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Earth First!

Mabon September-October 2009

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CASCADIA FREE STATE HELD FOR THREE DAYS!

BY CASCADIA CANOPY NINJAS

"Loggers are here, flip that van!"

I can literally hear teeth grit, muscles strain as masked forest defenders line up against the white Chevy. Someone slashes the tires, stale air hissing into the fresh forest morning. And then we heave, up against the side. The vehicle rocks, first threatening to crush us, then staggering back and finally crashing onto the imported gravel, a reclaimed machine standing firmly in the path of its destructive cousins. Everyone is panting, cheering, then splitting off in twos and threes, for there is still much work to be done.

The Elliott State Forest in south-central Oregon is under siege. Unknown to many, including native Cascadians, the Elliott provides habitat for some of Oregon's oldest trees and several endangered species. Giant Douglas firs, hemlocks and alders moan and crash to the ground, backed by the steady beep-beep of the yarder and hum of chain saws. All of this goes unheard, except by those organisms that call the Elliott home. Northern spotted owls, Coho and Chinook salmon, and marbled murrelets all face extinction if clearcutting continues here (and it does, even as you finish this sentence). In early July, those few two-leggeds who heard this violence all too clearly arrived on site.

Still buzzing with momentum gathered at the 2009 Round River Rendezvous, trained forest defenders from Cascadia and beyond arrived at the Umpcoos Ridge #2 timber sale in the early hours of Monday, July 6, and constructed an immediately defensible blockade. A "skypod" appeared, suspended between two enormous trees. When loggers arrived at dawn, the Earth First! Roadshow van abruptly ended its journey, tipped in front of the gate and quickly outfitted to lock



Photo by Cascadia Summer

An overturned van blocks logging vehicles from accessing the timber sale.

down four committed passengers. With few remaining hours before police arrival, a bipod was raised, anchored to the gate and tied to the skypod. After months of preparation and contribution, the Elliott Free State was born.

Elliott Free State was equal parts direct action, skillshare and party, with the talents and energy of feral folks from all over Turtle Island. Dumpster divers in town were doing their jobs supplying everyone with gourmet meals, and security's constant vigilance helped many avoid arrest. Rigging was particularly excellent, and all the goons

who tried to inspect it the next day were thoroughly befuddled by the complexity. Some eager-to-climb friends spent hours hanging from nearby trees, duct-taping hose and wire over the ropes holding up the pods. A treesit went up the next night, with two more ground dwellers providing direct support for those in the pods.

On the morning of July 8, three sharp blasts from security's whistle let everyone know they were under attack. Dozens of goons, armed to the teeth, quickly outnumbered the peaceful protesters and turned the Free State into a Police State. The

Oregon State Troopers, State Police, County Sheriffs and National Guard were all represented, as were the abominably irresponsible lackeys of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). An initial wave of unlucky free staters were ambushed, pulled out of the woods, arrested, and thrown in the paddy wagons while goons extracted the lockdowners.

The feelings of commitment and determination, their bodies between a native forest paradise and the insatiable engine of destruction, kept the lockdown crew strong that day and will fuel them for scores of ac-

continued on page 16

fight for tasmania goes on

BY ED HILL

The Camp Florentine forest blockade in southwest Tasmania, Australia, is well into its third winter, continuing to protect ancient wet Eucalypt and rainforest.

Since November 2006, the community group Still Wild Still Threatened has blockaded the area. Six miles of new roads are to be pushed into the pristine forests of the Upper Florentine Valley to access old growth coupes (large areas to be clear felled) all scheduled for clear felling and burning. Up to 90 percent of the timber extracted from

the area will end up as wood chips and low-value products.

The Upper Florentine Valley is an area almost entirely surrounded by the World Heritage Area. It contains untouched forests of well-documented World Heritage value that should be protected.

In July 2008, the World Heritage Committee passed a resolution calling for the protection of globally significant forests such as those in the Upper Florentine, Styx and Weld Valleys.

2009 has seen a much heavier police presence in the area. Forestry

continued on page 7



Photo by Matthew Newton

A large number of police were required to escort every logging truck that left the sale.

Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

Mabon September-October 2009

Aboveground Illegalism

Sure, it's hip to be "green" right now, and greenwash and eco-capitalist false solutions abound. But there are a lot of people who are legitimately concerned about things and they don't know where to plug in, how to confront the horrors that confront the Earth.

And this is where Earth First! (EF!) must come in. This is where aboveground illegalism shines. We respect people who work with every tool available, from lawsuits to sabotage, but that's not what we, as a movement, do. What we do is plan—often in open meetings—to commit misdemeanor crime and then directly confront logging, mining and earth-destroying infrastructure. If we keep our wits about us, we're immune to infiltration: the crimes we commit are usually too minor to bust us for prematurely, and what we do are crimes we're willing to get caught for.

We're uniquely suited to say, "yes, these things must be stopped, the law be damned," because we can, and choose, to be open about it. Most of the time, we can show

our faces. We practice direct action, not limiting ourselves to symbolic actions like sitting in a road waiting to be moved: we make it damned difficult to move us, thank you very much.

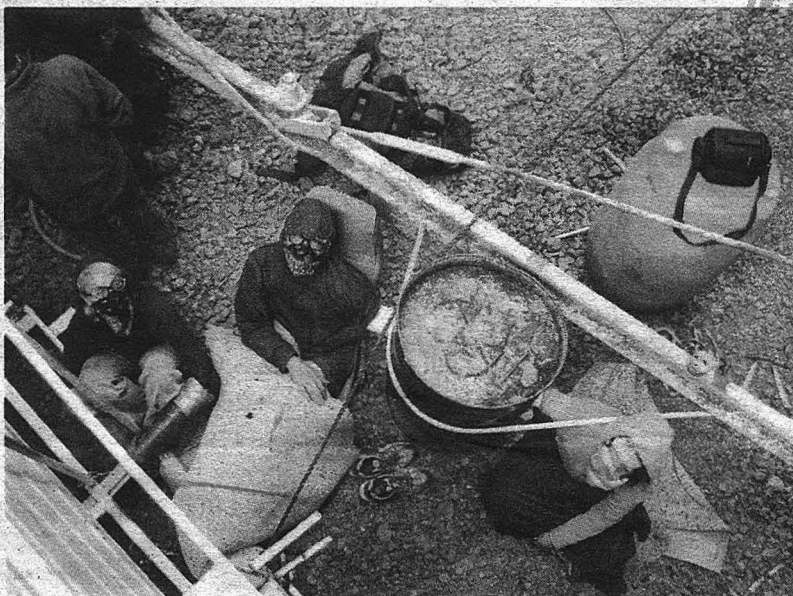


Photo courtesy cascadia summer

We believe we will be increasingly relevant to the world as our global culture goes through the shock of impending ecological catastrophe. People are inspired by successful actions—or, at the very least, actions that aim to be successful. Sure, media-focused actions like banner drops can be useful in drawing the public's eye, but EF! is the aboveground illegal group most willing to take it a step further and hang that banner off of

our platforms suspended above the roadway, preventing logging.

And that message, the message of "we are actually going to stop this," is more powerful than any appeal to authority or to the masses. Because directness appeals to people more than catchy slogans do. But at the same time, an EF! action is significantly more open, more inviting, than, say, an act of sabotage.

It's not without risks, of course. Our friends Hugh and Tiga, most recently, know this firsthand. When we're being effective, the state won't bother adhering to its own rules when it comes to cracking down on us. But by and large, we can be quite effective operating in the public's eye.

We mean no offense to the lawyers or the monkeywrenchers, mind you, without whom we'd get nowhere. It takes all sorts. It's just that we're really proud of being direct-action environmentalists, and we're happy to be in a place where we can talk about it with strangers on the bus.

-DREAMER & MAGPIE

Earth First!

Mabon

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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 Firsters.

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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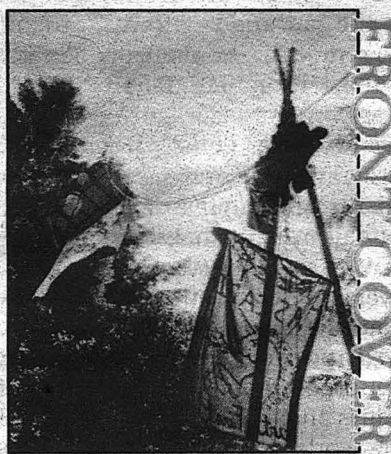
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Barry Sanders on MILITARY POLLUTION

Retired professor and prolific author Barry Sanders has spent a long time looking closely at the US Military where others hadn't: he looked at the environmental effects and the sheer devastation that the military leaves in its wake. He compiled a frightening collection of numbers into his book *The Green Zone*. I contacted him through the book's publisher, AK Press, and sent him a letter, asking about the findings, about how we activists are so used to looking at our corporate foes and overlook the military, and about what we as Earth Firsters could hope to do about it. Here is his response:

I do not separate the corporate agenda from the military agenda in this country. I do not mean simply the old Eisenhower conflation, which he daintily called the military-industrial complex. He makes such an alliance sound like a kind of neat and tidy collusion. It is a straight up partnership now: each one needs the other. Almost all big corporations are in the war business, or at the very least, in the military business. Think of auto manufacturing and how many specialized small shops went out of business with the collapse of the auto industry. To raise a tank takes a small corporate village. Cut back on the Pentagon budget and you slice and dice the economy—that's one grand reason, at least, no politician is willing to take on the military. There are other reasons, but that's a big one.

Having said that, I am reminded of a line by the Indian writer Arundhati Roy, in her book *War Talk*: she says "... the state acts in the name of its citizens. So, as a citizen, I am forced to acknowledge that I am somehow made complicit in the Gujarat pogrom." It is not just large corporations that are complicit in this business of making war and polluting the world. I am complicit, too—we all are. Even though I do not wear a uniform, I am an essential part of the military: I pay my taxes, I am allowed to periodically protest some given war, and thus indirectly and against my will I support the war. For me, what I understood after working on this book is that the fate of the Earth rests in the hands of the military. That is one of the most frightening and appalling notions anyone can confront. The United States military engages in a War of Terroir: it is destroying everything. For me, this is an issue of enormous magnitude, which all of us must confront.

How badly does the military pollute? I think as citizens we have no idea how bad the pollution actually is. At any rate, the carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide would translate into numbers and lose its edge, just the way the dead Iraqis and Afghanis and GIs come to us as glorified body counts. The task of computing takes us afield and keeps us distracted. I have come up with approximate numbers in *The Green Zone*, but who the hell really knows? I say no one. What if we knew the number? Would we be any closer to stopping the war machine?

People want numbers. I understand that. But more importantly, we need action. Here's an example of how much we do not know: this very morning (Monday, July 27, 2009) I opened the *New York Times* and read a piece (on page 15) about the military conscription of indigenous peoples—in this case Navajos—during the '50s to work in hundreds of military mines in the heart of the Navajo Nation digging up uranium for the military to use in its weapons. (The military used depleted uranium in Iraq in many of its warheads.) Over the years, as the *New York Times* points out, "Navajo miners extracted

some 4 million tons of uranium ore from the ground, much of it used by the United States government to make weapons." And now those same indigenous people, and their grown children, are falling sick from radiation poisoning. Their houses and drinking water and crops are all contaminated. I count this tragedy, thousands of miles removed from the Middle East, scores of years removed from any Pentagon action, as military pollution.

The last part of *The Green Zone* takes up the topic of fallout through the military's use of depleted uranium in certain of its warheads in the war in Iraq. How can I tally or categorize such extraordinary pollution that produces radioactive waste with a half life of 4.5 billion years and that results in disfigured fetuses and corrupts food supplies and kills animals and fish populations and on and on? Can we equate the horror of such lethality with the emission of greenhouse gases? Such a grotesquerie almost makes carbon and sulfite pollution seem tame.

This kind of pollution does not of course stay in place but gets blown around the globe on wind currents.

That's why when I talk about military pollution I want to write the word with a capital P, because it is so much more lethal than any other kind of pollution we have encountered as environmentalists. While the military is the largest single consumer of oil in the world, that can be a misleading statement since America has a population of 330 million people, a great majority of whom drive cars. And who knows the actual count of factories in this country that continually pump carbons into the atmosphere. But, as I try to point out, the military not only pollutes, it *contaminates*, it *transfigures*, it *eliminates*. And this is why I say it makes no difference how green we get in our homes and offices because the military negates our every effort at cutting greenhouse emissions.

Several military critics make the point that bureaucrats in the Pentagon may not even know the exact numbers for military consumption of oil and gas. While we do know that it is the single largest consumer of oil in the world, the Pentagon is just too huge and complex and cumbersome for any citizen to find a number that we can know with certainty. Couple that with the fact that the military hides a good deal of its statistics for fuel consumption, for purchases, for types and kinds of weapons. After months and months of digging into web sites and leaked documents, I do not know the precise figures for the military; I have not come across anyone who does know, or says he or she knows. I spent an enormous time trying to ferret out those numbers—almost everything significant about weapons and vehicles and fuel consumption the Pentagon keeps classified or hidden. In the book, I list those numbers that the military likes to boast about, like the Abrams Tank consuming five gallons of fuel to cover a single mile. During battle, over ideal terrain, the Abrams can gobble up 252

gallons of fuel each and every hour. With its afterburners kicked in, the F-15 uses fuel at the astonishing rate of four gallons per second, or 14,400 gallons an hour!

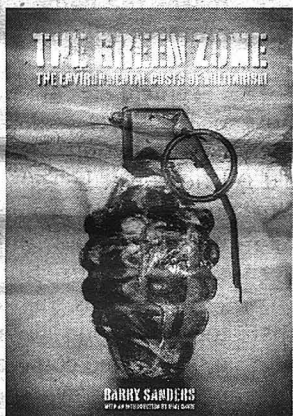
What can we do as environmentalists? As an initial suggestion—and I do not want anyone to think I have the answers—for stopping the olive-drab juggernaut is an overwhelming prospect, but one thing I would like to suggest is that the movement must redefine itself, must expand its range of concerns to include putting an end to war. If you consider yourself green, you must become olive green and include an opposition to the military. The International Panel on Climate Change has an agenda that runs to some 20 pages, but it has never included one mention of the war. Whenever the Bioneers meet to discuss climate change, they never mention the military. As far as I am concerned, this is a gross omission.

What to do? For one very apparent thing, an environmental movement that does not include an opposition to all war—not an anti-war stance about Iraq or Afghanistan, but an absolute, no-war stance—is a movement defined too narrowly. In the early years of the Vietnam War, teach-ins enabled people to learn the truth about, say, the Gulf of Tonkin. We ought to be doing the same thing today—educating people about the military's power to end life on the planet. We need to talk to people about their fears of losing their lives to acts of terror. That fear is misplaced. The military is not protecting us—it is creating more insurgents, more enemies of this country. This is fairly clear to many radicals, but not to the public in general.

The planet, the globe, is at stake—the Earth cannot withstand war any more. If we cannot stop such gross nonsense, the Earth will stop it for us—plain and simple. I can imagine a March of Life on Washington the likes of which history has not witnessed—a huge coalition of people who say *no* to war, to pollution, to homophobia, to sexism and racism, to oppression of all kinds. Most of the wars this country has engaged in have been against people of color, including of course our current ones. Imperialism is opposed to everything that Earth First! holds sacred.

We must finally see that all these concerns and issues are related. Hate of any kind, discrimination and intolerance of any kind, we must count as social pollution. The issue is not putting an end to the war in Iraq or Afghanistan or Pakistan, or putting a stop to the so-called war on terror. It is a moment of coming to consciousness, of building a new and different and more enlightened and liberating attitude toward the Earth—toward plants and animals and people, toward all living things. The old world, the old, dead world, is built on hate and destruction. It's time, as they say, to move on—in the largest, most inclusive, most communitarian ways imaginable. Only a communitarian spirit, in my estimation, will save us.

The planet, the globe, is at stake—the Earth cannot withstand war any more. If we cannot stop such gross nonsense, the Earth will stop it for us—plain and simple.



Dear Shit fer Brains...

letters to the editors

Dear Snitches fer Brains,

In light of the fact that Green Scare defendants are starting to be released from jail (Thurston is already out), a discussion entitled "Advance Green Scare" was held at the recent RRR. We spent a lot of time discussing the movement's "position" on informants, but, equally as important, we also discussed post-prison support for the non-informants.

I write this letter to clarify statements I made at that workshop. First off, I DO NOT SUPPORT SNITCHES. I do not write to snitches or have any communication with any government informants. I said the things that I said partially to play devil's advocate to prompt deeper discussion and analysis, but I also made those statements because they indicate my conflicted beliefs.

What I said was that I had been a friend of Kevin Tubbs and that I planned to remain one. I have known Kevin since he moved to Eugene to work on the *EFJ* back in 1994. Since that time we have been friends, not great friends but friends. I do not plan to increase our friendship, but neither do I plan to deny it. I know that Kevin has a huge heart and is one of the most compassionate animal rights activists I have ever met. I believe the well-trained interrogators got the better of him, plain and simple. I believe he will regret for the rest of his life his decision to talk.

This does not forgive him for his actions, but I won't blindly condemn him or completely cut him out of my life either. I do not condone his snitching, nor do I think he should be forgiven. I think Kevin and all informants should be cut off from any involvement with the movement and any participation in activities or gatherings. By aiding the government in sending one of our comrades to prison, he gave up that privilege.

Where I differ from most people is that I was friends with many of the informants before they went over to the dark side. When Kevin and others are released, some of them will probably be back living in my community (Eugene).

It is easy for folks who did not previously know these people personally to say bullshit like "snitches

get stitches," but that is false bravado. We are not a violent movement. I just think the situation is not that simple, not "black and white." I think as individuals and as a community we need to be free to make up our own minds about personal contact with informants, while, of course, being very careful about what we share with them. I do not think everyone should be pressured into walking in lock step with anti-snitch dogma. (Have we no compassion? Is there no chance for forgiveness or any chance to regain our trust? Never ever?)



Of all the friends-turned-informants, I was closest to Lacey Philla- baum. I will never speak to her again. What she did was cold, calculated and severely despicable. I say this to indicate that I plan to deal with the informants on a case-by-case basis. The movement needs to stand firm on snitching, but at the same time we need to be able to think for ourselves and discriminate between the informants and what information they gave up.

It is my hope that the workshop and this letter will open a dialog about the reality of living with government informants, so we can move past false bravado and empty statements. It is also my hope that the discussion will help me clear up my own conflicted thoughts. I encourage you to talk about this in your community, write a letter to the *EFJ*, and/or write to me at eugenejim@gmail.com.

Thanks.

—JIM FLYNN

Dear Shit Fer Brains,

I had a wonderful time at the Rondo up in Cascadia. I thought it was well-organized and seemed well-attended by lots of passionate folk. One of the best reasons I can think of

to be a radical is that you get to hang out with passionate, earnest folk.

It was great drinking from a spring, hanging out in alpine meadows, being surrounded by giant trees and eating lots of good food. My major complaint isn't leveled at the organizers. It's at my fellow crusty travelers, who attended in high number. What the fuck is up with showing up at the Rondo, eating and singing and going to a few workshops for a week, and then leaving the day before the action? Why didn't the Elliot Free State have twice the numbers?

The Rondo isn't just anarchist summer camp.

Being a crusty traveler is great. Not needing to work wage jobs means you have tons of free time to see the world, play instruments, meet wonderful people, whatever. But the reason to drop out of society-at-large is so that you have time to do volunteer activism. Otherwise, it's just some entitled bullshit. So yeah, I'm calling bullshit on showing up and eating and playing and then drifting off to the next town to go eat and play some more.

Clearly, some of you all had to leave to go to court dates, activist projects in other bio-regions, or other legitimate things that called you away, but c'mon. Most of you didn't. WTF. Stop making crusties look like assholes. K thanx.

—MAGPIE

Dear Shit Fer Brains,

Yep... I've been sending things... and sometimes getting them into the *Journal* for... over 20 years. More.

I used to subscribe too... but can't afford hardly any subscriptions, etc. any more. Don't let your children grow up to be Pro Bono Cartoonists.

And... I've been out of contact because it's been discouraging that Earth

First! hasn't expressed interest in pursuing the little matter of how the Sixth Most Pesticide Intensive Crop, tobacco, is currently now evading scrutiny and liabilities by massive and oppressive prohibitions being dumped onto those who think and are told they are just using tobacco.

