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Earth First!

Beltane May-June 2009

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Exploring the New Wilderness Act

BY ATTILA

After years of banging their heads against a wall, wilderness protection groups finally got a huge break. The Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 became law in March. This one bill designated as much wilderness as had been designated over the past eight years, adding two million acres to the Wilderness System. It doubled the amount of rivers with Wild and Scenic designation. It even included the Eagle Creek wilderness, a place that Earth First! successfully defended.

During the early 1980s, some EF!ers were dedicated exclusively to increasing wilderness designation on public lands. (The idea that EF! *only* did wilderness defense is a myth we perpetuate, as there were also folks fighting the World Bank and pressuring fast food restaurants to stop using rainforest beef during the 1980s). To the wilderness folks, this is a huge success. Still, this bill represents part of the reason why EF! may have shifted focus as a movement.

While there are important wilderness designations in West Virginia, Michigan and Virginia, representation of ecosystems in the Great Plains and much of the Deep South is absent. Even Dave Foreman, noted for emphasizing the importance of Wilderness designation, criticized the Wilderness System for protecting only "ice and rocks" (and I would add "mud"), instead of protecting a diversity of ecosystems with more complex biological communities. The Wilderness System, the public lands set aside by Congress in National Forests, National Parks and other federal areas, tends to protect the lands in the West that industrial profiteers can't find a use for. This act does much better in that it protects a lot of biodiverse primal and second-growth forests. Still, the Wilderness System lacks major representation of grasslands, which at one point made up a third of the US.

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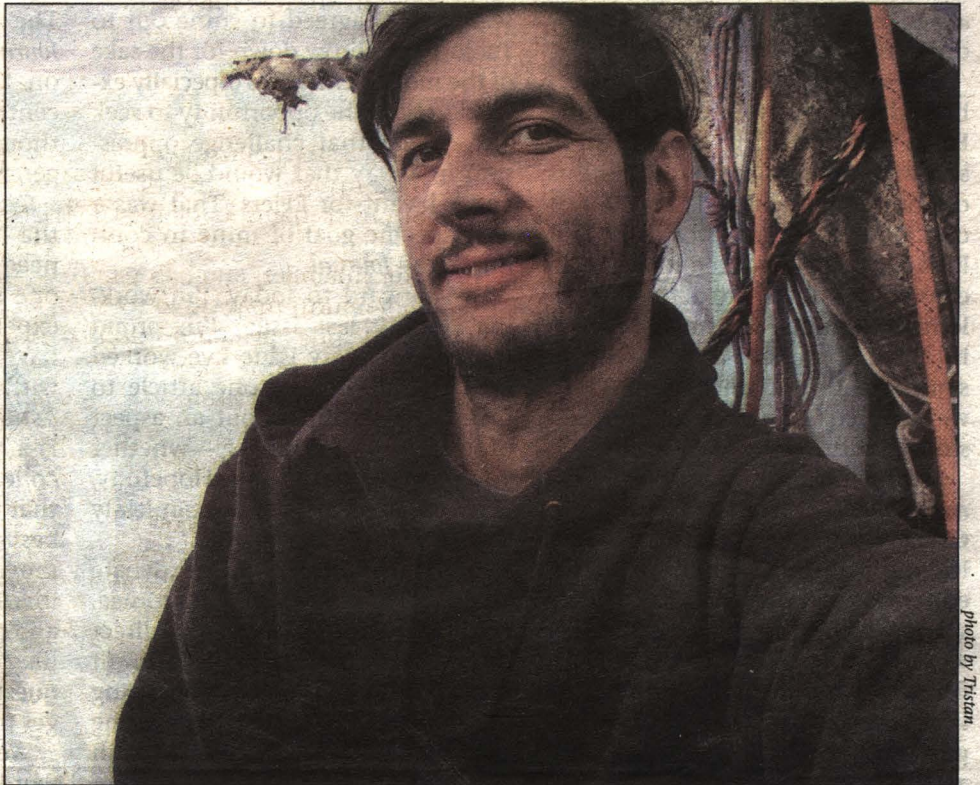


photo by Tristan

Tristan hangin' out at the Berkeley sit

Oakland EF!er Critically Wounded in Palestine

BY SOME OF TRISTAN'S FRIENDS

On March 13, Tristan Anderson was critically injured by Israeli troops during protests against Israel's expansionist wall in the West Bank community of Ni'lin. An Earth First!er based in Oakland, California, he was hit in the forehead by a new type of high-velocity, extended-range teargas projectile and taken to Tel Hashomer hospital, near Tel Aviv. The impact of the projectile caused numerous, condensed fractures to Tristan's forehead and right eye socket. Part of his right frontal lobe was penetrated by bone fragments and had to be removed.

The Israeli government is in the process of building a wall through the Palestinian-controlled West Bank that passes through Ni'lin. Like the wall as a whole, the Ni'lin segment is designed to strategically reduce the amount of land that would be accessible to its Palestinian population. In 1948, Ni'lin covered more than 14,000 acres. Now, Ni'lin is almost 2,500 acres, and after the construction of this wall, it would consist of less than 1,900 acres. This is typical of the wall's effect on communities throughout the West Bank. In response, people from Israel and around the world have joined masses of Palestinians to protest, agitate and organize against the wall. Since July, four youths from Ni'lin have been killed by the Israeli Defense Forces, including a 10-year-old. Both live ammunition and "non-lethal," rubber-coated steel bullets were used in their deaths.

Tristan was shot while taking pictures inside Ni'lin, several hours after the army initially attacked a protest

march of the town's residents (joined by Israeli and international activists) who attempted to march onto their own lands in the vicinity of the wall. Contrary to previous demonstrations, protesters managed to reach the road on which the wall is being built and even cause damage to parts of the razor-wire protecting the site, as well as to the newly erected fence segments. Israeli troops dispersed demonstrators by using large amounts of teargas and rubber-coated steel bullets, driving everyone back into the town. Soldiers followed the retreating crowd and shot concussion grenades, teargas canisters, rubber-coated steel bullets and even live ammunition into Ni'lin.

It is not surprising that Tristan was in Ni'lin. He has been active in the global justice movement for more than a decade. He has attended anti-globalization protests in many nations and saw Iraq first hand, where he traveled with a circus, cheering up kids in the war-torn country after the US invasion. After visiting many countries in the Middle East, Tristan was eager to go to Palestine and stand with the people there. He was especially concerned about the Israeli apartheid wall being built in the West Bank.

Tristan is also a guardian of the Earth closer to home. He went to his first Round River Rendezvous in 1995. Soon after, he became involved with the campaign to save Headwaters forest in Northern California. Throughout the 1990s, he traveled with the mobile East Bay Food Not Bombs kitchen, which drew him to environmental, anti-nuclear and indigenous-rights camps at

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A sequoia grove highlighted in the new Wilderness Act

Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

Beltane May-June 2009

From Caucuses to Carabiners

Earth First!

May 1, 2009

Vol. 29, No. 4

The 2006 Round River Rendezvous (RRR) in Wise County, Virginia, was a significant event for me in a few different ways.

For one, it was the first time I hosted and organized a national Earth First! gathering. It was great to show off the mountains and forests of Southern Appalachia to the rest of y'all. Also, a group of us at that RRR decided we wanted to create an element within EF! to actively challenge a lot of the sexism and racism in EF! that we saw as increasingly symptomatic and unchecked. Thus, we formed Challenging Oppression Within.

Meanwhile, the *Earth First! Journal* collective was freaking out. Oskar was stepping down soon, leaving Josh as the only long-term editor—and there were no people set up to short-term the issue they were about to begin! Ever since I received a journalism degree in 2000, I had been toying with (or trying to push away) the idea of long-terming at the *Journal*. It seemed like they really needed help and I'd always figured it was possibly in the cards for me somewhere, so I thought this might be the time to give joining the

Journal collective a shot. After many long conversations and much soul-searching, I agreed to come out to Tucson and throw down for the sake of the movement. I was especially excited to have the opportunity to seek out articles that challenge oppression in a way that would be useful and relevant for EF!ers. That was a very specific goal of mine in coming to the *Journal*.

Fast-forward to today, I'm working on my last issue. I'm proud that *almost* every issue I've worked on has had at least one article to make EF!ers think about an aspect of oppression within EF!—whether you've noticed it or not. Hopefully, many of these articles fit seamlessly within the rest of the issue.

I feel that much of the debate about anti-oppression discourse, versus the idea of biocentric direct action, loses sight that it's important that these aren't seen as opposing or contrary topics; EF! is only going to work when our anti-oppression organizing is influencing our biocentric direct action, and vice versa. I think it's very safe to say that each EF!er is here specifically to join with like-minded activists to defend the

Earth. That always has been and always will be our most basic tenet. The thought that the continuing *Journal* collective is eager to carry on the course of promoting biocentric direct action, while sharing thoughts on how to make EF! stronger, makes me happy.

On another note, not unlike at the 2006 RRR, the *Journal* really needs a new long-term editor, as one recently left the collective unexpectedly. There are still two who have made commitments to stay with the *Journal* past the move to Asheville, North Carolina, but this is a big job; another editor on the collective will *really* help ensure that the *Journal* continues to be the best tool it can be for our global movement. We're especially looking for someone with good editing and production skills. If that sounds like you, or if you have thoughts or questions in regards to this, please get in touch!

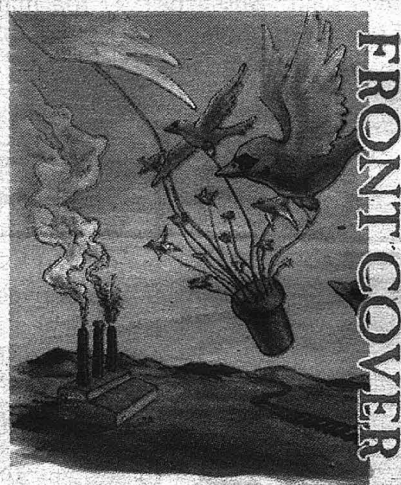
Well, *adios* as a *periodista* (the word, "journalista," always bothered me), Earth First!. I can't wait to spend more time with you on the front lines!

—DONNY

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

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

Submission deadlines are the 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.

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Protesters Confront TVA at Its Headquarters

BY MOUNTAIN JUSTICE

A "die-in" in front of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)'s headquarters resulted in the arrest of 14 individuals. Local residents marched in Knoxville, Tennessee, with dozens of activists from across the US on March 14, ending with street theatre in front of the headquarters. This event was held in solidarity with communities affected by the destructive impacts of mountaintop removal coal mining and the survivors of the recent coal ash disaster in Harriman, Tennessee.

TVA is the classic example of a nightmare created by economic stimulus plans. TVA was set up during the Great Depression as a federally owned corporation to exploit the rivers, mountains and people of the Cumberland Plateau. It is not only an electricity provider, but also an economic development scheme, with jurisdiction over most of Tennessee, as well as parts of Alabama, Mississippi and Kentucky. As a political entity, it can exercise state powers like eminent domain, but it is unaccountable to the people that live under its rule. It has been used as a model for "development" in the Third World, with the same tragic consequences.

TVA is the largest electricity provider in the country, the largest purchaser of coal and the fourth-largest producer of electricity from coal. Most of its coal plants were built 60 years ago, so they are especially dirty and inefficient. North Carolina successfully sued TVA to clean up three plants in Tennessee and one in Alabama, because the smoke from these plants was destroying the air quality within its borders.

TVA operates massive hydroelectric dams that choke off the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, causing an extinction epidemic among freshwater fish and mussels. It also operates nuclear and natural gas plants.

In December and January, TVA was responsible for three toxic spills; including the Kingston spill (see *EF!* March-April 2009), which dumped 1.6 billion gallons of heavy-metal-laden coal ash waste over 400 acres. It's been called the worst environmental disaster in US history, disproving the energy industry's recent "clean coal" push. One spill was an intentional release of toxic substances and heavy metals into the Ocoee River.

"The massive toxic fly ash disaster is just one more reason

are blown up to expose coal seams. This process destroys fragile mountain ecosystems, fills valleys and streams with waste, and leaves behind billions of gallons of toxic coal sludge that contaminates essential drinking water supplies for many cities in Appalachia.

"TVA is the epitome of what is wrong with electricity production and centralization of power," said Eric Blevins, an organizer with Mountain Justice. "They produce the most electricity, buy the most coal, have their own

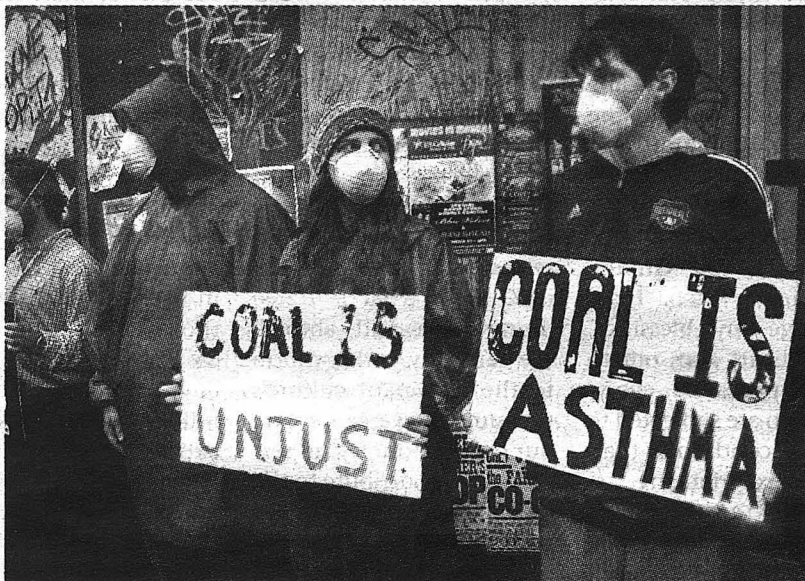
they wanted to take this action. With the support of a singing crowd, each participant fell to the ground, representing the deaths caused by the coal industry. After a few minutes, Knoxville police informed the participants that they were blocking the sidewalk and that they needed to remove themselves from the area. All 14 people were arrested and cited for loitering.

The demonstration was part of an escalating series of protests across the US calling for an end to the coal industry, including recent arrests in the Coal River Valley of West Virginia (see page 8) and the Capitol Climate Action (see page 7).

The next day, TVA police greeted students who visited the toxic-sludge spill site. The police provided an armed escort for the students. While the students offered no resistance, the police later contacted their university, saying that the students wore masks to hide their identities, and resisted and ran from the police. This is the kind of heavy-handed tactic that results from corporations like TVA having so much power.

TVA's response to the Kingston spill has mirrored the reactions of the Soviet government to the Chernobyl meltdown and Dow's treatment of the Bhopal disaster. It highlights the need to not only change the technologies we use to create electricity but the power structures currently in place. Do we think TVA will be a better manager of wind farms than they have been of coal plants and megadams? It's time for Appalachia to break free of the neo-colonial government that has robbed us of our culture, our mountains, our clean air and our living rivers. It's time for Appalachia to rise up!

Mountain Justice is a movement to stop the removal of mountains and can be reached at truth@mountainjustice.org.



Protesters driving the point home in Knoxville

that coal is filthy. Coal fly ash, a byproduct of coal combustion, is an end result of the dirty life-cycle of coal," explained Bonnie Swinford, a full-time volunteer for United Mountain Defense, "which often begins with surface mining and mountaintop removal, followed by a washing process that produces coal toxin concentrate, known as slurry. Mountaintop removal coal extraction has destroyed almost 500 mountains, and, in addition to coal slurry, continues to destroy water sources across Appalachia."

Mountaintop removal is the most-destructive method of coal extraction, in which mountains

police force and are accountable to seemingly no one. They have destroyed and poisoned a community, and we must put their crimes to an end."

The demonstration began with a rally in Knoxville's Market Square, where organizers from United Mountain Defense, Mountain Justice and Three Rivers Earth First! spoke about coal's cradle-to-grave impact on communities in Appalachia and the surrounding area. The crowd then marched through downtown Knoxville before ending at TVA's headquarters. At the end of the march, people interested in participating in civil disobedience gave a statement as to why

Clean Coal is Bullsh*t

BY UNITED MOUNTAIN DEFENSE

On December 22, a toxic tsunami hit Roane County, Tennessee. One billion, 600 million gallons of coal waste flooded a residential area, the largest environmental disaster of its kind in the US. The catastrophe occurred when an earthen dike at the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)'s Kingston Fossil plant collapsed and flooded a quiet, lakefront community. Toxic coal waste covered 400 acres of land and flooded into tributaries of the Tennessee River, the water supply for millions of people living downstream in Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky.

The coal ash at Kingston had been accumulating for half of a century. The mountain of waste covered more than 100 acres and rose 65 feet into the air before the earthen dam burst. The disaster covered surrounding land with up to 30 feet of sludge. TVA first estimated that the disaster would take four to six weeks to clean up. Since this time, the estimates have ranged from 10 years to never.



Matt Landon, holding TVA accountable

United Mountain Defense (UMD), part of Mountain Justice and a volunteer-driven, nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting Tennessee's environment and communities, began working at the disaster site by engaging in door-to-door listening projects to understand the immediate needs of the community in the wake of the disaster. We learned that information about coal ash was

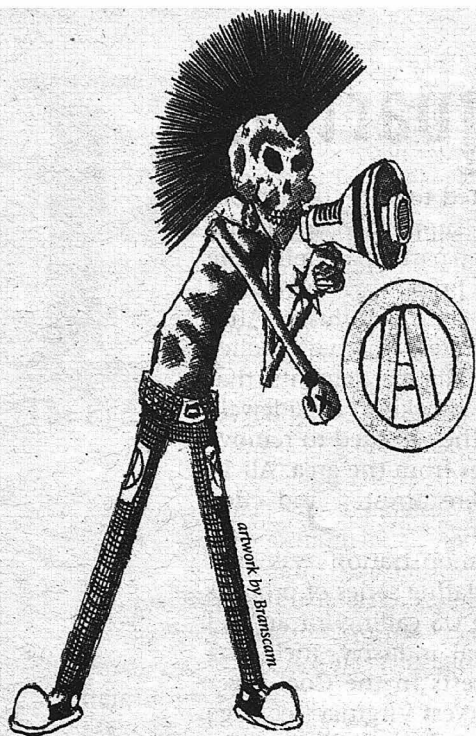
the first thing people needed, so we delivered handouts to residents about how to protect their families from coal ash.

For the first 10 days after the disaster, many of the residents were without clean, safe drinking water. TVA told residents to boil their water and later to purchase bottled water for their safety. UMD delivered more than 500 gallons of bottled drinking water door-to-door and established a water distribution center to be run by a local family.

People living near the disaster area continue to deal with trucks tracking coal ash through the community, excessive blasting from a nearby rock quarry, loud machinery working at all hours, ongoing road blocks, and TVA police vehicles and helicopters invading their community. Many people are skeptical that TVA will clean this disaster up the right way.

UMD has more than 120 hours of film and is working to compile the most comprehensive video documentation of the disaster by obtaining more equipment and editing capabilities.

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Dear Shit Fer Brains

The longest night of the year has passed. As we move toward the light, we are entering a new era. Many have a hope that Obama will bring forth some form of restoration to these dilapidated political and economic systems. I see very much of the same people, advisors and policies of previous administrations which have brought about colossal damage to the planet, people's rights and overall health, justice and freedom. If Obama really does want to bring about positive change, will he be allowed? I pray the hearts and minds of those people in positions of power will be filled with that which is utilitarian-based (and not greed-based). In the meantime, we have much to do.

My days are filled with music and writing. The mountains surrounding me stand in a brilliant grey and white. The snow around me glitters like billions of crystals in the radiant sun. Bright blue skies follow the snowstorms. Crows swoop over my head and call out their gratitude. Yesterday, a flock of huge, white geese flew over us out in the recreation yard. By the time the Summer solstice is warming our bodies nicely, I'll be back in Stumptown (Portland)! I was supposed to be out in May, but the BOP is "punishing" me for a call I made while at Sheridan. A new cellmate of mine had just arrived, and he was very eager to speak to his fiancé, who was eight-months pregnant. I figured I'd do him a favor by asking my sister to call his fiancée and give her my celly's registration number, so she could wire him some money and they could talk on the phone. Well, apparently, this is a major violation of the countless ridiculous rules they subject us to. As a result, I was tried, found guilty and was "sentenced" to loss of telephone for three months plus loss of 27 days' "good time." So, as it stands at this point, my release date from here is June

8, with my final release date from the halfway house (or home confinement) being December 4. By this coming Winter solstice, I'll be free from confinement! I'll still have probation to deal with, but at least I'll be living away from the oppression and politics of this prison setting. Even though I'm being released later than planned, I'm extremely grateful I'm getting out. Many prisoners among me and beyond are not going to be home for a very long time—some not at all! Despite the rampant dysfunction and oppression engulfing this place, it's still far better than many other prisons (Beaumont, Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo, etc.). I acknowledge my blessings, and my heart goes out to all the prisoners everywhere who are subjected to far worse conditions than what I'm experiencing.

In case you are wondering where your tax dollars are being spent (besides funding the wars, subsidizing corporate interests, and supporting the murder and pillaging of our animal friends and planet), here is a small demonstration of how this government puts your taxes to good use. This place is filled with guys from Mexico who were sentenced to five or six years for "illegal re-entry." This government thinks it's going to punish people into not coming into this country by locking them up, providing free room and board, and giving them a job. There are plenty of prisoners who are not criminals but are treated by the prison staff as something less than humyn. There are many men and women throughout the prison system who are innocent. Some were found guilty in court, despite their innocence; others pled guilty because they didn't want to risk losing at trial and spending many years or the rest of their lives behind bars. There are countless people incarcerated for decades (some even life) for growing marijuana. One guy here was handed a 30-year sentence for making containers which held marijuana. He has no previous record. He has a daughter seven years of age!

This government continues to build prisons and fills them up with humyns, not monsters; people who have families, responsibilities, passions and dreams of being more than an animal in a cage. This prison industrial complex exists not to make the US a better or safer place, but because it keeps the money flow streaming along

while making the selective few very rich. Most prisoners are locked up for non-violent "crimes." Despite the outrageous number of people incarcerated in this country (approaching three million), the crime rate continues to increase. Meanwhile, corporate and government officials operate with impunity for the atrocious injustices they perpetuate.

We have choices. We can put blind faith in political leaders to save us from the perils of our social, economic, environmental and political paradigms, or we can lead the way. We can accept what media tells us, or we can educate ourselves and others to the realities of what is transpiring here and abroad. We can obey and conform to the dominant culture's pressure, or we can create our own products and services that contribute to the overall health, fairness and benefit to all inhabitants of this precious planet. We are more than consumers, and this planet is so much more than a treasure chest from which to steal and exploit. The choice is in our hands. We can be the change we want to see in this world. We are the voice beckoning the people around the world to rise, unite and take action to protect the rights of all beings—for the sake of the sanctity of life.

In solidarity, *namaste*,

—TRE

PS: Please note, since Tre sent out this "update," he has been in solitary confinement. We have learned that his phone privileges have been denied for at least two more months, which means he can now use all the extra love and light, good energy and positivity you might beam his way. We (his family) are certain he is strong, and will endure, but please know your prayers are immensely appreciated and completely needed. We have a call into his case manager to assure us of his safety and to more fully grasp what is going on for Tre. We thank you.

—TRE'S FAMILY

Dear SFB,

The last time I got this angry at the *Journal* was in 1998, when the center section was entitled "Birth First." I fired off a letter then, and I'm firing off one now, in regard to "Rad Babies" (see *EF!* March-April 2009). Though the title is not as offensive (there can only be one first priority; by implication, "Birth First" relegates the Earth to lesser importance), the change in terminology makes no

difference in how the advocated action damages our Mother Earth. Again, I was horrified at the blatant justification to further increase the already metastasizing human population on this bloated, besieged and dying planet. If people had stopped procreating back when I wrote that other letter, there would be 820,800,726 fewer humans (and counting) on the planet than there are now. In 10 years, when there are another billion humans, are you going to print yet another section of rationalizations for selfishness? Les U. Knight: "The intentional creation of one more of us by any couple anywhere can't be justified in the light of the tens of thousands of children who die from malnutrition each day and considering the millions of species going extinct as a result of our activities." Joe Fournier: "Anyone who has children is just as guilty as Exxon for spilling oil in Alaska and causing environmental destruction." Those who protest the hypocrisy of environmentalists driving cars must admit the difficulty of living in this country without doing so. But where is the difficulty in living without children? There is no excuse or justification for committing such a heinous act against this planet and its dwindling nonhuman species. For those who want to mother a human, adoption is a responsible and compassionate choice, giving a place to an already-existing human, instead of creating a human for which there is no place.

—JOANNE COCKERILL

Dear Sperm fer Brains,

It is sad when an environmental magazine publishes an article that extols the virtues of an environmentally devastating and incredibly selfish act. Procreation of the human species is such an obviously heinous act that people who view such an act as anything more than an affront to the natural world really have no place calling themselves radical environmentalists. The ecological and ethical arguments against breeding are mountainous compared to the petty and selfish reasons that would compel a person to pass on their genes. No one's genes are that special, and it is an almost unfathomable level of arrogance to think that "your" child will somehow be different than the huddled masses of Earth-trampling shit machines.

There needs to be a clearly articulated difference between a parent and a breeder. It is very irresponsible and disappointing that Leah did not make this distinction in the pro-breeder article. Breeders are the selfish individuals that are sperm or egg donors for the next generation of human parasites. Parents are the brave individuals that take up the role to try and raise those humans that are already in this world and "try" to install an ethic that will produce the next generation of eco-defenders. *You do not have to be a breeder to be a parent!* This was totally lacking in the article, and the reason that I am so disappointed. Being a parent is a noble pursuit, while being a breeder should be discouraged by any means necessary. Adoption is just one option for people who recognize the evils of breeding but want to "try" and pass on their values. Unless you are so shallow and racist to insist on some little, white baby, then adoption can essentially be free of any monetary costs. With the downturn in the economy, the foster system is getting flooded with unwanted kids. Foster homes are essentially picking what kids they want and many are just falling through the cracks as unwanted. If you really want to make a difference, get involved with the foster care system. Not only are you not contributing to overpopulation, you are making a huge difference in some kid's life that is already here. The notion that if you only have one kid you are not overpopulating the earth is just absurd. Unless the parents die the very second the kid is born, there could be decades of a population increase until the parents kick the bucket. Now, multiply this effect by six and a half billion and you get the idea.

The moral of the story is that every environmentally responsible person will get their shit snipped, and because the operation for guys to get fixed is so minimal and free (at least in Cascadia through Planned Parenthood), there is no justifiable reason for those nasty sperms to be allowed to get out in the world. Sperm free is the way for me!

—GEDDEN

OMFG... I needed the "Rad Babies" segment! Ahoy hoy, Leah!

I was *thrilled* to read the segment in the recent *EF*

Journal! As a rad mama to an unplanned, but not unloved rambunctious vegan nibbler, I, like many rad mamas, feel alienated at times. I used to be an anti-breeder and even tried getting sterilized (but was denied for my age). I now see the universal purpose in my destiny—my daughter has added a lot of chutzpah to my eco and animal activism! She's a nature baby by heart and loves her furry siblings to bits at 15 months. She even knows to be gentle with her "nunu" sister, Matz (our 3-legged bunny baby). I look forward to treesits and Sea Shepherd work stints with her and her daddy-o when she's older, and I'd love to keep in touch with fellow activist parents. It's so discouraging to stumble upon activist friends who get p-go and throw their beliefs out the window. It's nice to know there are others out there. © Can I get a copy of the zine? Can I contribute art/articles? Thanks again for the segment!

Cheers,

—ASH

Dear Earth First!

I received your letter in response to mine. Thank you! I just wanted to write you a short note and give you the latest.

First of all, Leonard Peltier is back to his ol' self. Leonard is my friend and had I been there, it would not have gone down that way (see *EF!* March-April 2009). I have given him your regards, as requested in your letter.

I apologize that I don't or can't send money in the way I'd like to, but I promise you this: I will be out in 17 months and I plan on giving back, maybe not financially, but in other ways, you know. Enough said about that for now.

