile. The superficial politics end up misrepresenting many protesters, especially anarchists, even when it is unintended. With the exception of Michelle Rodriguez's character

Photo courtesy: Renwood Palm Pictures



media also has something to gain by dramatizing the conflict and making the protesters look bad; sensationalism is what gets the ratings, after all. There is a broader systemic analysis of capitalism, white supremacy and patriarchy, their roles in the WTO and the states that control it, which is missing from the film.

Of all the characters in the film—including a cop, his wife, the mayor, an NGO professional, an African delegate—Townsend gives the most screen time to various activists. Townsend has explained that *Battle in Seattle's* glorification of the professional activist is aimed at trying to inspire people to become more active in progressive causes. However, in an effort to show activists in a positive light, their achievements are overblown. The breakaway segment of the protest's labor march was portrayed in the film as directed by the activists, when in fact it was led by the steelworkers and other militant union folks. Townsend does make activism look sexy and exciting (though Michelle Rodriguez could make doing laundry look sexy and exciting), but as a strategy with greater political goals, his version of activism is misguided. The movie unintentionally perpetuates the middle-class do-gooder cultural concept when a more important focus would be on the large-scale popular movements. Individualist activist culture has a component of vanguardism and elitism, which the movie reinforces—the film's activists all have various motivations, but none of them seek to change the conditions of their own lives. Any approach to activism that overlooks the people most affected by exploitation and oppression, neglecting to put grassroots social movements in the foreground, is unsustainable.

Battle in Seattle lacks an awareness of a major theme of the protests, perhaps their most successful element: solidarity. Many of the protesters were vocal in their solidarity with others around the world in resisting global capitalism, and that piece is largely missing from the film. The film overlooks the essential movement-building debates that followed the protests, namely those concerning race (such

Lou, anarchists are portrayed solely as macho insurrectionists. While there are certainly many of those types within anarchism, and there were particularly at the WTO protests, the film neglects to mention that there were anarchists participating in many, many types of actions. The diversity of thought and strategy within anarchism is ignored, and in its place is a one-dimensional, sensationalized caricature of anarchist politics, despite being slightly more educated than the usual media portrayal.

For all its errors, *Battle in Seattle* provides a fun opportunity to return to the question of why the WTO protests represented such a massive victory and what we as anarchists should focus on in our political work nearly 10 years later. After all, the film arrives in a year when protests are again in the news. The summit protest has again become a popular draw for new activists and old hands alike, as we have most recently seen here in the US with the Democratic and Republican National Conventions (see pages 1 and 16-18). After several years of involvement in the protest circuit, many anarchists are developing criticisms of the usual tactics, creating alternatives or withdrawing from that scene altogether (usually in favor of organizing that is grounded in local struggles and communities).

The Worker's Solidarity Alliance, in a recent statement on the RNC protests, perhaps put it best: "Specifically, we must avoid playing into the hands of the state by using rhetoric, rituals and tactics that isolate us from the majority of the world's population, which suffers under capitalism. We call for a resistance based not exclusively on the advanced tactics of a jail-ready minority, but the solidarity and militancy of a revolutionary social bloc, organized in workplaces and neighborhoods, fighting for self-determination. As the raids on activists' spaces have already shown, anything less is political suicide."

J. Rogue and Andrew Hedden are members of Common Action and want you to check out www.nwcommonaction.org. This article was originally written for www.anarkismo.net.

No Coal Finance Day of Action November 14–15 · At a Bank Near You

Join Rainforest Action Network, Greenpeace and thousands of grassroots climate activists as we mobilize to stop Wall Street's investments in climate change and the dirty coal industry!

On November 14 and 15, we are asking anyone and everyone concerned with stopping the US coal rush to join us in taking the message to Wall Street. From flyering and leafleting at your local bank branch or ATM, to organizing creative street theater or nonviolent direct action at bank offices—help our climate and communities by demanding clean energy!

It's time to take to the streets and send Bank of America and Citi a strong message that grassroots movements against coal extraction and combustion demand an end to coal financing.

For more info, contact dirtymoney@ran.org; www.dirtymoney.org.

Annual Black Mesa Indigenous Support Caravan November 22–29 · Black Mesa, Arizona

Black Mesa Indigenous Support (BMIS) is currently putting together a caravan of work crews from across the country to support residents of the Big Mountain regions of Black Mesa who continue to carry out their staunch resistance to the US Government and Peabody Coal's efforts to devastate whole communities and ecosystems.

With the guidance of Black Mesa residents, the aim of this caravan is to bring support to Black Mesa communities before the approaching cold Winter months. We expect volunteer work parties to help with firewood chopping and hauling, do minor repair work, provide holistic health care and spend a few days herding sheep.