We have a New Prohibition of yet another non-patented, public domain, natural plant staring us in the face... Reefer Madness II... and it's depressing that Earth First!, of all entities, hasn't jumped into the fray. But maybe I missed some stories over the years.

The issue is about Pesticides, Wildlife endangerment, forests (pulp, chlorine, dioxin), the war on nature, the insult to ten thousand years of Native American tobacco use for medicine and so forth, distraction from corporate crime, etc. It further "legitimizes" the devastating war on cannabis... and it makes the complicit government sell-outs look like they "care" for our health. Typical cigs are not "tobacco." They are Pesticide Pegs, Dioxin Dowels or Radiation Rods... and Earth First!, protector of nature and all, ought to note the distinction.

If one joins the "war on tobacco" one joins the multi-faceted corporate war on nature... whether one cares for "disgusting" cig smoke or not. If one enters a war on industrially contaminated, pesticide-drenched, dioxin-delivering, radiation (!).

Delivering smoking products that may not even contain tobacco... well, that's something else. That's where I'd hope Earth First! would be.

See my "Fauxbacco" for more, WWW.FAUXBACCO.BLOGSPOT.COM.

—BEST. JOHN JONIK

Dear EF!

I received a new *Earth First! Journal* and I thank you very much. I feel especially affected by this article on Page 24, communication Management Units [a.k.a. CMUs] (See *EFJ* May-June, 2009). I have myself been sent to a Special Management Unit (SMU). Here in Alabama they were preparing to open this SMU for over two years. I was in the Hole in Colman One USP in Florida. And "put in Secretly" by the Admin there. Then I was transferred October 7, 2008, to "hold over" in Tallahassee, Florida. Straight to the Hole. Two-and-a-half

months later—December 19, 2008, I was transferred to FCI Talladega Straight to their Hole. Last month myself and many others were placed into a new cell house. They have been preparing to hold these USP SMU prisoners. I am the only political prisoner among many men of various prison life stereotypes, beliefs, and anizations, if you know what I mean? I do not know of these CMUs—but SMUs are what is described in *EFJ* on Page 24. And There SMUs are an endless trap. Because I don't kiss ass or sign anything they have. Nor give them fingerprints, nor do I go to their interviews. Because I am a Sovereign Cherokee Nation Citizen.

So here I am in limbo. Why? June 4, 2008 I was placed in a gladiator ring setting and I won. I did not use a weapon. I think folks in Earth First! can see why I'm here.

—LOVE, OSO BLANCO

Dearest Shit for Brains,

I'd like to clarify something that there seems to be confusion about. In the last *EFJ* there was an announcement about the Mobilization for Climate Justice (MCJ) that said, "Rising Tide beckons you to Copenhagen for the fifteenth UN Climate Conference." We are not beckoning anyone to Copenhagen! Unless you are already in Europe, in which case go for it! But as far as North America goes, we in the belly of the beast are really the most well-positioned to have an impact on the institutions, corporations and people most responsible for fueling the climate crisis (and all other manner of social oppression and ecosystem destruction) right here at home. So as much fun as European protests may be, if we're serious about being effective, we need to get busy on some movement-building here in the US.

The MCJ has come together for this purpose—to help build a truly grassroots climate justice movement in North America that is led by environmental justice groups and the communities most affected by pollution, industry, capitalism, and climate change. An effective movement needs a broad base, and that means organizing where we're at! For more information, check out WWW.ACTFORCLIMATEJUSTICE.ORG.

Onward,

—ABIGAIL FROM RISING TIDE NORTH AMERICA

Dear Friends,

Last week I went to my first "release class." It is odd that when you come to prison you go to classes about how to do time, how to avoid conflict with staff and inmates, how to avoid disease, sexual assault and other pitfalls.

Then, just before you leave you go to classes to relearn how to be free. In between the two, you forget that you were even a part of the free world. Relationships by mail become normal; you are accustomed to rarely, if ever, seeing your loved ones. Violence is a way

of life; you have no privacy and are in constant oversight. Then one day, a computer program spits out your name because it has calculated that you only have X amount of days left and you need to take release classes so that you can adjust to a completely different world with different expectations.

I'm fortunate, I don't need these classes, but many people do.

No, my challenges will not come from re-entering society. I have not lost myself in here. I have amazing support and will be coming

home to my family and friends, my own place, a job, and school. Life is ready and waiting for me. My challenges will be reconciling that I have spent nearly a decade of my life in prison.

I know that I have achieved a lot from behind these walls. That the strength of my support, my contributions to eco-activism and the media work I've done from prison are a testament to my accomplishments. It is these reasons that I carry my head high. I know that despite the hardships and obstacles I have fulfilled my duty

to myself, my family, my beliefs and this struggle.

I remain proud of the actions that brought me to prison. I am proud of my conduct as a political prisoner, never wavering in my integrity.

But it is difficult to come to terms with having sacrificed so much of my life only to return and find the battle still being waged. Our struggle to stop human-induced climate change, pollution and environmental destruction is far from over. Our struggle for social justice, human liberation and animal rights is far from complete.

From time-to-time each of us must redefine our commitment and contributions to activism. We are not always capable of giving 110 percent. What matters is that we continue to give what we can.

After my release you may not find me on the front lines battling tooth and nail to win. But whether in or out of prison I'll never stop standing up for what is right and doing my part to make this world a little better.

I've given, hell, my life to these struggles I see no reason to stop there.

-JEFFREY FREE LUERS

Dear Shit fer Brains

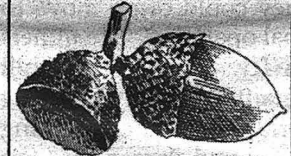
Seasons are Changing... What exactly is Mabon?

Fall is here, and that means harvesting! The September-October issue of the *Earth First! Journal* coincides with the Celtic holiday Mabon, more commonly referred to as the Autumn Equinox. Just as with every season, there are distinct beauties to be found in the wild during Autumn. Depending on your bioregion, the leaves on the trees are starting to turn colors and a crisp wind is weaving through them. Here in the desert it means picking prickly pears very carefully and gathering mesquite pods to be ground into flour. Late Summer and early Autumn also means that much of the desert is covered with green life, as the Summer monsoons have covered the land in water.

The Solstices and Equinoxes are floating days, which means every year they are on different dates. This year the Autumn Equinox falls on September 22. On the Equinoxes the day and the night are perfectly balanced in their length.

Also, as this is the start of Autumn for the northern Hemisphere, it's the time of year when the second harvests are coming and plans for the long cold Winter are put in place. In most of the natural world, proper planning can mean the difference between life and death for the coming months. For mammals of all kinds it means

it's time to start gathering food and start gaining Winter fat for warmth. Depending on your bioregion, wild edibles like winter squash, corn, apples and a long list of roots are ripe for the picking.



But what does this mean to activists? What does it mean to Earth Firsters? Well, if you're involved in an anti-road campaign, it means that the construction may temporary halt. If you're involved with a treesit, the Fall also means that warmer clothes will be needed and ground support should start bringing warm teas. For travelers this could mean heading south to work with Earth First! chapters that need help such as Everglades EF! in Florida, Chuk'shon EF! in Arizona, or the newly formed Southern Californian EF!. And let's not forget projects like No More Deaths, leaving water and aid for our friends crossing the border. These could also be your last fleeting moments for action before Winter comes. With the ending of Summer and the cold on the way, one can't help but feel the urgency to make one last stab at the monsters destroying the wild.

All of this is rather northern-hemisphere-centric, as it is actually the start of Spring for our friends in the South. The Winter is ending there and warmth is coming back to the land.

There is one common thing here, though, between the start of Autumn and the start of Spring (besides that the day and night is equal), these changes in the seasons mean that actions can be happening! Whether it is your last action for the season or start of a whole storm of them, make it happen with a bang!



doomsday mountain earth first!

And then the folks from Elysium Forest Defenders will...

woah, woah woah...

I'm not working with EFD. They once had an action camp that my friend complained about.

Yeah. Plus, they're kinda woo-woo.

Ahg! What is with you all?

Just imagine if, say, the ALF was as bad as the rest of the radical movement.

okay, we've got all the lab rats. Let's go!

what about the rabbits?

sk masks

What about 'em? Who do you think we are, the Rodent Liberation Front? No! We're the Lab Rat Liberation Front!

yeah, leave 'em for those stinkin' bunny huggers.

Oh look. If it isn't the Sad-Looking Puppy Liberation Front.

They're so single issue. It's pathetic.

Hey, wait, where are you going?

To use the bathroom.

Oh. I thought you were forming a splinter group.

I wanna join!

on cook mountain

BY DEA

Madison Cook's miniature hands were covered in the sooty remains of a lump of bituminous coal. She had been collecting treasures all down the road—a yellow spotted salamander, a turkey feather, a magenta leaf—and this was her latest find. But unlike the other members of her Sunday afternoon collection, the coal wasn't found in the biodiverse Appalachian forest that blanketed part of Cook Mountain. Rather, chunks and pebbles of the infamous fuel littered the top of the high wall that marked the edge of an advancing mountaintop removal site.

Several hundred feet behind us sat the Cook family cemeteries, where 29 of Madison's ancestors lay at rest. In late June, her uncle, Danny Cook, discovered the access roads—required to be maintained by West Virginia law—blocked by five steep, human-made berms of mud and tree trunks. On the dirt road directly alongside the cemeteries, Horizon Resources LLC, the company mining Cook Mountain, drilled holes to ascertain how deep down the coal seams lay. Should Horizon get its way, explosives will blast away the bones of the dead, exposing a thin

strip of coal that will be mined and loaded onto a train, to be burned quickly and cheaply in a factory or plant. Because the Cooks do not own mineral rights to their ancestral mountain, and are unsure of their surface rights, Horizon Resources is free to decimate it.

From the high wall, mines stretch almost as far as the eye can see. They are barren wastelands of brown earth, with dramatic drop-off points where machinery digs in to the heart of the mountain

to reach the coal. Mountaintop removal mining began in the 1970s, prompted by the 1973 and 1979 petroleum crises, and became widespread when the desire for high-sulfur coal increased in the 1990s. Since then, bulldozers and draglines have plagued the mountaintops of West Virginia and Kentucky, laying waste to a stretch of mixed mesophytic forest and ridges comparable to the size of Delaware.

The mountain Floyd and Mary Walker Cook settled in the 1840s is part of the Appalachians, born 480 million years ago, during the earliest North American orogeny. Megafloa peat bogs and wetland marshes that bordered the ancient coastline prior to the mountain-forming plate collision became buried under the range. As climate and life

eroded the young peaks—which once rivaled the Himalayas—into rolling hills, plant and tree remains deep under the surface metamorphosed into West Virginia's most valuable fuel resource: bituminous coal.

The southern Appalachians escaped the glaciations of the Pleistocene epochs and have been harboring life for over 200 million years longer than anywhere else in the United States. When the glaciers receded, this pocket of mixed mesophytic hardwood served as the mother forest for all of North America. Today, the second-growth hardwood forest that has swallowed the remnants of the Cook family barn and fence line is part of one of the most biodiverse ecosystems on the continent. Oak, maple and white pine are among the 30 tree species that shade the forest floor in a single patch of woods. The understory is choked with ground cover, ginseng and ramps, punctuated by mushrooms and berry bushes. White-tailed deer and black bears traverse these forests, and over 100 species of fish once filled West Virginia's streams.

Ninety-five percent of Appalachian forests have been logged or cleared—primarily for agriculture and industry—in the past 200 years, and only a few hectares of old growth remain. Where agricultural land has been widely abandoned, second-growth forests have taken root. While they do not rival the biodiversity of old-growth ecosystems, the pioneer forests of the southern Appalachians have come back strong, replenishing the mountainsides with unusual numbers of plant and animal species. While the forests survived extensive logging, they will not be able to survive the physical removal of the land by explosive-welding strip-mining machines the size of several-story buildings. And neither will Appalachian culture.

The Cooks that traversed the mountaintop that Sunday afternoon were raised in James Creek Hollow down below, but they still climbed the mountain throughout their childhood and adolescence to have picnics, to visit their ancestors, to hunt and to forage. In the Spring and Summer, they search for *morchella esculante*, the gourmet mushrooms colloquially known as Molly Moochers or morels. The Cook family and friends set up hunting platforms in trees, putting venison on the family table. West Virginia's most renowned medicinal plant, ginseng, and its beloved and stinky allium, ramps, have been gathered with aplomb by mountaineering families for generations.

In the hollow, the Cooks grew gardens, from which they harvested fresh produce

and herbs. Vickie Cook Stewart, Danny's sister, recalls long afternoons gardening when elementary school let out. All along the windy roads that criss-cross the coalfields, abundant, well-maintained gardens are planted next to homes. Self-sufficiency has been characteristic of Appalachian mountaineering culture for generations; southern West Virginia was—until the construction of train lines and the introduction of industrial coal mining around the time of the Civil War—virtually inaccessible to outsiders.

With the influx of coal operations and miners, gardens became both a tool and hindrance in resistance to tightly-controlled company town life, which edged on totalitarianism. Homegrown vegetables and fruit afforded miners nutritional autonomy from the company store and its inflated prices (in some cases three times the market rate). Simultaneously, gardening contests were organized by coal operators to occupy the miners' time, preventing them from organizing with the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA).

Miners in the unincorporated towns of southern West Virginia rented two-family company houses, purchased their goods at the company store in company-issued scrip tokens, attended company churches headed by coal-paid preachers, and were disciplined and bullied by company mine guards. Where the police weren't willing to enforce the whims of the operators, mine guards and company-hired detectives were called upon to kick families out of their homes and, in some cases, assassinate UMWA organizers. The fascist nature of life in company towns led to a difference in priorities between southern West Virginia union men and UMWA miners elsewhere. A high demand for workers afforded miners decent pay and ample job opportunities—if the company dissatisfied them, they could often move to another town and coal operation. The miners in West Virginia—a few from the old hill clans, and many migrants from other parts of the country and world—focused on fighting the mine guard system and demanding fair weighing of their hauls and political clout.

UMWA members in southern West Virginia sought the autonomy that was a cornerstone of mountaineer history and culture. Some of labor history's proudest moments—including the Battle of Blair Mountain, the largest armed insurrection in United States history since the Civil War—played out in the coalfields. And yet, King Coal continued to run rampant through the hills and hollows, uprooting the Earth and laying the

Coal company executives have publicly likened the movement against mountaintop removal to war and being under siege; newspapers have referred to it as "another Mine War."



Active mountaintop-removal coal mining on Kayford Mountain.



photos by Maggie Kilgoy

This is a washed out road in Mingo County, West Virginia—the result of strip-mining above the town.

groundwork for environmental degradation and economic impoverishment.

Pro-coal proponents argue that coal fuels West Virginia, although mountaintop removal and strip mining only employ three percent of all West Virginians and mining jobs have dropped about 30 percent since the wane of underground mining. The destruction of the mountains prevents the development of new industries, including agriculture and eco-tourism. Coal is impoverishing most West Virginians, not enriching them. Abandoned buildings line West Virginia Route 3, which winds through former company towns in the Coal River Valley.

Examples of health risks are never ending: Prenter Hollow is just 21 miles by road from James Creek, where residents drink water poisonous enough to tarnish new pennies in minutes and leave five-year-old children toothless. Eleven thousand acres of mining sites have cracked family wells, and slurry injections have seeped into the main water supply. Ninety-eight percent of Prenter Hollow adults suffer from bladder problems, and bizarre cancers are disturbingly common. Marsh Fork Elementary School, in Raleigh County, is nestled between a plurality of dangerous coal operations. Elementary school students sit 150 feet from a coal silo and train

tracks, next to the Goals Processing Plant and just below Massey's leaking Shumate Sludge Impoundment. Strip-mine blasting is to begin just above the impoundment, increasing the risk of flooding exponentially, although mine officials deny that possibility.

It's happened before. In 1972, a 30-foot-high, 132 million-gallon wall of water cascaded into Buffalo Creek Hollow, Logan County, from the flooded sludge dams that sat above the community. The dam burst—just four days after a US mine inspector declared it satisfactory—taking 125 of the hollow's 5,000 lives with it. This past May, the Rawl and Thacker mines in Mingo County caused extensive flooding. Luckily, no lives were lost. Coal CEOs and politicians have taken to calling the dangerous surges catalyzed by mining operations "acts of God."

What is happening on Cook Mountain is happening across Appalachia—King Coal is leveling four hundred million years of geologic work with draglines, bulldozers and explosives. It's destroying livelihoods and tearing up gardens, cemeteries and ancient forests. It moves swiftly and forcefully, exempt from laws and reason, with a single goal: the maximization of profit before the thin coal seams beneath the mountains run out. When all the plunder

has been taken, the companies will leave, a trail of destruction in their wake.

But His Majesty is scared—his actions have not gone unnoticed. In the hollows, locals are organizing and fighting for clean air and water, employing science, publicity and the courts. Others have gone up to the mountains, locking themselves to machinery and trespassing on company property. Coal company executives have publicly likened the movement against mountaintop removal to war and being under siege; newspapers have referred to it as "another Mine War."

The hills of West Virginia echo with a rich history of resistance. It was in these coal fields that thousands of miners battled on the slopes of Blair Mountain. That battle was preceded and followed by hundreds of smaller skirmishes—the miners of West Virginia could not be quieted. As King Coal makes his last stand in these hills, let's go by road and railroad track to stand in solidarity with the people of Appalachia. With creativity and a diversity of tactics, let's fight until the last piece of machinery has been driven down from the mountaintop with nothing left to do but rust.

To learn more about the ongoing action campaign in southern West Virginia, visit WWW.CLIMATEGROUNDZERO.ORG.

FIGHTING TOOTH AND NAIL FOR TASMANIA'S FORESTS

continued from page 1

Tasmania, the state-owned logging company, has been desperate to make the first cut into the valley. Logging plans are two years behind as a result of the blockade.

On January 12, 50 police turned up at camp to begin a bust that went on for three weeks. It took Police Search and Rescue three days to dismantle protective infrastructure, including structures attached to treesits, three car dragons and a "marsupial mole" down a tunnel dug under the contentious logging road.

Police tensioned off the structures attached to treesits and left the treesitters there while work on the road commenced. Many more structures going to the original treesits would pop up in the night, lasting only hours before being dismantled by the police the next morning. The treesitters stayed up the entire three weeks in some cases, and changeovers were pulled off successfully a few times in certain trees to relieve "sodden possums" from their 160-foot-high perch.

Over the coming weeks, dozens of people were arrested engaging in direct action to stop forestry machinery from constructing the road. Sunday rallies were held each week, with people attending from Tasmania's capital city, Hobart, and from all over the state. Five hundred people defied Forestry's "Exclusion Zone" and marched into the forest to stop logging machinery for the day. Only a dozen or so were summonsed to appear in court.

After more than three weeks of daily actions, old-growth forest smashing and constructing enough road to log the first of 10 logging coupes, Forestry Tasmania pulled out.

We thought it was a little odd they wouldn't just start the coupe after enough road was built, rather than let us set everything back up and make it harder for them again. However, we took advantage of the sudden return to peace, and the rest of the summer was spent creating even more elaborate and numerous structures and treesits.

Several lame attempts by police to remove the blockade and people from the area over the coming months failed, but we knew that the inevitable giant bust with huge police numbers was coming soon.

In early May, Forestry Tasmania came back into the area to log the coupe. A huge police operation that lasted a whole month accompanied Forestry Tasmania's bulldozers, chain saws and logging trucks. Almost every logging truck that left the area got a police escort of a dozen cops jogging alongside! The cops had a mobile cop shop bus parked in the clear-fell so they could process arrestees on site. The operation sucked most of the state's police resources for the month of May as they maintained a constant 24-hour presence in the logging area. Of course, when the police association complained about the drain on resources, Tasmania's state government blamed us.

Such a massive police presence made it a lot harder to pull off stop-work actions. The

logging of the first coupe was happening at unprecedented rates. Twelve logging machines were in there; usually you'd expect three or four for a coupe that size. The machines were locked into a big steel cage each night to protect them from us. The cage was penetrated successfully. However, these extreme measures like cages and 24-hour cop supervision for a whole month did make things a little harder.