My writings and articles have slowed to almost a trickle. I like to write, for I have many things on my mind that I would love to share with you and the rest of the activist community. However, I am reluctant, due to the length of time I have left. I'm sure you understand. These feds will go out of their way to manipulate our words, etc.

Thank you also for updating my subscription. I cannot explain how grateful I am. All I can say on that note is, Earth First!, you are *family* and I only got love for ya. I do not turn my back on family, and it's nice to know what's going on with the warriors out there.

Just so you know, my sister and I are half-breeds. Our dad is Indian "Cherokee-Wolf Clan," and our mom is French. I have grown up more traditional and have always recognized the Earth to be my mother. My sister has been a little

sheltered and doesn't fully understand why I live like I do, or why my heart and soul cries out when I see humanity destroying Mother Earth. About a year ago, I made a breakthrough with her, and she saw for the first time how serious this is. I have continuously sent her articles clipped out of the *EF!* *Journal*, and I promise you it has helped. My sister lives in Tennessee. When they had the big sludge spill, I told her to drive out there and look at the devastation. She took my advice, and the next time I called, she broke down and cried and told me how bad it really was. Devastating just isn't a powerful-enough word. I gave my sister my prayer feather, and now, she uses it on a regular basis.

The reason I shared this with you is because it is proof of a few things: 1) *EF!* *Journal* played a huge role in enlightening my sister. 2) Many people are starting to awaken spiritually, and more and more people are seeing and realizing that Mother Earth is suffering by the hands of man. In the long run, it is my hope that this will breed more warriors. Thank you, Earth First!. I got nothing but love for ya!

'Till next time, stay strong and walk with pride, honor and integrity. No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth!

Much love,

—JAMES "COYOTE" ANDERSON

Dear Shit fer Brains,

Why destroy buildings when you can build communities of green energy, organic farming, and human, animal and Earth co-operatives?

Why tear down corporate property that is destroying the Earth when you can create new, truly green corporations that show the masses the nature-friendly way of life, and take our planet's health back by the unified, unstoppable will of the common people and enlightened wealthy alike? Lashing out at inanimate objects and/or ignorant people like tyrannical children is the government's job. Let ours be to live in harmony with humans, animals and our beloved Mother Earth.

Yours in the struggle,

—LEVI N. HIGHSMITH

On the Move!

Dear Earth First!,

I am sorry to be so late in answering your request for any new changes for your magazine. I, personally, and I speak for my two sisters, Janet and Janine (we've discussed this), and your new mag is fine. I feel that even with all of the things that people like you do, if people don't want to do what's right, there is

nothing more you can do. We feel that you cover the issues very well. Some articles are a little lengthy, but otherwise, they're pretty on target.

Thanks for your acknowledgement.

On the move,

—DEBBIE SIMS AFRICA

Dear Shit 4 Brains,

First off, I'd like to thank the *EF!* *Journal* for hooking up a free subscription even though my art is kind of crappy. But hey, that's how punks roll. I'd also like to mention an important project in the works. My crew, Anti-Lab Peace Squad (ALPS), is going to be putting together a walk to different chapters on the Navajo Rez to bring more attention to the "coal war," and to other cities and states to bring up some of the fucked up shit these corporations do for money. Other shit we'll be bringing to attention is animal/Earth liberation and the fucked up prison system with their over-crowding. The difference we are making might only cause a few ripples in this pond we call "society," but we are added among many of the animal/Earth/human liberation groups. This project is still being thought out and organized. We need all the help we could get. This world is crumbling before us and we need to act on it. The mining corporation and the Desert Rock terrorists may say we need jobs and it'll provide work. But is that worth evicting people from their homelands? Is this a plot to destroy us? A secret population control method? It doesn't matter, 'cause it's fucked up! The fucked up thing is our Navajo Nation president approves of this bullshit. It's crazy! Who knows, he'll probably do some dumb shit like approving a casino on our Rez. Or has he already? All this for money. WTF. Smash capitalism. You can get in touch and support us on myshit-space at www.myspace.com/branscamriot or Anti-Lab Peace Squad c/o Branscam and Trish Scam, POB 343, Cameron, AZ 86020.

—BRANSCAM, "TUBA CITY'S MISFIT"

Dear Friends,

Thanks again for offering me a new subscription. The stamps are enclosed (10) 42¢. Over the last year, I was able to save a book just

for this, and once again, with great spirits' help, I can send them to you. Someday, I plan to send you some real funds. Yeah, I know most people say this, but I will, cuz Mother Earth is and forever will be my heartbeat. Earth First! has helped keep it strong. Thank you.

I hope you all are well in mind, body and spirit. I am OK at the moment. It's strange to hear and see that the world has grabbed our "go green." It's like—I told you so! And even the government gets it, but it's only due to \$ that they picked up on our mother. I only hope that it grows stronger.

—ROBERT FALES, BULL FROG

Dear Sons and Daughters of Gaia,

As two older women who have been "enviros" and eco-feminists for about as long as many of you have lived, but have never before attended an Earth First! gathering, we want to say we were inspired by what we experienced at the February OC. Thank you, Storm, for inviting us. We are sorry to not have been able to stay for the ending action at the copper mine site.

Our peers sometimes snicker at the mention of Earth First!. With the reputation of militancy, violence and even paranoid silliness that the name Earth First! brings to many minds, we were pleasantly surprised at the degree of spiritual and social enlightenment, intelligence and love we observed there in the freezing Sonoran Desert. The Night to Howl around the fire showed humans at their best. Even the drunks were graceful! You can be sure we will tell mature activists that, despite an anarchistic drift into debate and theorizing rather than clear action, the movement will be in good hands and hearts when we pass on. (Not that we're planning to go any time soon—we'll be fighting by your side for 20 years, more or less!)

We were honored to have been able to encourage a women's circle. The new paradigm suggests that those (not necessarily with female bodies/identities) who are thinking with the right side of their brains are the ones who are going to have to step up to save the world. They are going to need all the

support they can give each other in the times ahead. Small circles and affinity groups can yield powerful results, and we suggest reading Jean Shinoda Bolen's "Urgent Message from Mother: Gather the Women, Save the World" and "The Millionth Circle" for more ideas on maintaining circles. Winter wants to thank the women who tolerated her lack of skill at facilitating our spontaneously planned women's circle at the OC. Please keep the tail feathers of the beautiful road-killed hawk we found on the way to the gathering, bead the ends of the fan and pass it on as a talking symbol to other new circles with our love.

We particularly want to applaud the men we encountered at the OC. To co-opt a fem-washing advertising slogan from the '70s, "You've come a long way, baby!" Compared to the brothers of our generation, you are exceptionally respectful, aware and un-macho. You are the first wave of "new men," and we could not help but feel proud of you. If it's due in part to the at-razine in the water supply, remember that every cloud has a silver lining (just joking!)

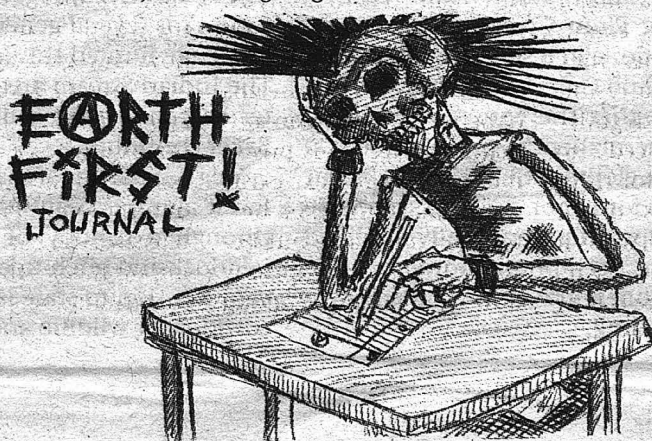
Julie extends an invitation to any and all genders to represent Earth First! at the Tewa Women United's annual spring "Gathering for Mother Earth" near Pojoaque, New Mexico. (Google for details.) It's a great place to network with activists, particularly indigenous activists, from all over the world.

Winter invites you to listen to—and send music and spoken word for—her show and podcast of "Sounds from the Ground" on KHEN 106.9 community radio out of Salida, Colorado. She wishes she could have recorded all the great songs she heard at the OC. Thanks for the Everglades CD! We look forward to seeing you at future actions, and it would please us to provide crone energy to the movement.

In Solidarity,

—WINTER AND JULIE, GUERRILLA GRANNIES

(Winter is a street medic and was one of the MTR Marsh Fork 13. Julie has been arrested twice during her many years as an anti-nuke activist and volunteers with Taos Food Not Bombs.)



Rising Tide Intervenes in Corporate Coal Relationships

BY RISING TIDE
ATLANTIC SEABOARD

Arch Coal,
Bank of America
and Constellation
Energy Are
Targeted

The coal industry cannot rear its head without public opposition. Rising Tide and other groups are gaining momentum in the fight to leave coal in the ground.

Seven activists from Rising Tide Boston disrupted a lecture on February 4 at Harvard University by Arch Coal CEO Steve Leer, who was speaking on the future of "clean coal."

"This Harvard lecture series is funded by Bank of America, the single largest financial sponsor of mountaintop removal," said Tyler Kinser, a member of Rising Tide Boston. "So, it's no surprise that Harvard is hosting this lecture of disinformation on coal. We decided to balance out the lies." Bank of America (BOA) has invested billions of dollars in Arch Coal, according to the Rainforest Action Network.

The packed audience received the Arch nemesis with criticism. Activists from Rising Tide Boston delivered the final word, asking, "What gives you the right to gamble the future of civilization on a magic technology that doesn't exist?" As the CEO avoided the question, two members of Rising Tide walked onstage with a banner that read, "The coal bubble is bursting. Clean Coal is a Dirty Lie."

"The idea of 'clean coal' is nothing more than a marketing term, a myth. It ignores the extraction side of coal's death cycle," added Kinser. "Even if the technology to capture all emissions is perfected

and implemented in time to avert climate catastrophe, we will still be sacrificing the people and ecosystems of Southern Appalachia."

Continuing their work to disrupt tangled financial relationships with dirty energy, Rising Tide chapters in Baltimore and Boston had Valentine's Day "break-ups" with coal-hearted corporations. An on-going strategy of the anti-coal movement is to pressure tertiary targets to drop coal financing. These companies are mostly interested in making money, not in promoting coal, so they have less interest in maintaining a relationship with the coal industry in the face of public pressure.

In Baltimore, Rising Tide delivered a singing telegram challenging Constellation Energy's connections to the coal industry. The group handed out valentines to employees with messages such as, "Kiss coal goodbye," and, "Coal breaks my heart." Serious letters exposing Constellation Energy's use of coal accompanied these light-hearted valentines.

"Constellation Energy's use of dirty energy shows their complete blatant disregard for anything but increasing their own profit and wreaking havoc in the communities," says Eli Feasley with Baltimore Rising Tide.

Rising Tide Boston continued its campaign against BOA, which announced a new coal policy last Fall, but has yet to provide details to show that it is serious. Rising Tide activists, working with a tenants' rights

group called City Life/Vida Urbana, turned out 100 people to encourage BOA customers at two branches to close their accounts with the bank. BOA claimed it will pull funding from mining companies whose predominant extraction method is mountaintop removal and invest in carbon sequestration technology. Such false solutions anger Rising Tide. Without a timetable, the bank's statement is hollow.

DC Rising Tide and their allies interrupted a coal industry conference to denounce coal-to-liquids as a corporate scam that would continue the destructive path of the fossil-fuel industry.

Activists in the audience disrupted speeches with rebuttals to the statements of coal and oil executives. They called for an end to the use of fossil fuels and for the adoption of clean, renewable, community-based energy sources. Protesters deployed banners in the conference that read, "Coal kills," "Coal takes lives," and, "Renewable energy now."

The activists explained that coal-to-liquids technology, which would convert coal to oil for transportation, would generate twice as much greenhouse gas emissions as oil and lead to an increase in coal mining. Confronting the lies of industries is another strategy of Rising Tide. The irreversible damage from the use of fossil fuels is increasingly apparent to the public, but the industries hope that they can make a last buck from the crisis they've created.

"It's time to stop investing in false solutions. We are facing a climate crisis. It is time to stand up and fight for a sustainable future," said Emma Cassidy of DC Rising Tide.

Coal is quickly losing favor with the general public, and corporations connected to it are starting to feel cornered. This Spring, rural electric co-ops scrapped the Highwood Generating Station in Montana, one of the worst proposed coal plants in the West. LS Power announced they would scrap plans to build the 1,600-megawatt, coal-fired White Pine Energy Center near Ely, Nevada, due to opposition. In the same week Interstate Power and Light dumped plans for a 630-megawatt, \$1.8 billion coal plant in Marshalltown, Iowa.

This followed the announcement of a partial coal moratorium in Michigan by Governor Jennifer Granholm. The state approval for eight proposed coal plants could be stopped while state agencies consider all "feasible and prudent" alternatives. Granholm also pledged to reduce Michigan's reliance on fossil-fuel-generated electricity by 45 percent by 2020. This is grim news for the coal industry. We've got them up against the wall. As long as we keep up the pressure, these proposed coal plants can keep coming down like dominos.

Rising Tide is a network of climate justice activists fighting false solutions to climate change. For action updates, visit www.risingtidenorthamerica.org.

MAINE EF! TAKES ON THE NATURE CONS

BY MAINE EF!

Members of Maine Earth First! were detained outside the offices of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) after a peaceful dialogue on March 4. The group addressed TNC the day after it and Plum Creek Timber submitted the latest version of their controversial Moosehead Conservation Framework Easement to the Land Use Regulatory Commission. The group presented an *ad hoc* performance in the office, symbolically gagging characters in animal masks representing the local wildlife that will be adversely affected by the plan. During the skit, other



Clearcut on Indian Spring tract

members displayed banners that read, "The Nature Conservancy: Putting the 'CON' in Conservation," and, "The Nature Conservancy: Masking Plum Creek's Destruction." The action was done in response to TNC's endorsement of Plum Creek's logging practices.

TNC claims that the conservation easement would permanently protect 266,000 acres from development, but the current wording allows for major clearcuts, pesticide and herbicide spraying, genetically modified tree plantations, cell-phone towers, high-voltage power lines, gravel mining and septic sludge spreading.

"What the Nature Conservancy is calling a conservation easement will end up allowing Plum Creek to continue destroying our Maine heritage," said Maine EF!er Noah Dillard. "The devastating cuts of late-successional forests adjacent to the Big Moose State Reserve in Indian Stream Township show what Plum Creek considers to be sustainable forestry. It's not about conservation, and it's not about the public benefits."

Concerns regarding the logging were brought to the attention of Earth First!ers by local landowners and hunters. They are concerned about the imminent loss of ecologically and culturally significant deer wintering grounds, referred to locally as "deer yards," which is seen as a primary factor in this year's low deer population. EF!ers had visited the site, documenting deer beds, tracks and browse in parcels currently being logged and others marked for cutting. Only days later, after EF!ers brought their concerns to the media, Plum Creek admitted to "mistakenly" logging the forest and then quickly closed the area to public access.

Charlie Baker, a local resident, expressed concern about the active cut and its planned expansion, saying, "Hunters in this area know that these have historically been the biggest deer yards of Somerset County. Destroying these deer yards in the middle of Winter is like burning down one of our houses. Where are we expecting the deer to go?" Baker's family has lived, logged and hunted in the region for several generations.

"I have hunted this land for over 50 years. The Indian Stream area has significant Winter deer yards. We must protect this land," Baker continued.

Meg Gilmartin, of Maine EF!, agreed. "This forest also has beautiful views of Eagle Rock through a canopy of giant cedar, spruce, hemlock and birch trees," she said. "Its adjacent location to state lands makes it a prime corridor for wildlife and recreational hiking.

If the tract is cut this season, an important opportunity will be lost."

Plum Creek is a member of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), an industry-led front group that competes with more accountable groups like the Forest Stewardship Council. In 2006, Plum Creek received the largest fine in Maine history under the Maine Forest Practices Act for major destruction of deer habitat and damage to bodies of water in the Moosehead region. In the Fall of 2008, its cuts resulted in massive erosion and a mudslide in Kibby Township. All of these practices are condoned by the SFI and are in the current wording of the Moosehead Conservation Framework.

TNC is one of the most powerful nonprofit environmental organizations in the world. Plum Creek is the largest private landowner in the US, a major donor to TNC and a member of its International Leadership Council.

"Plum Creek's public image and [its] ability to continue deforesting the North Woods is only aided by The Nature Conservancy's endorsement of [its] practices," said Dillard. "Their corporate partnership is a clear conflict of interests, to say the least."

After Earth First!'s appearance at its office, the Executive Director of TNC, Mike Tetreault, offered to meet with the group at a later date to discuss their concerns in more detail. Will Neils, of Maine EF!, appreciated the gesture but felt that the real damage had already been done. He and others will meet with TNC, but called on them to "distance themselves from this phony conservation process and stop acting as Plum Creek's apologists."

"We're asking them to side with future generations of Mainers, and to truly protect Maine's forests and wildlife, and we intend to hold them accountable," said Neils.

For more information about Maine EF!, contact maineef@yahoo.com; mainearthfirst.wordpress.com.

TAKING IT TO THE CAPITOL

A Critical Reflection on the Capitol Climate Action

BY SKYLER SIMMONS

On March 2, around 3,000 people converged on the streets of Washington, DC, in what has been billed as the largest act of civil disobedience against climate change ever in the US. Under the banner of the Capitol Climate Action (CCA), a diverse array of groups came together to target the Capitol coal plant, the power source for the US Capitol building and a dozen other federal buildings. The plant stands as a symbol of the coal industry's influence on the US government. Attempts to have it shut down have been repeatedly thwarted by members of Congress from coal states.

The action was organized primarily by Greenpeace, the Ruckus Society, Rainforest Action Network and Chesapeake Climate Action, and was endorsed by more than 100 organizations—including Blue Ridge Earth First! and Rising Tide.

Despite freezing temperatures and several inches of snow, an impressive crowd managed to gather at Spirit of Justice Park, a few blocks from the coal plant. To start things off, Vandana Shiva gave a quick, inspiring speech before folks hit the streets. The march was well-organized into four contingents under different-colored flags. Each bloc was assigned to one of the four gates at the power plant. As the march approached each gate, the appropriate bloc would peel off and block the gate. After half an hour of marching, all of the gates to this symbol of dirty energy were blocked. Mission accomplished!

Well, that depends on who you ask. Not everyone was happy with the way the action went down. The climate movement took a big step at the CCA, but before we go cheering, we need to see if it was in the right direction.

First, let's start with the positives. The organizers did an impressive job of outreach—not just to the general activist scene, but especially to impacted communities. There was a diverse representation of people on the frontlines of the war against King Coal. There were Latino teens from Chicago fighting two coal plants in their neighborhood, indigenous elders from the desert southwest fighting massive strip mining and a new coal plant, and whole families from the coalfields of Appalachia whose lives are being destroyed by mountaintop removal mining. The coming together of this broad coalition of groups for a direct action was in and of itself a major step forward, and the organizers get some major points for accomplishing this.

Organizers also score big points for making the CCA a very open and accessible event, something we radicals are not always noted for. Numerous direct action trainings were held in towns across the country before the action, and several notable people, including scientist James Hansen and author Wendell Berry, endorsed the CCA. This gave it appeal beyond the usual ragtag bunch of us that typically engages in civil disobedience. This accessibility not only made for a larger crowd on March 2, but it also made the concept of civil disobedience much more acceptable to groups around the country working on climate issues. For

example, in the coalition of groups that are fighting the Cliffside coal plant in North Carolina, many were critical of Asheville Rising Tide (ART) for using civil disobedience last year. This year, upon hearing about the CCA, these same groups approached ART to help them plan a similar civil disobedience action! From the perspective of movement-building and as an introduction to civil disobedience, the CCA was very successful.

The CCA's use of civil disobedience set it apart from your average march against climate change or photo shoot of naked people standing on a melting glacier. It was an exciting escalation to go from the small, affinity group-based lockdowns at power plants and banks, to a larger, mass direct action. Unfortunately, for many of us, the radical tactics were at times overshadowed by some troubling messages.

Before the action, Nancy Pelosi released a statement declaring that the Capitol coal plant should be switched from coal to natural gas. In response, the CCA media team sent out a press release praising her.

"Speaker Pelosi and Leader [Harry] Reid's dramatic action shows that Congress can act quickly on global warming when the public demands it," said Greenpeace Deputy Campaigns Director Carroll Muffett. "This move demonstrates that they recognize the urgency of the climate crisis and the need for a switch to cleaner energy sources."

Putting aside the fact that a nonbinding statement from Pelosi hardly constitutes "dramatic action," many groups found it troubling that the CCA would send out a statement which made a *de facto* claim that switching from coal to natural gas was a victory. Though it doesn't appear that the CCA intended to endorse natural gas as a solution, it was extremely frustrating to many participating groups that they would allow ambiguous language in the press release to come off that way. (The irony of claiming the switch to be a victory while two of our EF! allies were in jail in Florida for fighting a natural gas plant was not lost on many of us. See page 28.)

To the CCA's credit, they resisted calls from some, such as author Bill McKibben, to call off the protest and have a "celebration" instead. The CCA made it clear all along that the protest was not just about this one plant, but about the 600 coal plants in the US that need to be shut down.

The prevalence of those at the action wearing green hardhats and conducting various chants demanding green jobs also brings up some questions. First off, what exactly is a green job? There is a major difference between selling organic vegetables and building hybrid cars for General Motors. Second, are we really calling on people

to get arrested so that they can get jobs installing solar panels? Is this really what we are fighting for? It is troubling that so many climate activists are calling for such moderate reforms rather than the radical restructuring of our society.

Tactically speaking, the action could be viewed as either a success or a failure. From the get-go, the action was clearly a symbolic one. We weren't going to be blocking coal from being loaded, and nobody was bringing their ladders and grappling hooks to breach the fence and occupy the facility. Several hundred people actively blocked the four gates with the intent of getting arrested, yet the police refused to make arrests. When suggestions were made that perhaps people should block intersections or climb over police barricades to provoke the arrests, the organizers seemed reluctant. The CCA needed to result in arrests to really catapult the climate issue into the national spotlight. By not making the arrests, the police outmaneuvered us and took much of the power away from the action.

On the other hand, the mellow nature of the action allowed hundreds of people new to civil disobedience to get their feet wet without arrest. Hopefully, this served as a safe introduction to direct action, and the lack of arrests has left all of these people free and inspired to take action back in their hometowns.

In the end, the organizers declared the day a victory after we had "shut down the plant" for the day. Yes, it is true that we blocked the entrances, but it is a bit optimistic to claim that we actually shut it down. This was a claim that some newspapers mocked the next day and some activists felt to be a bit disingenuous. It is important to be optimistic and feel empowered by our actions. However, too much unwarranted optimism can also be damaging.

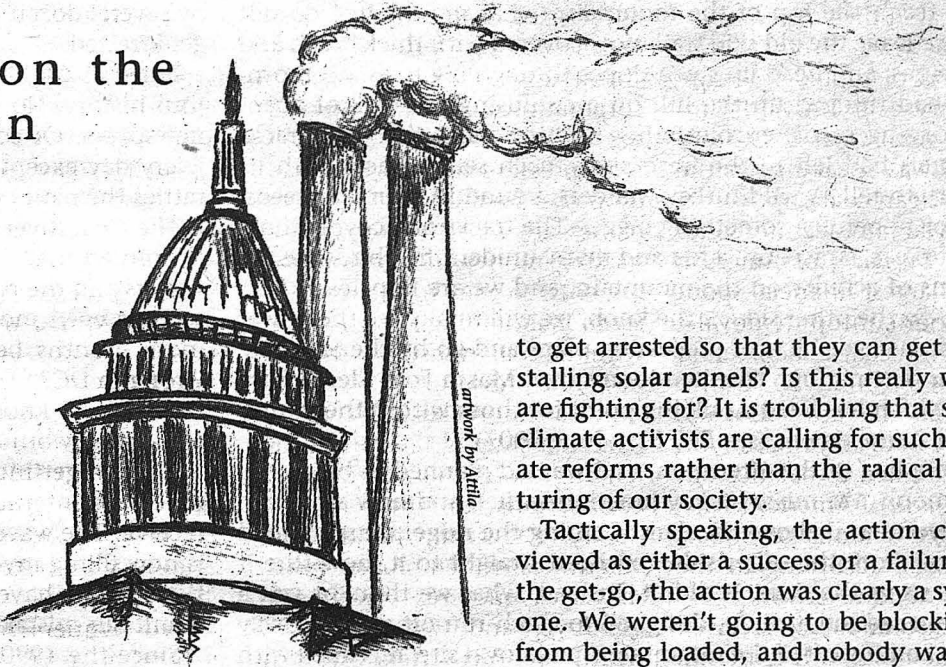
Overall, the CCA was a good first step in launching a more radical, action-based movement for climate justice. However, there were questions raised and lessons learned for radical groups such as EF! and Rising Tide in working with the more mainstream climate movement.

This event made it crystal clear that we cannot simply be against coal and assume that covers all of the bases. We must put equal, if not greater, energy into combating the false solutions to the climate crisis, especially the notion that if it reduces carbon-dioxide emissions, it must be good.

The current discourse on climate solutions is dominated by capitalist solutions and nationalistic calls to "rebuild America with clean energy and green jobs." Radicals in the climate movement need to be clearer about what we believe to be real solutions to the climate crisis to counter the mainstream buzzphrases.

Lastly, we need to find ways to organize these types of large and inclusive actions that are not symbolic "stuff-and-cuff" protests. The boldness of our actions needs to escalate exponentially to match the damage caused by the industries we are fighting.

After failing to sell his soul on internet auctions for the past several months, Skyler Simmons decided he should start writing articles for the Journal again!



From Birmingham to Coal River

BY MIKE ROSELLE

Does the anti-coal movement have a firm grasp of the philosophy behind civil disobedience, or is it taking too many cues from timid, media-driven NGOs?

As we reach the top of the mountain (what mountain I do not know), we leave the old skid trail, now covered with thick brush and thorny vines, and head up steep slopes through big trees. All morning, we had trudged up the hill on a confusing network of abandoned logging roads, encountering nothing more than the tracks the animals had left in the fresh snow, each set of tracks with its own story to tell. A wild turkey wanders around in search of seeds, insects, or hopefully, something bigger. The tracks of a coyote looking for turkeys, a raccoon, a fox and many unidentified birds are the only signs of activity on the mountain, and we are hopelessly lost. Perhaps, on the other side of the knob, we will finally see the power lines that lead to the coal processing plant and go by the Shumate Dam, our destination. The dam looms over Marsh Fork Elementary School, which has been a rallying point for those within the mountain justice movement (see *EFJ* May-June 2007).

It is now late in the afternoon, and we had planned to be on the dam by noon. We missed a key junction earlier, and now are seven miles beyond and above the dam. Gaining the ridge, we see a road going over from the other side and head straight to it, now sure it will take us to the dam. It didn't. Instead, what we thought was a road was a sediment ditch, designed to catch run-off and runaway boulders coming off of the mountaintop removal site. It is filled with water and ice, so we hike around the mountain on the berm, a small dyke that has a flat surface on which we could walk. The mud is thick and gooey, and clings to the soles of our boots, but the going is easier than crashing through the thorns, from which our hands and faces are now stinging and bleeding.

I spot footprints on our makeshift trail. Someone has been up here recently. Rounding the hill, we almost stumble upon an excavator loading blasted rocks into the beds of massive trucks. Just below, out of sight from the big machine's operator, we find a rare flat spot sheltered by big trees and covered with logs and dry leaves. We take a short break. While we are resting, a helicopter hovers high above and spots us. It makes a broad turn and now flies low over our position. In the helicopter is Don Blankenship, CEO and major stockholder of Massey Energy, the owner of the Edwhite Mine we are about to enter. We wave to him and start up to the berm. Just below the excavator, we

a call to mass civil disobedience by writers Bill McKibben and Wendell Berry, and top NASA scientist Dr. James Hansen—accompanied by several dozen Coal River, West Virginia, residents who wanted to get arrested.