BMIS wishes for this caravan to be an opportunity for people of all backgrounds to listen and work with the families of Black Mesa to generate awareness of relocation laws, coal mining and the struggle of Black Mesa communities to be free on their ancestral homelands. It is also an opportunity to strengthen our solidarity and work together to protect Black Mesa and our Mother Earth for all life.

For more information, to register or to locate a caravan coordinator near you, contact BMIS, POB 23501, Flagstaff, AZ 86002; (928) 773-8086; blackmesais@riseup.net; www.blackmesais.org.

International Day of Action to Free Mumia December 6 · Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Beyond

Once again, the courts have ignored and changed precedent to illegally continue the imprisonment of Mumia Abu-Jamal. In July, the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against three issues that could have led to a new trial. Other than the US Supreme Court, this was the last appeal to have his conviction overturned. Without an outpouring of public protest, Mumia will either be executed or spend the remainder of his life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Save the date for a mass action in Philly on December 6. (December 9 marks 27 years of unjust imprisonment.) There will also be actions in cities internationally on that day.

For more information, contact icffmaj@aol.com.

First Annual Los Angeles Anarchist Book Fair December 13 · Los Angeles, California

The book fair will be a place for dreamers, fighters, organizers and rebels to come, meet, strategize, learn from each other, get books, attend workshops, and join the movement. There will be books, community and revolutionary organizations, vendors, speakers, workshops and games.

The location will be the Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research. A \$5 entry fee includes a vegan dinner. Proceeds will go to the Revolutionary Autonomous Communities Defense Fund and the Southwest Regional Gathering for Anarchist/Autonomous/Angry People Of Color in January 2009.

We invite anybody who has ideas and who wants to help to come to planning meetings. For meeting times, contact rac@riseup.net.

For more info or to register, visit www.diyzine.com/bookfairhome.

Everglades Uprising! 2009 Winter Gathering and Action Camp December 30–January 17 · Martin County (Near Indiantown)

Come experience three days of forums, workshops and trainings; two weeks of actions, monitoring camps and eco-outings; and *one everglades bioregion*, united in exposing and attacking the energy empire and the dictatorship of developers in South Florida.

This gathering will feature topics of bioregional resistance to new infrastructure and development, "comprehensive everglades restoration" politics and corruption, wetland and coastal ecosystem defense, environmental justice issues, direct action and community organizing, and ground-truthing (collecting data on location) and site monitoring visits.

Come check out some of the last remaining old growth Bald Cypress in southeast Florida!

For more information, please contact (561) 588-9666; www.evergladesearthfirst.org.

Call for Submissions to 2008 RNC Book Due January 20

Every four years, the Democratic and Republican parties gather to nominate their candidates for president. These national conventions are vast public spectacles. With great pomp and decadence, they praise the virtues of democracy and claim a mandate from the American people, while simultaneously choking dissenting voices with clouds of tear gas and pepper spray. This year, as in years past, the Republican National Convention (RNC) was the site of fierce protest.

As activists involved in organizing against the 2008 RNC and past conventions, we believe it is important to learn from our experiences in order to grow stronger, smarter and more effective as a movement. As part of this effort, we are issuing this call for submissions to an upcoming, book-length record of the 2008 RNC protests in St. Paul, Minnesota.

We are looking for diverse content, including but not limited to: group accounts and personal recollections of planning, action and police repression; constructive analyses of strategy and tactics; academic essays; legal discussions of arrests, repression and court cases; and photographs, artwork and video stills.

We want this record to be as comprehensive as possible, covering all stages of planning and execution, all sites of protest, all tactics and targets, all protest roles and radical movements. In order for this to be a true people's history of the RNC, we are committed to including the accounts of women, LGBTQ folks and people of color.

Contributions are due by January 20. For more information, contact info@rncbook.org; www.rncbook.org.

2009 Earth First! Organizers' Conference and Winter Rendezvous February 12–16 · Southern Arizona

The 2009 Organizers' Conference (OC) and Winter Rendezvous will be held under the desert sun in Arizona, at a location to be determined. The Sonoran Desert is one of the largest and hottest deserts in North America. It is a land of stunning diversity, with a variety of unique plants and animals, and the only home of the saguaro cactus.

As the human population grows, the desert's biodiversity is increasingly threatened by the conversion of native habitats and the depletion of already scarce water sources. Join us in the land of javelina and pygmy owls as we share, learn and strategize to take action of behalf of the Sonoran Desert and the rest of the planet's bioregions.