More than 300 people attended a peaceful community walk-in action on Mother's Day that saw 22 people from the local community arrested for entering the exclusion zone. Fifty people bush-walked through the forest into the exclusion zone and stopped work for the day. More than 80 people have been arrested in the Upper Florentine this year.

Logging 61 acres of the 122-acre coupe took about three weeks with police supervision until the very last truck left. Camp Florentine was set back up in the weeks after Forestry Tasmania's withdrawal, with a treesit and three monopolies blocking the road. The remaining 61 acres are likely to be logged this Summer. Nine more coupes of similar size remain in the valley. Camp Florentine and Still Wild Still Threatened will continue to blockade the Upper Florentine Valley's old-growth forest. Come and give us a hand in protecting these ancient temperate ecosystems.

Check out WWW.STILLWILDSTILLTHREATENED.ORG for more information.

Dear NED LUDD

DEAR NED,

Like almost everyone else here in Appalachia, I live near a big ole Mountaintop Removal site. And I've got reasons to suspect that the coal companies might be violating a lot of worker safety regulations, or the details of their environmental permits. I was wondering what you knew about getting in close to take a peek at what was going on?

-SAMWISE

WELL SAMWISE,

I remember back in 1811 when us stockingers used to take pride in our work. And heck, were we ever mad when we found out that people were using new-fangled machines to make really crappy versions of what we made so carefully. And, if I was a mineworker today, I'd feel similar. From what I hear they've laid off almost everybody and replaced 'em with explosives. And even still, lots of surface miners are being hurt and killed every year. So my hat's off to you, wanting to make sure that these sites are following proper precautions.

I happen to have a little pamphlet called *Exploring Surface Mines* sitting in front of me, and since I don't know where you can get your own copy, let me give you a couple of the highlights. First of all, on safety:

"Rule #1 is: Never go alone, and always make sure someone off the mine site knows where you are and when to expect you back. Make sure that person can be reached by phone by you, the police, or the hospital.

"Avoid the tops and bottoms of highwalls. These artificial cliffs are constantly being eroded by weather, blasting, and truck traffic. Large chunks fall off regularly!

"Avoid the tops, bottoms, and middle of any very steep slope that is made of uncompacted dirt, rubble, and boulders and has no plants anchoring the surface. Landslides are a frequent occurrence on mine sites, especially—but not only—after wet weather.

"Avoid drainages during wet weather. Flash floods can occur because all the moisture-absorbing plants and soil have been scraped off the site. Entire towns have been wiped off the map by floods due to mining activities.

"Steep spoil slopes, valley fills, rock, dirt, and debris piles that have not been compacted may slip, slide, or collapse when you walk on them.

"Slash piles often border a site, put there when bulldozers came in and pushed all the trees and topsoil out to the edge before mining. These treacherous piles of snake habitat should be traversed with care, especially when wet. They will be in various stages of rot and may not hold your weight. It's generally wise to avoid slash piles in your route, if only because it will take so much time to traverse safely.

"Watch out for snakes, not so much on the sites themselves but the surrounding forest.

"Explosions! Large amounts of explosives are used daily on active mine sites. Mobile drilling machines drill holes in the ground

in an area that the miners want to remove. The holes are filled with a mixture of ammonium nitrate and diesel fuel (called ANFO), then detonators are wired up to all the holes and the holes are filled in. The blasting crew then ensures that all people and vehicles are out of the way, then they issue a series of timed blast warnings over the radio and via siren. (Note: although siren warnings are required, they may not actually be sounded—or may not be loud enough for you to hear.) When the proper time arrives, they push a button on their control box and the explosion occurs.

"The safest way to learn where and when blasting is going to occur on a mine site is to listen in on the blast crew's radio conversations.

"Mines generally blast at about the same time in the late afternoon, for reasons of safety and workflow. *Do not* bet your life on this general rule!

"Multiple blasts may occur in one day at different work sites on the same mine. Drill rigs in operation will show you where blasts will occur in the future—maybe within hours.

"If you run across a series of open circular holes many feet deep but less than a foot wide, you have found blasting holes. If they are filled and have wires hooked up between them *get out fast!*

"If you hear a siren you should find a solid object (machine, tree, hill, ditch, etc.) to put between yourself and the blast zone.

"After the blast is over you should still wait awhile behind your shelter to avoid getting hit by flyrock.

"Blasting usually does not occur at night, but drilling may go on at all hours.

"Always keep track of drill rigs, the engines of destruction. Blasting always follows drilling.

"Blasting often creates cracks in the earth, sometimes hundreds of feet from the blast zone. These cracks can be huge but more often are about one to two feet wide, a few too many feet long, and over six feet deep. They are hard to spot at night or after a couple of seasons of dead leaves cover them.

"Underground mine passages, abandoned years earlier, can collapse into sinkholes when disturbed by strip mining activities above and nearby.

"Avoid falling off a cliff at night! Watch where you put your feet. Plan your route. Use a stick if you are unsure about where you're stepping. Never go where you can't see. Go slow. Go night hiking in safer places, off mine sites, beforehand as practice."

And all of that is only a partial list of the dangers at mine sites! I'll just skim the rest of that pamphlet and give you some highlights from the rest of it, yeah?

Never go alone. Army studies have concluded that two people in the field are four times as effective as one person in the field. This way, you only need one of lots of things: GPS, binoculars, camera, tarp, sleeping bag (one person naps while the other keeps watch, you see!). You should both bring map and compass. And know how to use them! It is your responsibility to not get lost.

Prepare by staring at maps, google earth, whatever you can get your hands on. Insider information, or just advice from folks who've been in the area, is a great idea. Find out what the weather will be. Get a dull-colored day-pack. Good boots, long sleeves, long pants. Leather gloves will help with briars. Bug spray, trail food. Plenty of water.

Figure out how to get dropped off, or where to leave a car. Make sure that whoever is going to pick you up has a radio and a good alarm clock.

You want to explore the site from every angle, depending on what you're scouting for. Don't be afraid to take multiple trips.

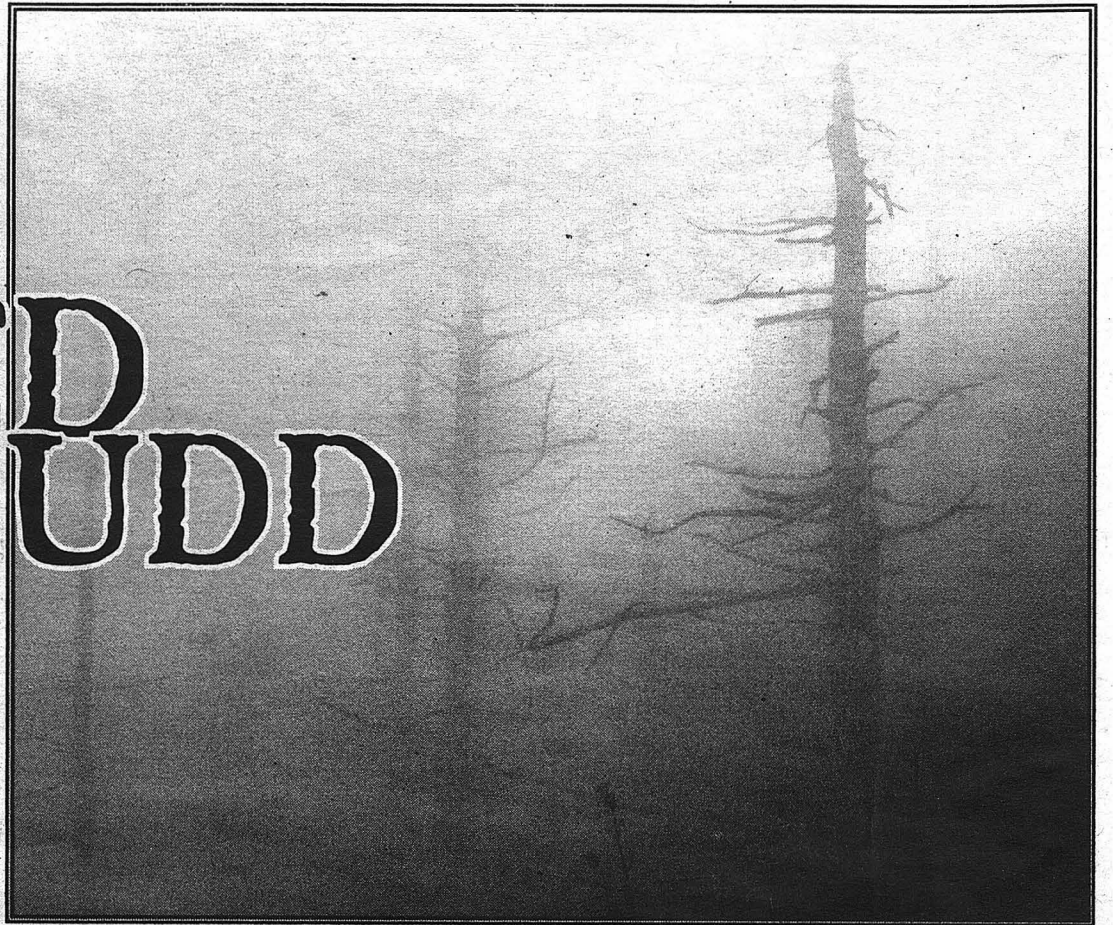
Active coal sites are usually running 24/7. They have security personnel. Usually, one guard will be at the entrance in the guard shack and one or two might be driving around in a truck or All Terrain Vehicle (ATV). Most workers won't get out of their vehicles, except for the blasting crew, and occasionally supervisors and engineers.

Nighttime is often best. Go slow. Don't get tunnel-vision: look around you. Always know which side of the road to take cover on if someone is coming. Bring a flashlight, but avoid using it. Don't use a camera flash.

Mine site workers often use walkie-talkies. These can be overheard on your own walkie-talkies. Figure out what channels they use. Pay attention to blast crew channels, and supervisor channels. The latter are important because that might be where you hear that you've been spotted!

Whew! What a lot of information. And that's just the start. But you can scout surface mine sites to see if the companies are breaking laws, and you can scout surface mine sites to better plan your own civil disobedience, banner hangs, or more, er, direct forms of earth-saving resistance! So good luck!

-NED



FRONTLINES

Italians Fight Against Global Governance

The Group of 8 (G8) summit of the world's eight most powerful nations was held this July in Italy and met with massive resistance. The police preemptively arrested at least 21 organizers of the protests, but universities in Venice and Rome were occupied in response.

Two anarchists and 37 "sympathizers" were arrested on July 3, allegedly having planned to attack a railway line by tossing homemade iron couplers over the electrical cables above the tracks and to short-circuit the railway. They were caught in a stolen car with these couplers and/or grapples.

But despite these preemptive arrests, and police drones with the creepy name of "Predator," thousands of people protested quite militantly against the G8. They attempted to storm a proposed US military base, and generally causing such a ruckus that the rest of the G8—led by the US—are considering kicking Italy out of the global governance club. Turns out that radicals aren't the only ones who can be turned against their allies.

Nigerian Rebels Blow Up Terminals and Pipelines

Not everyone is fighting against free trade through protest. On June 19, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) demolished an oil pipeline owned by Agip, an Italian gas company. In order to do so, they first overpowered a gunboat of seven Nigerian soldiers, disarmed them and "disabl[ed] the boat by explosives," but spared the enemy soldiers' lives.

On June 29, MEND blew up Shell Oil's Forcados Terminal; on July 5, they struck again and destroyed a Chevron pipeline. They did these actions as part of their campaign to localize control of natural resources and to hold foreign oil companies accountable for all of the pollution that they have caused. In

response to government crack-down against civilians they have declared "all-out war" against the Nigerian government, who they consider to be corrupt and to be making themselves rich at the expense of the people and the earth. Nigeria is Africa's largest producer of oil.

Anti-Nuke Folks In The UK Blockade Weapon Manufacturer

On July 15, a combination of lock-downs, super-glue, bike-locks, junker cars and courage managed to shut down all five gates at the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment in the UK, some for hours. There were a total of 11 arrests, but at least two folks on bicycles managed to deploy locks on a gate and get away.

A Wave of Bossnappings in Europe

Unión workers at the likes of 3M, Sony and everyone's favorite earth-destroyer, Caterpillar, decided that they wouldn't lie down without a fight. As the companies closed offices across Europe, they gave terrible severance packages to the rank-and-file, but the executives of course were doing just fine. Well, the executives *were* doing just fine until the workers locked them in their offices. The rank-and-file demanded—and received—a much better deal before releasing their bosses unharmed.

FLAM Tears Shit Up

Frente de Liberación Animal México (FLAM) has been quite busy these past few months. They have burned down a Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) warehouse and set a bullfighting museum alight. Six meat market stalls had their locks glued, a KFC had its locks glued while customers ate inside, and a slaughterhouse had one of its trucks burned to ash—four different times. Additionally, a dairy shop and warehouse were

burned and two fur stores were torched on the same night.

ELF Mexico Aims Not To Be Outdone

The day before the election, Eco-Arsonists For The Liberation Of The Earth (EplT) set fire to two luxury cars belonging to a wealthy earth-destroyer. A week later, this group placed an incendiary bomb in the doorway of the offices of Sabritas, producers of transgenic vegetables for junk food who are currently threatening woodlands.

Elsewhere, the *Frente de Liberación de la Tierra* (FLT) burned the truck of a forest-killing politician. In Mexico City, *Ludditas Contra La Domesticación de la Naturaleza Salvaje* (Luddites Against the Domestication of Wild Nature) a cell of the ELF, glued the locks of telecommunications conglomerate Telmex, then returned the next day with a bomb tossed through the window, ignoring the sign that had been hastily placed outside the facility that claimed any attack on Telmex would be considered an attack on the channels of communication and would therefore be a federal crime.

Over the course of a week, attacks were taken against four different bank ATMs throughout the city. The windows of a bank were smashed and another bank had a false bomb placed inside of it. Also, a cop car was nearly set alight (the incendiary was discovered before it went off).

ALF Elsewhere In The World

In Germany, two foxes were liberated from a dachshund training compound, saved from a life of being chased by hounds every day.

Sixty-five hens were freed from battery cages in the Czech Republic, along with 40 in the Netherlands.

A circus in Ireland had its vehicles sabotaged, its locks glued, and its wires cut.

Horse-race trucks had their tires flattened and a hunting

club was burned to the ground in Sweden.

A meat exporter in Australia had its locks glued and its building defaced.

In France, a professional butcher school had its vehicles, the hot-water heater and part of the cold-storage system burned.

Greek Town Fights Against Open Refuse Dump

In the Greek region of Grammatico, locals are mad as hell about an open refuse dump that they're being stuck with by the government. In fact, the government declared that any opposition to the exploitation of natural resources is treason. The locals fought back, torching corporate vehicles at the site. When police tried to suppress protests, they were met with rocks and Molotov cocktails. Among those arrested was the mayor of one of the local villages.

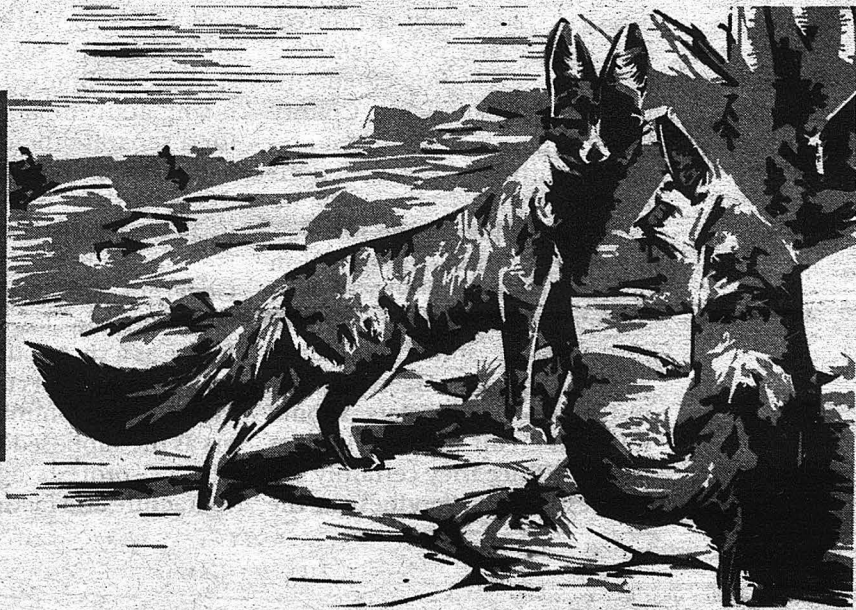
Anti-HLS Hackers Take Action

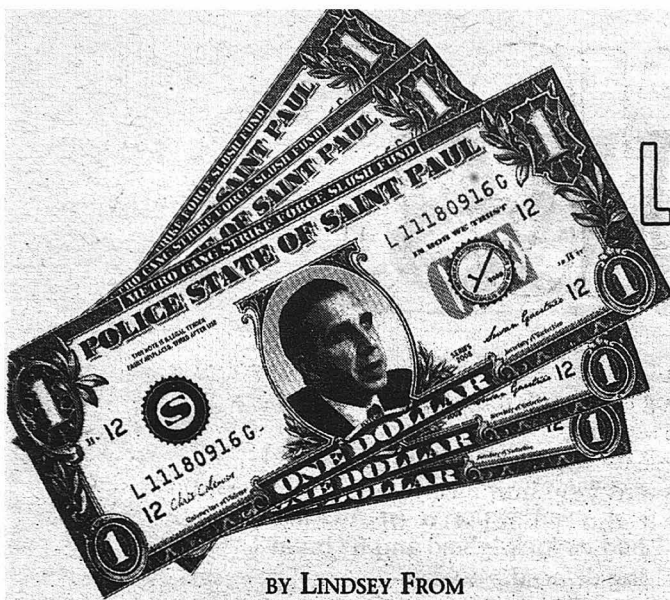
(excerpted from Hack This Zine #7: HACKBLOC.ORG)

A group calling itself Hackers for Total Liberation has started several actions against the notorious Huntington Life Science (HLS) corporation, which is guilty of torturing and abusing animals. Among their actions are attempts to infect research computer systems within Berkeley with a destructive virus as well as launch an electronic sit-in against HLS websites. Here is an excerpt from one of the communiqués they have released: -

"It is time to buy new computers, and after that, save yourself the hassle that will follow and get the fuck out of this cat killing lab. The lab where kittens as young as six weeks live in daily fear and trauma from the violence that you are responsible for. The cats in stereotaxic devices with holes drilled into their skulls are what drives us and we will do anything to end your torture."

They will not do anything about us because we slip away like water... We will give anything, even life, for a natural and wild world!—FLAM





TWIN CITIES LEGAL SUPPORT SO FAR...

BY LINDSEY FROM
TWIN CITIES CRASS

The one year anniversary of the Republican National Convention (RNC) is quickly approaching. Despite having faded from the national headlines, the RNC and its aftermath still define much of daily life for the radical community here in the Twin Cities. The people who have been targeted by state repression and prosecution, along with their supporters, carry on the fight that was sparked by riot police last August. Twenty-five people (including the RNC 8) are still being prosecuted in Ramsey County, and until their charges are dropped and state repression ends, the RNC will remain ever-present here in Minnesota.

The court solidarity strategy that was formed in the hectic days immediately following the RNC has been one of the most effective community responses to mass arrest in recent memory. The best defense against state repression is a collective one, and arrestees organized to fight their charges *en masse*. This strategy has succeeded in tying up the court system and forcing the state to drop large numbers of cases against protestors. In connection with the RNC 8 Defense Committee, the Community RNC Arrestee Support Structure (CRASS) coalition was created to help coordinate legal support and court solidarity. Mass community meetings, lawsuits, the creation and maintaining of internet archives, and rummage sale fundraisers have been a few of the varied forms that support work has taken over the past year. And though there is much yet to be done, there can be no doubt that we are winning.

Of the 818 people arrested during the convention, only one person has been successfully convicted at trial. In addition, 74 people have been forced into plea deals or taken bench warrants. In spite of these losses, an incredible 90 percent of RNC arrestees have been acquitted, had their charges dismissed or were never prosecuted. All the cases in Hennepin County (Minneapolis) have been resolved without any convictions because there is absolutely no evidence to justify the mass arrests. In addition, the terrorism charges against the RNC 8 were dropped as a result of community pressure aimed at County Attorney Susan Gaertner. Arrestees and supporters should take full credit for the victories thus far, since they certainly did not result from goodness in the

hearts of the prosecutors.