Billed as an historic action, the event did indeed recede quickly into history. No one back in West Virginia saw it on TV or in the newspaper. Of course, when we got home, nothing had changed. Every day except Sunday, the blasts still go off at the mine, and it rattles the panes in my window.

The Coal River delegation to the Power Shift rally was a little disappointed that they did not have a chance to be arrested with the writers and the Nobel Prize winner.

I was even more disappointed that we may have to wait a few more months before another national mobilization. What went wrong in DC?

Perhaps, I know. Civil disobedience has gotten a bad rap lately as being a worn-out and ineffective tactic. This rap is undeserved. Certainly, getting Hanson and McKibben arrested would have garnered the international attention that the big rally simply did not receive. The wave of gloating over media coverage of the event that is now filling my e-mail boxes from the many sponsoring organizations that I have joined is starting to get irritating. When do we admit our mistakes? Never?

Since the 1990s, activist organizations have backed down under the threat of legal sanctions on several occasions. Last year, when several of them teamed up to block the construction of the Dominion coal-fired power plant in Wise County, Virginia, the activists pled guilty, even though Hanson volunteered to testify at their trial. They not only didn't receive a trial, they apologized to Dominion. I know why the students and locals capitulated: They had no money or lawyers. However, I simply can't understand why other sponsoring groups, like the Rainforest Action Network, followed suit. The result has been that this docile posturing actually set back the campaign for mass civil disobedience that even ex-US Vice President Al Gore said is justified. These are terrible precedents, no matter what the conditions were when they occurred.

Of the 12,000 students at Power Shift, we managed to recruit only two. On March 5, activists Andrew Munn and Mat Louis-Rosenberg joined two West Virginia residents, Joe Gorman and Cassandra Rice, along with videographer Nicole Moston, and hiked up to the dam that we had intended to climb. The group unfurled another banner and shut down traffic on the main haul road, in direct violation of a recent temporary restraining order, before leaving the mine.

In a packed Beckley, West Virginia, courtroom on March 9, we were in front of Judge "Hutch," a known coal supporter who was elected with the help of big coal money. With no lawyers present on our side, we were unable to prevent the temporary restraining order from being extended. We left the courtroom, spoke to the media and vowed to continue our campaign. The threat of jail now seems real, but we remain unafraid. So far.

Back here on Rock Creek, in West Virginia, I have some time to gather my thoughts. It's been a busy last two months, with five actions and 19 arrests. Now, the West Virginia media is finally paying attention to the situation on the Coal River. Massey Energy is trying to crush us under a lawsuit, while we are receiving a great deal of support and encouragement from our neighbors. The feeling here is that we can change things if we don't back down.

We will need help. I would like to ask all of those people who came to DC for the CCA to get arrested and didn't to consider this: How about coming to West Virginia, where we are organizing regular demonstrations at the Massey mine on Coal

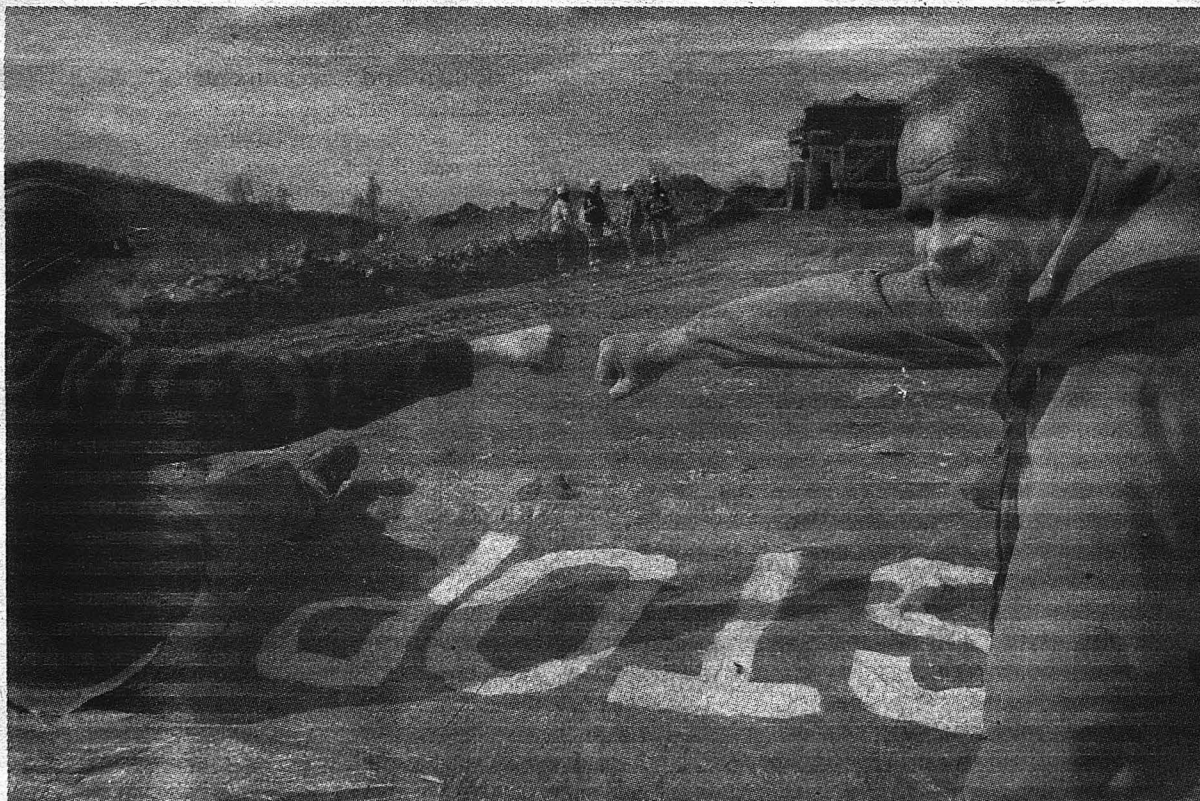
River Mountain? Wouldn't that send a stronger message than trying to convince Congress to convert a small, coal-fired power plant to natural gas—natural gas that comes from where? Hello, Wyoming!

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was never arrested in Washington, DC. However, he was arrested in Mississippi and Alabama many times. King also broke an injunction. On the Coal River, we are trying to infuse a deeper meaning to our nonviolence. These actions are not media stunts, but a last ditch effort to save the Appalachian Mountains from total destruction, and time is swiftly running out.

In the end, it will not be the clean-energy future that we must build, as the CCA e-mails continue to urge me to do, but the urgent, dangerous and dirty-energy present that we must confront. We need to confront it in the strip mines of West Virginia, where the rule of law has been denied to both the people and the land for too long. Only the harsh light of nonviolent confrontation will illuminate the dark hollows of Appalachia and bring justice, our one and only request.

For more information, visit www.climategroundzero.org.

Mike Roselle lives in Rock Creek, West Virginia. Roselle's book, *Tree Spiker*, will be published by St. Martin's Press. He can be reached at mikeroselle@hotmail.com.



McGuinness (left) and Roselle (right) exchange terrorist fist bumps while blocking a mining road.

unfurl our banner, made from an old tarp that reads simply, "Stop." By now, Massey's security, in their silver pick-up trucks with flashing lights, begin to appear, all holding cameras.

Spotting us, the excavator drops a large load of rocks and trees just in front of us. When the machine goes back for another load, swinging the huge bucket on the large tracks back toward the hillside he was busy tearing down, we stand beneath him. When he swings back around, we hold our banner high. He stops the machine and gets out to stand on the iron treads. He begins to shout at us, and we answer politely that he is in violation of the law and will have to shut down. He turns off the machine.

We now continue up onto the hard-packed surface and watch as two trucks loaded with rocks come out and drive by us. Two more empty ones go in. The next truck that comes out stops as we step into the center of the road. Work comes to a complete halt until James Guin McGuinness, of Climate Ground Zero, and I are arrested by Trooper Mike Smith, who also arrests Antrim Caskey, a photo journalist who is accompanying us.

After getting out of the police station (we were not jailed), we went to Power Shift, a very big and much-ballyhooed conference in Washington, DC, that was followed by the Capitol Climate Action (CCA),

Billionaires for Coal

Visit Dominion Power's Headquarters

BY BREF!

On February 7, more than 20 individuals identifying themselves as "Billionaires for Coal" assembled in front of Dominion Power's downtown offices in Richmond, Virginia, to ostensibly voice their praise for the company's many coal-fired power plants. Dressed in formal attire and sipping beverages from wine glasses, the group chanted pro-coal, anti-environmental slogans and held signs expressing similar sentiments. In addition to rousing recitations such as, "Up with sea levels; up with profits," the midday merriment included a live bluegrass performance by the We Love Money string band, who frequently reassured their audience that they're only in it for the money.

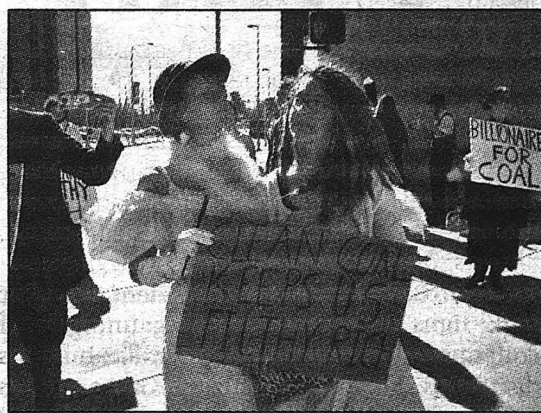
Addressing recent displays of opposition to Dominion's proposed

Wise County coal plant, as well as the escalating presence of anti-coal activism on an international scale, Stan Sneezley, an alleged billionaire from Harrisonburg, Virginia, said, "I am insulted by all of these people talking about asthma and climate change and their children's future. These people obviously don't care about me and my money at all! I say, if a few million kids have to wheeze a little for me to breathe easy, then so be it! I'm rich!"

The theatrical display bewildered and amused passing motorists and pedestrians. Though the group's signs and chants kept on message with the façade of billionaires celebrating their controversial investments, leaflets distributed to on-lookers shed a different light on the events of the day. Made to look like large dollar bills, these leaflets revealed that the demonstration was in

fact organized by Blue Ridge Earth First!, the same environmental organization that twice staged protests blocking the entrance to Dominion's headquarters in the Spring and Summer of 2008. Citing the role of coal as the chief cause of climate change, the leaflets starkly displayed the alleged billionaires' alignment with the breadth of grassroots opposition to Dominion Power.

Breaking character, Luis, an Earth First! activist from Charlottesville, Virginia, put it plainly, "Coal is dirty, dangerous and deadly. The public knows it and our political representatives are beginning to reflect



Billionaires tellin' it like it is.

our concerns on the matter. The one and only reason that companies like Dominion are still pushing for new coal plants is money. By continuing to pursue a new coal-fired power plant in Wise County, Dominion is saying that the wealth of its investors is more important than the health and well-being of that area's residents."

continued from page 3

Many community members are worried about the environmental impacts to the water, land and air, as the coal ash is drying out and becoming windborne. Many do not trust TVA's assurance that the coal ash is nothing to worry about and that the air and water are safe. UMD volunteers wear protective respirators within 10 miles of the disaster site. Independent tests of water and ash samples show high levels of arsenic, radium and other heavy metals. By monitoring and providing independent lab results, UMD hopes to motivate TVA and the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct more testing, and to become more open and transparent with their own tests and protocols, providing for the needs of the people impacted by this disaster, though we are not holding our breath.

Many residents are experiencing health problems, which their doctors believe to be directly related to the disaster. Many of these people are trapped in this polluted environment with no help in sight. Many residents requested to be tested for heavy-metal exposure. For this, UMD raised \$15,000 and arranged several toxicity testing clinics for full-body, heavy-metal analyses. Fifty sick residents were tested at no charge. UMD hopes to raise more money to continue to offer free bio-monitoring as the number and severity of health concerns grow.

From January 31 to February 2, UMD volunteer Matt Landon received training from the Global Community Monitor for a citizen's air-monitoring program. During the following week, UMD volunteers placed sanitized Pyrex baking dishes around the community to gather dust samples. Swipe samples were gathered for independent analysis. The initial results have shown high levels of arsenic-laden dust. The program includes testing for eight different heavy metals and particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns—small enough to enter a person's bloodstream from their lungs.

On February 3, Landon videotaped a coal ash cloud 100 feet tall by a mile wide.

On March 3, UMD volunteers set up an air monitor, produced by Airmetrics from Eugene, Oregon, at a house within the contamination area. Just as the monitor was set to begin gathering a sample, TVA police and Roane County deputies surrounded

the residence. Two UMD volunteers were detained for more than an hour and a half, while the officers tried to figure out how to remove the monitor. One officer became flustered and confiscated UMD's video camera during the detention. The volunteers were finally ordered to remove the monitor and leave the property.

On March 5, Landon was arrested while driving a blind grandmother home after a public meeting. Landon drove very slowly

hadn't heard about the disaster, even though they were drinking Tennessee River water polluted with TVA's coal fly ash.

On March 23, Landon appeared in court for a pre-trial hearing. Just before the hearing, Landon was advised by his public defender that TVA was claiming Landon had broken the terms of his bond release. TVA's lawyers wanted the bond revoked and Landon thrown in jail for a year. Instead, Landon's charges were dismissed.

Landon's supposed crime was asking for parallel air monitoring from a Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health (a TVA contractor) and placing an air monitor on private property with the permission of the landowner.

TVA has been feverishly buying up land surrounding the disaster site in an effort to keep independent monitoring from occurring. Once TVA buys the property from the landowner, there is a nondisclosure clause stating that no one can know that TVA bought the property. The residents want independent air monitoring so badly, yet TVA has demanded that there be no independent monitoring on their property. Even so, UMD has been training local residents to use the monitoring equipment.

On the day of Landon's hearing, two other UMD volunteers were detained by TVA police and informed that they could not visit a resident who has employed UMD to gather air samples from the property. Police stated that because TVA owned the property, they could determine who could visit the resident, even though the resident would occupy the home for several more months. TVA police proceeded to confiscate UMD's air monitoring equipment and have yet to return it.

TVA is completely freaked out that citizens are doing air monitoring, and they will use almost any means to keep UMD from gathering air samples for independent analysis.

Coal is filthy, from the extraction process that blows up mountains and destroys watersheds, to its ignition that plagues our air quality, to the waste disposal that can devastate whole communities in one fell swoop.

For more information, visit www.unitedmountaindefense.org; dirtycoaltva.blogspot.com.

On March 27, UMD mailed six air samples to laboratories for analysis. UMD expects to get the results back soon and use them to nonviolently club TVA and the regulators over the head.



photo by Alex Blackwelder

through an unstaffed, illegal roadblock set up by TVA on a public roadway. After pulling into the woman's driveway and exiting the vehicle, police stopped Landon and detained him for questioning. An officer said Landon had to have a resident in the car to pass through the roadblock. When he informed the officer he had a resident in the car, the officer said Landon needed a little red tag issued by TVA. TVA police had previously confiscated Landon's tag. When he asked for another tag, the officer placed Landon under arrest. Fortunately, the entire incident was caught on videotape.

Landon spent 36 hours in jail. He was transported to a nearby jail because of a rumored protest outside of the jail that never materialized. There was no jail-support team, no bail bond, no media message. Landon later reported that many prisoners incarcerated 50 miles downriver in Cleveland, Tennessee,

A Final Roar for Macho B

BY ATTILA

Macho B, the only known resident jaguar in the US, died on March 2 like most of the planet is dying: undignified, strapped with a radio collar and surrounded by unfamiliar humans in an alien place. His death was unnecessary. Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) agents, officially charged with conservation, hunted down this aging animal not because they cared about him, but because they are scared of what his death would mean.

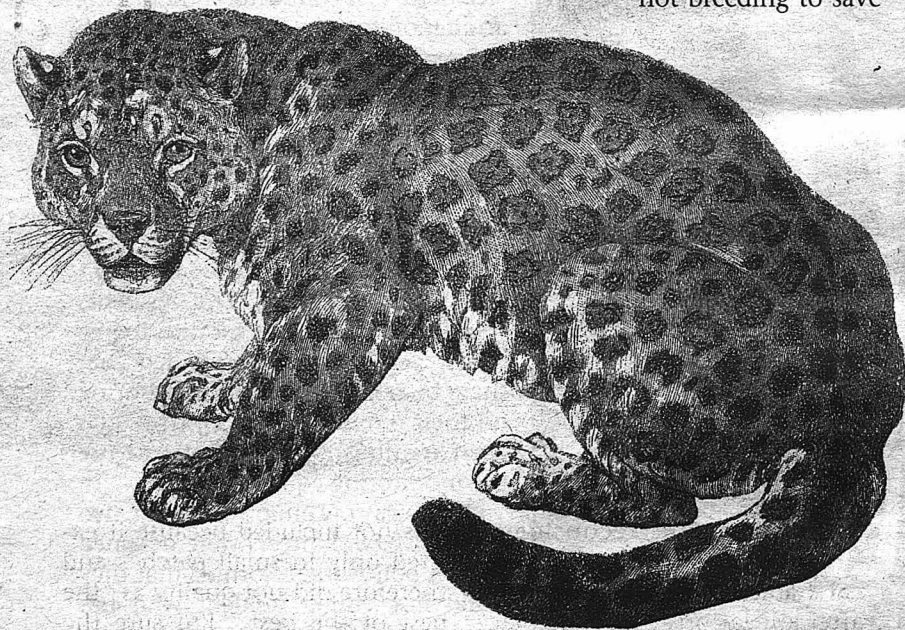
Since 1971, only six jaguars have been documented in the US. Historically, jaguar territory in the US extended as far north as the Grand Canyon and stretched from Southern California to East Texas. More recently, wildlife experts thought that the few jaguars still remaining in the US were visitors from Mexico. Macho B was photographed over the past decade by cameras set to trip-wires. He was the only jaguar spotted in the US in the last 10 years.

The 16-year-old jaguar was supposedly put down because of failing kidneys, but the necropsy showed that his capture exacerbated his health problems. It has since come out that abnormal test results may have indicated dehydration, not kidney failure. Had AGFD left him alone, he would certainly still be alive.

AGFD originally snared Macho B on February 18 in a "research" snare meant for other predators. During this first abduction, they said that he was in good health. Wildlife agents fitted him with a radio collar and released him in the vicinity of Tucson, Arizona. They recaptured him two weeks later, because he had stopped moving as much, possibly indicating health problems. Agents went out to find him. Only five hours after he was recaptured, he was killed.

Macho B lived in the wild for 16 years. Under the control of scientists, he lasted two weeks.

Governments, scientists and industrial apologists passing as environmental groups often drag out extinctions and put the burden of it onto the lone survivor. They stalk, drug, kidnap, imprison and rape the last of the Javan rhinoceros or the Amur leopard (both survived by less than 50 individuals) and blame them for not breeding to save

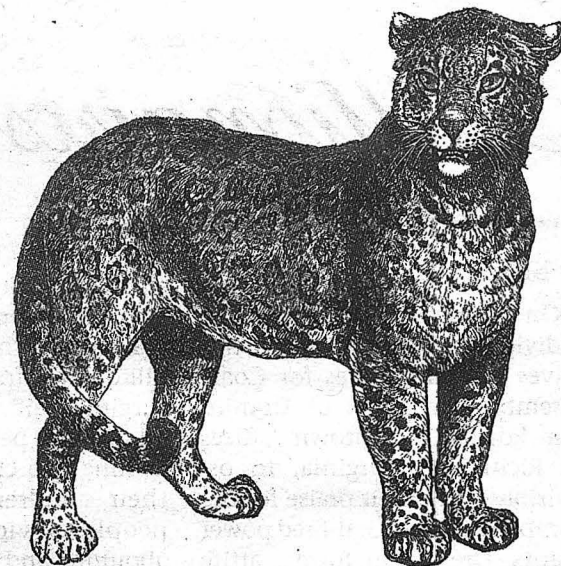


their own species. These scientists never look around them to see the damage to the larger ecosystem.

Macho B lived in a very different Sonoran Desert than the one of his birth. The desert is now cut in half by an impenetrable wall along most of the US-Mexican border. Where there is not a wall, there are bored men, zooming around in Border Patrol trucks, who cannot tell the difference between a cougar and a jaguar. They cut new roads through the desert, scars that take decades to heal. Sprawl and climate change have sucked the desert dry, and it is more prone to burning irreparably because of introduced buffelgrass for the grazing industry. The jaguar had little chance of reclaiming its old territory in what is now becoming a wasteland.

Life has existed on Earth for 3.8 billion years. Under the control of industrial capitalism, it lasted 300 years.

A similar situation happened with the ivory-billed woodpecker. One report of it in a swamp forest in Arkansas has resulted in questioning its extinction. Cornell University even offered a \$50,000 reward for finding one. Once spread throughout old-growth swamp forests in the South, the last viable population lived in a tract in



Louisiana owned by a logging company. The Audubon Society offered to buy the land, but the company refused and clearcut the forest. The last two were shot in Florida as scientific specimens. There is little suitable habitat remaining today and, as long as scientists and industrial apologists do not address bigger issues, there never will be again.

There has not been a confirmed sighting of an Eskimo curlew in more than 20 years, but they have still not been deemed extinct. The shorebirds once numbered in the millions, and flew from the tundra in Canada and Alaska to the Pampas in Argentina, stopping over in the Great Plains. This story is shared by hundreds of species. As long as there is one survivor or the ghost of a survivor, industrial apologists can pretend that ecocide is not happening. They cannot let them go.

Life is more than a test tube full of sperm or a panda pacing in a cage. It is more than a few fenced-off trees or the last sea turtles with tracking devices glued to their backs. It is a dynamic relationship between the water and the desert, between the desert and the jaguar, between the jaguar and us, and between us and everything else.

Extinction forces us to look at the bigger picture, because we can no longer prod at the last tiger or frog. We are forced to reconcile that much of the planet is an industrial wasteland. There is just us, surrounded by thousands of broken ecosystems that we were just beginning to understand, that we can never possibly know how to piece back together. We must admit that we have really fucked up.

Aldo Leopold watched one of the last wolves in New Mexico's Gila Wilderness die. He had been part of a wolf-eradication program on behalf of the livestock industry. He mourned the death of the wolf and used the experience to become one of the greatest voices for biocentrism. From tragedy can come inspiration, motivation and life. Death can be a beginning if we let it.

Already, from this tragic situation, wildlife defenders have forced the US Fish and Wildlife Service to draft a recovery plan for the jaguar. After stalling for decades, the agency gave up on recovering the jaguar in 2008 (see *EFJ* March-April 2008). This was done to ease the construction of the border wall. The death of Macho B might prove to be a sad step toward allowing jaguars to roam in the US once more.

This Summer could be the last time there is sea ice during the Summer in the Arctic Ocean. The melting of the icecaps will no longer be a prophecy of eco-activists. We have the choice of denying it, or accepting it as a sign that climate change has been a reality for decades. We can use the pain from this loss to shut down the fossil-fuel industry.

The wild is not gone; it is hiding, because it is smart. In the Appalachians, there are ghosts of cougars that still lurk. In the mountains of Alabama, there may still be healthy chestnut trees. Rare grasses hide along overlooked roadsides. Freshwater mussels cling to out-of-the-way creekbeds. Woodpeckers haunt remote swamp forests. Jaguars prowl the sky islands of the borderlands. They hide beyond our radar and our nets, because they have seen their kin get collared or captured by scientists. They watch from their safe havens, cautiously smiling when speedboats sink and refineries close, waiting for a time when they can once again thrive in their old haunts. Ecosystems will bounce back, without our pricking and probing, when we look at our actions, stop destroying everything, and give them enough time and space.

Many plants and animals have recovered from the brink of extinction. They have crossed roads and borders, crawled under fences and made mad dashes in the night to reclaim their former lands. The whitetail deer, beaver, bald eagle, bison and even the gray wolf have made amazing recoveries, but this has only been once the attacks by industrial expansion stopped.

In a different world, Macho B might have lived out his last year prowling the mountains in search of jackrabbits and javelinas. He would have had some agency over his death and could have chosen a favorite rock outcrop to spend his last night. In the morning, ravens and coyotes would have sent his body coursing back through the stream of life. We can use the pain of his cold, botched death to tear down the border wall, stop sprawl, and allow ecosystems the space and tools to restore themselves. Pray for the dead, and fight like hell for the living.

Attila wonders how long people can step over dead bodies before they realize that they're next.

Blast From the Past

EL TIGRE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE

BY DAN DAGGET

A Jaguar has been sighted in Arizona again, but don't scratch the word "extinct" from their page in your "Mammals of the Southwest" guidebook just yet. The sighting may be a prelude to a familiar tragedy.

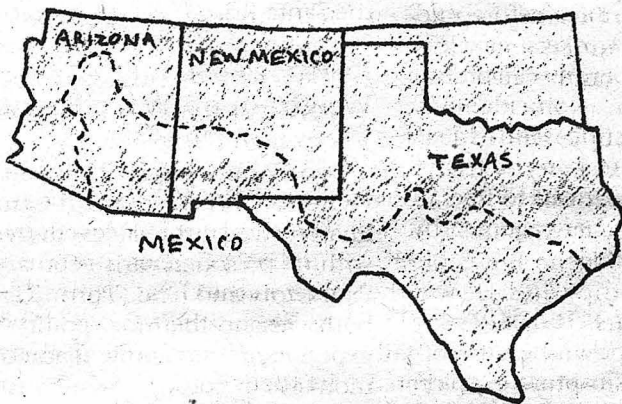
This time, a couple of Javelina hunters and some people attending a family reunion reported seeing one of the big cats the Mexicans call "*el tigre*" in late February, about 15 miles north of the Mexican border. According to the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), such reports are still made occasionally in the area *Felis onca* once called home, but the number of sightings has dropped sharply in recent years. Today, most are viewed with skepticism.

"About the only way we consider a sighting confirmed is if we see the carcass," one official said. Nevertheless, this latest report is being treated more seriously than most, because the department considers those who turned it in to be credible witnesses. In spite of that, and in spite of the Jaguar's status as an endangered species, wildlife managers have taken no steps to protect the animal. As Jerry Perry, an AGFD law enforcement specialist, put it, "We have no idea where that animal is by now."

Jaguars are the largest wild cats in the Americas, and globally are surpassed in size only by Tigers and African Lions. They are the pit-bulls of the cat world, possessing extremely

strong jaws with heavy bones and massive teeth which allow them to kill their prey by crushing the skull. Short-limbed and compact, Jaguars grow as large as 250 pounds in the Brazilian rain forest, though they rarely reach half that size along the northern limits of their range.

Although these cats were once widely dispersed residents of the American Southwest, they are now considered extirpated from that part of their range. Still, young males searching for territory not already claimed by another Jaguar, or made too hazardous



U.S. distribution of the Jaguar, circa 1880.

by Mexican *vaqueros*, occasionally extend their search for a home north into one of the southwestern states.

That decision is generally fatal.

The previous sighting of *el tigre* was reported in late 1986 in the Chiricahua Mountains in southeastern Arizona. Two bird

watchers on a Christmas bird count were the first to report seeing this cat. The biologist coordinating the count was so taken aback, she forgot to get the volunteers' names.

The next person to encounter the cat was not so harmless.

There are many versions of the story. According to the one most frequently related, a rancher/hunting guide from Bowie, near Willcox, Arizona, trailed the Chiricahua Jaguar with his hounds. Some say the rancher thought he was after the world's largest Mountain Lion. Others point out that Jaguar and Mountain Lion signs are easily distinguishable for an expert, and this man is an expert. In any case, after three days, and one or two fresh packs of hounds, the rancher and his dogs finally bayed *el tigre*. Some say it was dark and the Jaguar wreaked havoc on the man's hounds as he waded in to shoot it, but there were no reports of anyone running up a large bill at any area vet clinic.

To celebrate his success, the killer reportedly took the Jaguar's carcass to town to show it off. Several people came to see the dead beast and some took pictures of it. What took place was the sort of celebration that might have occurred 30 years ago when the general consensus favored killing animals like this. Then again, many would say those 30 years have never passed in Willcox, a town where people say they still live by the code of the West.