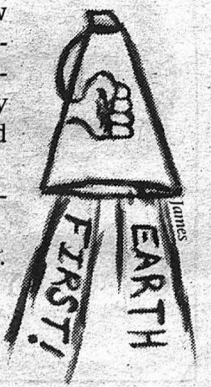
See the next issue of the *EF!* for details. For more information, or if you have suggestions for the OC organizers, contact chukshonoc2009@yahoo.com.

Earth First! Journal Call for Submission

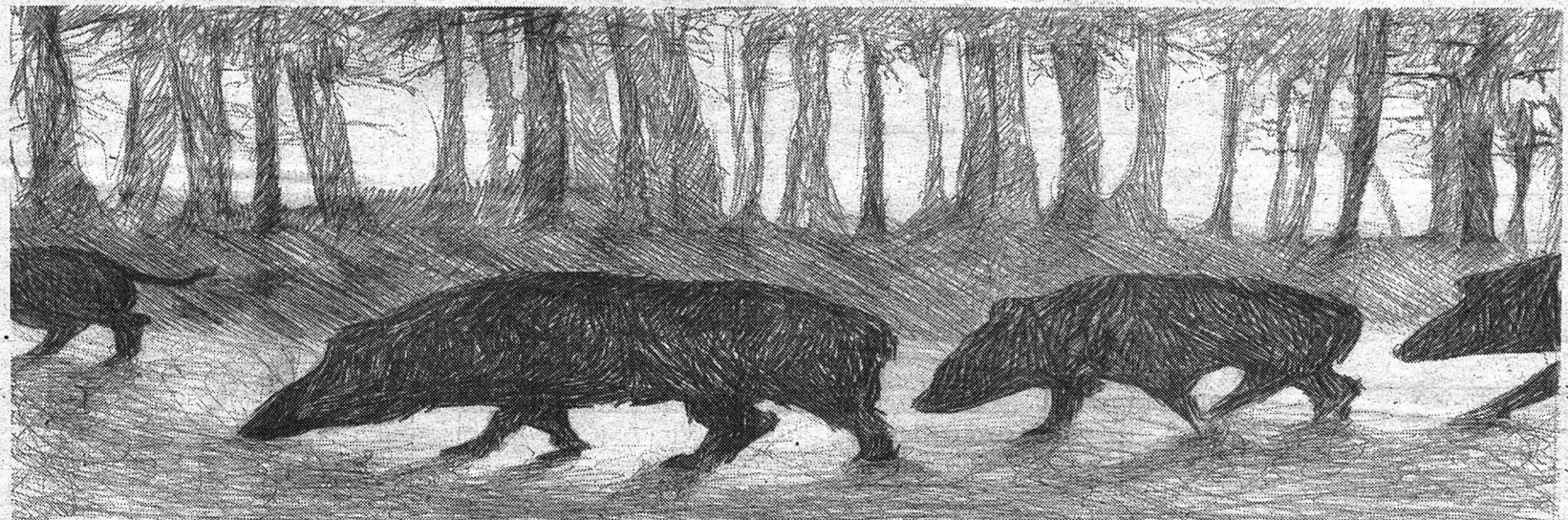
The *Earth First! Journal* is announcing an ongoing search for submissions. Our beloved readers are the brain and brawn (no, seriously) behind everything we report on in the *Journal*. Though we do have a deadline every issue (typically during the third week of every odd-numbered month), you can ultimately submit an article or graphic 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

We thrive on hearing your opinions (all of them, believe it or not), seeing your artwork and hearing about what matters most to you. So, we invite you to take some time and donate some words for the cause. We'd appreciate it if you keep our audience in mind—this is a *radical environmental* publication—and keep your focus on action or movement analysis (and not just the problem)!

For more information, see the Eostar 2007 editorial (also available on our website) or contact *EF! Journal*, POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702; collective@earthfirstjournal.org; www.earthfirstjournal.org.



Announcements



artwork by Jill Lovessky

Everglades wild boars



"I spent a year in the Northwoods of Wisconsin at an outdoor school. It was not a survival school, because I died. I died to my old way of thinking. I died to being egocentric. I died to the pursuit of the civilized lifeway. I became alive to many other things—became alive to the Circle. I became alive to the native lifeway. I became alive to the connectedness of all things. I became alive to trusting, being and the now. My heart is full. I have much to share, more than words can say."

—Coyote Three Feathers aka John Herron
(Wilderness Guide Program 2004-2005)

COULD A YEAR IN THE WILDERNESS DO THIS FOR YOU?

www.teachingdrum.org
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www.earthfirstjournal.org

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