The abysmal failure of prosecutorial efforts has pushed the state into new strategies of judicial repression. Politicians and bureaucrats (many of whose careers are riding on their affiliation with the RNC) are desperately seeking to justify the \$50 million in federal funds that was spent on RNC policing. Since they can barely seem to convict anyone, malicious prosecution, scapegoating and retaliatory charges have become favored strategies of the local court system.

The prosecution openly seeks to "make an example" out of the felony defendants whose alleged acts of property destruction have been described by the whitewash Heffelfinger-Luger Report as "the most frightening moment(s) of the convention." Of course, such statements overlook the pre-emptive raids, state-sponsored shutdown of downtown and hundreds of brutal injuries caused by police. In addition, this attempted vilification of felony defendants seeks to draw lines between "good" and "bad" protestors and to weaken our solidarity. We will not, however, give up on our friends and comrades who are facing the brunt of RNC-related judicial targeting.

Of the 21 felony defendants originally charged, two cases have been dropped and one person has been convicted for the unarrest incident from September 1. This conviction is currently being appealed. As this article is being written, the RNC support community holds its breath in anticipation of the trial of our friend and CRASS member Jesse James Forrey, whose trial is set to begin on August 3. Milwaukee co-defendants Christina Vana and Karen Meissner have a trial date set for the end of August. Their co-defendant David Mahoney is currently serving a sentence from a plea deal he took in order to return home to his native England, and is set to be released back to his friends and family on September 2. In addition, Matt DePalma, Bradley Crowder and David McKay are three defendants who each took guilty pleas in high profile federal trials involving Molotov cocktails and FBI informants. All three are currently serving federal sentences. Bradley Crowder is facing additional state charges for a separate incident.

The case of the RNC8 highlights the vindictive prosecutorial efforts of Susan Gaertner, who is running for Minnesota Governor and whose political ambitions are closely tied to her image as a successful County Attorney. Her efforts to criminalize Welcoming Committee organizers as the supposed masterminds of RNC protests again attempt to fracture and factionalize com-

munity solidarity. By dropping the terrorism charges against the eight, Gaertner has sought to reduce media attention and community pressure surrounding the case. However, people in the Twin Cities and across the United States remain strongly behind the co-defendants and regularly attend Gaertner's public events to remind her of our opposition against her attempts at thoughtcrime prosecution.

One of the most difficult challenges of our court solidarity strategy stems from the very nature of the "justice" system. This slow moving process is designed to force people into accepting plea deals by wearing them down with endless court dates and a "trial call" system which requires you to be on two-hour notice for weeks at a time. The financial and emotional effects of this structure have been particularly difficult for out-of-town arrestees, many of whom have had to move here in order to fight their cases. The RNC prosecutors have deliberately dragged out the cases of arrestees in order to eke out the pleas that they would not otherwise be able to acquire. One arrestee flew up from Miami six times to fight a simple misdemeanor before he eventually was unable to return and had to take a plea. CRASS's travel fund, which pays for arrestee plane tickets, has helped ameliorate this situation, but this has nonetheless been the most difficult hurdle for coordinating effective court solidarity and helping people fight their charges.

In an obvious effort to cover their asses against future lawsuits, in June the city of St. Paul filed criminal charges against four additional people. One of these, Elliot Hughes, was beaten by sheriff's deputies in the Ramsey County jail while incarcerated, and his case has attracted media attention and been a thorn in the side of Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Fletcher. These defendants had previously signaled to the city their intent to sue over their treatment during the RNC. If any of them are found guilty, or plea to a criminal charge, it will be difficult if not impossible for them to successfully pursue their claims against the state. These retaliatory charges seek to discourage others from filing civil suits, and are obviously motivated by the fear of people pushing back against the city, county and cops.

Civil litigation efforts are in full swing. After a very successful Mardi Gras action in which 65 Notices of Claim (forms indicating intent to sue) were filed against St. Paul, city attorney John Choi was overheard complaining that "things couldn't be worse" for his office. Since then, legal workers and attorneys have been setting up the necessary framework to make the city pay. Group claims for several of the mass arrests are being coordinated by local attorneys, and individual suits have been filed already, including a suit against the Sheriff's office for the August 29, convergence space raid. In addition to getting

money for the movement, civil litigation seeks to make connections to systemic issues of police violence and to change the narrative of what happened in the streets during the convention.

Certainly, civil litigation is not a solution to state violence, nor will it protect us in the streets or give us back the time and energy that has been stolen from us while we fight to keep ourselves and our friends out of jail. Nonetheless, suing the state effectively hits the city bureaucrats where it hurts them most—their coffers and their careers. Lawsuits from previous mass mobilizations such as Seattle and Los Angeles have succeeded in wresting millions of dollars from the state's insurance companies and have changed policing practices in many cities. In addition, local despots like Bob Fletcher can lose their power and paychecks from successful lawsuits. Civil litigation is one of a variety of strategies that we are using to push back against those who would have us imprisoned in jails and "free speech zones."

The ongoing militarization of the Twin Cities that was enabled by the delegates' arrival remains the untold aftermath of the Republican National Convention. Police brutality continues unchecked as they turn their RNC weaponry and crowd control devices onto the low income and people of color communities of our cities. Our work must always make connections to the everyday faces of police violence and state repression, and we have begun to engage in these struggles through coalition work with local anti-police-violence organizers. However, to our detriment, we have not been able to achieve this on the scale needed to effectively fight against systemic white supremacy and classism.

In addition, we seek to connect our struggles to those of political prisoners elsewhere. The parallels between the RNC 8 and Green Scare conspiracy defendants highlight the nationwide commonalities of the state's repressive campaigns against political organizers and activists. We are privileged to have both local and national support for our struggles, which allow us the energy and resources to fight back as effectively as we have been able to thus far. Many people who face similar state targeting do not have such support structures, and we hope that the resources and knowledge of RNC legal support will spread to future situations of community defense and solidarity.

For more information about RNC legal support (including how to get involved in civil litigation), check out:

WWW.RNCAFTERMATH.ORG and WWW.RNC8.ORG

For your very own free copies of Bob Bucks (pictured here), send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Bob Fletcher Sucks!
c/o Coldsnap Legal Collective
PO Box 50514,
Minneapolis, MN 55405

up to date with the

RNC 8

BY THE RNC 8

Good news since the last update! Due to overwhelming solidarity and support, two of our four charges, "conspiracy to riot in furtherance of terrorism" and "conspiracy to commit damage to property in furtherance of terrorism," have been dropped. That still leaves us with two felonies—"conspiracy to riot" and "conspiracy to damage property"—and a maximum sentence of five years. The pressure campaign to stop framing organizing as terrorism was in some sense successful, but unfortunately our prosecutor was sly enough to swap out our terrorism-enhancement charges with normal felonies in an attempt to placate our supporters while keeping us wrapped up in legal battles. That isn't to say that the state has stopped treating us as terrorists, or changed any of their rhetoric around our case.

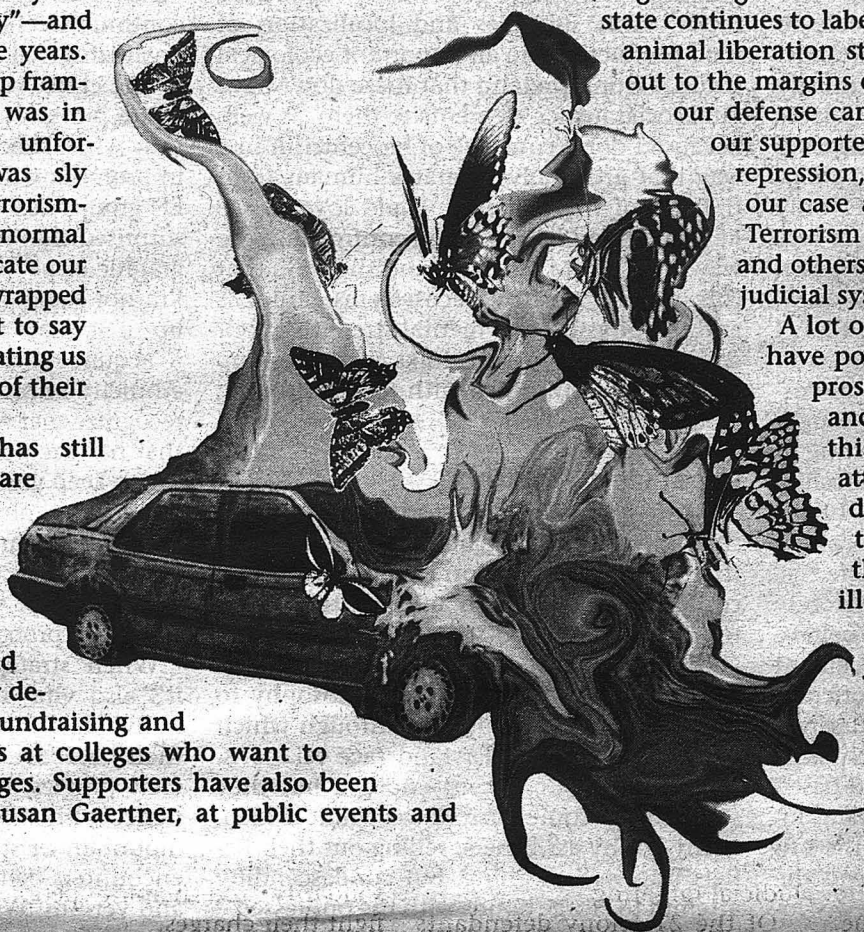
Our support campaign has still been going strong, but we are always in need of financial support. This past Spring we were asked to speak at a handful of colleges across the country, where we were met with lots of interest and sizeable honorariums for our defense fund. This is a great fundraising and morale-raising idea for folks at colleges who want to support anyone facing charges. Supporters have also been hounding our prosecutor, Susan Gaertner, at public events and

fundraisers. For instance in Chicago, a group turned out to protest when Gaertner was accepting an award, making her remember that political repression is a full-time job.

This past July, a couple of us were also able to make it out to the Earth First! Rendezvous and were humbled by the support and friends that we met there. It also reminded us that while we are no longer being tried as terrorists for summit organizing, the state continues to label our friends in the eco-defense and animal liberation struggles as terrorists, pushing them out to the margins of political extremism. A big part of our defense campaign has been trying to educate our supporters and the media about this broader repression, and make connections between our case and that of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act 4, Hugh & Tiga, Marie Mason and others who are fighting the goliath of the judicial system.

A lot of people don't realize it, but we do have power against the courts, judges and prosecutors. It helped us to realize this and we hope folks continue to wield this power wherever our friends are attacked. No compromise means we don't sacrifice the forest for a couple trees, it means we don't leave when the "authorities" tell us we're at an illegal assembly, and it means we do not lie down once we are facing charges. Let's take that sentiment to heart.

Much Love, the RNC 8: Erik, Eryn, Garrett, Luce, Max, Monica, Nathanael and Rob. For more information, visit www.RNC8.ORG



ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD

The Pentagon Wants to Microwave Geese In Flight

For the past decade, the military has been developing the Active Denial System (ADS), a microwave gun mounted on the top of a Hummer, which has been developed to cause unbearable pain to its victim without causing any permanent damage. It was intended for crowd control, but now it seems unlikely that the weapon will be deployed in war zones. All that "pain without permanent damage" is a little too reminiscent of "torture," I mean "enhanced interrogation." And the weapon, which takes 16 hours to warm up and can only target one opponent at a time, isn't actually particularly militarily feasible.

Desperate to find a use for this sci-fi nightmare, the Air Force is planning on turning the ADS on birds. Apparently, the problem of kamikaze birds is deeply troubling to the US Military, causing millions of dollars of damage to aircraft every year.

Hi-Tech Trash Tracking

A team of researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology are outfitting 3,000

pieces of garbage with what amount to tiny cell-phones in order to track the global movement of trash. They figure that if we knew where all our rubbish went, we'd be less likely to waste things. They hope that one day, these tags will be ubiquitous, with every object in our society traceable. The same researchers have done studies where they have tracked crowds by studying their cell-phone signals in Rome, Copenhagen, and at the 2009 inauguration in Washington, DC.

Researchers Like To Watch Coyotes Eat Cats

A new study in the Journal of Wildlife Management reveals that researchers enjoy spending their time watching coyotes eat outdoor cats. They have released such lovely numbers as that in 36 observed coyote-cat interactions in Tucson, Arizona, 19 led to the death of the cat. In fact, 42 percent of the observed coyote meals consisted of cats.

Many articles have gleaned from the study that it is wise to keep cats indoors. We at the Earth First! Journal have learned that there are people who will sit around and watch

cats get eaten, writing little numbers down in notebooks.

Climate Change Fights Against Nation States.

The 465 mile border between Italy and Switzerland is melting away. You see, the line was drawn in relation to the watershed line on a series of glaciers. But not only are the glaciers retreating, they are expected to be gone entirely within the next 40 years. We can only hope that when the glaciers go, so will the border between these countries.

Another Accidental Upside To All This Pollution

The city of Linfen, China has the second-worst air quality in the country. The haze is like a fog on the city, and its associated coal mine is prone to some horrendous disasters. And, well, they can't find anyone dumb enough to be the mayor. They cycled through four in three years, but they've spent at least six months now without a leader. If only all the politicians elsewhere in the world would follow suit, then we could start really fixing some problems!

PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR AN ANTI-RACIST RADICAL ECOLOGICAL MOVEMENT

BY MARIA

While I'm excited to be a part of Earth First! at a time when the movement as a whole seems to be making a concerted effort to break with a past littered with xenophobia, racism and other oppressive elements, it's still frustrating to see expressions of white-dominated culture manifest themselves in other ways, unchallenged and invisible to those who benefit from this social arrangement. Our solutions thus far have mostly involved creating more discussion spaces that deal with these issues and arguing over the same points time and time again about the necessity of "people of color (POC)-only spaces," the reality and construction of race in our countries, about the liberatory possibilities of nationalism, indigenous fetishization (which is sadly more prevalent than I had hoped prior to becoming involved in EF!) and tokenization. While these discussions raise great points, they are not enough. They might be illuminating or interesting to some people, but as a consequence of feeling personally affected by some of them, I have talked these issues to death both at ecological gatherings and in my day-to-day life.

This article proposes a few concrete focus-and attitude-shifts which I believe are necessary to expand our movement and make it something that people of color can feel more comfortable calling ourselves a part of—without taking too much time away from learning practical land-based and conservation skills, and organizing local ecological campaigns (which are the primary reasons I attend gatherings, read the *Earth First! Journal* and organize with my local group).

Some New Focuses

Physical accessibility speaks for itself. If people can't get to where the action is, or if they think the difficulty in getting there isn't worth the payoff, they'll not only refrain from being involved but will also feel marginalized and discouraged. The EF! Organizers' Conference (OC) in 2006 was my second time camping. Ever. And I was 20 years old. Twenty-five percent of African-American households, 17 percent of Latino households and 13 percent of Asian-American households do not own a car, compared to just seven percent of White households. It was an enormous honor and privilege to be in that swamp, and I anticipated the following year's OC even more, knowing I'd get a break from the concrete, the gunshots and the constant din of cars on 79th St. in Miami. I would never want the OCs or Round River Rendezvous (RRRs) out of the wild, but very well-coordinated transportation should always be a priority to such events. The 2006 OC in South Florida brought some activists up from South America, which is a stellar example of this effort.

Food security and food justice are important issues for folks who grew up or are living in the inner city, whether we define the struggle to eat well in those terms or not. Based on the 1997 Current Population Survey, 42 percent of Native Americans, 15 percent of Blacks, nine percent of Hispanics and five percent of Asians and Pacific Islanders lived in rural areas. By comparison, 23 percent of Whites lived in rural areas.

The nearest supermarket to the apartment my boyfriend and I shared in Miami treated us to dusty expired cans; nasty meat; smelly fish (hint, fish should only smell like salt-water. That "fishy" smell means it's not fresh), sodium, corn-syrup and MSG-packed "convenience" foods; and rotting vegetables and fruits. The alternatives were overpriced convenience stores and gas stations which

sell more alcohol, cigarettes, candy and starchy bleached foods than fruits or vegetables. In some neighborhoods, these establishments replace supermarkets, or the supermarkets are too far to walk to safely at night. The distribution of food does not exist in a vacuum outside of the raising, growing and processing of foods. Monoculture, grazing, hunting, genetically modified foods, farm subsidies and localization of food production are all important ecological issues. I won't pretend that these don't have vital social justice elements to them, as well, because I don't conceive of biocentrism in a way that artificially separates humans from the rest of the planet. I would love to see EF! expending more energy confronting the way food gets to our plate and the ways that this process destroys ecosystems, animals and the physical and mental strength of our communities. I'm sure folks who grew up constantly getting sick with food poisoning would dig it, as well.

What Isn't Working

White people need to stop parroting oversimplified, anti-racist bullet-points in ways that are not only incorrect but also create confusion and backlash amongst those who might otherwise be interested in learning about anti-racism, or act like Critical Race Theory (an academia-soaked philosophy to begin with) is the only lens through which to examine and understand race relations. These people are decent enough, but they sometimes come across as guilt-ridden, wishy-washy ass-kissers, selling out their beliefs in a well-meaning, but condescending attempt to "forge bonds with the oppressed," or whatever. A statement like "people of color can't be racist" with no context or follow-up makes no sense in the popular imagination, defying all common definitions of the word "racist" and being subsumed into activist-speak, which makes it even easier to marginalize. Think about this before you paste it into your next zine or workshop outline. A much subtler way of seeming "down" that I've noticed lately is the tendency of some white radicals to occasionally adopt the mannerisms, dress, accents or (sub)culture of people of color in order to attract them to their cause or group. This is insulting, disingenuous and doesn't work anyhow.

Over-population and the problems it raises are not a strict numerical equation. Less people overall won't necessarily create less wilderness destruction. It is also a class and race issue. Would the natural world and its people stop being exploited if every person in Africa or on the Mexican border disappeared tomorrow? There might be less labor, but machines are there to pick up the slack. By presenting the problem of humans consuming too many resources and infringing on wild spaces as one that can be solved (or, as some believe, will inevitably and unfortunately be solved) simply by less people being around, white people remain blind to the racist, colonialist and anti-choice historical baggage that comes with mostly white movements presupposing to know what's best for non-white families. Reading up on forced sterilization of women of color in the US and other medical horrors inflicted upon POC by "concerned" white people, welfare reform in the '90s and critiques of the transnational adoption industry is helpful to further understand these connections.

What We Ought to Recognize and Come to Terms With

It's important to recognize that white movements attract white people. Or rather, white people attract white people. Similar dynamics exist with many other racial/eth-

nic groups in this country due to the highly segregated nature of the US. Examining this country's racist history (and present), the social contexts of different cultures and subcultures, the demographics of poverty, and the purposes of particular social institutions will help glean some understanding of this, but that is beyond the scope of this piece.

However, individual EF! groups ought to continue to check themselves on incestuous organizing (what one might call preaching to the choir, reaching out only to the same white punks at every show or using specifically white subcultural imagery and language in promotional materials and discussions). If EF! groups don't do this, they should not act surprised that it's the same people or demographic of people showing up to everything. I'm not suggesting that certain people cover up their Crass tattoos or EF! groups attempt to acquire token individuals of every race and ethnicity in order to appear diverse. Instead, recognize that we have an important message that has the potential for broad appeal. Trying to keep young, white punk kids in familiar territory, physically and mentally, should not hinder sharing our strategies and values. That, or just accept that yours is a small group with a few of your friends who, if you are white, are probably white, too.

When strategizing our outreach efforts, it's also vital to understand that different individuals have different relationships to their landbase. Many of us grew up in concrete jungles, having had little to no experience with wilderness, having never seen a mountain or stream in real life, our animal encounters being primarily with house pets and vermin. Wilderness is a far-away dream or a nightmare filled with malevolent beasts and certain death from starvation. Knowing and caring enough about nature to give up conveniences and put your body and freedom on the line is not an automatic, instinctual process. However, I think that gatherings and other camp-outs can help set this process in motion.