For the rest of this article, see *EF!* May-June 1988. Back issues of the *EF!* Journal are available for \$5 each. Order our near-complete, 29-year set for \$500.

Obama Administration Two-Faced on Endangered Species

BY SPITTLEBUG

This Spring, there's good and bad news coming from the new Obama administration and its take on the Endangered Species Act. While the Obama administration may be less openly hostile toward the environment than George Bush was, ultimately, what we're hearing from Washington, DC, is the same old story.

Starting with the bad news, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced in March that his department would uphold a Bush administration decision to remove gray wolves from the endangered species list in the Northern Rockies and western Great Lakes. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) made the decision shortly before Bush left office, and it was brought under review by the Obama administration earlier this Winter.

Gray wolves will remain federally protected in Wyoming, where the state government previously sought to have 90 percent of the state become a "predator zone," in which wolves could be shot on sight. Wolves in other regions will not be affected by this decision and will remain on the endangered species list.

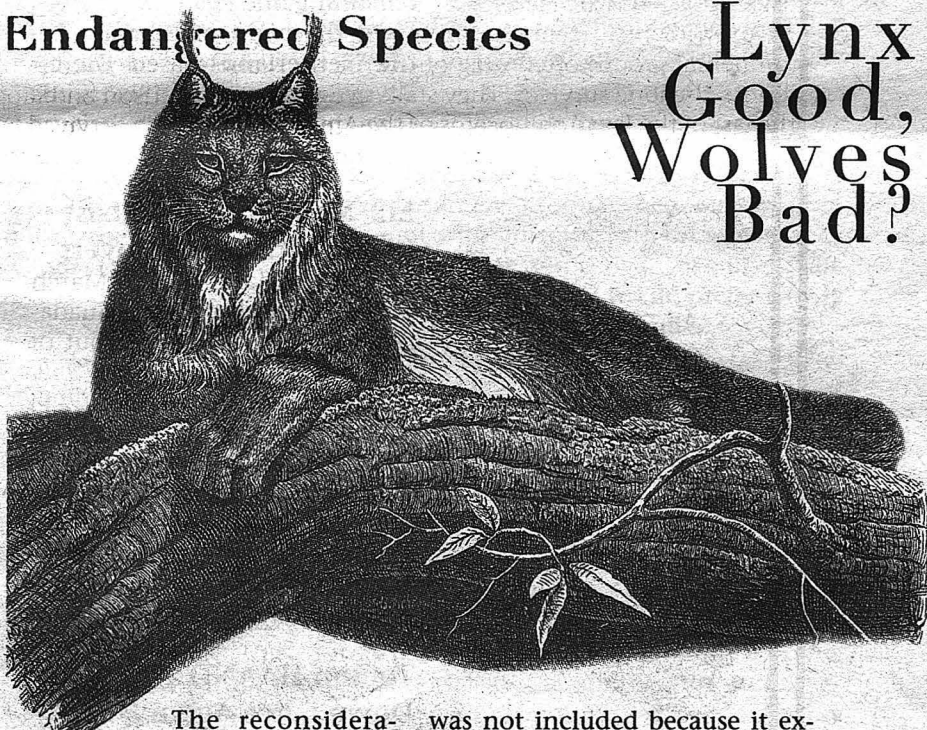
Already, scum in Idaho and Montana have begun to plan for public wolf hunts to "keep populations in check." Of course, the real reasons behind these hunts are clear, as Idaho Governor CL Butch Otter—who has publicly announced his desire to shoot the first wolf—said recently, "The fish and game population is really counting on a robust

population of trophy animals to maintain that part of our economy." Here's hoping a wolf bites his face off.

On a more positive note, FWS has increased nearly 20-fold the amount of land designated as critical habitat for the Canada lynx. The lynx, federally classified as a threatened species, will now have about 39,000 square miles in six states designated for its protection, up from 1,841 square miles in three states. Newly included states are Maine, Idaho and Wyoming. There will be an increase in protected lands in Minnesota, Montana and Washington.

Critical habitat refers to lands that require special management and protection because they are essential to the conservation of a species protected under the Endangered Species Act. Such habitat for the lynx includes older forests with fallen trees that can be used for denning, habitat for the snowshoe hare (the lynx's primary food source), and areas covered for extended periods by deep, fluffy snow.

Protecting the lynx was a prime motivation behind the 1998 Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arson at the Vail ski resort in Colorado. In response to a proposed expansion into key-lynx habitat, the ELF set fire to five buildings and four ski lifts, causing more than \$26 million in damage—the greatest amount of damage caused by the ELF up to that point (see *EF!* December-January 1999). The lynx was federally recognized as threatened shortly after.



Lynx
Good,
Wolves
Bad?

The reconsideration of the lynx's critical habitat designation comes after allegations that Julie MacDonald, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior under the Bush administration, bullied scientists and interfered with FWS decisions (see *EF!* November-December 2007). Among the beneficiaries of MacDonald's interference was Plum Creek, the nation's largest owner of private land.

MacDonald resigned in 2007 after an investigation by the Interior Department's Inspector General. According to Shawn Sartorius, FWS's lead lynx biologist, "This [lynx habitat] was one that we decided she may have inappropriately influenced."

However, it's too early to deem this a complete victory. For one thing, important lynx habitat in the Southern Rockies was not included in the designation. According to Sartorius, this habitat

was not included because it existed only in small patches and therefore did not qualify as "the best of the best." I'm sure the lynx in Colorado will find that a convincing argument as to why their already-limited habitat will continue to go unprotected.

While liberals may be celebrating Barack Obama's nods to the environment, we need to keep in mind that this new administration is a two-sided coin. There is some good news to be had. At the very least, we can be glad there will be perhaps a smidgen more protection for the environment under this new administration. Still, we have to remember that Obama's true loyalties lie with corporations and maintaining business as usual. Just because the system has a new face doesn't mean we can let down our guard.

Spittlebug enjoys foamy secretions and can't wait until politicians are an endangered species.

Frontlines

3, 2, 1, Happy Liberation!

New Year's Eve 2009 marked a new start for one primate in Spain. Five minutes before midnight, circus workers at Circo Roma Dola began celebrating the new year. Coincidentally, three clandestine individuals were too busy to join the festivities, choosing instead to liberate a baboon from her cage nearby. Happy new year!

Newly Freed Friends

In mid-March, three chickens were liberated in Madrid, Spain, by *Iguilidad Animal* (Animal Equality). The activists entered the slaughterhouse as part of an ongoing investigation, seeking to install a hidden camera. Upon leaving, they realized there were three chickens still alive inside. So, they took them. Two of the three chickens died, due to already being in critical condition. After intensive medical care, the remaining one lived.

On the night of February 20, the Netherlands-based Dieren Bevrijdings Front freed six rabbits from their dark captivity, helping them evade being murdered.

ELF Mexico Has the Last Word With Land Movers

Amongst darkness, on March 22, an earth mover in Guadalajara, Jalisco, was taken out of commission. The *Frente de Liberación de la Tierra* (FLT/ELF) claimed responsibility for the act. They also broke the window of a bank on the same night. Both actions were done in the interest of attacking the social order imposed by techno-industrial civilization.

Tucson HAAND Throws Down Once Again

Tucson Hooligans Attack At Night, Duh! (Tucson HAAND) paid a special visit to the homes of University of Arizona vivisector Katalin Gothard, and Rosemont Copper Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs Kathy Arnold.

According to the communiqué, Gothard, who performs research on rhesus monkeys, had her house's water turned off and cemented to stay that way.

Arnold had the tires slashed on her vehicle and one of her home's windows etched.

"We bet it's a little harder to wash the blood off your hands and scrub away all those thoughts of torturing monkeys all day long, huh Katalin? If you insist on working, get a real job!" Tucson HAAND wrote. "We bet the etching cream on the window of your house will leave a lasting impression of our visit. Maybe, the cost of replacing it will make you

think twice about the lasting, irreplaceable costs your company's proposed mine would inflict on the Santa Ritas."

Justice Department Weighs in on Wake Forest Vivisectors

Two Wake Forest University vivisectors in Salem, North Carolina, received razor blades covered with rat poison in early February. Paul Czoty and Linda Porrino are both responsible for pointless experiments addicting macaque monkeys to cocaine. Signing the communiqué, "always for the oppressed," the Justice Department claimed responsibility for the special deliveries.

Thousands Come Out in Opposition to an Open Pit Mine in the Philippines

Filminera Mining Corporation, in partnership with multinational corporation Central Gold, had planned to have a fully operational open-pit mine by March 20 in the Masabate province of the Philippines. Instead, they were met with full-scale opposition by fisher folk and other concerned locals.

On March 14, community uproar against the mine was shown through a 4,000-person barricade inside the mine site. By March 23, the number of protestors had reached around 7,000.

The mine opposition was met by a military battalion of about 50 armed men. There were also reports of three boats of soldiers anchored nearby.

The community members are demanding that the government revoke the company's mining permit and repeal the 1995 Mining Act. The company lacks basic requirements for an Environmental Compliance Certificate and has neither the mayor's permit nor a business permit needed.

Concrete Resistance to Cement Company

Semen Gresik, a cement company, has plans to build a factory on the land of 1,771 residents from eight surrounding communities in the regency of Pati, in central Java, Indonesia.

In mid-January, community members attempted to meet with local authorities about the factory, but were not allowed to do so. In response, the farmers decided to nonviolently block the road, preventing four Semen Gresik vehicles from conducting surveys that day.

The blockade eventually erupted into a clash between locals and the military, as the government unleashed 250 riot cops, as well as part of a militarized force. The

residents responded by throwing rocks and fighting back, which eventually lead to arrests. Women were locked in nearby houses, and men were chased off the scene. People were beaten, trampled and stripped of their clothes.

Weekend Fun at a British Weapons Factory

During the early morning of January 17, a British weapons factory was vandalized, causing nearly \$400,000 in damage. Apparently, six activists used a ladder to gain entry to the site and spent the entire night hammering, leaving parts for two types of jet fighters, guided Hellfire missiles and Paveway bombs rendered useless. The activists also smashed windows and left the office in a general state of disarray.

The ITT/EDO-MGM arms factory has been subject to protests by a group named Smash EDO since 2003, in response to the second Iraq war. This recent attack was more focused on Israel's three-week-long assault on the Gaza Strip in Palestine.

Three Lock Down in Earth Hour Action

On March 28, three activists locked down to equipment, drawing attention to the Hazelwood Power Station in Victoria, Australia. A banner reading, "Switch off coal," was hung in the stairs of the plant. Thirty more activists protested outside.

One of the points that the protestors were stressing was the need to shut down Hazelwood, one of the world's largest contributors to pollution.

"Hazelwood's carbon pollution emissions, at 17 million tons annually, are equivalent to about five percent of Australia's annual greenhouse-gas emissions," said Louise Morris of the Switch Off Hazelwood Blog.

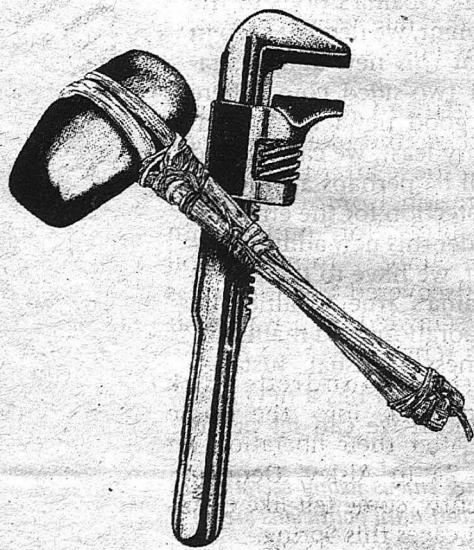
Rising Tide Australia Puts World's Largest Coal Port on Lockdown

More than 500 protesters made their frustrations clear as they jumped into kayaks, canoes and other small boats, blockading the port of Newcastle, outside of Sydney, Australia. Newcastle is the world's largest coal port.

"We would like to show a strong message to the government that everyday Australians are sick of politely asking for change" stated Carly Phillips, a Rising Tide spokesperson.

Attacks Against UC Vivisectors Still Going Strong

On January 20, University of California, Berkeley vivisector



Environmental News of the Weird

New Allies on the Frontlines of the Climate Struggle

Climate justice activists in Boston discovered a unique ally in the fight against the fossil-fuel industry. Guy Fox, a mannequin, took the first step in cementing a truly unusual campaign, volunteering to chain himself to the doors of a Bank of America branch in Boston's Kenmore Square on March 31.

"Even a dummy like me can see that Bank of America's massive loans to coal companies, and support for the epidemic of foreclosures and evictions has to stop now," said Fox.

Not to be outdone, climate activists in Framingham, Massachusetts, are reportedly reaching out to the garden gnome community.

Blacken the Skies

A new buzzword is spewing from the lips of politicians in 2009: "geo-engineering." Geo-engineering is the idea of manually manipulating the Earth's climate to produce a result that some would find more acceptable than things like disappearing Arctic ice or the possibility of lower Manhattan being consumed by the Atlantic Ocean.

Established geo-engineering ideas include polluting the upper atmosphere with sulphur nanoparticles to reflect sunlight, fertilizing oceans to create plankton blooms that would absorb carbon-dioxide (CO₂), or constructing artificial forests that act as CO₂ sponges.

John Holdren, Barack Obama's new science advisor, is an advocate of "using all of the tools in the toolbox."

"[Geo-engineering]'s got to be looked at," Holdren said. "We don't have the luxury of taking any approach off the table." While he acknowledges some concerns over permanently altering whole aspects of Earth's delicately balanced processes—things like "sunlight" or "wind"—the risks don't necessarily prevent these ideas from spilling into policy.

"We might get desperate enough to want to use it," Holdren said, before admitting that some things actually *are* off the table—absolutely absurd ideas like shutting down coal plants or eliminating cars.

Back to the Future Part II Comes Early

"Roads? Where we're going, we don't need roads!" exclaimed Doc Brown in the 1989 motion picture, *Back to the Future Part II*. The film portrayed Earth in 2015, chock full of flying cars and bodacious sunglasses.

In December, Terrafugia unfurled the world's first commercially available flying car. For the cost of a house, you can own a car with retractable wings. It's no Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (there's no sea-going component, for one), but you can drive down the streets in your Terrafugia Transition and take flight when traffic gets too crazy.

Terrafugia has yet to return inquiries as to whether the Transition needs to go 88 miles per hour before the magic happens.

One More Example of Our Failures as a Civilization

A man all the way from (say it with me...) New York City (crazy, huh?) came to Montana, hoping to bag himself a trophy elk. He got his elk hunting permit and gun all ready. He even got a nice, red pick-up truck. What he forgot was a wildlife guidebook.

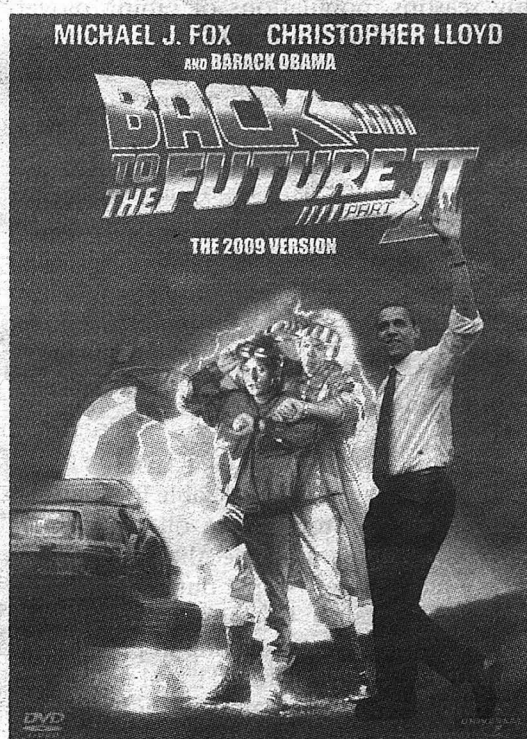
Instead of an elk, the New Yorker shot a feral llama. Evidently, he didn't realize his error until after he had photographed and "cleaned" (hunter-talk for skinning and gutting an animal) his prized kill. He turned himself in to authorities, but Montana surprisingly has no law against shooting a llama without a permit.

It's unclear if the man packed generic, New York-made picante sauce for his big trip out west.

One for the Misanthropes

Nine-year-old Nicholas Dyer may decide to stay away from mountain-ravaging ski resorts for a while after a close call near Lake Tahoe, California. Young Nicholas was trying out an advanced run at the Northstar Resort when a coyote came after him.

"All of a sudden, out of the trees came a coyote," explained Cindi Dyer, Nicholas' mom. According to reports, she yelled, "Keep skiing, keep skiing!" to her terrified son.



As Nicholas "bombed down the slope," an adult skier swept in to chase the coyote away.

Idaho Tries Out the Gift Economy

Idaho State Senator Gary Schroeder is very proud of a bill to ask each of the other 49 states if they want some of Idaho's wolves. The bill was passed by the Idaho Senate 31-1 on February 5.

According to Schroeder, Idaho has an excess of wolves, and maybe the other states want some. His logic goes that you'll never know, unless you ask. Supposedly interested in saving tax dollars that may otherwise be spent fighting "radical leftist protectionists" in court over the wolves' delisting, he wants to spend tax dollars to ask states like Florida, Hawaii or Ohio if they would like a pack or two of wild wolves.

While some wolf somewhere may want to hang out with alligators, sip on a mai tai or go to a Walmart, respectively, it's likely safe to say that the majority would prefer to stay in their Northern Rockies home.

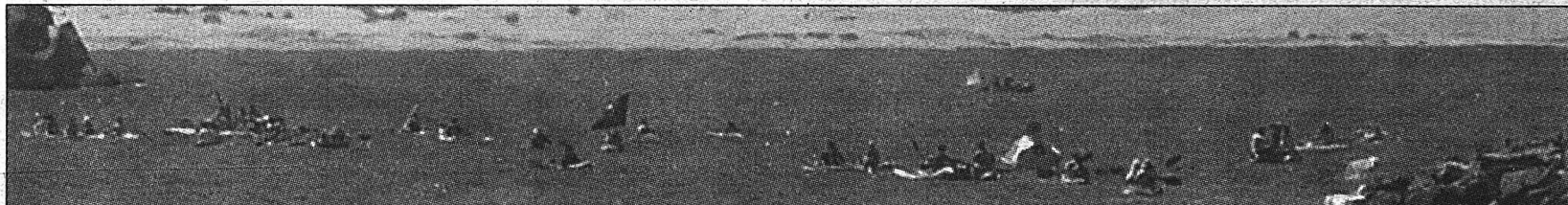


Photo courtesy Particular Ken

Gregory Timmel was followed to his job of daily murder by Berkeley Students for Animal Liberation. After Timmel left the parking garage, students proceeded to vandalize his automobile.

The vandalizing was claimed in response to Timmel's abuse of animals at the Office of Laboratory Animal Care, where he works. The action was also done in solidarity with Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty-UK prisoners.

More than 20 University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) vehicles have been targets of sabotage, vandalism and theft. On February 6, the Animal Liberation Front took responsibility for sabotaging yet another van. The communiqué read, "Until the UC schools leave the animals out of [their] bloodthirsty quest for power, as we have said before, there will be no backing down on our part."

Still in the game, the Animal Liberation Brigade torched a UCLA vivisector's vehicle on March 6. David Jentsch, who

works with notorious vivisector Edythe London, addicting non-humyn primates to methamphetamines, was the target of this attack.

"For the FBI, the more legit activists you fuck with, the more it inspires us," the communiqué warned. Sounds like we will be hearing from the Animal Liberation Brigade again soon.

Chilean Anti-Authoritarians Have a Night on the Town

Using the darkness of the night for cover on March 21, Chilean Anti-Authoritarians for Liberation got on their bikes, carrying super glue, spray paint and pre-cut scraps of metal. Their first target was a bank that had its ATM door glued shut. The word, "closed," and a circle A were painted on the window. Then, they visited a fast food restaurant, where two padlocks were glued and "Meat=Death" was painted on the entrance. Their third destination was an exceptionally large butcher

shop. Six padlocks were sealed with glue. After that, it was on to a painting spree of slogans for political prisoners and a little anti-communist rhetoric. Lastly, they descended on the last butcher shop of the night, where they sealed four padlocks and painted, "Murderers," on two doors.

Their communiqué explained the reasoning behind their late-night fun: "Sabotage against capital and the murderers will continue. We will not settle for just talk; direct action is a method of attack against those who have commodified our lives and those of our animal brethren."

Sweden Round-Up of Actions

Throughout the past few months, people in Sweden have been busy. On February 1, there was fun to be had at the park. The penguin and seal ponds at a public park in the center of Slotsskogen were spray-painted, along with the workers' cars. On

February 8, a brick was thrown through the window of a fur store. At another fur store, activists got busy with some paint and let loose on the store's windows. Later, on February 15, bricks were thrown through the same fur store's windows. Unfortunately, on February 17, two activists were arrested on suspicion of trying to start a fire at a different fur store. Best wishes for those two, and may the rest of the night-time workers in Sweden stay busy!

Springtime Cage Cleaning

Six thousand pheasants were cutting loose after their March 6 liberation from a farm that raises birds for hunting in Pesaro, Italy. "Tonight, you have discovered freedom" was found scrawled on a wall near the cut fence.

Fourteen hundred mink jumped back into the game of life after their liberation on March 24 in Alslev, Denmark. Apparently, some felt like cleaning out cages this Spring.

Frontlines

¿Que tu sabes d'eso?



Bare Bones

Beach Driving Ban Boosts Plovers and Sea Turtles

Since a ban was implemented last year on driving on the beaches of the Outer Banks—barrier islands on the Atlantic coast of North Carolina—during nesting seasons, populations of piping plovers and loggerhead sea turtles have increased. The driving ban caused a backlash among beachgoers when it was implemented, since it coincides with the peak tourist season. Still, it only closes a mere 14 out of 67 miles of beach and just bans night driving.

Plover breeding pairs have gone from six to 11. The number of loggerhead nests has increased from 82 to 112 in just one year. Plovers and loggerheads only nest on open beaches in the Southeast. The Outer Banks hosts some the longest undeveloped beaches in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Chevron Not Guilty of Killings

Chevron was found not liable for the 1998 killing of protestors on an oil platform in Nigeria. The case used the Alien Tort Claims Act, which allows people outside the US to sue corporations in US courts.

The Ilaje people were living in poverty and had their fisheries destroyed by oil drilling. After having their complaints go unheard, 100 unarmed Ilaje occupied a Chevron platform.

Chevron called up the Nigerian military and flew a “kill-and-go” squad out in its helicopters. The soldiers opened fire on the protestors, killing two. Other protestors were arrested and tortured. Chevron claimed that the protestors were holding their workers hostage, though workers on the platform had the situation under control.

Tonight, the Shredder Cannot Dine on Turtle Soup

A coalition of wildlife groups is pushing states without limits on the capture of wild freshwater turtles to ban the harvest, filing emergency petitions against eight states on March 11. Rising demand for turtle meat for human consumption in Asia has led to skyrocketing turtle harvesting throughout the midwestern and southern US. Over the span of three years, a quarter million turtles passed through the Dallas-Forth Worth airport on their way to Asia.

In 2008, the coalition pressured Florida, Oklahoma, Georgia and Texas to regulate their turtle trades. These states have either enacted moratoriums or are in the process of drafting stricter rules. Now, the coalition is taking on Arkansas, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, South Carolina and Tennessee.

The increased harvest has led to local extinctions, since traps do not distinguish between rare and common turtles. Nine species of southern turtles are candidates for protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but have yet to be listed.

Congo to Cancel Some Logging Deals

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has canceled 91 logging deals after a six-month review of 156 existing deals, effectively shutting down some operations. These deals were drawn up a decade ago during the Second Congo War. The DRC is also cracking down on under-reporting of timber exports.

In 2002, while the war was ongoing, only 100,000 cubic meters of timber were recorded and taxed. Surveys have shown that the actual timber yield is closer to five times that.

Not only have European corporations been logging a chunk of rainforest the size of Massachusetts, they have been stealing it from some of the most economically deprived people on the planet.

State of the Birds Released

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar released the first-ever comprehensive look at bird populations in the US. The report, released on March 19, showed that a third of the 800 bird species in the US are endangered, threatened or in significant decline. Bird populations in Hawai'i were in the greatest state of crisis, followed by birds inhabiting grasslands, arid lands and ocean coastlines. Habitat destruction, invasive cats, towers and pesticides threaten the birds of the Hawaiian Islands. The report tried to mitigate this frightening news with a reminder that wetland restoration has helped populations of waterfowl recover.

Supreme Court Limits Logging Challenges

Ruling on an already-settled dispute over the salvage logging of Burnt Ridge, in Sequoia National Forest, California, the Supreme Court decided on March 3 to limit public involvement in forest policy. The Burnt Ridge salvage logging plan had already been withdrawn by the Forest Service, but the court ruled in favor of exemptions that limit appeals and public hearings on salvage logging operations that span fewer than 250 acres and forest-thinning projects of fewer than 1,000 acres. The court also ruled that concerns like the health of the forests were not sufficient to establish standing. Standing means that someone must show concretely how they will be harmed by an action in order to take the case to court. This ruling could make it harder for forest defenders not living in the proximity of specific forests to sue the Forest Service.

EPA Delays Two Mountaintop Removal Permits

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decided to suspend and review two permits for mountaintop removal (MTR), operations and delay hundreds of others on March 24. Initially, activists believed that hundreds of MTR permits had been suspended because of an exaggerated article from the Associated Press. The coal industry panicked and threatened to lay off the few people it still employs. In response, the EPA came out with a statement to reassure concerned parties that the hundreds of permits under review would more-than-likely be approved.

Court Halts Juneau Road Project

On February 13, a federal judge ruled that a road to Juneau, the capital of Alaska, is unnecessary and that improved ferry service should be studied as an alternative. Road-building advocates say that the \$350 million road will improve access to the city.

Though the road would cut through 50 miles of undeveloped land, the Environmental Impact Statement for the road did not look at increasing ferry service or reducing ferry fares. Opponents of the road want

to see the money set aside for the road put toward improving ferry operations.

Rare Hawaiian Vine Designated Endangered Species

On March 17, a vine found only in wet forests on the Hawaiian island of Molokai became the second species to be classified as endangered by the Obama administration. The vine was thought to be extinct in 1997, until two seedlings were found on a nature preserve in 2005. In 2007, 24 more plants were found in the wild.

Many other plants throughout the Hawaiian Islands are facing similar situations. The vine was one of 251 species on the candidate list, waiting for protection under the ESA. The species on the list have been there for an average of 20 years, with at least 24 species having been driven to extinction while on the list.

Judge Rules to Protect Florida Reef

A South Florida judge ruled in early March to deny a dredging permit that would have threatened the Florida Reef Tract. The dredging would have brought 724,000 cubic yards of sand onto local beaches in a wealthy community. The silt that would be stirred up from the dredging site could drift to the 7,000-year-old reef and choke out the life it supports.

The judge ruled that the beach is not critically eroded and would not warrant the use of dredged offshore sand.

Drilling Halted on Baca NWR

A drilling company was ordered to pull out all construction equipment until the effects of two oil wells on Baca National Wildlife Refuge, Colorado's newest and largest wildlife refuge, can be studied. The drilling would have a negative impact on nearby Great Sand Dunes National park and threaten the water supply for San Luis Valley. Conservation groups hope that the Fish and Wildlife Service will buy out the mineral rights from the drilling company as part of its comprehensive plan for the refuge.

Courts Kick Plantations Off Indian Land in Amazon

Brazil's Supreme Court ruled on March 12 in favor of Amazonian forest people, protecting a piece of the Amazon Rainforest that they claim. The Raposa Serra do Sol reservation enforces the sovereignty of the 18,000 natives and will remove the rice farmers occupying these lands. The reservation was established only three years ago, and demarcation and enforcement of it has been lax. Last year, when authorities tried to evict farmers, the farmers fought back violently. These farmers grow rice, beef and soy for export, and have been known to shoot at natives. The Brazilian government has set aside 14.5 million acres to relocate the farmers, but farmers are not satisfied. For comparison, the size of the reservation is 4.2 million acres.

Oil Spill in Australia

On March 11, Cyclone Hamish struck a ship off of the coast of Queensland, Australia, spilling oil along 37 miles of beach in and around Brisbane. The ship also lost 30 containers of synthetic fertilizer.

Initially, the shipping company reported that only 11,000 gallons of oil escaped from the ship, but it now says that “substantially more oil was spilled,” leaving the Australian government to declare the area a disaster zone.



Nigerians in the US for the Chevron case meet with community members in Richmond, California.

EARTH FIRST! 2009 RRR

• • • JUNE 29 - JULY 6 • • •

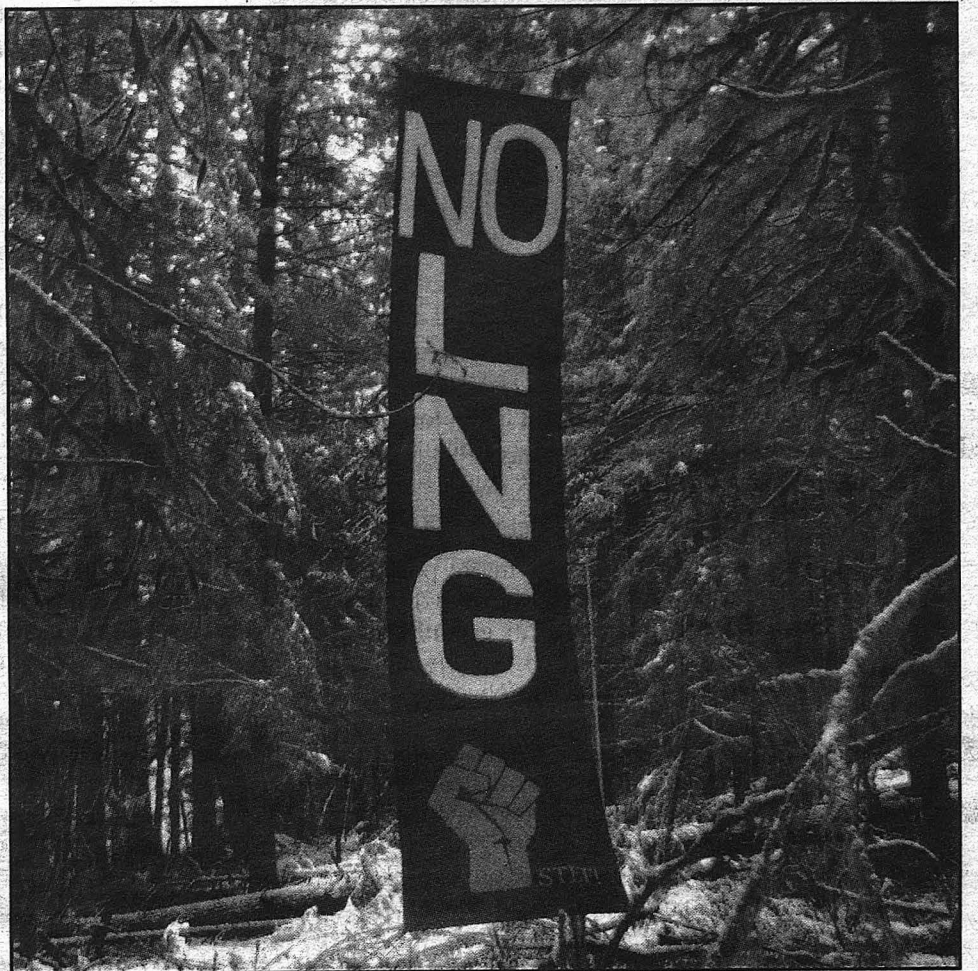
In the *Earth First! Journal's* 20th anniversary issue article on the **Round River Rendezvous (RRR)**, Faith and Roxanne proposed changing the name of the gathering to "RCP," which stands for the "'really cool party' for lots of humans who are trying not to act like they're the center of the universe." Agreed. So, for the purpose of this article, the **RRR** will be known as the **Really Cool Party (RCP)**. Now, to be completely honest, there is more to the **RCP** than just a great big party in the woods with some of your funkiest friends. There will be workshops and talks and tasks and chores and, well... you guessed it, partying.

Each morning will begin with morning circle, a good opportunity to see who rolled into camp in the night and hear what the day has to offer. Then, it's on to workshops (bring some ideas for workshops you would like to be involved in or lead), hiking, or hanging-out in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. In the evenings there may be fires (depends on rainfall), folks singing and dancing, or quiet times with pals you rarely see. It's up to you. The **RCP** is what you make it. Bring toys, learn new games to teach us, come with ideas to share. Costumes, instruments, skits and songs are encouraged to make the all-day **EcoWarriors (EcoWackos?) Rally** on Saturday, July 4, truly entertaining.

Don't get me wrong, the **RCP** is not just fun and games (although it often seems that way). There is a lot of work that goes into throwing such a **really cool party**. You get to be involved in that too, because the **Rendezvous** is a communal gathering. Everyone is encouraged to pitch in. You can help by hauling water, gathering firewood, digging shitters, taking a turn at security or welcoming newcomers.

Now for the nitty-gritty: The shindig costs a whopping \$25. The money goes to pay for this year's event with the rest going to next year's **Winter Organizers Conference** and **RRR**. Although they are not invited, there are bound to be media and law enforcement creeping around; simply accept it and act accordingly. On that note, offensive behavior, alcohol-induced or otherwise, will not be tolerated. There will be a conflict-resolution team on hand to deal with any problems. So please, come with respect, for yourself, your surroundings and others.

Let's we forget, we are going to be in the wilderness, so come prepared. Be self-sufficient and intelligent about your choices. Be prepared for camping in a cold, possibly wet or buggy environment. While the weather should be hot and dry, early **Cascadian** summers select against those who don't bring wet weather gear and SPF 30. Remember, this is not car camping. You will be hiking your gear into the site.



Earth First! has always maintained its belief in self-sustainability. At this year's **Rondy**, we are encouraging all campers to provide, pack in and pack out all their own food, compost recycling and garbage. Seeds of Peace will be providing a communal kitchen for those who cannot provide for themselves. We are strongly encouraging a monetary, kitchen equipment, or food donation to the **Earth First!** kitchen or directly to **Seeds of Peace**. All leftover donations will go to future **Earth First!** events. If anyone is interested in helping collect donations, contact Shawn at cascadia_ef@riseup.net. To donate prior to the event, send to: **Cascadia Earth First!**, POB 11662, Portland, OR 97211 **Seeds of Peace Collective**, POB 7852, Missoula, MT 59807

You'll be happier if you bring:

Musical instruments, food, flashlight and batteries, a tent or something to keep the mosquitoes out of your snoozing nostrils, insect repellent, sunscreen and a hat, raingear and tarps, personal first aid supplies, water containers and a water filter, compass, cooking and eating utensils, birth and disease control, toilet paper and other personal necessities, and... **DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE!** (Check the website listed below as the date gets closer.)

For the post-Rendezvous action, please bring:

Twine, rope, duct-tape, tools (picks, shovels, pry bars, come-a-longs, monkeywrenches, etc.), pack food, banner-making supplies, costumes, radios, U-locks, chains, lockboxes, and video and still cameras (for the action only).

Don't bring:

Dogs, bad attitudes, shit beer, rotting food, anything you are not prepared to pack out!

www.2009rrr.org

Cascadia!

Oregon's Last Ancient Forests: Under Attack!

Within the zone of an internationally recognized biodiversity heritage site, the Klamath-Rogue-Umpqua Watersheds, we are preparing for the onslaught of thousands of acres of clearcuts and devastation.

Once again the forests of Cascadia face dire threats from federal agencies and political corruption. The Oregon Bureau of Land Management (BLM), under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, has auctioned and awarded the "rights" to destroy more than 25,000 acres of public forests this Summer and next. The only thing (outside of our future intervention, if needed) keeping these sales from imminent cutting is the "Biological Opinion" due out this Spring. In theory, these opinions declare what impacts these timber sales will have on species listed under the Endangered Species Act. In practice these Biological Opinions have acted as blank checks to move logging forward. Since 2004, the Oregon BLM has been found guilty of breaking federal law by the 9th Circuit Court on at least six separate cases involving timber sales in southern Oregon. But really, why break the law when you can just change it?

We are still fighting the implementation of the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR), enacted on December 31, 2008. This was a last-gasp attempt by the Bush administration to attack what remains of Oregon's old-growth forests. The WOPR allows the BLM to renege on its responsibilities under the Northwest Forest Plan of 1994 and increase logging by 436%. Seventy percent of this new logging under the WOPR would be clearcuts. Apart from the obvious environmental repercussions of this plan, it also clearly undermines numerous current laws and plans, including the Clean Water Act and the Oregon Salmon Plan. Of our last remaining old-growth stands, 100,000 acres would be cut and existing streamside protections would be sliced in half. After so many years of devastation, the twisted lust to kill off the ancient ones remains unabated.

Roughly 20% of all global warming emissions are the result of deforestation. According to forest scientists at Oregon State University, "Forests in the Pacific NW have among the highest carbon storage density of any forests in the world." Replacing these native stands with monoculture populations would reduce carbon-storage capacity, increase fire risk and decrease viable habitat for many species. The BLM states plainly that the WOPR would result in 180 million more tons of carbon in the atmosphere than a plan that would conserve forests for carbon storage. That is the equivalent of putting one million more cars on the road in Oregon for 132 years! This puts the WOPR in clear contradiction of greenhouse gas reduction targets that the governor and Oregon's legislators signed into law in 2007.

The threat is unmistakable. Countless of our sister and brother creatures and their homes in the forest are in danger. The spotted owl continues its 4%-a-year descent into slow extinction. With the WOPR, timber harvesting would scar one million acres. Approximately 40,000 rural Oregonians live within a half mile of BLM land and their homes, drinking water and local economies are at risk from this foolish plan.

While liberals are busy speaking in tongues and fainting in the presence of Obama the Messiah, the WOPR continues on undaunted. Oregon's Governor Kulongoski has appealed the WOPR, but state legislators are poised to introduce legislation in support of the WOPR. We see the fiction of their laws, broken when it pleases them, altered on a whim. Clearly we cannot stand complacent with baited breath for some political solution. With the global economic crisis, we have a window of unique opportunity. The compulsive building has slowed and timber prices are severely slumped. These companies cannot afford to deal with costly opposition. These matters are in our hands. We are poised on the edge of a knife, waiting for these ancient forests to fall. Where will you be this Summer when the chainsaws roll and the trees cry out? (See back page.)

Elliot State Forest

Sure, the WOPR threatens to cut big trees soon on BLM lands, and the Forest Service is proposing a nasty sale in Diamond Lake's roadless areas, but, right now, as you read this, **the biggest, oldest trees in Oregon are being clearcut in the Elliott State Forest**, taking the habitat of endangered species like the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet and Coho salmon.

There is a lawsuit bouncing trying to stop this illegal taking of endangered species habitat, but it could be a long time before we win it. Meanwhile, **over 500 acres of owl habitat could be clearcut this Summer** and another 500 acres next Summer.

Oregon's Elliott State Forest is 93,282 acres of public lands located near the coast, between Reedsport and Coos Bay. It burned in 1868, so it was passed over when the Oregon Coast Range was largely slicked off after World War II. Logging didn't start in earnest on the Elliott until the 1970s. Today, about half of the Elliott is a 130-year-old, never-before-logged, native coastal forest. **Trees can get pretty big on the coast in 130 years**, providing a complex forest structure just a few miles from the Pacific Ocean that makes it a haven for marbled murrelets.

Unfortunately, **the trees are going fast**. The resulting clearcuts are sprayed with herbicides to enslave the woods to tree plantations. The reason owl habitat can be clearcut is because in 1995 Oregon state got a "habitat conservation plan" that allowed 46 owls to be killed (the official word is "taken," as in an "Incidental Take Permit") if the state protected 23 owls. Now, there are less owls than that, and even they could be in trouble.

There is no such allowance to kill murrelets. Marbled murrelets are an endangered sea bird that depend on big, old forests near the ocean for nesting. Unfortunately, the good and best murrelet habitat, even though it has never been surveyed, is now threatened with clearcutting under a new "habitat conservation" plan.



*The trees really are ancient (and f*k*n huge!) in the Elliot.*

There are so many murrelets interfering with the plan to clearcut owl habitat, that Oregon wants to do a new habitat conservation plan that will **allow them to clearcut the best murrelet habitat**, with no surveys to find out how many actual birds they are killing!

Oregon's Department of Forestry is not going to survey for spotted owls any more either. The last comprehensive spotted owl survey was done in 1991. There is no way to know for sure if the 500 acres that are slated to be clearcut this Summer have had spotted owls move in since then.

The Elliott is a beautiful forest to visit. There are nice camping areas several places along the gorgeous Millicoma River that flows through the Elliott. While you are in the area, some of the local sites to see are Roseburg Forest Product's clearcuts on the Elliott, as well as dramatic views of the adjoining Weyerhaeuser Millicoma Tree Farm: 200,000 acres on the south side of the Elliott.

For more information about the Elliott, visit www.umpqua-watersheds.org/local/ESF_main.html and <http://cascwild.org/elliott.html>.

Our Gas Problem

There are proposals for 3 new Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals in Oregon. These sprawling facilities would be located just south of Astoria (Oregon LNG), about 40 miles inland on the Columbia River (Bradwood Landing and Palomar Pipeline) and outside Coos Bay (Jordan Cove).

Proposals for 3 new LNG terminals and the 596 miles of new natural gas pipelines that would have to be laid are environmental catastrophes. Just a few of the issues associated with the pipelines are:

- The Bradwood site would require dredging of 700,000 cubic meters of riverbed.
- The Palomar Pipeline crosses 250 streams and rivers, some of them multiple times resulting in 292 crossings.
- The crossings, along with the dredging, represent a major degradation to salmonid habitat.
- Billions of dollars have been spent in restoration efforts of salmonid habitat. The LNG projects would heavily impact much of this area.
- A 120-foot-wide corridor would have to be scraped bare for the construction of the pipelines. Considering the fact that the majority of the 596 miles runs through forested land, this could result in upwards of a 500-mile-long clearcut.
- 40 miles of the Palomar Pipeline run through Mount Hood National Forest. That equals a 580-acre clearcut.

Wildlife Issues

Red tree vole

This 4" mammal lives its entire life in the upper canopy of forests in western Oregon and is a major food source for the threatened northern spotted owl. The species is protected by the Survey and Manage Strategy of the Northwest Forest Plan, which requires agencies to "look before they log" and buffer any discovered nests.

Gray wolf

Eradicated from much of the West in the early to mid 20th century by trapping, hunting and poisoning, wolves have begun to migrate back into Oregon since their reintroduction into central Idaho in 1995. In 2005, Oregon passed a recovery plan to officially allow wolves back into the state in order to meet recovery goals. Currently, the federal government is proposing to de-list the species in the West, which would make shooting wolves legal and potentially cripple Oregon's recovery efforts.

Northern spotted owl

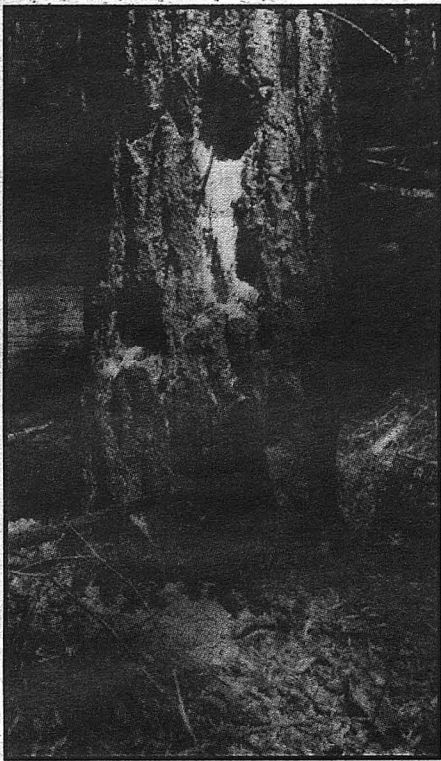
A mature-forest-dependant species, the owl's population has been seriously affected by unchecked logging of its habitat over the past century. Listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1990, the owl's population continues to decline at approximately 3.9 % each year throughout its range. Ongoing ancient forest logging, wildfire, and barred owl invasion all contribute to this. Unknowns like global climate change, West Nile virus and sudden oak death present further threats to the species.

Cougar

Like the gray wolf, the cougar is a species that has been long persecuted by humans in the West. In 1994 Oregon voters passed Measure 18, which banned the cruel practice of hound hunting the big cats. This led to a rebound of the species' population. In 2007 the Oregon Legislature overturned Measure 18 by reinstating hound hunting. This law helps implement the recently passed Oregon Cougar Management Plan, which proposes to cull the state's big cat population by killing 2,000 of them.

Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains of eastern Oregon are a diverse wild bioregion encompassing high desert ecosystems on ancient lava flows with endangered species such as pygmy rabbits and sage grouse, and adapted unique species such as desert foxes, kangaroo rats, and pronghorn antelopes. There are national monument sites with world-heritage-status 40-million-year-old fossil records, and national forests ranging from dry ponderosa pine, juniper woodlands and aspen groves to high-elevation mixed-conifer ecosystems. The forests are populated with gray wolves, wolverine, lynx, pine marten, cougars, black bear, elk, mule deer, coyotes, bobcats, beaver, otter, mink, porcupines, skunks, and a large variety of rodents, reptiles, insects and birds, including neotropical songbirds, pileated woodpeckers, northern goshawks, great grey owls, and bald and golden eagles, plus fish species including Chinook salmon, steelhead trout and bull trout. The amphibians include Columbia and Oregon spotted frogs.



Pileated woodpecker foraging, Umatilla N.F.

The Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project

Works to protect native biodiversity and ecological integrity throughout the Blue Mountains in eastern Oregon and into the Ochoco Mountains in Central Oregon, including the range of the northern spotted owl on the east slope of the Cascade Mountains, with Shasta red fir, white pine, mountain hemlock, sugar pine and incense cedar in diverse eastern Cascade forests.

We use legal processes of field-surveying proposed timber sales, commenting on agency projects including toxic herbicide use, Off Highway Vehicle management plans, livestock grazing on public lands, mining, and proposed species eradication or predator control projects over four national forests and one BLM district. We also negotiate, appeal and litigate to significantly modify or stop ecologically destructive plans, sales and projects. We will be giving workshops on timber-sale monitoring and ending corporate rule, and activist skills trainings at the RRR to encourage participants to stay after the RRR to help us field-check proposed timber sales in eastern Oregon. In the process, you hike and camp in national forests, travel through high desert BLM lands, swim in rivers or lakes along the way, and learn about forest ecology, fire ecology, wild plant and animal identification, and how to stop timber sales and other agency projects legally. At the same time, you help us by recording information that is useful for comments, negotiations, appeals and potential lawsuits. Most volunteers also see lots of wildlife in the process.

The Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project defeated two major timber sales just last year, based on the field work of our volunteers. This year, major timber sales and fuel-reduction projects needing field-checking include the Canyon timber sale in the Ochoco National Forest, the Cobbler sale (proposing to violate the 21-inch-diameter limit on cutting live trees) in the Umatilla National Forest, the Galena sale on the Malheur National Forest, and the Knott and Jane fuel reduction sales on the Malheur National Forest. The Jane sale is being planned by a local collaborative group in conjunction with the Forest Service.

We can't possibly cover the thousands of acres of timber sales on the ground every year without the help of volunteers like you. No experience is necessary. There will be a field-checking "blitz" after the RRR (and any associated direct action) in a proposed timber sale, as well as a field-checking and timber-sale-monitoring workshop at the RRR. The longer you stay with us after the RRR, the more you experience the big, wild lands of eastern Oregon, the more you learn and the more you help our forest-defense efforts. Fieldchecking generally runs from June through September or later. Volunteers need to be self-sufficient with hiking and camping gear, possess at least minimal and provision for any special needs.

For more information, call Karen Coulter at 541.385.9167. Leave a message with your phone number and ask any questions, or find me at the RRR. Come to the Wild with us!

www.2009rrr.org

TRANS' AND WOMYN'S ACTION CAMP

Come a week early to the RRR for a 6-day training and workshop event at the same location as the RRR, from June 20 to 26.

This will be a safe(r) space where transgendered, intersexed, gender-queer-, androgynous- or womyn-identified folk share skills in an empowering environment. We will be experiencing the land before all of the RRR attendees arrive, and we will be providing skillshares on how to help set up large camps for gatherings. There will also be tons of other workshops and trainings on many diverse issues. Central theme here: FUN!

We are now putting out a call for workshop presenters and trainers! If you are transgendered, intersexed, genderqueer, androgynous or womyn-identified and would like to get involved in the organizing or would like to give a workshop, please get in touch! (Contact info ↘)



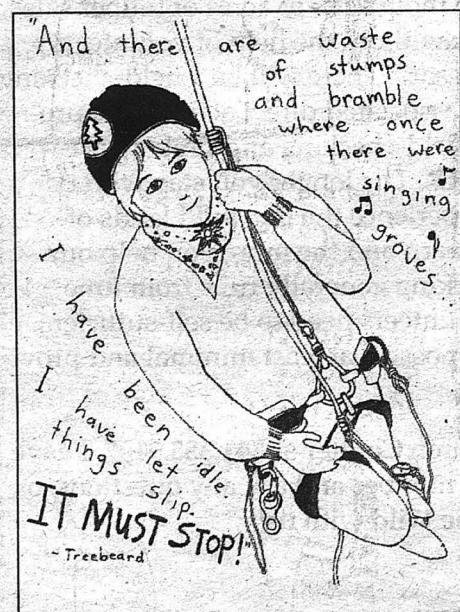
Following the RRR, there will be a week-long intensive climbing and rigging camp from July 8 to 15. The camp is designed for individuals who already have basic climbing knowledge and are looking to expand their skill base to include more advanced rigging techniques. The camp is being put on by the Earth First! Climbers Guild. All are welcome to come to the camp, but be advised that you must have your own climbing harness and have basic knowledge of climbing techniques. (You can brush up on these at the RRR beforehand.) There will be a \$30 fee that will go toward camp necessities and climbing gear that we will be using. Location information will be forthcoming, but the camp will be in the same basic geographic area as the rondy. You must RSVP to efclimbers@gmail.com if you wish to come. Also, if you are an experienced rigger that would like to come and help teach, please get in touch! Checkout EFclimbers.net for more information.

FOLLOWED BY... CASCADIA SUMMER 2009!

Presumably, you have just read about the state of Oregon's ancient forests and public lands. It's all much more of the same doom and gloom (not the good kind) that we have come to expect.

- 25,000 acres of public land cuts?
- 436% increase in logging?
- More clearcuts and herbicides in the Elliot?

So, the real question then is what are you going to do about it? The solution is just as clear as the threat. One more summer of complacency and unabashed ecological destruction or one more summer spent with your dearest friends in the forests of Cascadia confronting the death machine? For us, it's simple. We'll be here fighting for the forests we love. We will have a camp in the forest and friendly houses in the

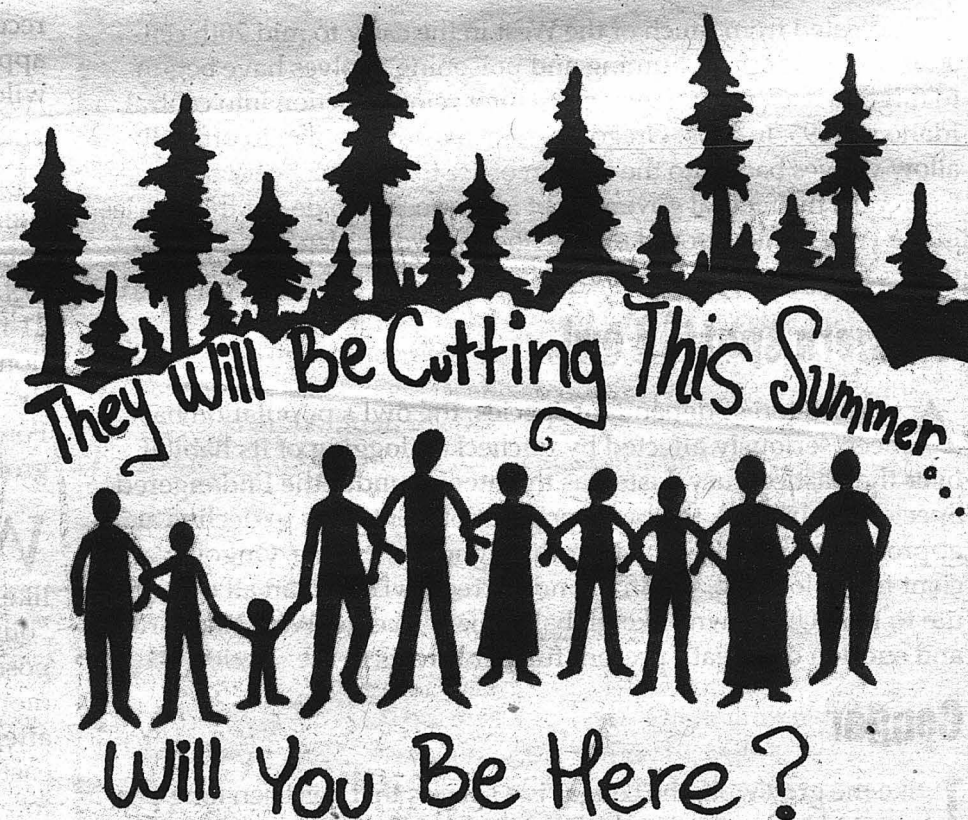
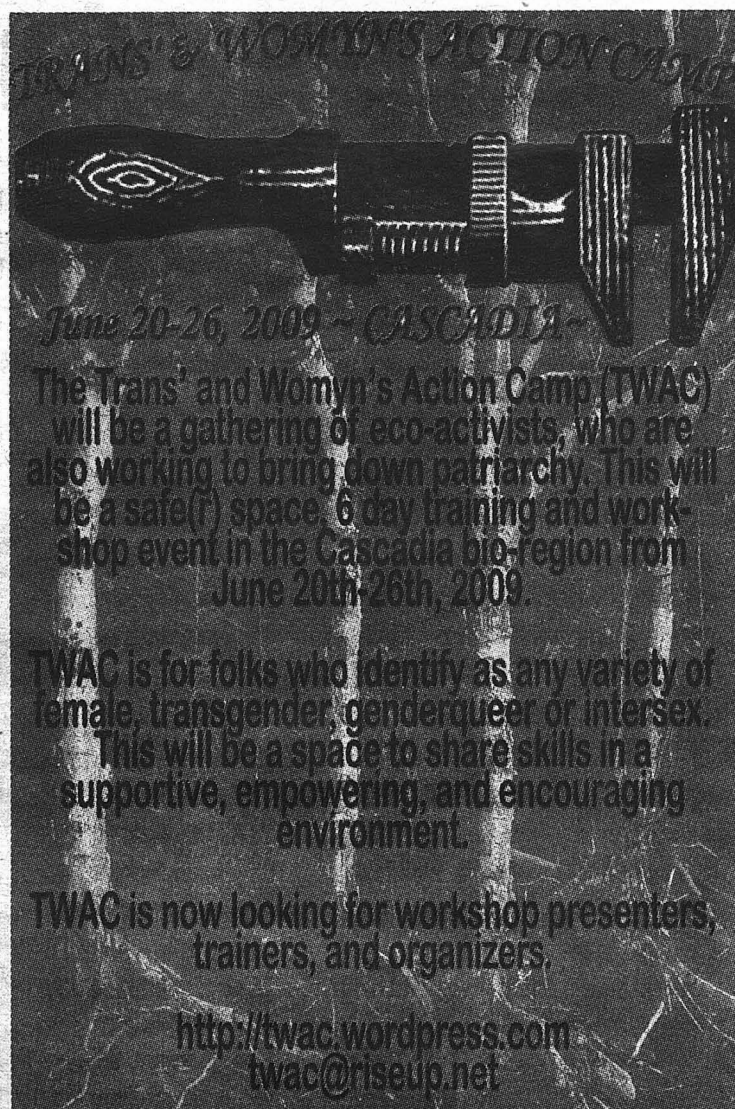


city. We're inviting comrades young and less young, experienced and less experienced to join us for a summer, a month or even just a few days.