Finally, I'd like to suggest that we, as radical environmentalists of color, recognize the class make-up of our POC spaces. Did almost everyone attend the same private liberal arts colleges as the white people in the other room? Perhaps we grew up in the same variety of suburban neighborhoods or woodsy gated communities, or worked at the same non-profits? Anywhere from 20-25 percent of Hispanics, Blacks and Native Americans/Native Alaskans live in poverty, compared to only eight percent of Whites. Do our groups reflect this statistic at all, or are they hugely skewed in another direction? As someone who grew up poor, I've occasionally personally felt as out of place amongst affluent, academic activists of color as I have among working-class or poor white people.

We must recognize that we have different cultural and racial differences in our experiences and relationships to white supremacy as compared to our white comrades, but we need to ask ourselves similar questions about diversity to those we're asking white people. I recently expressed to a Colombian friend (who, with the exception of one group, is very turned off by Earth First!) how much I respect the work that EF! does and my desire to work within the movement in spite of some of the unsavory attitudes and individuals I and others have encountered. Hopefully, the thoughts in this piece will inspire readers to refine and craft new strategies for dealing with the white supremacy, racism and xenophobia that transcend shallow analysis and tokenization.

Maria is a 24-year-old bisexual anarchist college-dropout stripper from Miami who now organizes with Action for Community in Raleigh and Croatan Earth First!

Climber's Reportback

BY SPINDLE

I awoke in the arms of my lover to the two-tone trill of the variegated thrush. We gazed into each other's eyes and traced our fingertips on delicate skin. He snuggled closer as I cast my eyes into the heights of the canopy above. The towering Douglas Fir giants loomed, their strength thrust into the sky. I thought to myself: I used to dwell there, feeding the fire of life within the confines of meals on a rocket stove, fighting the ferocious mischief of flying squirrels and defending the forest around me with my very life. There I climbed my first ancient tree. There I vowed to push my boundaries of safety and ordinary comfort on a daily basis. Those were good days, simpler days, inspired by spirit...

I shook off the reverie and looked around. Perhaps it was an awkward place to camp, surrounded by ghosts and threatened by the possibility of a dead branch falling, making me a widow before marriage. But I wanted, like I used to, to sleep nestled between Yggdrasil and Grandma. As I regarded the two towering trees with fondness, a cool calm and balance of soul stole upon me. This was my place.

My mood was disturbed only by the bellowing of the human bull moose, the lead Climb Camp organizer: "Awake. Awake, ye lazy bag maggots. We must raise a monopole and lace a dream catcher. Hear ye, I didn't plan this as an adult sleepaway camp. The viking ride of life awaits."

The bull moose bellow resonated throughout and within. And so, I awoke and began another day at the 2009 Earth First! Climbers' Guild camp. And. It. Was. Marvelous.

—From the private (but discovered) journal of an attendee of the EF!CG Climb Camp.

Following the 2009 Round River Rendezvous, the EF! Climbers Guild hosted a direct action climbing camp in a verdant, Casacadian temperate rainforest. The site of the camp was not just any chunk of rainforest but a site of former forest defense glory: the treesit village of Fall Creek. The story of Fall Creek is an inspiring—if dark and twisted—tale of deceit, passion, hate, love, pain and eventual victory. Alas, that story cannot be told in the present article. But just know: that glorious ancient forest initiated hundreds of people into the forest defense movement, and it holds innumerable memories for those who spent time out there.

The humans are now gone from Fall Creek—a big change for that place—but the forest itself has changed very little. Its magic continues to inspire. In this way, the old Fall Creek village was a perfect site for the Climbers' Guild training. The Climbers' Guild organizers thought a climb camp at Fall Creek would be a great way to honor the majesty of this ancient forest and celebrate the work of past generations of forest defenders who kept it standing. Climbing skills were central in the effort to save Fall Creek, as they are in many forest defense campaigns, and many climbers learned about climbing and rigging there. It was the perfect setting to pass on a wealth of climbing and rigging knowledge. But instead of learning to build a treesit platform or blockade with the ever-present fear of imminent logging or the sneaking feeling that someone in a uniform may be approaching, the climbers at Climb Camp learned skills in a safe, supportive environment of fellow radical, tree-minded peers.

Not only did we climb hard all day and into the night, but we also cooked dinner together and told stories around a lovely fire, whose light danced in the towering trees above us. The forest saw a substantial rainstorm mid-week, and once the sun returned to the sky, an impromptu vitamin-D workshop materialized. Participants shed some clothes and chased the dappled sunlight for some natural anti-depressant. (Yes, forest defense is hard work, but we do have to strive for balance, right?) Of course, the group endured the usual clashing of personalities here and there, but the general mood at Climb Camp was a solid mix of cheerful work, play and camaraderie.

Almost half of the Climb Camp participants were experienced veterans, eager to pass on all the climbing and rigging tricks up their sleeves. The crusty veterans met equally enthusiastic learners. The sharing happened in a non-hierarchical and slightly disorganized manner, but each person who wanted to share got to and most climbing

requests got filled. In no order of importance, here is a list of what climbers learned how to do: set a climb line; advance in an old-growth tree (climb higher than the anchored line); set a walkway between two trees and walk across; skywalk (move from tree-to-tree without coming down to the ground or having assistance from the ground); girth (slowly inch up a tree with two girth ropes around the tree); tie knots; use specialized climbing equipment; build and rig a monopod, bipod, tripod, sky-pod, dreamcatcher, and treesit platform; rig a single-rope belay system for safe climb trainings; and rig a complex structure with a connected monopod and sky-pod.

If the above list is too technical, confusing or just plain boring, close your eyes and imagine this: a circle of giant trees among a multi-layered forest canopy, beautiful and bright sunlight reaching through the branches, and a whirl of human flutterings, both on the ground and in the trees. Now imagine those humans throwing projectiles over branches, hauling ropes into the canopy, building a spider web of support lines to criss cross the center of the circle of trees and erecting crude log structures in that tangle of support lines. Imagine climbers weaving a net of rope to make a hammock between a triangle-shaped log frame, then hanging that frame from the spider web of support lines, and dangling themselves from those support lines, eventually to lounge in the net. Imagine industrious and talented climbers hauling a sturdy treesit platform up a tree, setting it in place and hauling it back down again—over and over, just for practice. Imagine a group of six monkey-like humans eating lunch together 50 feet up in a tree, taking a break from the sky-walking workshop. Imagine climbing 200 feet to the top of an ancient Douglas fir, watching the sunset, removing old ropes from the tree and remembering what magic it was the last time you were lucky enough to experience the same awe-inspiring view. This was Climb Camp.

Finally, to act responsibly toward a forest that enriched the lives of so many, climbers also cleared out old camps around the woods and took down old ropes in trees left over from the forest campaign. There's still more cleanup to be done! Take some time out of your life to go out to Fall Creek (or any other past forest defense site). You won't be sorry. The strength of our movement comes from constant growth and change, but also from inspiration from past experiences. Stay connected to those places that first inspired you, so that we may never forget the why we defend the Earth first!

The Earth First! Climbers' Guild plans to organize more climb trainings in the future. To get involved, check out the Climbers' Guild website at WWW.EFCLIMBERS.NET or email: efclimbers@gmail.com.

Imagine climbing 200 feet to the top of an ancient Douglas fir, watching the sunset, removing old ropes from the tree and remembering what magic it was...



Photo's courtesy of Spindle

The sunset viewed from the canopy of the forest.



Forest defenders from the all-womyn's action at Straw Devil in 2003.

photo by Cascadia Forest Defenders

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Moving Beyond a History of Corsets and Clearcuts: Womyn's Occupation at Straw Devil Timber Sale

BY THE ECOFEMINIST FRONT

Every morning when we wake up, the day is ours to create a world where all who are socialized as womyn will no longer bear the collective weight of a history of unheard cries, a history of terror, a history of corsets and clearcuts, white picket fences and white corporate lies.

July 2, 2003 marked the beginning of an all-womyn's action, occupation and treesit in defense of ancient forest sold off to private industry. Our free state was erected to protect unit six of the Straw

Devil Timber Sale in the Willamette National Forest near Eugene, Oregon. We are working with fellow treesitters who have been occupying unit seven since March 24.

Starfire Lumber and Basco Logging, in conjunction with the US Forest Service, are attempting to demolish all of this endangered ecosystem. Since logging started on July 24, eight acres have been cut.

On July 31, the Oregon Natural Resources Council won a temporary injunction to stop the logging until court proceedings begin in September. Citing "irreparable harm," a district judge suspended logging on three old-growth timber sales in the Willamette National Forest. A total of 80 acres of trees, hundreds of years old, had already been felled in the Straw Devil, Pryor and East Devil Timber Sales when the ruling was made. If allowed to continue, the three timber sales will log more than 300 acres. We are digging in our heels until the court decides to permanently stop the logging.

In addition to defending the last five percent of native forest that still stands in Oregon, the womyn's action is dedicated to building a community that is intolerant of all forms of oppression. We are working to create a space of mutual learning and growth—a space where we can conquer not only the demons of capitalism, patriarchy and indifference that surround us but also the demons of oppression, self-loathing and fear that reside within us.

The womyn's free state is a safe space where womyn can come and gain skills and perspective. A safe place to clear our heads after a lifetime of being taught to not trust ourselves. It is our belief that the oppression of womyn and the destruction of the Earth come from the same unsustainable need to dominate and control. The same people who wish to take away our autonomy also wish to take away the last of the wild beauty on Earth.

As womyn, we cannot achieve liberation while the Earth is still in chains. We need oxygen, clean water and the forest to survive. We need to be able to walk around alone at night; we need our homes to be free of violence; we need a life where rape, assault and oppressive attitudes are not the norm. Womyn's struggle and the Earth's struggle are from the same root.

2009 ROUND RIVER RENDEZVOUS REPORTBACK

BY MICROBE

Every civilization, industrial capitalism included, dies from self-inflicted wounds. Trace the extension of empire by the degradation of humans, animals and earth. The wasteland spreads. So does resistance. The face of the resistance movement Earth First! was in radiant view for more than six days in southern Cascadia at the Summer 2009 Round River Rendezvous (RRR). More than 300 people—elders and youth, newcomers and experienced—came from across the U.S. and Canada and from other nations to attend. There were climbing camps each day at both the open and trans & wyemen camps, at least 80 different workshops, large-scale discussions concerning the Green Scare and dealing with snitches, and innumerable serendipitous encounters between new and old friends. The RRR was a tremendous success.

A gigantic shout out goes to the organizers from Cascadia Earth First! An event of this magnitude does not happen without extraordinary efforts from many people, especially given recent security issues raised. From basic, crucial matters like site selection and maps to details like shitters (Brandon Darby was my favorite shitter name), the RRR came off with élan. Big ups to the Earth First! Roadshow for affecting so many people's decision to come out to southern Oregon. Major props to all those who facilitated workshops. Of the dozen workshops in which I participated—from radical mycology and food preservation to tripods to indigenous solidarity to the Green Scare—not one was a dud. Special thanks go to Lauren Regan, and everyone, for their continuing and unwavering commitment to defending political prisoners and for being in Cascadia to discuss the insidious nature of state repression. Big hugs, laughs and smiles to everybody who organized and provided "entertainment," whether at the Macho-B rowdy fire; the rally; or the lunchtime jokes, EF! pick-up lines and embarrassing stories. Congrats to those who slept in the canopy pod (or didn't). And finally, perhaps most of all, 1,000 percent, fuckin' awesome kudos to Montana Seeds of Peace. Y'all worked some real magic serving three delicious and healthy meals, every day, day-in and day-out, to some ravenous rabble.

Given the history of this movement, tensions within it, and the disparate ideas and principles giving rise to those tensions, no RRR will be without some conflict. The demographics of EF! unfortunately remain predominately white, majority male. From my perspective, some of the worst aspects of that demographic—blatant sexism, gender stereotyping, racism and class privilege—have at least been confronted. But this has been and will be an ongoing issue. Two instances demonstrate this: at the rally when a persyn of color objected to racist language one night, he was brushed off. It was raised again at the next day's morning circle, but that should not have been necessary. By showing some respect, it could have been handled that night.

Perhaps more serious is a general lack of recognition and respect for the indigenous people who lived for millennia in these lands "we" are defending. Minneapolis folks held some intense discussions on the meanings of what it means to be an ally, colonization and decolonization, and cultural appropriation. These should be broadened out. In order to grasp the internalized aspects of global

capitalism, we need to confront the privileges that we, as descendants of the colonizers, experience as we drive and hike into "our" national forests and national parks. While organizers did determine that the area in which we camped included a sacred spring and an area in which indigenous people picked huckleberries, this information came secondhand not directly from indigenous people familiar with the area. Every effort should be made in future gatherings to communicate directly with traditional elders who have an oral tradition about living with this land before Europeans.

Given the nature and tenor of formal and informal discussions at the RRR, it is clear to me that biocentrism and eco-defense remain the cornerstones of EF!. But the dynamism and complexity of this movement is reflected in the increasing number of ways in which these core concerns are linked to anti-colonialism, infrastructure and the wider net of oppression—race, gender and class—that undergird global capitalism. Old, faulty lines between urban and wild, hippy and anarchist, macho and feminist, white and persyns of color need to continue to be redrawn. Earth First! must grow in this direction so that aboveground fruits and underground rhizomes of resistance ultimately help to disintegrate the toxic shock of empire.

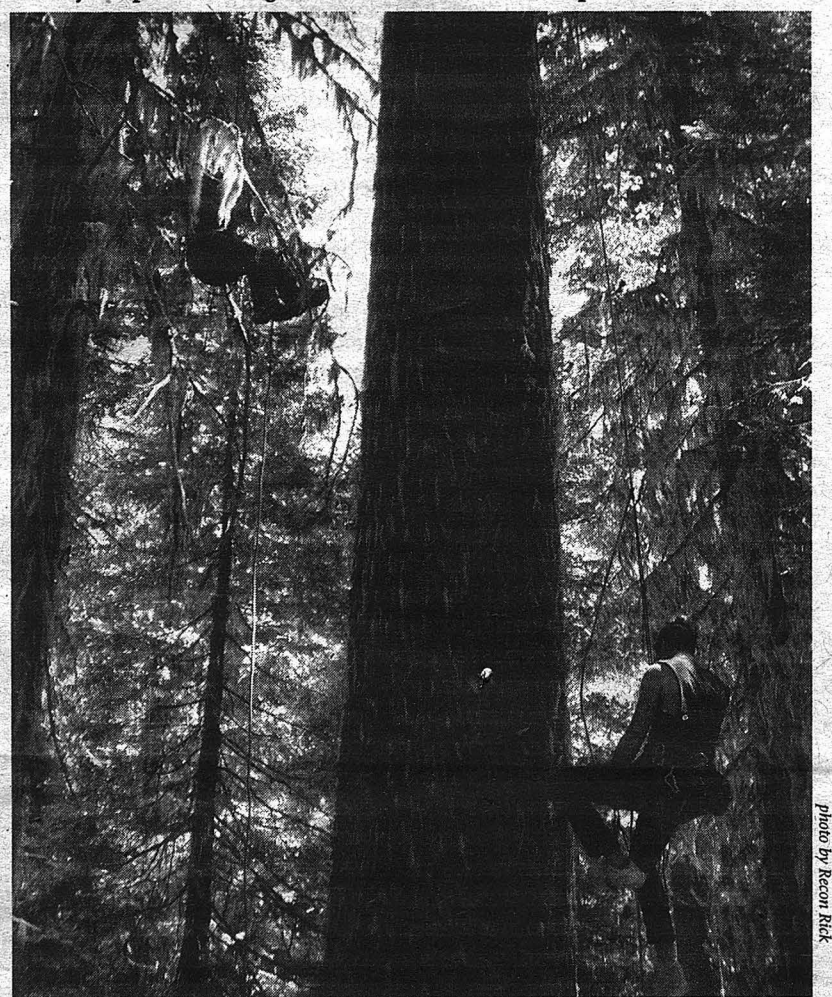


photo by Recon Rick

There's no better time or place to learn climbing than in Cascadia at an RRR.



photo courtesy of camp attendees

A camp attendee learns how to traverse on lines well above the ground.

A REPORTBACK FROM THE 2009 CASCADIA TRANS' & WOMYNS' ACTION CAMP

By STEPH BOSTON

This year, Cascadia was home to the now annual Trans & Womyns' Action Camp (TWAC). Unfortunately, Cascadia—the bioregion of the Cascade Mountains—hasn't hosted a camp of this sort in a few years. This camp alone brought out so many new faces and introduced them to the radical environmental movement that we decided it must continue out here, in coordination with other Trans & Womyns' spaces that correlate with future EF! Round River Rendezvous (RRR).

The schedule was widely diverse, with forest defense techniques, tactics of non-violent direct action, strategic campaigning, supporting mental health, wellness and burnout, gender identity, sex work, DIY reproductive health (where many womyn saw a cervix for the first time!), how to call out oppressive behavior in a constructive way and more. We focused on anti-oppression (AO) by having three unique AO workshops scheduled, in addition to an impromptu critical discussion on privilege and oppression in the larger EF! movement (which eventually turned into a discussion about environmental racism and environmental justice). Prior to that there was an in-depth discussion on how to incorporate the safer space of TWAC—trans-inclusiveness, solidarity and anti-oppression—at the upcoming RRR, which eventually turned into trying to rally folks to attend the RRR.

Beyond having some really amazing and critical workshops, we also had lots of fun ones! Some of the favorites were: fermentation (where we got to try vegan kefir, kimchi, and learning about fermenting veggies in different ways), making our own personal self-help zines; trapeze trainings; circus arts; at least three impromptu plant and herb walks; and basic tree climb trainings. There was also a multi-day workshop on setting up a traverse across the nearby creek, where numerous folks scaled across. We spent our free time hiking up a 2.5 mile trail in newly protected old growth that led us to a breath-taking mountain lake, where we swam on logs while singing songs and getting cuddly with the water newts.

There were performance nights that were filled with beat-boxing feminist rhymes, impromptu recorder duos, songs about polar bears, fire-dancing and telling our radical stories of how we got into the movement. There were also stories shared about a recently lost loved one who would have most likely been there if she were still with us, and a card sent around for another loved friend who couldn't make it due to federal Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA) charges.

The location ended up being separate from the Earth First! Rendezvous, which was inconvenient for some travelers wanting to attend both, but very beneficial in that it was easily accessible to most attendees because it was close to Portland and was in the Mt. Hood National Forest. And this site location was also strategic in that it was just over five miles away from the proposed route of the Palomar liquefied natural gas (LNG) pipeline; we wanted camp attendees to get familiar with one of the biggest on-going threats to Oregon forests and watersheds. This pipeline would basically

be a highway sized clear-cut cutting through hundreds of miles of Oregon land, including a dead timber sale called "Solo" that was previously stopped by forest defense activists, lots of old growth in Mt. Hood National Forest, and many farms and homes. We used this opportunity to take a field trip out to the pipeline site.

This camp encompassed what the radical environmental movement, as a whole, is dedicated to—liberating this planet from all oppression in ways that also empower ourselves. There was mention many times that this camp was a comfortable space, allowing people to open up and be themselves, and people provided space for others to participate in the many learning activities. There were little—if any—invisible power structures or hierarchies here. It was said: "It's going to be really hard to go back to a space where I have to constantly be defensive and on-guard to actions of self-entitlement to simple things like building fires and setting up tripods. I forgot what spaces like these felt like." Unlike other womyns' and trans' spaces that have been created in this area in the past, gender identity was honored and valued instead of silenced.

One critique about the camp was that we weren't as mindful of designating a sober space as we should have been and didn't check in consistently enough about creating this type of space. Another critique was that as beautiful as the site was, it was still a publicly accessible space where we had to battle dog-sled trainers and drunken people speeding through in the middle of the night. Critiques are always considered vital in building movements, and we will work to create better, more inclusive spaces next year.

Roughly 100 participants came through the camp, with the group at the beginning being largely a different group than that at the end. For folks who were there the whole time, it enabled us to spend a good few days with mostly everyone who attended.

In our opinion, TWAC is a constant step in the right direction for the Earth First! movement—which has been criticized for its lack of gender and feminist politics—and for our overall movement building strategy. TWAC was born out of Challenging Oppression Within (COW), a working group within Earth First!. As with all gatherings, improvements to TWAC could have (and will be) made, but overall, this shit was off the hook!

Cheers to the Indiana TWAC of two years ago, which helped inspire organizers of this year's TWAC, cheers to all of our male-identified supporters and allies, and cheers to all other spaces that keep radical environmentalism, social justice, movement building and wellness at the forefront.