We'll be hosting an action camp in western Oregon May 23 to 25, and you are cordially invited to attend. Come to learn and teach; stay to defend.

To receive your own personal welcoming committee, or to get involved in any capacity, e-mail forestdefensenow@gmail.com or visit forestdefensenow.org. See you in the woods!

www.2009rrr.org



BY THE ROADSHOW CREW

As of the beginning of April, the Earth First! roadshow is going strong. From Arizona to Southern California to Oklahoma, Texas, and Florida, traveling with an arsenal of climb trainings, direct-action workshops and a badass puppetshow, this crew of eco-warriors has been connecting with organizers all over the southern part of the US.

The EF! roadshow set out after this year's Organizers' Conference with goals of networking with local activist communities, revitalizing a culture of direct-action organizing and getting people excited to carry on the rich history of EF!. The roadshow is traveling with a series of interactive presentations that involve singing, games and direct-action demonstrations. We compiled a slideshow, depicting past and current scenes of resistance. Through images, statistics and anecdotes, we're articulating what we are defending and why we must fight. We're hoping to excite people about direct-action tactics by setting up lockboxes, climb lines and tripods during our presentations, and by piecing together a cross-country map of current threats to the environment and our responses to these threats.

We are also working hard to raise awareness of the government repression that our movement is facing and to rally support for our comrades in prison. Our presentation includes a puppetshow featuring woodland creatures that illustrates the importance of discretion and trust to protect ourselves against prosecution when involved in a direct-action movement. Also, each night, we circulate paper through the audience and collectively write a letter of support to a different political prisoner. We have already sent off more than two-dozen letters to our friends in jail. We recognize that the Green Scare is one of the biggest threats to this movement right now and are excited about the conversations we've been having with activists all over the county about how to respond to this threat. These conversations are expanding out notions of what it means to be supportive in a radical community and have made us aware of how much growing we still need to do.

Already, in our six weeks on the road, we have led 25 presentations and put on more than 30 workshops. We're traveling with more than 15 workshops on everything from a basic know-your-rights training to direct action 101 to anti-oppression in the EF!

movement. We're hoping that he roadshow will provide local groups not only with motivation and inspiration, but also a toolbox of knowledge and tactics to draw on in their local organizing. Everyday, we're meeting more of the incredible movers and shakers of today's ecological resistance. Each night, more people tell us that they're committed to traveling to this Summer's Rendezvous to see what kind of movement EF! is. We're convinced that this year's Round River Rendezvous is going to be one of the largest, rowdiest and most-inspiring gatherings EF! has seen in years.

Despite our excitement about all of the resistance we're seeing, we are realizing—with each audience filled predominately with young, patch-clad anarchists—that our presentations are failing to reach a broader crowd that extends beyond a subculture that is familiar to many of us. We are observing that many local EF! groups lack ties with other community environmental groups and see this as a growing point, not just in our outreach strategies as a roadshow, but in our networking strategies as a movement. We are hoping that as we continue across the country, we *and* our hosts will put more energy into forming ties with a larger base of radicals and organizers.

Everyday, we find our own enthusiasm growing for what this movement is and what potential it has. One of the most inspiring parts of our tour has been facilitating an all kids' action in Gainesville, Florida. Seeing a group of people from four to 12 years old do all of the work to organize an office demonstration against Plum Creek developments in Maine and Florida gave us reassurance that there is energy still very alive and continuing to build in our communities.

With a month and a half down and three more to go, we're stoked to see what else this roadshow has the potential to be. To send us your feedback, criticism and advice, contact earthfirstroadshow@gmail.com. Don't forget to check out www.earthfirstroadshow.wordpress.com to find out how you can plug in. We can't wait to see you when we come through your town!

The Earth First! roadshow is a group of front-line organizers from bioregions all over this country. They want to thank all of you who have already hosted them in your towns, fed them some dank-ass food and shown them a sweet time. They want the rest of you all to visit the webpage and find out when they'll be coming to hang out with you!

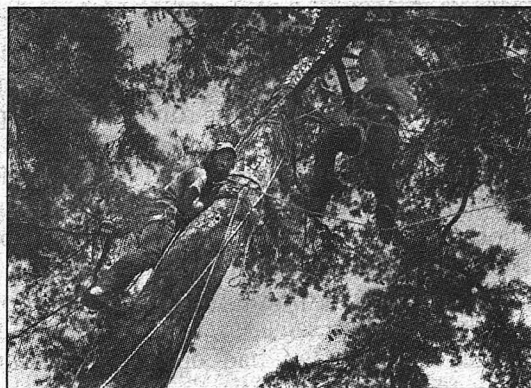


photo courtesy EF! Roadshow

Another day at the office

Shout-Outs From the Road

The roadshow has been full of adventures, thus far! Here are some shout-outs to badass crews who really pulled it together and showed us a great time!

Prescott, Arizona: A small crew at the Catalyst Infoshop made us feel like old-time friends and rallied their community for a whole day of last-minute trainings and workshops.

Oklahoma City: We presented to about 50 folks at the local infoshop. The day after our presentation, we stuck around and did a handful of workshops to help folks gear up for resisting local logging and gas exploration.

New Orleans: We spent two days there. The first day, we did workshops on consensus and facilitation, security culture and tripods, and gave the presentation. The next day, local folks put on a raucous benefit show for us with really good bands that got shut down (twice!).

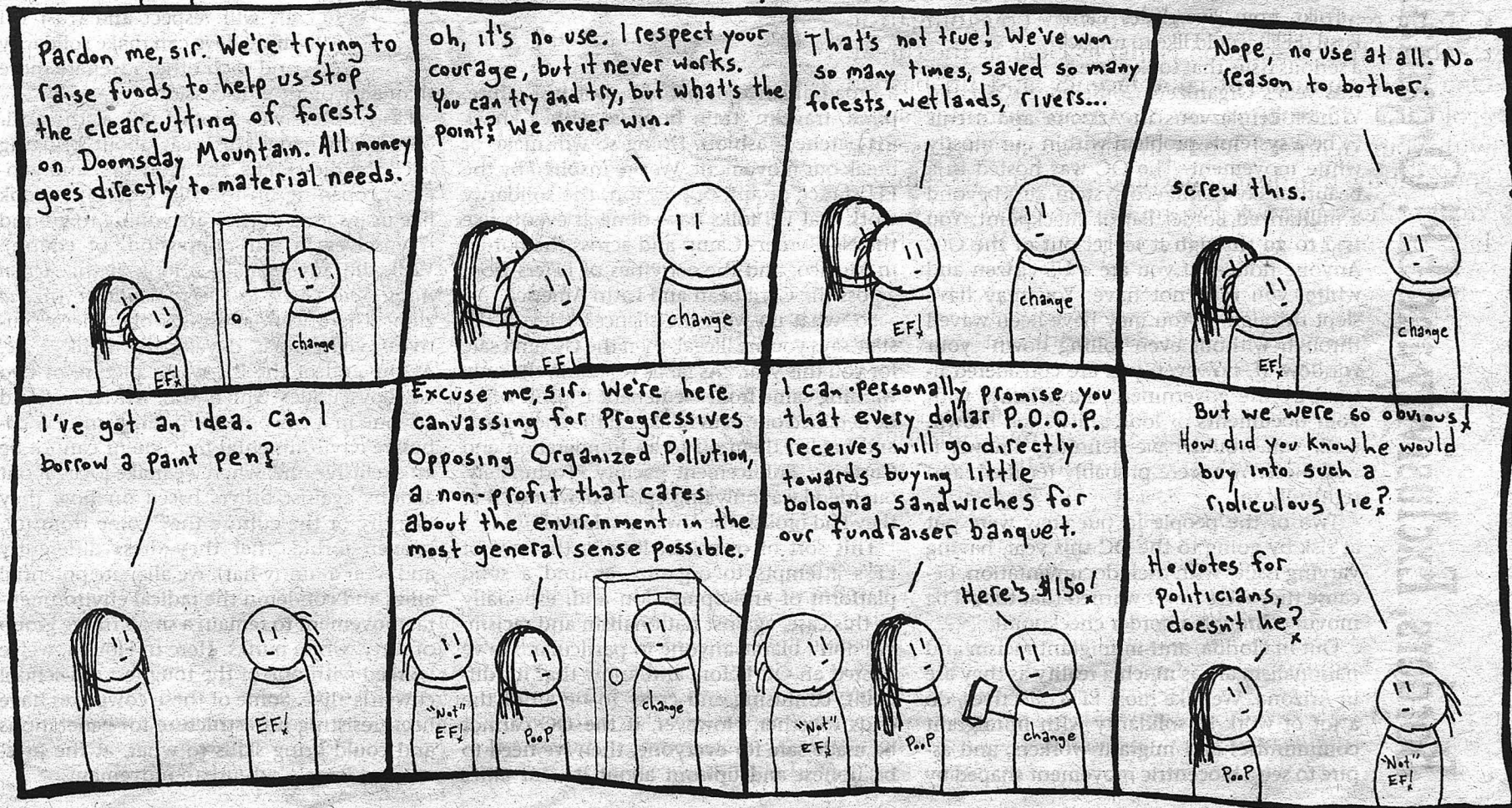
Gainesville, Florida: They've nearly succeeded in kicking Plum Creek out of town, and there's a lot of local struggles going on. More than 50 folks came out to our presentation at the Civic Media Center the first night we were in town, and about the same number joined us the next day for workshops that included direct-action training for kids, backwoods survival and climb trainings.

Ft. Myers, Florida: We teamed up with our buddies in the band, Here's to the Long Haul, at this remarkable location called the Hapahatchee Center to present to folks who are combating climate change locally!

Lake Worth, Florida: The fine folks of Lake Worth had the brilliant idea of combining our presentation into a local-foods benefit dinner. We enjoyed a delicious meal, listened to the rabble-rousing tunes of Valerie C. Wisecracker, and did the show for a crowd of close to 50 folks who are holding strong against Florida Power and Light's plans to build the largest power plant in the US.

On the Road Again!

Doomsday Mountain Earth First!



Winter Organizers' Conference Reportback

BY MAYA FACE AND ATTILA

After getting lost on untamed backroads and watching the sunrise over a gorgeous mesa, our bellies filled only with dumpstered gas-station food and gourmet chocolates, our crew stumbled through an unusual territory to our destination. Expecting to see deserts filled with saguaros, I was excited to see what had originally inspired me to join Earth First!—trees! This Winter's Organizers' Conference (OC) was held in a sky island, where trees grow alongside shrubs, and a lovely, calming stream flows over multi-colored rocks. The sun brightened our spirits and the warm smiles brought us into the morning circle.

This calming stream is on the chopping block, as a proposed open-pit mine loomed over the camp. The Santa Rita Mountains had faced destruction from mining once before, but people successfully pushed the effort back. Now, the Rosemont Copper Company wants to destroy the mountains with the construction of an open-pit copper mine. The slag from the mine would either be dumped directly in the valleys or piled up, killing everything living there. The mine would leach heavy metals into streams and leave an irreparable open sore. Of course, Rosemont claims they can gouge this sore in the greenest way possible. We hoped that our gathering could help stop the mine.

Discussion topics during the OC included: the Green Scare; goals, strategies and tactics; the *Earth First! Journal*, burn-out and checking in about anti-oppression organizing within EF!. There

were workshops on borders and immigration issues, direct-action trainings, climate change and EF!, plant identification, the Beehive's new coal poster, starting new EF! groups, attacking infrastructure, tripod set-ups, and facilitation and consensus.

In the *Earth First! Journal* discussion, we addressed a proposal to move the *Journal* to Asheville, North Carolina. Many people supported the proposal, but there was a little hesitance, especially from people more familiar with the city. Some thought that the people in Asheville still needed to address a few concerns. We decided that the *Journal*-collective should go ahead as if the move will be next Spring. We will check back in at the *Journal* discussion at this Summer's Round River Rendezvous (RRR). If there are major concerns, we'll address them there.

The people involved with the Interstate-69 campaign took time to debrief about all that happened this year. Though many people seemed glum about the events that had transpired (especially the SLAPP suits), everyone seemed to come out of the long talk feeling better and

more positive about moving forward with the struggle.

For the action, we planned to block the street in front of the US Forest Service (USFS) office in downtown Tucson. This involved bicycles, a tripod and lots of enthusiastic people. The tripod team was able to unload and deploy the tripod in less than a minute. The bummer, however, was that the climber didn't make it to the top in time, because the police were waiting at the USFS building. The media later reported that there had been 100 police assigned to deal with us. Our rally of some 35 people was nice, but it didn't quite pack the punch we'd hoped for. A person trying to protect the tripod from traffic was struck by a car, but was OK.

We held down the sidewalk for an hour before dispersing. Meanwhile, two activists went inside to discuss their thoughts about the USFS's role with the Rosemont Mine. Afterwards, some people hatched plans to pull off another action. That night, after a dose of energetic music, people took to the streets and witnessed a banner opposing the mine unfurl from a parking deck.

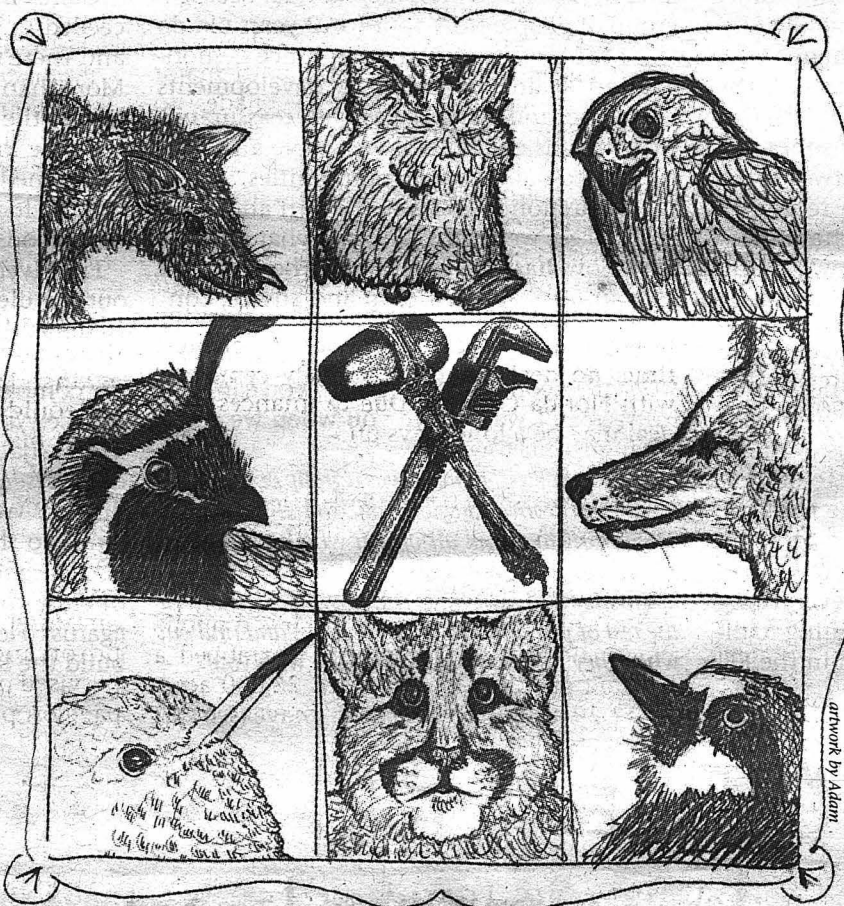
There was a reasonable amount of media coverage, and other groups working on stopping the mine appreciated our action. Even if the actions were not as spectacular as some had hoped, it boosted existing resistance to the mine.

Decentralizing and delegating tasks could have prevented some of the problems that occurred at this year's OC. Organizers need to be better about communicating their needs to the group and trusting people with carrying out tasks. We also need to be better about stepping up and learning how to do some more complicated tasks.

While there were problems with the organizing and the execution of the gathering and action, Earth First! is still a force to reckon with. Several people seemed excited about starting or rekindling EF! groups in their region, and High Country EF! had their first meeting at the OC. There are mines to be stopped, roads to be blocked, forests to save and power plants to shut down. Let's think about how to create vibrant bioregional groups, and actually follow through with these plans. We're Earth First!; action is what we're good at. Come to the RRR and bring along some new faces—or some old faces that haven't been to a RRR in a while. Be ready to help out, host some workshops, cook some food, have some fun on late-night security shifts and shut some shit down!

Maya Face is a transient biocentrist who loves life. Attila is a biocentrist who also loves life, except for human babies and intestinal parasites.

STOP THE MINE



IN 2009!

and those of us in the movement who are not US nationals will respect and trust EF! more if we can make solidarity and each other's welfare more

Borders, Exclusivity and EF! Organizing

BY EVERGLADES EARTH FIRST!

Folks from Everglades Earth First! (EEF!) would like to unpack a serious issue that took place at this year's Organizers Conference (OC) and Winter Rendezvous in Arizona and seems to be a systemic problem within our mostly white movement. The OC was hosted in a beautiful sky-island eco-system, just beyond a militarized Border Patrol checkpoint. You had to go through it to get out of the OC. Anyone notice? If you are a US citizen and white, you may not have. You may have slept through it. You may have been waved through without even rolling down your window. If, however, you are considered illegal by the government, have issues with your documents or look a little too brown, well, you would have definitely known it was there. You were probably terrified, and rightfully so.

Two of the people in our crew were put at risk by going to the OC this year, having varying issues with their documentation, because they were never warned that they'd be moving through a border checkpoint.

Out in Florida, anti-immigrant racism and nationalism are as much a reality as they are in Arizona. We, like most EF! collectives, do a lot of work in solidarity with immigrant communities and migrant workers, and aspire to see a biocentric movement shaped by

a broad alliance of peoples, not just white, punk, travelin' train hoppers with a knack for patched fashion. Doing so will make or break our movement. We are inspired by the EF! stance of anti-oppression, the solidarity work that EF! folks have done at events like the No Borders Camp and across the border in Mexico, and the activities of EF!ers from across the Caribbean and Latin America.

So, what up with the silence? "Hey, if the state says you are illegal, then the OC ain't safe for you this year." As far as we know, the only warning came from Lieutenant Dipshit when he detained one of us EEF!ers at the checkpoint and hauled them off to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility. Fortunately, our friend was only fingerprinted, warned that they had broken the law and released.

This sort of oversight flies in the face of EF!'s attempts to organize around a solid platform of anti-oppression and, especially in this case, against nationalism and racism. We don't blame anyone in particular. We've hosted an OC before and know that it's difficult, confusing and crazy to tie all of the ends together. However, if the OC cannot be made safe for everyone, then we need to be honest and upfront about it. Our allies

than a theoretical discussion.

Lastly, there was a lot of talk at the anti-oppression panel this year about bringing back the old-timers, the rednecks, and generally, opening up to folks who don't look like us (as long as they are willing to ground themselves in anti-oppression, of course). Well, did anyone take a look at the *Action Atlas: Your Guide to Fun in Southern Arizona* zine? There were addresses of mine executives, vivisectioners, developers, banks, etc. At the end of the list was a picture of two cowboys under which was written... "And anyone in a cowboy hat is fair game." A cohesive environmental movement cannot be an exclusive one; when we make jokes about actions against others based on how they identify or the culture they come from (or, heaven forbid, that they dress differently and wear a funny hat), we alienate potential allies and condemn the radical environmental movement to remain a small fringe group of dirty, white punks. Here in Florida, we've worked with one of the toughest old-school cowgirls alive. Some of these cowpokes have been resisting infrastructure for generations and could bring skills to what, at the present, is a largely sub/urban movement.

Another Fraud Lawsuit Against Maxxam and Hurwitz

It ain't over 'til it's over. We finally got corporate raider extraordinaire Charles Hurwitz out of our forests in California—after two decades of rape and ruin in the redwoods—when Maxxam's subsidiary, Pacific Lumber, went bankrupt in 2007 and Maxxam did not play the winning card. However, Maxxam and Charlie Hurwitz himself profited mightily from their disastrous and often-illegal corporate reign in California's North Coast, and Hurwitz never was held accountable. There is a glimmer of hope in a lawsuit coming to trial in Oakland that will take another whack at that accountability, and Hurwitz himself is on the roster for this round in court.

A former head of California's Department of Forestry filed a lawsuit alleging fraud in 2006. The suit specifically charges that Maxxam defrauded the State of California out of hundreds of millions of dollars by sabotaging the Headwaters Forest deal that was negotiated over several years and signed in 1999. Everyone from Bill Clinton to Senator Dianne Feinstein to Hurwitz was in on the negotiations, jockeying for the right to claim they had "saved" Headwaters Forest, and Maxxam took home close to half a billion dollars and additional forestland for a scant 7,400 acres. Hurwitz got an \$11 million personal bonus. The fraud is based on the Sustained Yield Plan the corporation was required to submit, which, it turns out, was manipulated to show logging and regeneration projections that were impossible and falsified.

For more information from Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters, visit www.headwaterspreserve.org.

—Karen Pickett

HLS Grasping at Straws

On March 3, a top Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) board member made what's been called a last-ditch attempt to save the floundering company. Andrew Baker proposed buying all outstanding shares in HLS, which would cost him around \$90 million. Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC), a group that exists solely to put HLS out of business, claims that this move is a "last throw of the dice" for the largest contract animal testing laboratory in Europe (though it also operates in the US). SHAC pointed out that HLS' stocks are at their lowest value in more than four years and are only 20 percent of what they were worth in October. The group sees Baker only offering to buy

these stocks because nobody else will. Still, it's unclear if he can raise the money if HLS' board approves the proposal.

On January 17, Baker announced that HLS was trying to move its financial headquarters back to England, get an English bank account and secure an English loan. However, an HLS spokesperson denied these claims, saying they were only a "personal view and a long-term aim for the company." (In 2000, every bank in England refused to do business with HLS, so it became administered by the state-owned Bank of England. In the next years, the company incorporated itself in the US to take advantage of laws that allow for more anonymity for shareholders.)

So, will Baker's plan work and make HLS more financially viable, or will this be the last stand of a dying monster? Time will tell, but according to SHAC, anti-HLS protests were up 18 percent in 2008 (829) compared to 2007 (700). While HLS tries to get back on its feet, the movement to shut it down is thriving.

Everglades Land Deal Chopped

In the continuing saga of the deteriorating state of Florida's River of Grass, Florida Governor Charlie Crist revised a celebrated conservation deal for the second time. On April Fools' Day, Crist said Florida would buy 75,000 acres of Everglades land from US Sugar Corporation for \$500 million, down from the previous 180,000 acres for \$1.34 billion. Still, he reserved the right for "wiggle room" in the new, more modest plan.

Crist has been eager to reach a deal with US Sugar and Florida Crystals, both major growers of sugar cane in the Everglades, to set aside land for preservation. In June, he announced the 180,000-acres deal, but due to the tumbling economy, Florida no longer has the revenue.

Florida Crystals owns what some consider the "missing link," a prime parcel of land that connects the Everglades with its primary water source, Lake Okeechobee. As of press time, no deal has been publicly cemented with Florida Crystals. Due to finances, that deal may be a long ways off.

Utah Student Facing Felonies

Also on April Fools' Day, the federal government charged Tim DeChristopher with two felonies. DeChristopher is the University of Utah student who infiltrated a public lands auction on December 19, grabbed a bidding paddle and purchased 22,000 acres for \$1.79 million that he didn't have (see *EF!*

March-April 2009). He is now being charged with interfering with a federal auction and making false representations at an auction. He could face up to 10 years in prison and a \$750,000 fine.

Meanwhile, Ken Salazar, the incoming Secretary of the Interior, invalidated the sale of 77 leases involved in that auction, covering 103,000 acres near Vernal, Moab and Price, Utah. Salazar said the Bush administration never should have put this land up for sale, due to the proximity to national parks and monuments.

Lawsuit Against Indigenous Activists

Canadian National Railway (CN) filed two lawsuits in a Toronto court against members of the Mohawk Community of Tyendinaga, in what's considered Ontario, Canada. The suit names Shawn Brant, Jason Maracle, Tara Green, "Jane and John Doe," and Mohawk families and communities in connection with blockades on CN tracks during April 2007. A separate suit was filed against Shawn Brant for his role in a blockade on June 29, 2007 (see *EF!* September-October 2007).

Legal Wranglings From the RNC

David McKay, one of the Texas Two accused of possessing Molotov cocktails during the Republican National Convention (RNC), changed his plea to guilty on March 16. Previously, he had pled not guilty due to entrapment by the snitch, Brandon Darby. This resulted in a hung jury in January. He is now awaiting sentencing.

Bradley Crowder, the other Texas Two defendant, agreed to testify against David McKay, his good friend. Crowder pled guilty in January and is also awaiting sentencing.

The *Earth First! Journal* is uncomfortable offering support to either of the Texas Two. There has been sketchiness surrounding information McKay has given about others since his arrest last Summer. Additionally, Crowder's agreement to testify against McKay undermines any support we could give him. However, we want to point out that much of their radical community in Austin, Texas, is still supporting both McKay and Crowder.

Matt DePalma—who is not one of the Texas Two, but who also pled guilty to possessing Molotov cocktails—was sentenced on March 10 to three and a half years in prison and an additional three years of supervised parole. He is listed on our prisoner page on page 26.

With Tristan In Our Thoughts



Tristan at the Berkeley sit

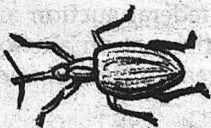
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the Nevada Test Site, Ward Valley and especially the forests of Northern California with *EF!*. For the last two years, Tristan was a big part of the Memorial Oak Grove treesit in Berkeley, California, especially in the harrowing last days when, from the tree platforms and branches, he personally held off the goons.

"In June, our tree village was attacked by numerous climbers, five cherry pickers, a giant 300-foot crane and police from all over California," he wrote in an article for the *Earth First! Journal* (see *EF!* November-December 2008). "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." This broad-based community effort, while falling short

of protecting the trees, was wildly successful in inspiring thousands of people around the world, and synthesizing direct action and urban ecology.

Tristan remains in serious condition in an Israeli hospital. While his functioning is slowly improving, the long-term effects of having part of his brain removed will not be known for some time. His family and friends are demanding Israel take full responsibility for shooting him and pay all medical expenses—aftercare as well as hospitalization. Tristan is fighting for his life courageously, as he has been fighting for the Earth and her people for decades.

For more information, visit www.justicefortristan.org; www.palsolidarity.org.



Grizzly Poem

The grizzly slept on my couch,
an unwanted houseguest.
Drunk on my garbage,
& acting like a pest.
He's not the only one,
the whole canyon is a nest.
Drunk homeless grizzly,
Cash in w/a twist.

They're loud in the test cities,
drunk & fighting all night.
Grizzly in a "wife beater,"
40 ozers in a hand.
"Stars & Bars" fly upside down,
they blast that dead band's song.
Once they roamed the wild lands,
But that isn't Freddie's plan.

"Sweet Home Wilderness..."
drunken grizzlies stumble on.
Dining in the dumpsters,
flipping off the law.
The Freddie's cancel food stamps,
& there ain't no trunk gun highs.
So they crash on people's couches,
all it costs is their pride.

Dead men pick their baigos,
on those slow summer eyes.
All the grizzly take to praying,
down on bearded knee.
Politicians tell only lies,
speak post-modernist jive.
The grizzlies all feel lucky,
goddamn glad to be alive.

The skies are all polluted,
the water's poison, too.
There's developments everywhere,
the grizz just sing the blues.
So they're sleeping on my davenport,
after munching from my cans.
If there's any justice,
the grizz can still make a stand.

— Stan Wilson

Orientation

Wheeling in the post-spring storm sky
Ravens and magpies furl the black cape of death
Above an elk carcass swollen grey in snow.
Great bear grizzly feeding
Hungry, demanding scavenger
Massive like King Kong
Traverses the hillside
With the swiftness of an ocean-gone ship,
Wind harnessed to its back,
Then rolls in the snow
Enormous claws slashing in the air,
Rocks giddily back and forth
On the joy of the elk's life,
The late spring,
Deep, wet snow
And most of all
The open land
Where things can still happen
Completely.