To send feedback or critiques (preferably if you attended), or to get involved with next year's organizing committee, contact: twac@riseup.net

Steph Boston is a self-described radical-eco-feminist-queer who works on issues of environmental and social justice simultaneously, and is into place-based organizing. They spend their free time doing routines on their trapeze, work as a fire-dancing instructor, and are currently in the process of writing a Portland-based activist manual. They can be reached at: stephanie@RisingTideNorthAmerica.org.

elliott free state

continued from page 1

the Roadshow van for its last ride, and four were locked to cement barrels blocking the gate. Two more were locked to each other around the base of the bipod, and one occupied a tripod locked to one bipod leg. It took the goons all day, from their arrival until dark, to finally cut everyone out. Lockdowners had everything pulled out from under them, and were repeatedly doused with cold water and showered with hot sparks.

The police taunted the sitters with offers of food and safety on the ground, and made threats and hung on to anchored lines when the sitters refused. This dangerous behavior and general incompetence was rife among the 60 state troopers, who repeatedly weighted lines and jeered as the occupants swung back and forth. They wore surgical gloves while doing so, fully conscious that murder could be on their hands.

That night, five goons camped out in front of the now-open gate, swilling beer, building fires (against state laws) and blasting music from their trucks. The remaining canopy ninjas sang and danced until their extraction with a cherry-picker the next morning. They watched as the bipod crashed down and the banners fell, eventually arriving at Roseburg County jail later that afternoon.

Twenty-seven protesters were arrested in the Elliott, all now facing charges of disorderly conduct, criminal trespassing and interfering with agricultural operations. All have since been released. The Civil Liberties Defense Center (CLDC), a self-proclaimed "nonprofit organization focused on defending and upholding civil liberties through education, outreach, litigation, legal support and assistance," is representing all of the arrestees collectively in court. Collective representation is important so that the justice system does not single out individuals for stiffer charges. It also provides for group solidarity and deprives the state of the snitches that it so desperately seeks (see Green Scare). Many thanks go the CLDC for their work on behalf of Elliott folks and other forest defenders through the years.

The Elliott Free State has fallen, as have almost all of the trees in the Umcoos #2 timber sale. Clearcutting continues in the Elliott, and old-growth is threatened across Cascadia by logging on Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service land. These are the death throes of industrial capitalism wreaking havoc on the healthy oases of a fractured landscape. Yet trees are still growing despite the knowledge that very few humans are empathetic and committed enough to really act on behalf of the Earth. And a new seed is sprouting, a seed planted beneath the moist multi-layered canopy of the Elliott: a new biocentric anti-authoritarian spectacular movement promising to be on the scene every time native Cascadian forests are under attack, and promising never to compromise, never to back down in defense of the ecosystems that sustain us.

The Elliott Free State was a catalyst; it was a large action on behalf of future old-growth, a tangible commitment to the intrinsic value of wild places. Go explore the Elliott this Summer, Fall or Winter. It is full of logging equipment, flags, timber sale signs and newly laid roads that wildlife would like to see gone. Go experience the power of this awesome forest, and make a little mischief while you're at it.

Top: An activist surveys some of the threatened Elliott State Forest.
Middle: Some people locked to cement-filled barrels while many others made haste to erect the bipod.
Bottom: Inside the overturned van, one person lies with an arm locked to a sleeping dragon buried in the road.



photo by Cascadia Summer

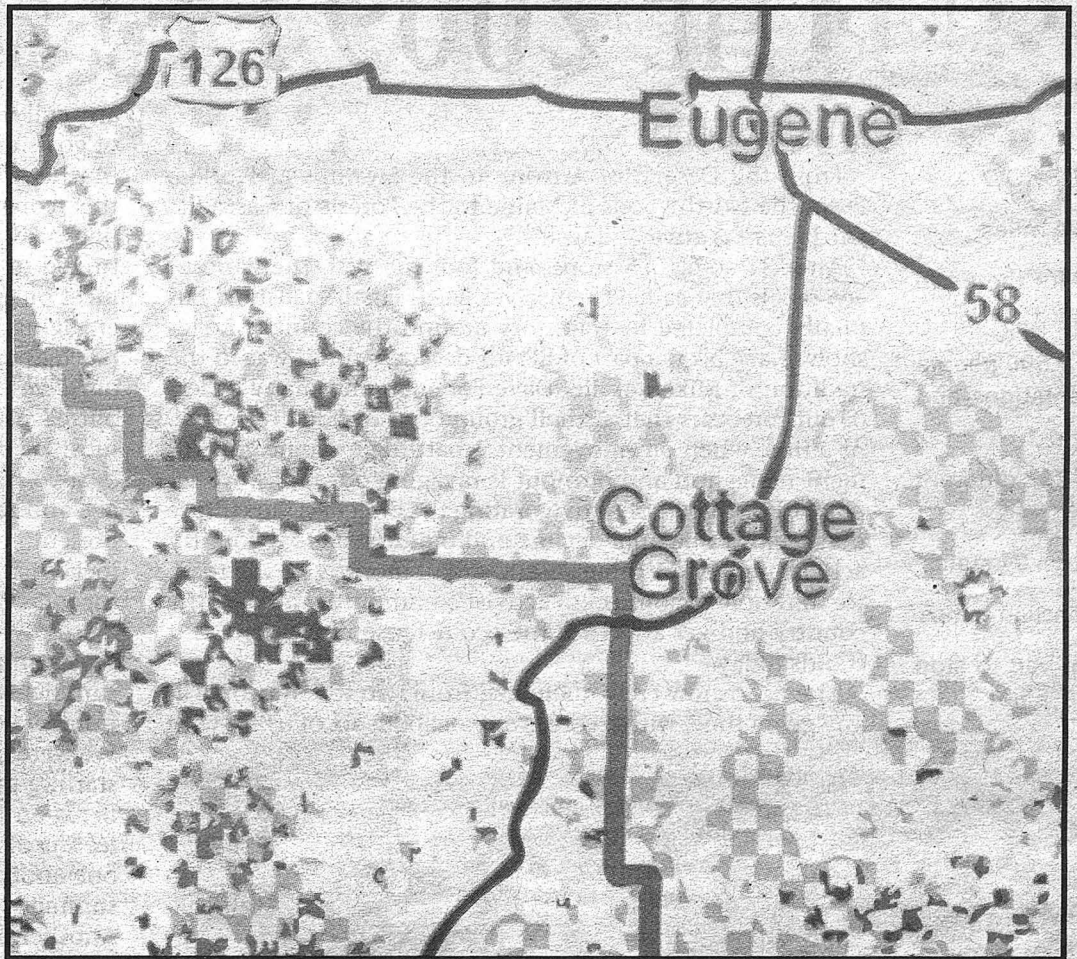


photo by Cascadia Summer



photo by Maggie Kilroy

THE WOPR IS DEAD!



NEVER TRUST ANYONE WHO THINKS THAT MAPS OF FORESTS SHOULD LOOK LIKE CHECKERBOARDS

BY LEDA

For the past three years, forest defenders of every stripe—lawyers, scientists, protestors and campaigners—have been fighting against what was perhaps the single most nightmarish idea to threaten Oregon forests since the Reagan era. It was called the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR), and it was an attempt to rezone 2.6 million acres Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land for logging and start clearcutting 500 million board feet of timber per year.

And now that specter no longer haunts us. The government has withdrawn the WOPR, rather than defend it in court. There are so many people to thank for this. First of all, there was the lawsuit filed by Earthjustice representing Oregon Wild, Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, The Wilderness Society, Cascadia Wildlands Project, Center for Biological Diversity, EPIC, Umpqua Watersheds,

American Lands Alliance, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, Institute for Fisheries Resources, Greenpeace, Coast Range Association and the Sierra Club. In the end, the lawsuit never even went before a judge, perhaps because they knew that the WOPR was indefensible.

The public pressure against the WOPR was astounding. There were over 30,000 comments on the project, and over 90 percent of them were against it. The word got out by public pressure campaigns from many groups, through protests and newsletters, by word-of-mouth and by internet campaigns.

The scientific community was in near-consensus regarding the fact that the WOPR ran right into the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by removing crucial habitat for the Spotted Owl. Unlike most other laws, in which the government can just hire some scientists to give some opinions that they want to hear, the ESA requires

the "best available science" and is not so easily skirted.

But what matters, in the end, is that we've won.

Of course, they're still logging at a terrible rate, and a few years ago they took away one of our most important tools: Survey and Manage. The government doesn't seem to think it's important to make sure there aren't any threatened species in a timber sale before they clear-cut it. There's currently a lawsuit to bring that back, and folks are surveying anyway, so that when we win, we can use that information to save more forests.

Like most victories, the victory over the WOPR isn't the end. It would be cliché to say it's just the beginning, but no: it's just part of what might never end—the fight to protect the wild from the claws of government and capital.

Leda is a direct-action forest defender who can't wait to be out of a job so they can spend more time playing and less time fighting.



Setting up an anti-WOPR treesit in Salem, the capital of Oregon.



A sit in an area that the WOPR would have seen cut.

THE 2009 EF! ROADSHOW!

THE ROADSHOW

- Traveled **13,000** miles
- Raised **\$4,000** for the *Earth First! Journal*
- Reached over **2,500** people through presentations and workshops
- Stopped in **75** different towns
- Traveled through **31** states
- Hosted **10** mini-action camps
- Tipped **1** giant van to stop logging in the Elliot State Forest

BY THE ROADSHOW CREW

From the Deserts of Arizona to the Swamps of Florida; From the Northwoods of Maine to the Forests of Cascadia: Earth First! is alive and well.

After 31 states, 75 stops, and four months, the band of eco-rebels that called themselves Earth First! Roadshow has finally completed its trajectory around the country. Roadshows have been a part of EF! for decades, and it was in the tradition of Mike Roselle, Dave Foreman and many others of our forebears that a small group of us decided to revive. At a time when our movement is battling extreme government repression and burnout is ravaging our ranks, we set out with the goals of reinvigorating the direct action culture that seems to be on a decline and building a cross-country activist network. With four-and-a-half months on the road, we were able to connect to activist communities all over the country and get a feel for the eco-defense movement as it stands today.

The Roadshow crew fluctuated from two to ten people at any given time, with a core group of about six of us. As with

any collective, we each went into this tour with our own set of goals and we each came out with a different assessment of what we accomplished in our time on the road. A tour of this scope was time consuming, energy intensive and gasoline heavy. Yet every day as the tour progressed, we continued to sculpt our presentation and workshops to better meet our goals. By the end, our presentation felt solid and engaging, but throughout the entire tour we struggled to reach as broad an audience as we desired. Being overworked ourselves, we relied solely on our local coordinators to do outreach. And although there were certainly exceptions, most of our presentations and workshops were attended by a young, punk anarchist audience, lacking a diversity of age and race. We also received feedback that although our presentation was fun and inspiring, the heavy emphasis on lockdown tactics and the Green Scare made it intimidating for folks who may be newer to direct action.

Still, we went into this tour aiming to pump up new activists and to re-inspire old ones; and when we reached the summer rendezvous it was clear that we had inspired a huge number of people to come, many of whom were new to EF! We were hoping to be able to take this movement, which is starting to feel rather internet-based, and bring it back to a focus on face-to-face connections. We want to rebuild the feeling of a widespread EF! family where people can support one another across campaigns. The high attendance at the summer rendezvous felt like a good step in that direction. Another of our goals was to go beyond inspiring people to action and provide local campaigns with necessary skills. Almost a third of our stops included at least one workshop, and at many locations we hosted a whole day or two of trainings. We led dozens of skill-shares on tripods and lockdowns, facilitation, campaign strategy and more.

All over the country we saw new activists full of energy and motivation, many simply lacking in experience and skills. We stopped in a lot of towns where either long-standing campaigns were looking to embrace a more direct-action-based approach or new direct action campaigns were just getting off the ground. As inspiring as this was, across the board we saw movements that lack a broad base of participation or community involvement, the majority of campaigns remaining within an anarchist subculture devoid of networking with other environmental groups. We saw many groups who are comprised either of older folks or younger folks and talked to a lot of people who aren't prioritizing coalition building among movements with common goals.

Despite the seemingly homogenous nature of this movement, the Roadshow got to see an incredible number of inspiring campaigns, including the ongoing work against Plum Creek developers in both Maine and Florida, the battle against the coal industry in southern Appalachia, the fight against liquid natural gas pipelines in both the Northwest and the Northeast, and the tree-sitting in the old growth forests of California and Oregon. EF! campaigns are alive and well in many places, and at the rendezvous we heard of even more campaigns on the rise.

Although we all came out of the tour wishing that we could have done things differently, criticizing ourselves for some things, our successes make it hard to be too rough on ourselves. Each audience at our presentations wrote a collective letter for a political prisoner, totaling more than 60 letters to our incarcerated friends and building up support for our comrades. And despite traveling in a giant, gas-guzzling van, we managed to raise more money than we spent in fuel, donating more than \$4,000 to the *Earth First! Journal*. We grew tight bonds as a Roadshow crew and helped, we hope, to re-ignite the direct action network in this country. We came into this tour wanting to excite the activists we met, to pump-up people suffering from disenchantment and burnout, and to make EF! a place people want to be. If this Summer's Rendezvous was any indication, I'd say that we are well on our way. Enough is enough, no more compromise, EF!

Although we sought to create a real network away from the computer wires and glowing screens, much of our presentation has been preserved via internet. People can access live versions of the puppet show and slide show, or use our tools, including the Green Scare timeline, to put on their own presentations. Over a hundred awesome action photos from EF!'s history are up there, and over a dozen of active campaign descriptions and contacts across the country for folks to plug into. Please make use of 'em. Another resource we have created, which will not be online, is a spreadsheet database of our tour stops and organizing contacts for others looking to plan Roadshows that would complement or fill the gaps in our trip. Consider the torch passed.



The Roadshow holds up a map of the US showing Earth First! campaigns around the country.



A presentation of Danny Don't, a puppet show that teaches security culture.



Here, in an abandoned building, the Roadshow catches up on their office work.

ERIC MCDAVID TOUR

Reportback

BY JENNY

Real communication can only happen when we're face-to-face with people. When we can look them in the eyes as they nod their heads in understanding, or answer their questions when they raise their brows in confusion, when we can share our stories and our energy and our love. And so for a month we carried Eric's story, which is our story too, to people on the West Coast. In comparison to last summer's tour—which carried us all the way across the country—the limited geographical focus somehow lulled us into believing that this would be easy. But how could eight people (including a 3-year-old) and a dog, packed like sardines onto a short bus, ever be easy? We certainly had our work cut out for us.

The tour itself was fairly simple—we would travel up and down the coast, to whoever would have us, talk about Eric and his case. The presentation consisted of a fairly lengthy, in-depth look at the creation of Eric's case (by the government and their undercover informant, "Anna"), his time in Sacramento County Main Jail, his trial and his sentencing. The second half of the presentation was more focused on infiltration and government informants, as well as some information on the use of entrapment and

other—then we've already begun to lose. Only in standing up do we find our true selves, our courage and strength and love for each other, and our integrity.

In comparison to the tour last summer, this trip was far less lucrative (in strictly monetary terms). In fact, we were not even able to cover costs this time around (last time we came back with over \$1000 for Eric's support fund), and all of us are now facing significant financial strain. Perhaps this should not have been as surprising as it was, given the somewhat meager response to our announcements about the tour. Last summer we were inundated with requests from places all across the country (and even some internationally)—so many, in fact, that we had to start turning people down. Our experience this summer was drastically different—we had to actively seek out hosts in places we had been sure would contact us without any prodding. To be fair, we realize that currently a lot of folks are actively engaged in struggles of their own. With the recent repression stemming from the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA), to the forest defense campaigns all along the coast and more—people are probably (hopefully...) pouring resources and energy into other projects right now. Yet we also want to make sure that people remember the folks who are

connections with these communities and movements. We need to learn from each other, and we need to remember that our struggles are not separate, but part of a broader struggle for liberation.

Overall, the tour was a rewarding endeavor. We saw a lot of discussions focused on the Green Scare, the AETA, and prisoner support issues. These conversations are vital, and we were glad to be a part of them. But we must all remember that, in the end, our talk means nothing if we don't follow it with action. Making prisoner support a more integral part of our movements is an incredibly important part of this. Many of us have been wounded and scarred these last few years—we've had our friends and loved ones ripped away from us and thrown in prison. We've had people we once knew and trusted betray us—betray themselves. But we are not defeated. And neither are our loved ones who are serving time. It is absolutely necessary that we do everything in our power to make sure that folks are not forgotten—that they are cared for and supported in their continuing struggles. One of prison's main functions is to separate and isolate those on the inside from those on the outside. To make them feel as if they are completely disconnected from those they love, and from the communities they are

When we cower in fear—of the state or of each other—we've already lost.
Only in standing up do we find our true selves.

conspiracy law (as applied in Eric's case specifically). We also spent a bit of time talking about some of the other Green Scare cases and government repression in general. After the presentation, which admittedly could leave one feeling a bit heavy, we brought in the folks that would lift our spirits and leave us feeling rejuvenated and energized. Two bands—Nora & Gnoll and Spokepants of the Flowering Skillet—came along to inject some fiery musical catharsis into each one of our stops. And much to our delight, we were often joined by local musicians as well.

This tour sprang from our desire to share Eric's story with people, to communicate what it has been like for him and his loved ones and to give people a more complete understanding of his struggle. This seemed important for a number of different reasons. Obviously, we wanted to grow support for Eric—but we also wanted to share some of the information we have learned during the last three-and-a-half years. We wanted to educate people about government repression and informants. We were anxious to talk about the Green Scare and the wider implications of Eric's case. Our wish was for the tour to serve as a beginning for a much broader conversation—a conversation that we all must have with ourselves and in each and every one of our communities. We have seen the kinds of things the government is capable of—it seems they will stop at nothing to destroy our connections with each other and with our world. In sharing our stories and having these conversations we can better prepare ourselves for the future, and we can strengthen the connections we have now so as to better support each other.

Our goal was not to instill fear—which would be easy to do—but to hand people some tools so they could do more effective work in their own communities. When we cower in fear—of the state or of each

still struggling from behind bars. Eric was arrested over three-and-a-half years ago and has been in a cage ever since. The outpouring of support he has received since then has been amazing—but there has certainly been a marked decline in tangible support efforts. We hope this is not an indication folks' ability to be in it for the long-haul.

In evaluating past experiences, it always seems pertinent to ask the question—how could we do this better the next time around? Please tell us! (tour@supporteric.org)

In fact, that is probably the first thing we would fix—providing for some sort of direct feedback mechanism. If you saw the presentation and have ideas on what we could improve, what you would like to see more of or less of, or just general thoughts and impressions, please share them with us. Although logistics were already incredibly complicated (there were eight of us), it would have been wonderful if we had been able to spend a bit more time in each place. We could have used that time to learn about other campaigns and projects, and to brainstorm with folks about how to build stronger support networks.

We also wish we had been able to devote more time to reminding people of the historical context of this kind of repression. We tried to address this in the presentation, but with limited time it was not given its due. This is not anything new—it has been happening for a long time and is part of a very clear, calculated agenda. It has been the purpose of the FBI, since its inception, to crush dissent and resistance in all its forms. The FBI is only the logical extension of the state, which seeks to protect its interests at all costs. Folks involved in the Black Panther Party, AIM, Puerto Rican Resistance, etc. have far too much experience dealing with these kinds of government tactics. We need to work on building our

still a part of. With this in mind, writing a letter could be viewed as a strike against the state—it is in direct opposition to their goals of deprivation and seclusion. But we also need to be careful with this kind of thinking, because clearly writing letters is not enough. We need to make sure people are supported before, during and after their release—physically, emotionally, and yes, financially. There is a lot of work to be done, and we sincerely hope that some of the energy we experienced this summer gets transformed into concrete support efforts for Eric and other political prisoners.

Our most heartfelt thanks to everyone who hosted us, fed us, played music with us, shared stories and laughter, read tarot for us, howled with us, who watched sunsets and gathered around campfires and waited for the rain that almost never came (and then gazed at the rainbow when it finally did...). We send each and every one of you our love (this includes everyone of you from the tour last summer as well...). But most of all we want to thank Eric—for his courage and strength and love. For reminding us what it really means to be free...

We are still waiting for the opening brief for Eric's appeal to be filed. Once the brief is filed, we will post it on his website for folks to read. He asked that we send his "thanx & Love 4 the letters of support" and to let everyone know that he is "still creating spaces & energy N the asshole of the b.o.p. toward writing, wishing all the best..." He recently recalculated his points—which help determine the security level of the facility he is in—and discovered that he qualifies for a low-security facility. He put in for a transfer and is waiting to hear back from the Bureau of Prisons. If you would like to learn more about Eric's case or how you can help, please visit WWW.SUPPORTERIC.ORG.

Armed with Visions

Clear as cut glass
& just as dangerous

The Golden Eyes Of The Bighorn Sheep

for Hal Herring

Here, on Walling Reef, south of Montana's Glacier Park, the Wilderness is unpredictable. It's hard hiking, it takes it out of you, and once fierce wind knocked me off my feet.

Wind,
snow,
grizzlies.

This place is so dramatic!

It is a thousand yard flat slice of prairie perched on the edge of a cliff that plummets down into the expansive Great Plains.

To the West a huge cliff rises from a small cold lake.
Breaking camp we go down and North.

A sleet storm hits.

It tears my clothes and burns my face,
as I walk directly into it.

Popping over a rise eight Bighorn Sheep arise.

It takes me a few seconds to make sure that they are not phantoms
conjured up by the storm, yet
they are real.

They are heading South, no doubt into a thicket of pine near where we camped.
Twelve feet away,
sleet on their rumps, massive curled horns,
and golden eyes,
bigger than silver dollars.
As if on signal, all eight rapidly leap away.

07/10/02

-Greg Shin Do Bechle

Predatory Lending

The first signs for me
were a coyote sweeping by every afternoon
in broad daylight
methodically picking off "my" chickens—
all 30 of them—
in one summer
then a Great Horned Owl the next year—
just about every morning
another beheaded chicken from the new flock—
even inside the coop—
until they were all gone
Now with the imminent fall of this society
the wolves are coming down from the mountains
into the outskirts of Canyon City
serving notice
publicly taking down a deer here
for a whole human family to watch
enticing away a guard dog over there....
Then there's the cougars suddenly appearing—
a woman working in her garden
noticing cougar tracks everywhere
kept feeling a soft thick rope
brush against her forehead
when she passed beneath a tree
until she realized
she hadn't tied a rope up there—
a sudden chill—
she went inside the tool shed
closed the door and waited
a long time
like they've been waiting for this historical moment
They're foreclosing on our mortgages now
because we've over-extended our debt
to them
you see,
we never really were the rightful owners
only expropriating takers
with the financial collapse
they've decided
it's time for a species regime change.

10/30/08

-Karen Coulter

My Niece Explains Trees

1.
When she could barely talk
I took her to wander among redwoods
post-rain, needles dripping onto our hats.

She put her ear against the damp
furrowed bark of a lightning-struck tree
and whispered to it

"I can hear you."

2.
She crawled around the floor
in her tiny Berkeley house
playing some elaborate game.

She tried to explain the rules to me
and then paused, pointing
to the whorling grain of the hardwood floor.

"Look," she shouts, "there are pictures inside of
trees!"

3.
My niece is the greatest artist I know.
She sent me a picture of her and I
next to the redwoods we had visited yet again.
The caption read: *Chris, the trees are for you.*

Next time I talk to her I'll have to remind her:
No, the trees are for all of us.

4.
"My house is made of trees,"
she proclaims as we wait in the deli line
for the sandwich and juice we will share.

5.
I was splitting wood on a frigid fall day
and she swung a tiny hatchet
putting deep dents in sticks.

Suddenly she stopped and looked at me,
"It's sad trees die to keep us warm."
Then she leaned down to her nearly split stick
and whispered, "I love you."

-Chris Arigo

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

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Bare Bones

Not In My Backyard!

Not just the rallying cry of “environmentalists” everywhere. Energy Solutions Inc., which of course paints itself green these days (and yet supports climate change disbeliever Senator Bob Bennett), is planning on importing 20,000 tons of low-level radioactive waste from Italy to be disposed of in Utah.

Also, General Electric (GE), is now required by law to begin the cleanup of the 1.3 million pounds of (PCBs) that they dumped into the Hudson River, have decided to ship the dredged-up waste about 2,000 miles to be dumped in West Texas. For the next six years, trains filled with toxic riverbed sediment will be traveling across the country in one of the most amazing Not In My Backyard (NIMBY) actions ever seen. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has, of course, given their full approval to the plan. The EPA admits that treating the soil directly, to make it less toxic, is feasible, but not nearly as cheap as just dumping it in the desert.

Oh, That Wacky Monsanto

What will they think of next? In another bit of PCB news, it has been determined in court that Monsanto intentionally didn't bother to tell the folks living near a Jefferson, Kentucky, Monsanto plant about all of the PCBs they were dumping in the river. Even though, you know, people caught and ate the fish of that river, and PCBs are known to cause neurodevelopmental and behavioral disorders. How did this get discovered in court, this wanton disregard for people's lives and the health of the river? They admitted it happily. In video testimony in 1998, a former employee was asked if they had told residents. “Why would they?” was his reply. “There was no rational reason” to let folks know about what they were up to.

Like a Dripping Faucet, Only Worse

Radioactively contaminated water is “leaking” from a tailings dam at Ranger Uranium Mine in Australia's Kakadu National Park. By leaking, I mean that 26,000 gallons of radioactive water are pouring out every day. That's three gas tankers full. Of course, the owners of the mine, Energy Resources of Australia—the third-largest producer of uranium in the world and a subsidiary of the quite-shady multinational Rio Tinto Group—say that there's nothing wrong and that the water hasn't polluted the national park in any way. I guess we should just believe them.

The Grand Canyon Sorta Saved

Uranium prices are on the rise, it turns out, what with its ability to turn entire cities into shadows and horror. Er, I mean, provide electricity. So people—well, corporations—have been eyeing the Grand Canyon as an excellent place to mine for

the stuff. Fortunately, a lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity, the Grand Canyon Trust and Sierra Club has born fruit and one million acres of public lands are now off-limits to mining for the next few years while the government considers whether or not to protect the area permanently. Of course, this somehow doesn't apply to three uranium strip mines in the area owned by Denison Mines that appear to be opening regardless.

Navajo Homes Finally to be Free of Uranium Contamination?

Fifty years after it made the mess, the US government is finally starting to address the problems of uranium contamination in the Navajo Nation. Between the 1940s and '80s, millions of tons of uranium were mined on indigenous lands, and many of the houses are built out of contaminated earth, which has led to no small number of health problems. The government is now tearing down those houses and rebuilding them—hopefully, in a timely manner. Of course, this is really only the tip of the uranium iceberg in the Navajo Nation, and there are



more than 500 abandoned uranium mines still on their land that have yet to be dealt with properly.

Great Lakes Wolves Back on Endangered Species List

It's a good time to be a wolf in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin—well, a slightly better time. After years of back-and-forth, Great Lakes wolves are back on the Endangered Species List, at least temporarily. This means people can't go around shooting them so often. Of course, readers of this *Journal* most likely already know that because Obama is no great environmental savior, and this is yet another lesson. It was his administration that pulled them off the list in the first place last April (see *EF!* May-June 2009). Of course, Bush had done the same thing, too, and it's only because of the tireless actions of many different environmental groups that they're protected at all.



The Grand Canyon before the extensive mining for uranium.

Powerline Canceled, Or At Least Shelved

Continuing in this pattern of “little rays of sunshine soon to be covered up by clouds,” controversial plans to put a second powerline through the imperiled Kofa National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona appear to be shelved. This would have spelled even more trouble for the bighorn sheep as well as other animals and plants that call the Kofa home.

Corporations Aren't People Too!

Tired of the Swiss company Nestlé siphoning off groundwater to sell as Poland Springs, three towns in Maine have passed ordinances recognizing that corporations have no rights of personhood, that ecosystems have a right to flourish and that people have a right to self-governance—including doing things like putting the water into public trust. Let's hope we hear more good stories from these towns: Shapleigh, Newman and Wells.

What Do You Mean, GM Crops Won't Feed The World?

We all knew Monsanto and other genetically modified (GM) “food” producers were just in it for the buck, but proof comes finally from the Union of Concerned Scientists. In their study *Failure to Yield*, one of the first long-term analysis's of GM crops reveals that herbicide-resistant crops offer no net yield increase. The study goes on to say that organic methods actually increase productivity by 100 percent and cut costs significantly, and that the developing world would be much better off abandoning industrial agriculture. Who would have thought?

EU Won't Force Countries Plant GM Corn

Austria and Hungary already knew what was up with the GM crop thing and have bans against it. But the executive branch of the European Union (EU) really, really wanted to force them to repeal their bans and allow Monsanto and Bayer GM crops to be planted. Fortunately, the member nations of the EU voted against the wishes of their executive branch and allowed the two countries to keep their bans in place.

Border Patrol Says It Won't Spray Herbicides (From Planes)

In more evidence that the anti-immigration folks are also anti-environment, it turns out that the US Border Patrol had been planning to spray a broad-spectrum herbicide along 130 miles of the US-Mexico border by aircraft. The citizens of Laredo, Texas, who were to be the guinea pigs, fought against the plan and won. Well, they “won.” The Border Patrol has instead agreed to cut down all of the vegetation and spray herbicides by hand, rather than dumping it out of planes.

Nigeria Might Eventually Stop Wasting So Much Natural Gas

Nigeria is Africa's largest oil producer (and not so ethical about it either—see *Frontlines*). And while they pump lots of oil, they just burn off the natural gas that is vented during the oil-pumping process to the tune of 24 billion cubic meters of gas every year. It's called *flaring*. It's been illegal since 1979, but every year, the government has been giving exemptions. Now, the government claims that it is serious this time, that illegal is illegal, and they want people to stop by no later than 2011. “I'm sorry, sir, I believe it is illegal for you to kill so many people with that icepick.” “Ah, yes, well, the thing is, I'm quite fond of killing people with this icepick.” “Well, I must insist then that you stop by no later than, oh, two years from now.” Good job, Nigerian government. Good to know you care.

The Sixth Circle

From the US Tarnac 9 Support Committee:

On November 11 2008, French Anti-Terrorism Police arrested around 20 people, mostly in Tarnac, a small village in the Corrèze region of central France. Nine were subsequently accused of "criminal association for the purposes of terrorist activity" in connection with the sabotage of train lines which had caused delays on the French railways. Very little evidence has been presented against them, but central to the prosecution is their alleged authorship of a book, *The Coming Insurrection*, and their association with what a scare-mongering French government and media have termed an "ultra-left" or "anarcho-autonomous movement."

They and others are the victims of a witch-hunt in which the word "terrorism" is applied to any ideas and practices which challenge the status quo. An international movement is emerging in their support.

The following text is an excerpt from "The Sixth Circle" of *The Coming Insurrection*. Not only do the Tarnac 9 deserve the support of Earth Firsters as part of the international Green Scare, but the text offers a solid critique of the falsities of sustainability and green capitalism, as well as a variety of other discussions floating around within radical ecological circles. Here's some questions the text brought up for me: do our projects help capitalism find new frontiers of exploitation and continuation; are the "solutions" that we're offering up and the ways that we're fighting just drawing the destruction out over a longer time-frame? We need to look seriously at what we want as an end result to our resistance. Is it the creation of "a steady state economy" that is "not a threat to sustainability and well-being" or does it go beyond that?

—FIAC

The Environment is an Industrial Challenge.

It goes like this: they hired our parents to destroy this world, now they'd like to put us to work rebuilding it, and—to top it all off—at a profit. The morbid excitement that animates journalists and advertisers these days as they report each new proof of global warming reveals the steely smile of the new green capitalism, in the making since the '70s, which we waited for at the turn of the century but which never came. Well, here it is! It's sustainability! Alternative solutions, that's it too! The health of the planet demands it! No doubt about it anymore, it's a green scene; the environment will be the crux of the political economy of the 21 century. A new volley of "industrial solutions" comes with each new catastrophic possibility.

The inventor of the H-bomb, Edward Teller, proposes shooting millions of tons of metallic dust into the stratosphere to stop global warming. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), frustrated at having to shelve its idea of an anti-missile shield in the museum of cold war horrors, suggests installing a gigantic mirror beyond the moon's orbit to protect us from the sun's now-fatal rays. Another vision of the future: a motorized humanity, driving on bio-ethanol from Sao Paulo to Stockholm; the dream of cereal growers the world over, for it only means converting *all* of the planet's arable lands into soy and sugar beet fields. Eco-friendly cars, clean energy and environmental consulting coexist painlessly with the latest Chanel ad in the pages of glossy magazines.

We are told that the environment has the incomparable merit of being the first truly *global problem* presented to humanity. A *global problem*, which is to say a problem that only those who are organized on a global level will be able to solve. And we know who they are. These are the very same groups that for close to a century have been the vanguard of disaster, and certainly intend to remain as such, for the small price of a change of logo. That EDF¹ had the impudence to bring back its nuclear program as the *new solution* to the global energy crisis says plenty about how much the new solutions resemble the old problems.

From Secretaries of State to the back rooms of alternative cafés, concerns are always expressed in the same words, the same as they've always been: we have to get mobilized. This time it's not to rebuild the country like in the post-war era, not for the Ethiopians like in the '80s, not for employment like in the '90s. No, this time it's for the environment. It will thank you for it. Al Gore and de-growth movement² stand side by side with the eternal great souls of the

Republic to do their part in resuscitating the little people of the Left and the well-known idealism of youth. Voluntary austerity writ large on their banner, they work benevolently to make us compliant with the "coming ecological state of emergency." The round and sticky mass of their guilt lands on our tired shoulders, coddling us to cultivate our garden, sort out our trash and eco-compost the leftovers of this macabre feast.

Managing the phasing out of nuclear power, excess carbons in the atmosphere, melting glaciers, hurricanes, epidemics, global overpopulation, erosion of the soil, mass extinction of living species... this will be our burden. They tell us, "everyone must do their part," if we want to save our beautiful model of civilization. We have to consume a little less in order to *be able to keep consuming*. We have to produce organically *in order to keep producing*. We have to control ourselves *in order to go on controlling*. This is the logic of a world straining to maintain itself whilst giving itself an air of historical rupture. This is how they would like to convince us to participate in the great industrial challenges of this century. And in our bewilderment we're ready to leap into the arms of the very same ones who presided over the devastation, in the hope that they will get us out of it.

Ecology isn't simply the logic of a total economy; it's the new morality of capital. The system's internal state of crisis and the rigorous screening that's underway demand a new criterion in the name of which this screening and selection will be carried out. From one era to the next, the idea of virtue has never been anything but an invention of vice. Without ecology, how could we justify the existence of two different food regimes, one "healthy and organic" for the rich and their children, and the other notoriously toxic for the plebes, whose offspring are damned to obesity. The planetary hyper-bourgeoisie wouldn't be able to make their normal lifestyle seem respectable if its latest caprices weren't so scrupulously "respectful of the environment." Without ecology, nothing would have enough authority to gag any and all objections to the exorbitant progress of control.

Tracking, transparency, certification, eco-taxes, environmental excellence and the policing of water all give us an idea of the coming state of ecological emergency. Everything is permitted to a power structure that bases its authority in Nature, in health and in well-being.

"Once the new economic and behavioral culture has become common practice, coercive measures will *doubtlessly* fall into disuse of their own accord." You'd have to have all the ridiculous aplomb of a TV crusader to maintain such a frozen perspective and in the same breath incite us to feel sufficiently "sorry for the planet" to get mobilized, whilst remaining anesthetized enough to watch the whole thing with restraint and civility. The new green-asceticism is precisely the *self-control* that is required of us all in order to negotiate a rescue operation where the system has taken itself hostage. From now on, it's in the name of environmentalism that we must all tighten our belts, just as we did yesterday in the name of the economy. The roads could certainly be transformed into bicycle paths, we ourselves could perhaps, to a certain degree, be guaranteed one day with a guaranteed income, but only at the price of an entirely therapeutic existence. Those who

1 Électricité de France—the main electricity generator/distributor in France.

2 The de-growth movement is a political and economic ideology advocating a gradual decrease in economic output. For further information check out links at: www.DEGROWTH.NET/SITES-SUR-LA-DECREISSANCE.

claim that generalized self-control will spare us from an environmental dictatorship are lying: one will prepare the way for the other, and we'll end up with both.

As long as there is Man and Environment, the police will be there between them.

Everything about the environmentalist's discourse must be turned upside-down. Where they talk of "catastrophes" to label the present system's mismanagement of beings and things, we only see the catastrophe of its all too perfect operation. The greatest wave of famine ever known in the tropics (1876-1879) coincided with a global drought, but more significantly, it also coincided with the apogee of colonization. The destruction of the peasant's world and of local alimentary practices meant the disappearance of the means for dealing with scarcity. More than the lack of water, it was the effect of the rapidly expanding colonial economy that littered the Tropics with millions of emaciated corpses. What presents itself everywhere as an ecological catastrophe has never stopped being, above all, the manifestation of a disastrous relationship to the world. Inhabiting a nowhere makes us vulnerable to the slightest jolt in the system, to the slightest climactic risk. As the latest tsunami approached and the tourists continued to frolic in the waves, the islands' hunter-gatherers hastened to flee the coast, following the birds. Environmentalism's present paradox is that under the pretext of saving the planet from desolation it merely saves the causes of its desolation.

The normal functioning of the world usually serves to hide our state of truly catastrophic dispossession. What is called "catastrophe" is no more than the forced suspension of this state, one of those rare moments when we regain some sort of presence in the world. Let the petroleum reserves run out earlier than expected; let

the international flows that regulate the tempo of the metropolis be interrupted, let us suffer some great social disruption and some great "return to savagery of the population," a "planetary threat," the "end of civilization!" Either way, any loss of control would be preferable to all the crisis management scenarios they envision. When this comes, the specialists in sustainable development won't be the ones with the best advice. It's within the malfunction and short-circuits of the system that we find the elements of a response whose logic would be to abolish the problems themselves. Among the signatory nations to the Kyoto Protocol, the only countries that have fulfilled their commitments, in spite of themselves, are the Ukraine and Romania. Guess why. The most advanced experimentation with "organic" agriculture on a global level has taken place since 1989 on the island of Cuba. Guess why. And it's along the African highways, and nowhere else, that auto mechanics has been elevated to a form of popular art. Guess how.

What makes the crisis desirable is that in the crisis the environment ceases to be the environment. We are forced to reestablish contact, albeit a potentially fatal one, with what's there, to rediscover the rhythms of reality. What surrounds us is no longer a landscape, a panorama, a theater, but something to inhabit, something we need to come to terms with, something we can learn from. We won't let ourselves be led astray by the one's who've brought about the contents of the "catastrophe." Where the managers platonically discuss among themselves how they might decrease emissions "without breaking the bank," the only realistic option we can see is to "break the bank" as soon as possible and, in the meantime, take advantage of every collapse in the system to increase our own strength.

For the complete text and more information about the Tarnac 9 please visit, WWW.TARNAC9.WORDPRESS.COM

FREETRADE IN FREEFALL

BY JIMMY T. HAND

The economy is collapsing. Everyone is losing their jobs. The over-paid stock traders are throwing themselves out of windows—okay, maybe not that last one, but we can hope, right?

It's terrible how badly this is affecting the lower and middle classes while the rich continue to get richer. But it would be simplistic to say that the failing economy is forcing people out of their homes. Bankers are throwing people out of their homes. Capitalism is throwing people out of their homes.

But capitalism is in crisis, and it's about time.

Let's be clear: when we're talking about capitalism, we're not talking about the use of money in economies. We're talking about the ability to use money—capital—to make more money. This concept is part of what leads to industrialization, to global trade, to the ecological crisis we face.

Free trade agreements—in which an economically wealthy nation bullies a weaker nation into abandoning labor and environmental protections—are finally beginning to falter. Japan exported 50 percent less in February 2009 than it did in February 2008. Germany's exports are down 25 percent. Uri Dadush, the former head of international trade at the World Bank, is "terrified" to learn that world trade is falling at a rate of 20 percent per year.