— Jenny McBride

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Send poems to
Warrior Poets Society
PO Box 14501
Berkeley, CA 94712-5501

Bear Malls

It was the bear
in the shopping center
that surprised me the most
not that the stores had fallen
or that the streets were ruined
but simply,
that there were still bears like her
to be seen

I thought they drove you
to extinction,
I said

They tried,
She agreed

But they did
a better job

& doing that
to themselves

I just came to look
for a little dried salmon
and some berry jam
before the roots pop through the floor
and the river

drinks back
the courtyard
you'd best leave
fore I get too hungry

I'd like to stay and watch
just a few more minutes

I said

— mlw
2/27/09

ARMED

WITH VISIONS

Clear as cut glass & just as dangerous



art by Attila

The New Wilderness Act

Continued from page 1

This act also comes at a time when the usefulness of wilderness designation is in doubt. The effects of climate change have infiltrated every part of the planet, including wilderness areas that have been spared the chainsaw or the bulldozer. Sky island ecosystems in the Southwest are already suffering, and pine beetles are destroying forests throughout the Rockies. Still, key to solving climate change, the extinction epidemic and problems with invasive species is to give ecosystems some breathing room. Bioregional wildlands plans are integral in order to allow ecosystems to adapt to climate change and start to stabilize the climate. Congress can be good for setting aside public lands in the West, but if we are going to make any real dent in stopping ecological collapse, we need to continue fighting for wildlands in places like Indiana, Maine, North Carolina, Nebraska and Texas.

Omnibus bills are consolidations of non-controversial bills so that Congress can vote on them as one big package instead of spending time on hundreds of individual bills. In California, the Omnibus Lands Management Act designates wilderness within the deserts of Joshua Tree National Park, and the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, and protects wild rivers in Riverside County. In the Sierra Nevada, it protects glacial valleys and lakes of the High Sierra and the White Mountains, home to 4,000-year-old bristlecone pines. Some of these areas were previously open to snowmobiles and off-road vehicles. The act protects the Amargosa River, the only perennial river in Death Valley. Along with other wilderness within Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park, the act protects the Mountain Grove, the largest stand of giant sequoias in the park.

In Colorado, the act creates the 210,000-acre Dominguez Canyon National Conservation Area in the canyonlands west of the Rockies. This area hosts ancient petroglyphs and dwellings, meadows covered in wildflowers and desert bighorn sheep habitat. At Rocky Mountain National Park, the act finally implements the National Park Service's recommendation from the 1970s to designate 250,000 acres of wilderness.

Wilderness proponents in Oregon helped protect many biologically critical areas. The act designates wilderness within Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and buys out grazing rights, protecting ancient forests and meadows. It protects old-growth Douglas fir and Port-Orford cedar forests in central Oregon, including the headwaters of the Elk River, the healthiest salmon fisheries on the west coast. Mt. Hood now has an additional 130,000 acres of designated wilderness, including ancient forests, and nearly 80 miles of wild rivers. Part of this wilderness would not exist if treesitters at Eagle Creek had not stopped a timber sale seven years ago. The Omnibus Act also protects desert wilderness in the watershed of the John Day River in the Spring Basin.

Across the West, other wildernesses are now protected, including more than a half-million acres of high desert and several hundred miles of wild rivers in southwestern Idaho, as well as 16,000 acres of canyon country and pinion pine forests in northern New Mexico. In Wyoming, more than 1.2 million acres of wildlands were withdrawn from oil and gas leasing in the Wyoming Range within Bridger-Teton National Forest. The Wyoming Range harbors strongholds for cutthroat trout and half of Wyoming's moose populations. In southwestern Utah, the act protects hundreds of thousands of acres of new wilderness in and around Zion National Park.

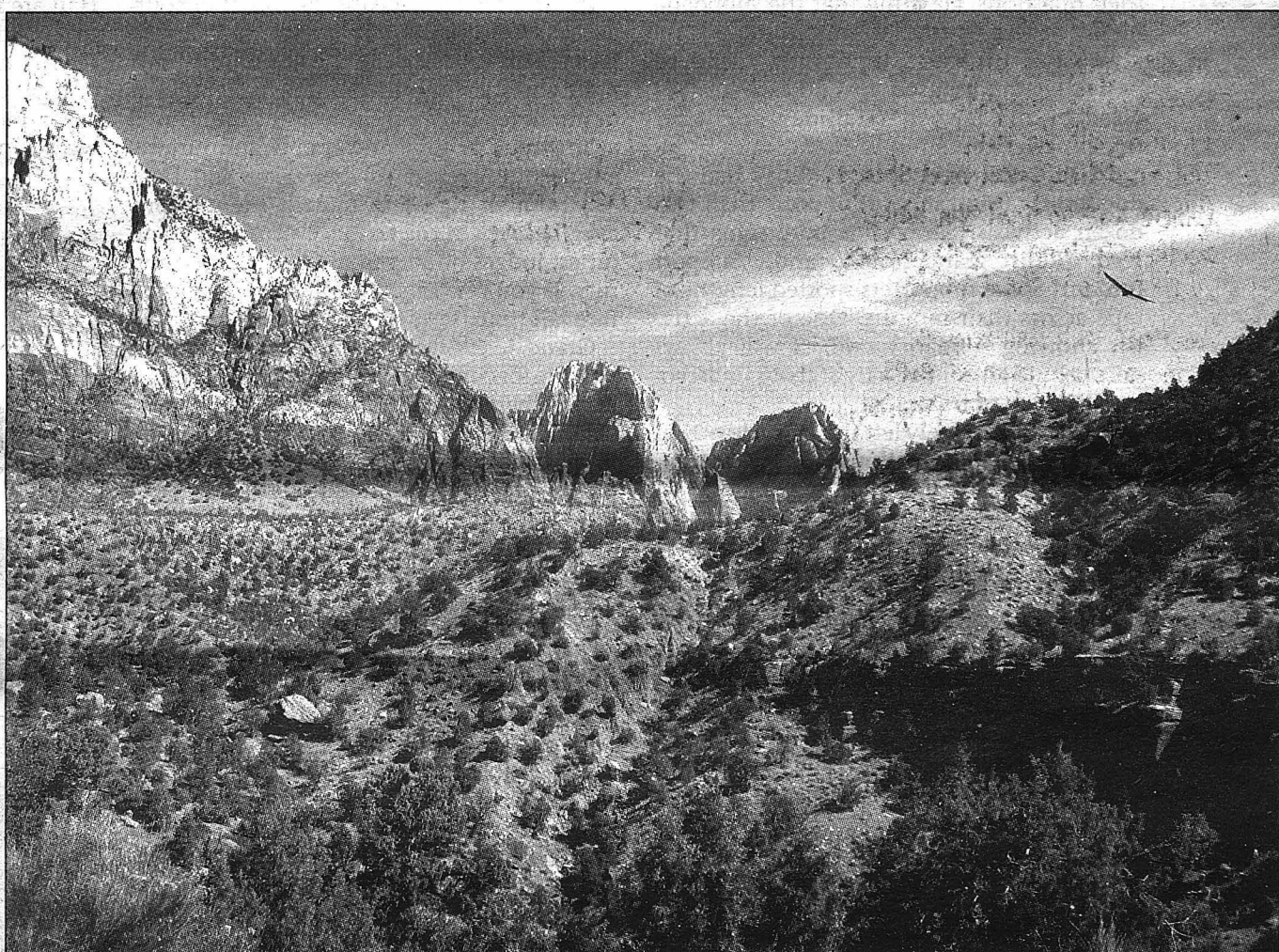
East of the Mississippi River, the Omnibus Lands Act adds wilderness in West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest. These protections cover mountain streams and vibrant forests of mountain ash, red spruce and eastern hemlock. The act designates wilderness in the tulip, sugar maple, scarlet oak and white ash forests within Jefferson National Forest of Virginia. In Michigan, the act designates wilderness within the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore along Lake Superior.

This Omnibus Act brings with it a significant threat to wilderness, as well. It allows an unnecessary road to be built through fragile, globally important wetlands in the Izembek National

Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. The refuge is necessary habitat for hundreds of thousands of the world's migratory birds. The act trades 206 acres needed for the road for more than 61,000 acres (45,000 acres of it wilderness) of nearby lands to be added to the refuge. While this seems like a reasonable trade, the withdrawn land comprises habitat needed for threatened waterfowl. The road would bring with it noise and pollution, creating a much bigger impact than a scant 200 acres.

Once wilderness has been designated, it is supposed to remain that way forever (or at least until the end of the US). If we allow pieces to be traded away, we are opening up the door for all sorts of questionable deals. This sets a precedent for the commodification of wilderness. Is an acre of wilderness the equivalent of a thousand acres of reclaimed mine sites? Is an acre of wetlands the same thing as an acre on top of a desolate mountain?

Another part of this package that's been kept quiet is the Forest Landscape Restoration Act. This seems not much different than previous forest plans, in that it promotes for-profit logging as a way to prevent fires. While this act does not open forests up for clearcutting, it seems to push logging over prescribed burns.



Additionally, a compensation program for ranchers who lose livestock to wolves is included in this huge package. According to some wildlife advocates, programs like this have helped reduce wolf killings by ranchers. On the other hand, the ranchers shouldn't be in wolf territory, and this program subsidizes them for doing the right thing—not killing wolves.

This new legislation ensures that at least some of the places that we care about are going to stay wild, but it doesn't let us off the hook. We don't just want some wilderness; we want it all. We must also realize that while few of us specifically lobbied for this act, the public awareness and wilderness defense carried out by Earth First!ers, as well as the policy work done by EF!ers who've left the frontlines, set the stage for this.

While the act sets up programs to study the impacts of climate change on oceans, specifically acidification, Congress has proven itself to be entirely incapable of reversing climate change. Other threats to wilderness loom just outside its arbitrary boundaries. Dioxin from paper plants permeates the entire atmosphere. Antidepressants from our piss pollute our rivers. Transmission lines and cell phone towers destroy bird migration routes. City lights bleach the night sky.

Grandmother bristlecone pines were alive during the rise and fall of the Roman Empire and have watched our civilization spread across the planet. The Omnibus Act now protects them, but will our toxic culture permeate their remote mountain home, or will they live to witness the fall of this empire? We need to use all of the tools in the toolbox; sometimes, victories can come from legislation. When governments fail to provide us with anything useful, it's time to take to the trees and take to the streets.

We don't just want some wilderness; we want it all!

When governments fail to provide us with anything useful, it's time to take to the trees.

Grand Jury Resisters, Fur Farm Raids and Investigations in Utah

Halliday spent more than half an hour before the grand jury, staying silent.

BY JEZZABELL

Those fighting in solidarity with the wild animals of Utah are now feeling the government's backlash. Recently, two animal rights activists were served grand jury summons. Two other activists were arrested by the FBI for alleged involvement in a 2008 Utah mink farm raid and the damage inflicted on another farm.

The father of Jordan Halliday, one of the activists called to appear before a grand jury, stated that the federal agent who served his summons, asked him about the August 2008 release of 300 mink from a farm in South Jordan, Utah. The other activist asked not to be revealed.

Alone inside the courtroom on February 18, Halliday spent more than half an hour before the grand jury, not responding to their questions, claiming that the subpoena hadn't been properly served to him.

"It's a little bit intimidating. I had to basically stay focused and do as I was advised by my lawyer," Halliday said after the experience.

Outside the courtroom, Halliday had the uncompromising support of more than two dozen activists. Supporters bore signs that read, "Resist grand juries," and, "Support Jordan." Some supporters sported lengths of tape across their mouths. One of the activists showing solidarity said, "I will always rally behind an animal activist that's undergoing this type of treatment."

Both activists safely left the grand jury that day, with Halliday's actions leaving prosecutors feeling unsatisfied.

On March 13, Halliday was forced to appear before another grand jury. This time, the court's "fishing expedition" would land him in jail.

Due to his repeated silence during the secret hearing, Judge Tena Campbell granted Halliday immunity. Immunity within a grand jury removes your constitutional First and Fifth Amendment rights. As of press time, Halliday was being held to compel testimony. Through the coercion of incarceration, the state hopes to force him into answering all of the grand jury's questions.

To little or no surprise, the government stated that it would not respond to any questions pertaining to the content of the grand jury that it put these two activists through.

However, the feds did admit that they were aware of the chance that "sympathy actions" could occur.

Grand juries are a tool of the state used to gather information in cases where it doesn't have enough substantial information for an indictment against anyone. They are orchestrated by prosecutors seeking closure in unsolved "crimes." It involves a person being summoned and appearing before a group of people assembled according to that state's specific laws for assembling a grand jury. The individual is forced to appear before prosecutors, a judge and a jury without any legal representation present. They may be allowed to leave the room and consult their lawyer, but sometimes, this option may also be taken away. Information divulged in grand juries is later used by the prosecutors to connect dots in cases.

In radical circles, people are often encouraged to not answer any questions in grand juries. This is because of the notion that *anything* you share (no matter how insignificant or unrelated it may seem) could later be used against you or someone else. Grand jury resisters often resort to their First and Fifth Amendment rights to remain silent. However, because of the coercive nature of grand juries, judges often grant defendants immunity. If you continue to resist, you may then face jail time (see *EF!* July-August 2008).

Grand juries were used during Operation Backfire for convictions in previously unsolved Earth Liberation Front actions. Political prisoners, such as Daniel McGowan and Marie Mason, have resisted grand juries while in prison and jail. The additional time spent serving a contempt sentence for resisting grand juries during incarceration does not count toward overall time served.

Also in Utah, on March 5, William "BJ" Viehl and Alex Hall were arrested by FBI agents in connection to the August 2008 fur farm raid in South Jordan. Six hundred mink were released, records were destroyed and Animal Liberation Front (ALF) graffiti such as, "No More Mink, No More Murder," and, "ALF: We Are Watching," were left behind. The FBI indictment against the two also accuses them of attempting to damage a mink farm in Hyrum, Utah, this past October. Both were held without bail at the Salt Lake County Jail.

Prosecutors estimate the economic damage from the August raid to be at least \$10,000. The two are facing one felony charge each that holds the potential for five years in prison and up to 25,000 in fines. The misdemeanor charge for the October action could result in a penalty of up to one year in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

On March 12, Viehl and Hall were released by a federal magistrate judge. The court set forth specific restrictions for the two while awaiting their May 11 trial. Both will be electronically monitored and put on a curfew. Their computers will also have software installed that will log their use. The two were also commanded to steer clear of "straight edge" and "ALF."

This is part of the latest round of increased repression against those who fight in solidarity with the animals. Halliday, Viehl and Hall are in need of our support. Please write to Halliday while he remains incarcerated. His address is on page 26. Hall is also in need of legal funds. Please donate if you can.

For more information on this case, visit www.supportbjandalex.com.



Silencing the Sentenced: Daniel McGowan and Little Guantanamo

BY LAUREN REGAN

How does the government add yet more insult to injury regarding the politically motivated persecutions of radical activists? It moves political prisoners into Communication Management Units (CMUs)—and it does so very quietly. Never heard of a CMU? Well, until recently there was only one, at the Federal Corrections Institute-Terre Haute in Terre Haute, Indiana. It was actually called a CTU, "Central Terrorist Unit," but because the unit only housed brown-skinned people, the feds became concerned that they would be

sued. So, they changed the name and kept their eyes peeled for a couple of white guys to add to the mix. Recently, another CMU was created in Marion, Illinois, that houses 213 prisoners and has been dubbed "Little Guantanamo." The idea behind CMUs is to severely restrict the communications that a prisoner can have with the outside world. The Bureau of Prisons (BOP) says that these are necessary to keep terrorists from networking and to make it easier for the government to monitor the prisoners' communications.

Guess who else is getting buried in CMUs. That's right, the

Department of Justice and the courts that feel bound to follow the feds' lead have grossly mislabeled environmental and animal rights activists convicted of property damage as terrorists. Specifically, Daniel McGowan is facing the rest of his prison sentence at the brand new CMU in Marion. Andy Stepanian, one of the SHAC 7, was also a detainee in this new terrorist facility until his recent release to a halfway house as a result of serving his federal sentence for violating the Animal Enterprise Protection Act (the precursor to the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act). One

need only read one of Daniel or Andy's letters to understand why the government wants to keep them away from all public discourse. Their eloquence, optimism and encouragement from behind bars give heart to the movement, and their stance regarding noncooperation with the snitch system has left them in the feds' disfavor. Andy and Daniel, through their charisma and dedication, have become well-publicized rallying points. The government wants to completely seal them off from their friends and supporters on the outside. It wants to break these young men down completely

The Outcome of Organizing

With Too Large of a Heart

BY JEZZABELL

For some, it is a loved one, family member, passionate friend or partner—someone you have grown with through some of the brightest days and toughest hardships of life, someone you have shared so much with who you care for like nothing else in this world, someone irreplaceable. For others, it may be a friend of a friend or a persyn that you met while milling about between paths of entwined chaparral, or hiking among musky redwoods on your way to the old treesit at University of California, Santa Cruz. To some, it is another face and name of a persyn whose heart was so mountainous and compassion so mammoth that they fell subject to scrutiny of a cold, heartless state.

On February 19, Nathan Pope and Adriana Stumpo flew into Charlotte, North Carolina, from Costa Rica. Upon their return to the US, they were met by members of the Charlotte Joint Terrorism Task Force and arrested.

The next day, Joseph Buddenberg and Maryam Khajavi were arrested in Oakland, California. Joeseeph was arrested at the Alameda County court house, appearing for accusations of disturbing the peace at an animal-rights protest outside of Robert Bluhm (the assistant director of capital projects at UC-Berkeley)'s home on February 2, 2008. He pled no contest to the charge before him.

Nathan and Adriana appeared before a federal court in Charlotte on February 20. Six days later, the two were released and extradited back to California. Maryam and Joeseeph appeared in court on February 27 and received a preliminary hearing date for March 19. The court room was packed with supporters.

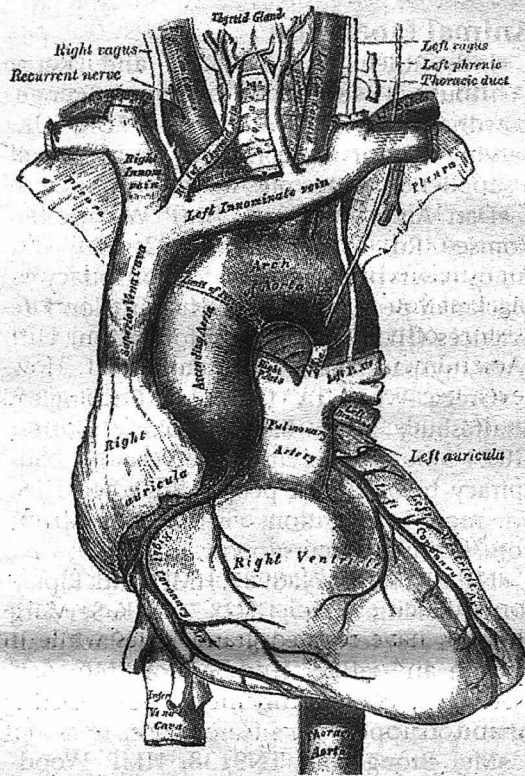
As of press time, all four arrestees are scheduled to appear at the same hearing that will take place in San Jose, California, on June 8 at 9 a.m. Nathan, Adriana and Maryam are free with a "custodian," while Joseph is on house arrest in his Oakland home.

The lengths to which the FBI has dug for evidence in this case surpasses most other animal-rights investigations. Allegations in the indictment start as far back as October 21, 2007. It was then that the four were part of a 20-or-so-persyn home demonstration that mostly consisted of chants and chalking. The four were identified in video footage of the demonstration and were served a summons. The indictment states that individuals were involved in "making threats," "trespass," harassment and intimidation of an East Bay vivisector.

The next complaint was filed on January 27, 2008. The four were accused of crimes such as threats, intimidation and harassment

that were similar to those listed on the previous indictment. The indictment reads that, over the course of seven hours, approximately 11 individuals protested at the homes of five different vivisectors. It also mentioned that the individuals used two different cars, one of which was registered to Maryam's mother.

February 24, 2008, was the next date mentioned; five to six individuals did a home demonstration at the home of a UCSC professor. At this home, the husband of the vivisector opened the door as protestors were shaking the handle and banging on



windows. He then began to get into a physical altercation with one of the protestors.

The husband's description of a vehicle used by protestors at the demonstration lead police to a Santa Cruz address, where police later surrounded the home for more than eight hours until they could obtain a warrant to raid the house (see *EF!* March-April 2008). At the peak of the standoff, there were 20 cops and agents waiting to break into the home, in addition to 75 cop-watchers present in solidarity with the five inside. The police gained entry by breaking windows and doors before they smashed out the lights with their weapons. Public information on vivisectors that was found inside was held as evidence against the four.

Also that night, police obtained a search warrant for Maryam's car. After impounding the vehicle and searching it, cops found bandanas and a bullhorn. The complaint states that DNA from Maryam, Nathan and Adriana was found on the bandanas.

During the last week of September 2008, three people were served court orders for their DNA, and another persyn had theirs taken from them in downtown Santa Cruz. At the time, many attributed this to an unclaimed arson at a visector's home in Santa Cruz.

Another date of reference is July 29, 2008, when approximately 30 fliers, titled, "Murderers and Torturers Alive and Well in Santa Cruz, July 2008 Edition," were found at a café. Workers instantly alerted the cops. After reviewing security camera tapes, Joseph and Nathan were seen entering the store two hours prior to the discovery of the fliers.

Two days before the café incident, an Internet Protocol address from a Kinko's in Santa Cruz was found to have accessed and downloaded information pertaining to 11 of the vivisectors highlighted on the flier. Security surveillance from Kinko's showed Nathan and Adriana present at that time, using a pay-for-use Internet terminal for around 50 minutes. The Kinko's server logs reflected the research on those 11 vivisectors.

To the state, these four individuals are terrorists. Their compassion and advocacy for animals holds zero weight in its eyes. These four are being accused of violating the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA).

AETA became law on November 27, 2006, with almost no media attention and amidst staunch public opposition. It basically deems anything threatening to animal abusers, experimenters, murderers, speciests, and their companies, families, profits and property illegal. The law played a large role in the conviction of the SHAC 7 in March 2006 (see *EF!* May-June 2006). Being found guilty of any charges violating the AETA would lead to multiple-year prison sentencing for these four.

There are numerous considerations to be looked at from this case. The most necessary task before us is support. These four are in need of courtroom solidarity if you are in their area. They need financial donations for legal costs that will easily exceed thousands of dollars for travel costs and lawyer fees. Please donate to their legal funds or throw fundraisers for the four. In light of this, we must all learn how to support each other more strongly and organize safely.

These four are in trouble for pouring their hearts into efforts to stop vivisection within the University of California system. While we are supporting these four, don't forget the animals that they worked so hard to advocate for. The same life-thieving cages are still in the same buildings, being used by the same people.

For more information, visit www.aeta4.org.

The same life-thieving cages are still in the same buildings, being used by the same people.

in an attempt to silence the movements that support them. The government will continue to fail in this endeavor.

Being sent to a CMU means you have only four hours of non-contact visits per month (through glass and via phone). There is no hugging or holding hands with your loved ones. A regular, non-terrorist, federal inmate gets about 56 hours of contact visits per month. It also means having 60 minutes of phone calls a month as compared to a normal inmate who receives 300 minutes. It means your mail is extremely monitored by the FBI, and you are not

allowed to have any contact with the media—clearly intending to silence those who are housed within what is now called "Little Guantanamo." It's aptly named Little Guantanamo, not only because the conditions are harsh and punitive, but also because, if you are sent to a CMU, you have no right to challenge the transfer. Even if you are a model prisoner, there is no way for you to "earn" your way out of a CMU. Once you are sent there, you are there for the duration of your sentence. Even in the harshest disciplinary units in the federal prison system, after one year of good behavior, you can earn a

transfer to a better prison. Not so with the Little Guantanamo system. These strong-hearted activists are being silenced and isolated as though contact with the outside world would result in massive terrorist attacks a la Timothy McVey.

This is a matter of prisoner classification, done secretly. There is no legal due process, no chance for a judge to make a ruling, no appeals; the prison system can send them wherever it'd like. Once you've been sent to a CMU, they will attempt to hide the existence of the unit, and will attempt to silence the inmates from attempting to advocate for themselves.

Please consider writing to Daniel, or make a donation to his support fund or to the ecoprisoner work of the Civil Liberties Defense Center (www.clcdc.org). Most importantly, raise your voice in outrage over the corrupt, repugnant actions of this pathetic government administration and call for an end to CMUs and an end to Little Guantanamo.

CLDC is also in the process of confirming whether or not a female CMU exists in Carswell, Texas, pursuant to ongoing Freedom of Information Act requests.

Lauren Regan is an attorney and the director of the CLDC.

Prisoners in the Struggle Support Them!

I got your letter in the mail finally. It felt like my chest was going to explode as I ripped open the envelope. You mean the world to me. I miss you more than words can explain. Every time the crisp, Spring air pulls at me, I think of you and wish you were here I can't wait to see your face again.

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 EP! 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

•Matt DePalma, #14126-041. Currently in transit. Sentenced to three and a half years in prison for unlawful possession of destructive devices at the Republican National Convention.

•Bryan Griffiths, XW8892, HMP Hewell, Hewell Lane, Redditch, B97 6QS, UK. A hunt monitor on remand who is falsely accused of murdering a hunt supporter following a tragic accident. Griffiths was monitoring a hunt from a helicopter when he landed to refuel. A hunt supporter was hit by the helicopter and died. Despite this being a clear accident, Griffiths has been charged with murder.

•Jordan Halliday, #24836, 1225 West Valley View Hwy, Suite 100, Logan, UT 84321, USA. Being held in contempt for resisting a grand jury investigation into Utah mink liberations.

•Marie Mason, #04672-061, FCI Waseca, Federal Correctional Institution, POB 1731, Waseca, MN 56093, USA. Moved to low-security facility. Serving 21 years and 10 months for a series of Earth Liberation Front (ELF) actions against genetic engineering and development. For more information, visit www.freemarie.org.

•Olga Aleksandrovna Nevskaya, was released. The Russian eco-activist was serving six years for arson, criminal damage and causing explosions in protest of the war in Chechnya.

•Fran Thompson, #1090915, CCC, 3151 Litton Dr, Chillicothe, MO 64601, USA. Recently moved to the above address. 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.

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.

•Dean Cain, WJ4309, and Luke Steele, WJ4308, HMP Lincoln, Greetwell Rd, Lincoln, LN2 4BD, UK. Awaiting trial on three charges related to interfering with animal research on a rabbit farm.

•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.

•Julien Coupat, N° d'Ecrou 290173, 42 Rue de la Santé, 75014 Paris, France. Awaiting trial on charges of sabotaging a high-speed train line in France.

•Francesco Gioia, Casa Penale, Via Lamacio 1, 67039 Sulmona (Aq), Italy. Moved to the above address. Awaiting trial for allegedly using explosives to damage power lines. Gioia is a member of Il Silvestre.

•John Graham, Pennington County Jail, 307 St Joseph Street, Rapid City, SD 57701, USA. Awaiting trial on murder

charges. Graham was framed by the FBI for the 1975 murder of fellow American Indian Movement (AIM) activist Anna Mae Pictou-Aquash.

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.

•Dan Amos, VN7818, HMP Winchester, Romsey Rd, Winchester, SO22 5DF, UK. Amos is serving four years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportdan.

•Gregg Avery, TA7450, HMP Coldingley, Shaftesbury Road, Bisley, Woking, Surrey, GU24 9EX, UK. Serving nine years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/shacukprisonersupport.

•Natalasha Avery, NR8987, HMP Send, Ripley Road, Woking, Surrey, GU23 7LJ, UK. Serving nine years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to Huntingdon Life Sciences. Visit www.myspace.com/shacukprisonersupport.

•Mel Broughton, TN9138, HMP Woodhill, Tattenhoe Street, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK4 4DA, UK. Serving 10 years for conspiracy to commit arson in connection with the campaign against Oxford University's primate lab. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportmel.

•Jacob Conroy, #93501-011, FCI Terminal Island, POB 3007, San Pedro, CA 90731, 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.

•Gavin Medd-Hall, WV9475, HMP Coldingley, Shaftesbury Road, Bisley, Woking, Surrey, GU24 9EX, UK. Serving eight years in connection with the campaign against HLS.

•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.

•Heather Nicholson, VM4859, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Serving 11 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/shacukprisonersupport.

•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.

•Dan Wadham, A5705AA, HMP Camp Hill, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5PB, UK. Serving five years in connection with the campaign against HLS.

•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

•Tre Arrow, 70936-065, FCI Herlong, POB 800, Herlong, CA 96113, USA. Serving 6.5 years for two counts of arson for burning logging trucks, and a sand and gravel company's vehicles. For more information, visit www.trearrow.org.

•Grant Barnes, #137563, San Carlos Correctional Facility, POB 3, Pueblo, CO 81002, USA. Serving 12 years for the ELF arson of SUVs. For more information, visit grantbarnes.wordpress.com.

•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 I, POB 5300, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA. Serving 19.5 years for 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.

•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

Ask an EF! Lawyer

*Dear EF! Lawyer,
I've heard a lot about the "Good Time Bill." What is that exactly, and how might it help my friends who are in prison for doing environmental actions?
—Hopin' to See Their Smiling Faces Sooner*

BY STU SUGARMAN

Dear Hopin',

The Good Time Bill is a proposed law that will soon be introduced into Congress. If passed, the law would increase the amount of "good time" federal prisoners can earn, thus allowing them to be released from prison sooner.

Under current law, codified at 18 US Code Section 3624(b), a prisoner who is serving more than a year in prison, but not a life sentence, can earn up to 54 days of good time a year (about 15 percent off), at the Bureau of Prison (BOP)'s discretion. One can earn good time when, in the opinion of the BOP, the person "displays exemplary compliance with institutional disciplinary regulations." It is the BOP, and not the judge, that decides whether, and how much, good time to award.

Under the proposed legislation, good time would increase to between 60 days (for sentences between six months and one year) and 120 days per year (for sentences more than 10 years). This good time adds up, as someone sentenced to 10 years in prison can reduce her or his sentence by three years and four months.

Additionally, the bill would permit prisoners to earn "industrial good time." Prisoners working jobs in prison would be able to, at the BOP's discretion, be eligible to have their sentences reduced by an additional three days per month the first year of incarceration, and up to an additional five days per month after the first year.

The bill also would allow the forfeit from a prisoner any good time a prisoner has earned if the prisoner commits an offense while in custody. The BOP would be required to design a system by which a prisoner who has forfeited her or his good time can later regain it.

The fact that this bill is even being introduced marks a hopeful swing of the pendulum, from the endless decades of "tough-on-crime" laws to, hopefully, a future with rational sentencing that does not drain societies of their citizens and their wealth.

Over the last several decades, the US has sentenced more and more people, especially low-level drug "offenders," to exceedingly long sentences. A number of states, including California, Missouri, Montana, Wisconsin and Texas, have already adopted or are seriously considering adopt-

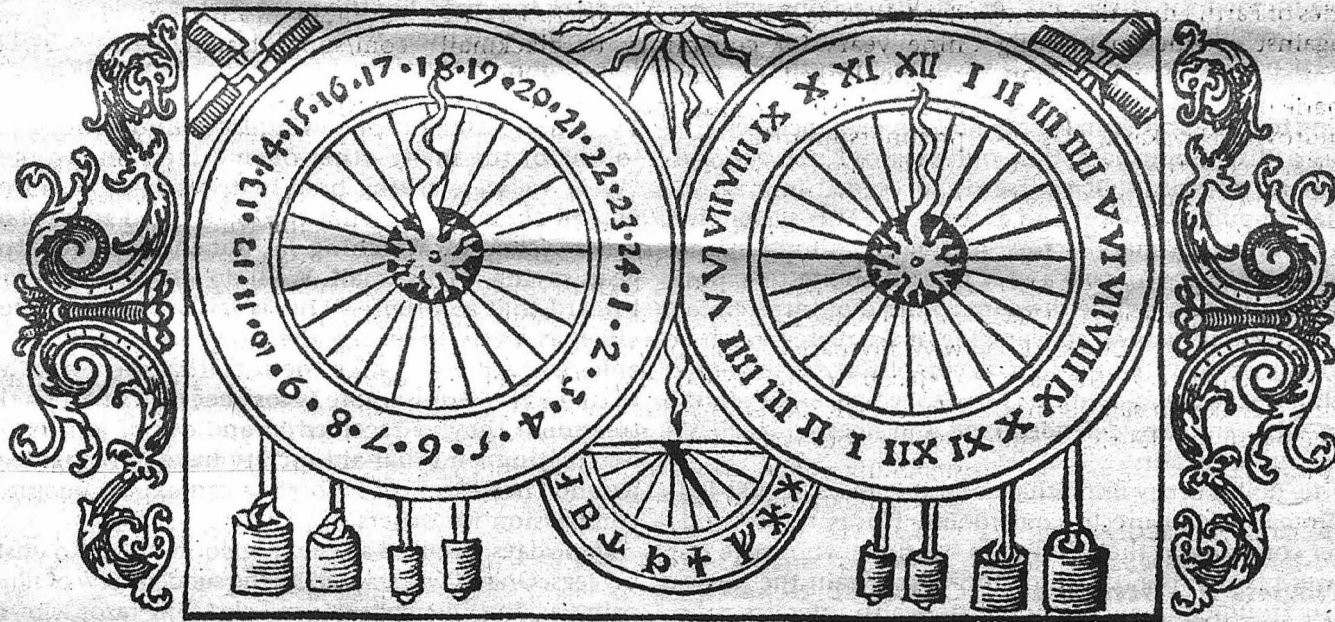
ing sentencing reform measures that will reverse this trend and lower prison populations.

You can help pass the Good Time Bill and see our friends home sooner by contacting your congressional representative. You can find out who your congressional representative is at www.house.gov or www.visi.com/juan/congress/index.html. Just type in your address and zip code. It helps if you contact their local (not Washington, DC) office. Calling is easy and effective. You will speak to an aide briefly, and they will take down your name and your position.

For more information, visit breakallchains.blogspot.com/2009/03/support-good-time-bill.html.

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

"The fact that this bill is even being introduced marks a hopeful swing of the pendulum."



meat-packing plant. For more information, visit www.supportjonathan.org.

•Michael Sykes, #696693, Handlon Correctional Facility, 1728 W Bluewater Hwy, Ionia, MI 48846, USA. 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. For more information, visit supportmichael.wordpress.com.

•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

•Byron Shane of Chubbock© Clan, #07909051, FCI Talladega, POB 1000, Talladega, Alabama, North America. 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.

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

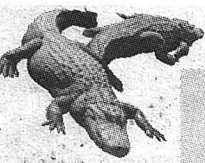
•Helen Woodson, #03231-045, FMC Carswell, Admin Max Unit, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127, USA. Serving nearly nine years for violating her parole by dumping a cup of red paint over the security apparatus of a federal court and making warnings ("threats") of weapons of mass destruction. In 2004, Woodson 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.



These two
activists
recently
spent time
behind bars
for laying
their bodies
on the line
in defense
of a wild
Everglades.



Letters From the Palm Beach County Stockade

BY PANAGIOTI TSOLKAS

To have a home is to know your surroundings—where the water comes from, where it goes, what the land is like, what it can grow, who else lives around you... most importantly, how you can defend it. To not know these things is to be displaced from your home. Many of us here in South Florida fall into that category. Some of us try to find a way home by escaping; others find home by re-rooting themselves where they are.

I chose to be rooted, and for that, I have found my current home to be a detention center in Palm Beach County. Incarcerated. Sentenced to 60 days for defending my home from Florida Power and Light (FPL).

In 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote a letter from a Birmingham, Alabama, jail explaining his arrest. "The purpose of our direct action program is to create a situation so that it will inevitably open the door to negotiation," he said. This is a crucial component of our movement, too. We need space to have our positions presented. More importantly, though, we need physical space protected; we need the destruction stopped immediately, and we need true, uncompromising ecological restoration now.

Our life-support system is being stripped before our eyes, and our failure to act effectively makes us culprits. In legal terms, we either plead guilty to criminal negligence or prepare to use the necessity defense. In our case, neither judge nor jury seemed honest or courageous enough to accept that defense (see *EF!* March-April 2009). Still, that doesn't change the reality that it was the most responsible option available through the system of corporate rule that we live under. History has proven numerous times that the rule of law is trumped by the demands of justice, and in the current environmental context, it rings truer than ever.

Our mandate doesn't come to us from law books, but from the combined voices of our ancestors and our future generations—those who know what has been lost, and those who would have to live with that loss. Despite Florida's vast coastline, inland hydrology changes pose an even more pressing threat than climate change. The circumstances are dire, but the visible response is nothing short of pathetic, in relation to the danger we face.

So, what options are before us? How do we become an unstoppable force that can change the course we are on? Over the last year, it seemed we had a formula: one small group blockades a power plant, goes to trial, shows the legal necessity to defend our home, and then invites people to flood the streets and take similar actions until we win our planet from the hands of greed and corruption. Today, from this cold steel bench in the county jail, it seems that the strategy may take a bit longer than we'd hoped. We now find ourselves in the process of learning to turn short-term losses into long-term victories.

While it is a disappointment that our case did not succeed in court, it is no surprise. (Of course, it succeeded immeasurably in gathering public support and awareness.) This system we live in thrives on two primary factors: high-level corruption and ground-level complicity. We have a very limited ability to expose the high-level corruption. While the current trend of incarcerated County Commissioners may be encouraging, it is a mere scratch at the surface of the problem. Our collective complicity, on the other hand, is within our realm of control. Our disobedience—or refusal to cooperate—can, and has, defended land and liberty (or what's left of it) throughout history.

There is little doubt in my mind that corporate interests like FPL can create immense pressure in courtrooms. FPL is the second-largest power company in the US. It pays the firms who write the laws for power-plant siting, the same firms who train the judges who screw environmental and community health interests regularly at the administrative level.

I saw the same shiftiness and twitch of discomfort in Judge Laura Johnson (who sentenced me to twice the number of days suggested by State Attorney Danielle Croke) as I have seen in Department of Environmental Protection employees testifying at administrative hearings in favor of FPL. Whether it reflects an intentional deviousness or a subconscious discomfort, I can't say. I only know the impression that was left on me and hope that someday, the truth will surface.

In the meantime, I consider it a responsibility to take this case through appeals and to take similar actions until an honest judge or a courageous jury recognizes the urgency we are facing. Our adversaries thought this sentence would silence us. Instead, it is a call to action. They are forcing us into an escalation of our resistance.

It is not a time for reckless bravery, but a time to let the green fire in our hearts burn deeply and nurture a subtle, fierce courage that will glow, contagious to all those around us—all who have been longing, some for generations, to find their way home—and to defend it. It's time to move from abstract rhetoric to on-the-ground plans. Now is the time to keep pressure on our local battles, as our local victories (especially here in the belly of the beast) can stoke the flames around the world.

People following the West County Energy Center (WCEC) fight should remember that it's far from over (see *EF!* May-June 2008). The Palm Beach County Environmental Coalition is still awaiting federal trial under the Natural Environmental Policy Act. Meanwhile, Everglades Earth First! is just beginning to look at the more-than-500 miles of new Florida Gas Transmission pipelines across Florida and multiple liquefied natural gas facilities needed to support the giant WCEC, which were not taken into consideration by a permitting process that is supposed to review secondary and cumulative impacts.

continued on next page

BY LYNNE J. PURVIS

On February 18, 2008, in the culmination of a year-and-a-half-long campaign, I found myself lying on the ground, my clothes soaked in my own piss, my arms chained to nine other activists, German shepherds barking ferociously all around me, more than 100 people screaming nearby, cops aiming "less-than-lethal" rifles at me—and I was feeling great! On February 2, 2009, wearing pantyhose and loafers, I stood in front of the judge, my heart pounding so hard that the pulse in my ear eclipsed my hearing. I was feeling a little less great as the proverbial gavel struck the block to the tune of "30 days in the county jail."

L Dorm, my jail housing, looked like a homeless shelter: 48 beds laid out in four rows in a barren concrete room, women wandering around, everything much louder than you could ever think you could live with.

One of the things that impressed me most was that people in jail are such normal people. Most inmates are there for drug charges; with the pervasiveness of drug use in most social circles, people from all walks of life can find themselves in jail (though of course, it's mainly only the poor who get patrolled and arrested). I tried to pay attention to demographics. Already aware of the unequal rates of incarceration by race and class, what stood out the most was that a huge majority of the officers there were black. I thought of all the pressures that led black people in particular to participate in the incredibly disproportionate jailing of other blacks. For those who might feel a sense of solidarity and community among blacks in general, maybe somewhere in there is the logic that if their people are gonna be jailed, at least they can be on the inside to take better care of them.

Also, I think maybe a fourth or fifth of the women in there were bisexual or gay, which was kinda cool. I often complain about the lack of queer community where I live; finally, I was finding some! People spoke about gayness so openly and casually, like it really didn't even deserve a name, which was surprisingly refreshing, coming from a queer subculture where you're constantly thinking about it. Feminism wasn't so hot in there, though. I got a lot of shit for not shaving my legs or armpits. I was handed deodorant and soap within minutes of entering the dorm, and was begged to use it immediately.

One of the hard things was people's occasional unwillingness to work together. For the most part, people were nice to one another, though there were some fights that seemed really stupid, like over ice. One time, I was trying to watch TV, and some people doing braids were talking really loudly right in front of the TV. When I asked if they wouldn't mind being quiet or moving to one of the many other open tables, one woman shot back, "Well, we were sitting here first, bitch, so don't come sit near us and then tell us what to do." I tried to explain that there was a system for watching TV, but she kept her attitude in high gear, saying, "This is jail. We'll do whatever the fuck we want." I heard that so often—"This is jail"—from inmates and guards alike, as a way to excuse their irrationality. Like, "Jail is miserable, so fuck you." Like the idea that we could work together to make it less miserable is lost because of all of the inhumane treatment they've received in and out of jail. Those of us bent on creating a mutual-aid society have to recognize that a lot of wounds need to heal before we can expect people to act out of compassion for others.

Some days, I walked around the dorm, trying to unstiffen my aching legs. Once, I was startled by the sudden view of illuminated sabel palms against the night sky and gleaming razor wire, reminding me that this was the native Florida habitat I was fighting to protect.

The most amazing aspect of my time there was all of the letters I received. In my 23 days there, I got 110 letters and postcards! I felt so honored and impressed with my local and larger communities. At times, I also felt a little unworthy, but it showed that people were inspired by what little work I had been doing for the environment and communities. I can only hope that those with longer jail sentences are receiving such support. So, if you're not currently writing to political prisoners (or amazing people you know who are locked up), please start. It really makes a difference!

When my release date came, somehow, they'd lost my paperwork and didn't release me early in the morning with everyone else. While I was angrily pacing around the courtyard, some of the immigrant women came up to me, telling me, "Don't worry, you're going home today." Then, they told me stories about how they were supposed to have been transferred to Immigration weeks ago, but instead, have been shuffled between jails. One woman told of how her family kept calling to find out what was going on, because Immigration legally only has 10 days to pick people up after they finish their jail terms, and she had finished hers more than a month ago. The family learned nothing. "But don't worry," she concluded. "You're getting out today." How was her story supposed to reassure me? Not only did it present the real option that I would not be released as promised (I thought of Kafka), but even if I was, how could I feel good about her and countless others being senselessly and interminably detained?

However, I was released. On the way out, the cop transporting me asked about my time in jail. I told him I wished there were more efforts to make jail more rehabilitative, to encourage growth

continued on next page

Announcements

Santa Cruz Anarchist Convergence

May 7-11 · Santa Cruz, California

Santa Cruz is proud to host a four-day anarchist event for building hella community and resistance, and sharing radical ideas.

The event starts with an all-day orientation on May 7 at the SubRosa Infoshop, followed that night with a kick-off performance. There will be three days of workshops, panels and presentations from May 8-10. Workshop tracks include: community inter-relatedness, the Green Scare and security culture, DIY infrastructure, applied anarchism and resistance.

Santa Cruz will host its first-ever anarchist bookfair, a two-day exposition of books, zines, pamphlets, art, film, and other cultural and political productions, on May 9-10 at the SubRosa Infoshop.

The North American Free Skool Conference is happening in conjunction with this convergence. Activities include a free skool community picnic, panel and group discussions, and a campfire. Bring yourselves, your radical ideas, your passions, your comrades, and whatever you need to self-sufficiently take care of yourself and your crew. We will try to provide housing and food to those who need it.

If you are interested in speaking or participating in a workshop, panel or discussion, or if you would like to table at the bookfair, contact santacruz-anarchist@riseup.net.

Confronting Racism, Building United Movements

May 16 · Columbus, Ohio

Ohio's radical community is on the move! This is an opportunity to examine our common ground within seemingly separate issues and develop a unified voice of resistance against global capitalism and imperialism as we continue building a collective liberation movement in Ohio. Our collective is committed to providing an organizing space for students and community members throughout Ohio—especially women, people of color, and queer and working-class people—to develop the skills and the vision we need to struggle for collective liberation against corporate power and institutional oppression. We envision a conference with workshops and action-oriented discussions exposing the interconnectedness of racism with issues of global capitalism that affect us locally.

Please come and let us hear your voice! To RSVP or submit a proposal to host a workshop, contact organizecbus@googlegroups.com.

For more information, visit www.organizecbus.blogspot.com.

Blue Mountain Biodiversity Project

May-September · Eastern Oregon

The Blue Mountain Biodiversity Project has been instrumental in fighting timber sales in

courts, as well as protecting wildlife habitat and old-growth forests. Part of their work involves field-checking timber sales to look for endangered wildlife and ancient trees. They need volunteers to help with field-checking, filing, internet research and website design.

If you are interested, call Karen at least two weeks in advance at (541) 385-9167.

Wild Roots, Feral Futures

Anti-Civilization and Primitivist Gathering

May 24-June 6 · Southern Colorado

This informal, free event will happen on public land bordered by wilderness. Our base camp is near a natural hot spring along a wild river. Though a communal kitchen will form, be prepared for self-sufficiency with both food and water. Come prepared for rain, cold, heat and sun.

Dates are approximate. Come and go as you please.

We are seeking folks who are interested in facilitating workshops and trainings in primitive living and rewilding skills, as well as anti-civilization strategies and tactics.

For more information, contact feralfutures@riseup.net or visit www.myspace.com/feralfutures.

Eric McDavid Tour

June 5-22 · Pacific Northwest

Eric has been locked in a cage for more than three years now. We refuse to remain silent about his case and the wider implications it carries for anyone engaging in dissent. Eric has suffered enormous injustices at the hands of the state. We want to do everything we can to make sure that people don't forget about him, that they understand how his case was created and to ensure that people learn what they can from our experiences.

To that end, we will be heading to the Northwest to educate folks about Eric's case, which we will use as a lens to study the basic concepts of entrapment, the use of informants and government repression in general. Unfortunately, the use of these tools by the state is becoming more and more prevalent. It's imperative that people understand how they work.

In addition to the presentation itself, we will be accompanied by friends who will bring us some beautiful, musical catharsis. Nora and Gnoll, as well as Spoke Pants of the Flowering Skillet from the Anarchozarkian Music Collective, will be touring with us, straight from the bowels of the Midwest. We assure you that you won't be disappointed!

If you are interested in scheduling a presentation, contact tour@supporteric.org or visit www.supporteric.org.

2009 Portland Anarchist Bookfair

June 6-7 · Portland, Oregon

The Axiom Collective is hosting the first annual Portland Anarchist Book Fair. This two-day event will feature more than 20 collectives and organizations offering a wide range of radical, feminist and revolutionary literature, art and ideas.

This event, held at Liberty Hall, will be free. Childcare will be provided, and we'll be offering cheap, yummy treats.

If you're interested in tabling, contact us! Tabling fees are \$25 for both days and \$15 for one day. The registration deadline is May 11.

We're also looking for folks to facilitate workshops. If you're interested, email us a quick proposal.

If you'll need housing, contact us to make arrangements. We offer no promises, but we'll do our best to hook you up. If you live in Portland and want to offer up a couch, bed or backyard, please email us! If you need or can offer a ride, please contact us.

For more information, contact (503) 516-9220 or axiom.infoshop@gmail.com.

Nuclear Climate Camp

July 18-27 · Lapland, Finland

Youth for a Nuclear-Free Finland (YNUFF) invite you to join and help create the International Youth Exchange for Nuclear-Free Sustainable Living in Finnish Lapland. We are looking for people to help organize the event, give workshops, facilitate skillshares and mobilize your local groups to come to Lapland.

The astounding beauty and ecology of Lapland, a place of cultural importance to Saami indigenous communities, is imminently threatened by uranium mining and nuclear power developments.

In response to the renaissance of the nuclear industry, this gathering seeks to strengthen the renaissance of resistance to new nuclear power stations and uranium mining. Hands-on, practical skill exchanges, ranging from ecological building, energy-saving skills and gardening to fundraising, media skills, public outreach and more, will empower us all to promote positive alternatives to the problems of today without creating more problems for tomorrow.

We are especially interested in working with groups who face current or imminent nuclear hazards in their own countries. Youth in Action can cover part of your travel costs to and within Finland.

For more information, contact youth@nuclearfreefinland.org.



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Let's keep it up on all fronts—on the streets, through the courts and even in the jails. When I came to this facility, I found that most everyone I met, whether inmates or deputies, had heard of the WCEC through our fight with FPL (some had been following the story since last year) and so many openly expressed support and sympathy for our efforts and outrage over this sentence—even among those serving a much longer incarceration.

For a brief moment, I look out at the sun rising over the few palm trees I can see from this window, and I imagine the snores of fellow inmates are the snorts of distant pig frogs and gators. I envision a day when cypress domes, pine flatwoods and prairie marshes cover this concrete and overgrow the razor-wire fences. I imagine gopher tortoises, eagles, indigo snakes and otters returning to their homes—and I sit in a shady oak hammock, here in the Loxahatchee slough, around a campfire, listening to Marie Mason's sweet voice in song, laughing with friends from across these islands that span the hemisphere, feeling in-place, connected, home.

Then, I hear keys jingle. The door opens, and the pig frogs go silent. "You guys got rec in 15 minutes." I see the sun shining out there. Soon, I'll get to feel it on my skin, for about an hour, if the clouds clear.

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and learning among the inmates. Prison, as opposed to jail, is for longer-term sentences. Generally, prisons have somewhat better resources, but that doesn't take jail off the hook in my book. He responded that attempts at rehabilitation had been statistically proven to be expensive and ineffective, that jail was about one thing: punishment. I have heard those same statistics, but still I believe there's got to be a better way.

Then, after 23 days of incarceration, carrying 110 letters under my arm, I stepped outside, felt grass and sun and the warmth of my lover's hug. Ever so quickly, the whole experience began to fade into the past.

As I glance out the window at a renewed swamp maple tree, plantain group and carissa bush, all waving in that cool, Winter breeze, surrounded by *color color color* and the new sounds of a mix CD made especially for me, the reality of not being in jail sinks in. *I made it out!* Don't think for a minute that jail has weakened my will to keep fighting for the health of our world and communities. What doesn't kill you only makes you stronger!

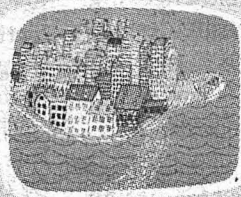
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Nikki McClure
All In A Day



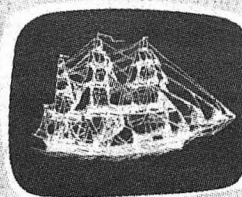
Atherton Lin
Life's Stories



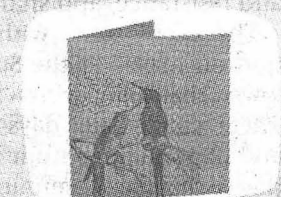
Jill Bliss
Urban Future



Books of Revolution
Large Collection



Ivy Studio
Soft, Handsome



Sesame Letterpress
Nature, Letterpressed



Reading is Sexy
Clever Slogans



Dream of Stars
Soft Apparel



Sublime Stitching
Shhhh...



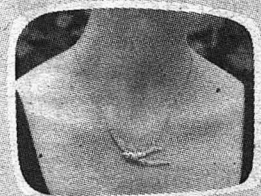
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Wallets+Bags



Steel Toe Studios
Recycled, Re-purposed



Bruno Munari
Speaking With Hands



Weekend Store
Necklaces & Rings



Little Otsu
Paper Goods



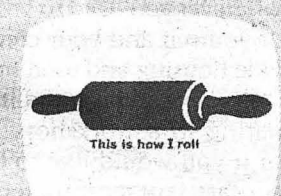
Poketo
Travel Journal



Ryan Berkley
Tiny Meat



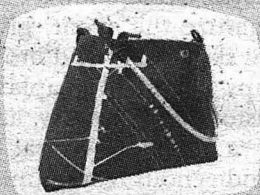
Do It Yourself
Book Collection



This Is How I Roll
JennyAnn Wheeler



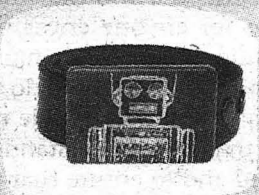
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"I spent a year in the Northwoods of Wisconsin at an outdoor school. It was not a survival school, because I died. I died to my old way of thinking. I died to being egocentric. I died to the pursuit of the civilized lifeway. I became alive to many 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)

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The *Earth First! Journal* is actively seeking a new member of our editorial staff. It could be you!
The staff of the *Journal* works on a consensus basis within a collective to create a publication that represents the voice of the Earth First! movement.

Our new long-term editor will ideally be familiar with Earth First! and the radical environmental movement, be personally compatible with existing staff, have excellent editing skills, be computer literate, have a sense of humor and be able to commit to at least a year and a half. When it comes down to it, though, all you really need is passion and determination. As a collective, all of the work is shared, so a motivated, hard-working individual is required!

The monsoon rains make late Summer one of the nicest (and craziest) times to be in Tucson. However, if the skies are blue and the Summer heat feels like a bit much, there are lots of beautiful, cooler places to explore nearby. We are in the center of the giant saguaro's homeland, surrounded by grasslands, canyons and sky islands.

We also welcome people with a variety of talents and activist experience to come and work for one issue of the *Journal* as a "short-term" editor. This adds to the diversity of voices and energy in the *Journal*. This is a paid, two-month commitment.

To apply, send your resumé, a letter of interest, a writing sample, your activist history and the names of some activists who can vouch for you to the *Earth First! Journal*. For more information, contact (520) 620-6900; collective@earthfirstjournal.org.

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ARIZONA

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Des Moines EF!
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(812) 339-8710; boxcar@boxcarbooks.org
Roadblock EF!
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Solidarity! Radical Library
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PROJECTS & CAMPAIGNS

EF! Direct Action Fund
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Rising Tide North America
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Root Force

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Warrior Poets Society

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Help our Directory Stay Updated

We are currently in the process of updating our directory. If you would like to add a group or know one that needs to be removed, contact collective@earthfirstjournal.org.

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Abstract

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A whimsical illustration of a factory with smokestacks emitting smoke that forms a large bird-like shape in the sky. A large bird is also shown flying nearby. The scene is set against a light blue sky with soft clouds. The factory is a simple, brown, box-like structure with three tall, dark smokestacks. From the top of each smokestack, a plume of white smoke rises, which then curves and merges into a large, stylized bird shape in the upper left. This bird shape has a long, pointed beak and a dark eye. Several smaller, white birds are also flying around the large bird shape. In the foreground, there is a dark, rocky landscape with some green grass. A small, brown, box-like structure is visible on the right side of the foreground. The overall style is that of a children's book illustration, with soft colors and a gentle, imaginative atmosphere.

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