This means that every year, 20 percent less useless crap is being shipped across the globe by super-tankers. It means that more people are eating and spending locally. The US Commerce Department reported that Americans aren't buying as many foreign products, that the trade deficit (the ratio between imports and exports) dropped 10 billion dollars between January and February this year. And even "progressive" news media like National Public Radio (NPR) reports that this falling deficit is a bad thing.

But it isn't. Well, yes, it's bad for our globalized economy, but what is bad for the global economy is good for the earth.

Thanks to the recession, the demand for paper and timber has dropped remarkably, and timber companies across the US are going bankrupt. In a strange twist, a lot of tree farm owners are trying to get paid to leave trees uncut, since, you know, trees are made of carbon. Of course, they'd still fire all the loggers—once again proving that logging companies don't give a damn about jobs, despite their impassioned pleas about "saving jobs" whenever we approach them about how badly they are destroying the earth.

And all over the media, economists are screaming that "protectionism" (laws that protect, say, the environment and worker's rights by increasing barriers to trade and insulating local economies) is going to destroy civilization. We're too global to stop free trade now, they say.

The Group of 20, or the G20 as it's usually known, is a global governance body that exists to make economic decisions on a world-wide scale. The 20 are the heads of the nineteen wealthiest countries, plus the

European Union. And their business is to get together to figure out how to keep global free trade going. At their last meeting in Britain, they agreed to resist protectionism, and approved a \$250 billion credit line for trade.

Obama and Bush are in consensus about this, by the way. Free trade good. American-made products bought in America bad.

This September 24-25, the G20 is meeting in Pittsburgh to try, once again, to salvage the globalized economy. They want to give this dying beast, this juggernaut that has devoured so much of the natural world, another shot.

Naturally, there are those of us who don't want to let them. And the way that we make our voices heard, the way that we take action, is to prevent them from meeting in the first place. It takes a hell of a lot of coordination to get so many powerful folks together in one place, and every hour we can keep them from speaking makes it more likely that they won't be able to keep us from having our localized economies.

All kinds of people are gathering in Pittsburgh this September to disrupt their talks: labor organizers and anarchists, and other regular folks who are sick of global governance. Environmentalists need to be there too, because the earth is being slaughtered by the status quo of this civilization, and the G20 is trying to save the status quo.

Of course, all this cheerleading of the recession is ethically fuzzy. I'm trying to look on the bright side of things: industry can't pollute when it can't afford to operate. But there're a lot of real dangers to the earth—and people, and non-human animals—tied in to all of this. Thanks to our desire to get our energy more locally, the coal industry is doing just dandy, it turns out, and nuclear power is back on the table. Whether it's the recession's fault or the bankers' fault, people getting kicked out of their houses is terrible. Not having enough to eat is terrible. And who knows what the dangers of a sudden upsurge in hunting are to animal populations?

It's not a crystal clear thing: capitalism bad, recession good. But there are real tangible upsides to all of this, and all I'm saying is that we shouldn't be afraid to smile when timber companies go bankrupt.



An Update about moving the EF! Journal *why we aren't ready to sail this ship from Tucson just yet*

For those who attended this year's *Earth First! Journal* discussion at the Organizers' Conference and Winter Rendezvous (OC) in February, you may recall three hours discussing a possible move of the *Journal* from the Sonoran Desert Chuk'shon region to the Appalachian Katuah region. Though there was not the presence of an Asheville collective at the OC, there was a friend of the *Journal*, a representative—someone who kindly provided hypothetical answers to questions raised. At the end of the discussion we asked who was opposed to the move; among the few hands raised were those of the current long-term *Journal* collective.

After the OC, the *Journal* collective took the short ride back to the grind and felt slightly mixed about the discussion's conclusion: we would move forward with plans to re-locate the *Journal* to Asheville, North Carolina in one year's time and revisit the progress made in six months at the Summer Round River Rendezvous (RRR).

During the six-month time period between gatherings the *Journal* collective received a few forms of communication from Katuah and people who were going to help facilitate the move, as well as some resistance. We also received communication from folks in Three Rivers Earth First!, reminding us there are options to consider.

The *Journal* discussion at this year's Rondo was less than three hours long. The *Journal* collective arrived slightly bruised. We had just completed our first issue as a new long-term editorial collec-

tive, all two of us, and Sasha—the die-hard short-termers.

The *Journal* discussions are a regular occurrence at Earth First! gatherings. Part of the inspiration for this detailed update came from "Twenty Years of The Radical Environmental Journal," a history lesson featured in the 20-year anniversary edition of the *Earth First! Journal*. The difficulty of moving this operation from one bioregion to another is important to reference. One thing is certain, it isn't easy for anyone—the editorial collective nor those who would like to help facilitate a move or take-on aspects of the project.

That said, even with a three persyn collective, we recently produced an issue we are proud to stand by! Our only problem—prior to the Rondo there was around \$200 in the bank and a storage unit bill to cover. What does a poor editorial collective do when they have no other options? Pack their bags for the RRR and leave the journals behind, fully processed and un-mailed, looking forward to the mountains and support from the movement. As hard-working as any of us are, we can't mail out the *Journal* without money. There is no one to blame for these issues, and as we recently established—during the communication that is happening among EF!ers—this patient is on the road to recovery!

The Rondo discussion did bring support to our door, though, and we are very grateful for the kind donations from our poetry editor, private donors, Free Geek Portland, our new lifetime subscriber, Jim Flynn, the

Roadshow crew and every supporter of the *Earth First! Journal*!

For now, the *Journal* will remain in Tucson, and the good news is, we love the *Earth First! Journal*! As a collective we want to mail it out on time and without fail, produce a periodical that can be read a hundred times before it's pages are worn and help it become financially stable again. We want to build a strong collective and help make the *Journal* run smoothly, continuing to be a successful and active tool for movements worldwide.

The collective this issue—finally with two short-termers—has been meeting every week to brainstorm restructuring ideas for the *Journal* and are communicating with other groups and individuals about these ideas. Please send in your responses to our small survey below or contribute on-line. Reformatting the *Journal* is only one aspect of how we have been working our way back toward a more balanced model of operations. Certainly upgrading our computers is going to help everything run more smoothly (all thanks to Free Geek, and Magpie!).

The Summer donation letters were mailed late this year, but here's a massive thanks for the donations that we have already received! We sincerely appreciate every dollar bill and renewed subscription sent our way!

Let us luddites and Monkeywrenchers bask in our own glory, the *Earth First! Journal* will never die, it will simply continue to transform till the end of our days!

In solidarity, with love and for the Wild!

—THE EF! J COLLECTIVE

an Earth First! Journal Reader Survey

The *Earth First! Journal* (EF! Journal) Collective would like to restructure the publication, website and possibly even the collective process of how the EF! Journal is produced. We have an interest in these changes for a number of reasons, including: allowing the EF! Journal website to be a regularly updated more active resource to the on-line community, creating a publication that is more durable and finding a formula for the EF! Journal that is financially stable.

One proposal we are working with is moving the EF! Journal to a quarterly publication, which could save money and production time by adapting to a new print cycle. The new edition of the EF! Journal would ideally be "perfect bound" (i.e. the EF! J 20th year anniversary edition) or staple bound (i.e. how the *Journal* was produced before switching back to newspaper style). The EF! Journal is an active resource for communities across the country and in other parts of the world and an evolution from its current formats could help to better

promote the principals, projects and campaigns more easily if a.) set-up as a newswire web page, b.) a PDF newsletter that groups can add to, print and distribute, and c.) a more physically sturdy publication that can be read by countless people as well as sold more widely.

Another concept we have been developing is a proposal for decentralizing the production of the EF! Journal. This concept will only work with Earth First! groups or individual Earth Firsters have a strong interest in bottom-lining different aspects of the production. So far, we have had a good response to this developing concept. If your EF! group would be interested in the growth of this proposal, please get in touch so we can include you in the discussions.

Lend your voice to these conversations by answering the following questions. Please feel free to submit additional words of advice, encouragement and other suggestions. Thank you for your participation, please refrain from shouting out rude statements.

1. Are you currently subscribed to the *Earth First! Journal*?

- a. Yes
- b. No

2. Have you subscribed in the past?

- a. Yes
- b. No

3. Do you buy your copies of the EF! Journal for a bookstore, co-op or independent seller?

- a. Yes
- b. No

4. For how many years have you been reading the EF! Journal? _____

5. On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the highest) of what importance do you place the EF! Journal among other environmental publications? _____

6. Do you personally believe print is dead or should die?

- a. Yes
- b. No

7. Do you get the majority of your news from the internet?

- a. Yes
- b. No

8. What are a couple other publications and/or news sources do you depend on?

9. Would your support of the *Earth First! Journal* change if it was produced on a quarterly basis?

- a. Yes
- b. No

10. Do you wish the EF! Journal was:

- a. A monthly newsletter (printed on 8.5x11 paper, in black and white, staple bound)
- b. In magazine format
- c. Continuing in its current newspaper style
- d. A quarterly, bound publication
- e. Able to be purchased in more places
- f. Other ideas: _____

11. Do you wish the EF! Journal website was:

- a. Updated more regularly
- b. Downloadable in PDF format
- c. Set up as an open-publishing news wire (i.e. Indymedia sites) where people submit content and are able to see their posting that day
- d. Completely replacing the print version of the EF! Journal
- e. Other ideas: _____

12. If the EF! Journal was available online in its entirety as well as able to be downloaded and printed, would you subscribe or donate to the project?

- a. Yes
- b. No

12. Do you think that a de-centralization of the production of the EF! Journal, if done right, could be a good opportunity to find a more sustainable model than the one we are currently working with?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Brazilian Landless Movement Feels Loss in Their Struggle

The Brazilian Landless Movement (MST) suffered the loss of five of their workers on July 6, 2009. João Pereira da Silva, Juarez Cesario da Silva, Natalicio Gomes da Silva, Goncalves Olimpio Cosme and Dede were all shot execution-style while working on a construction project that the five were very dedicated to. Erionaldo Josda Silva was also present at the site and was shot in the shoulder. The settlement where the violence took place, Garrote, houses 30 families. Three years ago it acquired the title of permanent possession (basically, ownership through squatting).

"We live in a permanent conflict here in the state," said Jamie Amorim member of the MST's national coordination and the coordinator of the settlement, "so it is quite likely that these workers are victims of a revenge of the *latifundia* or ultra-reactionary people who try to fight the spread of the Landless Movement. Unfortunately it is a difficult situation, but in the class struggle, we must face as we are facing a long time this type of violence."

João Pereira da Silva was a local organizer and had been coordinating the construction of Garrote. The other four had been a part of the construction project for more than four weeks.

AETA2 Back in Jail, Jordan Holliday Indicted with Contempt

Half a year after their initial arrest, BJ Viehl and Alex Hall have once again been incarcerated for breaking bond agreements. The two Utah activists were arrested in March for suspicion of involvement with 2008 mink liberations (see *EF!* May-June 2009). BJ was taken back into custody of the state on June 29. Alex on July 15.

Jordan Holliday, who resisted a federal grand jury in March, has been released on bail as of June 29, 2009. Jordan has been indicted with felony contempt of court. If convicted, Jordan's freedom will be at the disposal of their judge.

As of print, no court dates have been set for any of the defendants. To write BJ or Alex, see page 26. For additional updates and further information on BJ, Alex and Jordan please visit www.supportbjandalex.com.

Repression Surrounding I-69 Resistance Still Growing

On July 9, 2009, four officers surprised Bloomington, Indiana resident Philip Shelton at his near-west-side home. Philip was presented with a search warrant authorizing his forceful detainment for the purpose of obtaining photos, fingerprints and a DNA sample. Officers escorted Philip to the State Police Post.

According to released affidavits, Philip is suspected of allegedly "participating in the planning and/or execution of July 9, 2007 office invasions" (see *EF!* May-June 2007), similar to the charges of Hugh and Tiga (see *EF!* July-August 2009). The state's three reasons for alleging Philip's involvement are: that Philip is alleged to live with Hugh, that last spring he was stopped by police while providing information about I-69 to residents living around its proposed corridor, and that someone in a car registered to Philip allegedly visited an Interstate-69 (I-69) planning office to inquire about the project.

These allegations are in a continuance of the state of Indiana's retaliation on Roadblock Earth First!'s resistance to the I-69 construction. Taken from Hugh and Tiga's Support page:

"In posting this affidavit, we do mean to highlight the absurdity of the state's legitimating a forceful seizure of a DNA sample with a list of quite clearly legal acts. But the accusations levied against Philip

are consistent with those of the larger case against I-69 resisters (and the years of surveillance upon which it is based), trends which ought give greater pause than a run of the mill 'breach of civil liberties.'"

Please see www.mostlyeverything.net for further information and ways to help support all I-69 resisters. For information on the campaign against I-69 see www.stopi69.wordpress.com.

Tarnac 9 Still a Target of Repression

In early July, three individuals were served summons to appear as material witnesses to speak against the Tarnac 9. In one case, on July 16, 2009, Berlin police officers raided one of the three homes for a hand-writing sample. Apparently it was for a comparison to a letter found with one of the initial Tarnac 9 comrades accused in France, and—as they assume and want to prove—signed with her name.

Released information on the three is unclear. One of the summonsed remained silent under section 55 of the Penal Code, and, after 16 hours, he was allowed to leave free of charges.

One persyn was arrested at the conclusion of a court-solidarity demonstration in Berlin. She came in before six judges wearing an ape suit with a placard against the transport of nuclear wastes attached to it's ass. For two hours, she refused to cooperate with the judges.

Solidarity demonstrations were held in both Hamburg and Berlin on both days that the three appeared.

For background information, as well as more detailed accounts of the Tarnac 9 and updates, visit www.tarnac9.wordpress.com.

90-Day Sentence for Barley Barber Swamp Defender

Despite receiving a not-guilty verdict for trespassing, Everglades Earth First! (EEF!) Stevie Lynn Lowe is now serving a 90-day sentence for her charge of resisting arrest that stems from an effort to defend Barely Barber swamp (see *EF!* March-April 2009). Stevie had swam through the swamp, climbed a swamp maple and locked herself to it. An Appellate Bond of \$10,000 has been set for Stevie. In addition to a 90-day sentence, a year of probation and legal fees nearing a \$1,000 have fallen into Stevie's incarcerated lap.

Some supporters are attributing Stevie's lengthy sentence to an overreaction by the judge to Stevie's desire to have a jury trial. Over-zealous-to-sentence judges have become a trend in cases that attempt to go to trial. Other EEF!ers have received 30-day sentences for similar actions. A co-defendant of Stevie's received a five-day sentence after pleading guilty.

On August 12, EEF!ers went to the jail Stevie was incarcerated in with money-in-hand to pay Stevie's appellate bond. She is now pursuing an appeal of the "resisting arrest (without violence)" charge, after being found Not Guilty of trespass by a Martin County jury. Florida Power and Lights (FPL) failed to prove they own the land they arrested people on, and they are now refusing to offer a date that the swamp will be re-opened to the public (after the January protest, FPL had announced a re-opening in 2010). Their latest excuse is that they will be waiting 'till after they complete the new solar power project they are building on site. Once again, the energy industry is hiding behind greenwash to distract us from the destruction they are causing. But we are done asking them to re-open a swamp that they can't even prove they own. EEF! has begun coordinating trips into the swamp for members of the public and media.

Additional information on Stevie's case, resistance to FPL and other stories of swamp revelry can be found at www.evergladesearthfirst.org.



announcements

G20 in Pittsburgh

September 24—Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

If you are enraged about how the corporate world has waged war on the wild, if you are tired of seeing the animals (both human and non) destroyed for greed, if you want to see capitalism kicked while it's down, then come out to Pittsburgh to end the G8's reign of terror and help everyone else there shut down the meetings. If you have any questions or want more info on strategy, planning, or tactics go to www.resistg20.org. For inspiration, research the recent Italy G8 protests.

First Ever Seattle Anarchist Book Fair

October 17-18—Seattle, Washington

Seattle's first Anarchist Book Fair is kicking off this October and you're invited. Wanting that new AK Press title you just saw at a friend's? What about that zine you fell in love with, but haven't been able to find in years? Or maybe you just want to socialize with long lost friends? Come out to Seattle for all the literature and propaganda you could ever want. For more information, go to www.seattleanarchist.org.

Climate Crisis Action Day

October 24

A group called 350.org is calling for a day of action to bring attention to the number 350. This number is important because NASA scientist James Hanson released a study that shows that if carbon in the atmosphere tops 350 parts per million, then all life will start to die out as it adapted to lower levels. The bad news is that it's at 390 right now. Photograph your action and post it on 350.org to show solidarity. To learn more visit www.350.org.

United Nations Climate Change Conference

December 7-18, 2009—Copenhagen, Denmark

The world's nations are coming together to discuss the future of the natural world. It's at this conference that leaders will be giving statistics and dates when they plan on have their nations Carbon Dioxide emissions lower a fraction of where it needs to be. And what better way to let them know that we're not kidding when we say "no compromise", than mass protests and demanding lower emissions sooner?

Prisoners in the Struggle Support Them!

The following list is a small sample of the total number of political prisoners and prisoner support groups worldwide. Regulations for mail sent to prisoners vary according to individual prisons. Before sending monetary donations, stamps, books or packages, ask prisoners what the regulations are. Assume that the authorities read everything you write to a prisoner. When prisoners are awaiting trial or sentencing, it is best not to discuss their cases or related topics with them. Although some prisoners are listed together, they must be written to separately. Prisoners can obtain a discounted subscription to the EF! Journal by sending a book of 10 42¢ stamps to POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. Individuals who want to sponsor a prisoner's subscription should send \$20 to the same address.

Prisoner and Legal Updates

•Matt DePalma, #14126-041, moved to FCI Fairton POB 420 Fairton, NJ 08320. Sentenced to 3.5 years in prison for unlawful possession of destructive devices at the 2008 Republican National Convention.

•Byron Shane of Chubbock© Clan, #07909051, USP Lewisburg POB 1000, Lewisburgh, PA, 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.

•Alex Hall, Inmate #2009-06304, William James Viehl, Inmate #2009-05735, 800 West State St. Davis County Jail, 800 West State St., Farmington, UT 84025, USA. Being held for breaking bond after being accused of raiding a mink farm.

•Heather Nicholson, VM4859, HMP Foston Hall, Foston, Derby, Derbyshire DE65 5DN, UK. Serving 11 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/shacukprisonersupport.

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, Via Casale 50/a, 15040 San Michele (AL), Italy. Awaiting trial for allegedly using explosives to damage power lines. Casalini is a member of Il Silvestre, an Italian eco-anarchist group and frequent target of state repression.

•Francesco Gioia, Via Casale 50/a, 15040 San Michele (AL), 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.

•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 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.

Animal Liberation

•Jon Ablewhite, TB4885, and Kerry Whitburn, TB4886, HMP LHMP Ranby, Retford, Notts, DN22 8EU, England. Serving 12 years for conspiracy to blackmail a supplier of guinea pigs for vivisection.

•Dan Amos, VN7818, HMP Guys Marsh, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 0AH, England. 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.

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

•Mel Broughton, TN9138, HMP Frankland, Brasside, Durham, County Durham DH1 5YD, England. 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, POB 30 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.

•Linda Greene #1300927, Century Regional Detention Facility, 11705 S. Alameda Street, Lynwood, CA 90262, USA. Being held on charges related to stalking and vivisection.

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

•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.

•PI Noordsingel, Peter Janssen 5102880, Postbus 37066, 3005 LB Rotterdam, Accused of freeing mink from a fur farm.

•Kevin Olliff, #1300931, TTCF 161 D-Pod, 450 Bauchet St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, USA. Being held on charges related to stalking and vivisection.

•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

•Grant Barnes, #137563, San Carlos Correctional Facility, POB 3, Pueblo, CO 81002, USA. Serving 12 years for the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arson of SUVs. For more information, visit www.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.freefreemove.org.

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

•Eric McDavid, #16209-097, FCI Victorville Medium II, 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.



Wildfire Hysteria...



Forest Biomass Greenwash



By JOSH SCHLOSSBERG AND SHANNON WILSON

RISI, the leading information provider for the global forest products industry, states in its October 2008 Wood Biomass Market Report that "the perceived overabundance of 'waste wood' in the nation's forests is simply not there."

So why are there more and more proposed biomass plants across the United States?

According to the Oregon Forest Biomass Working Group, "The bulk of potentially available forest biomass is located on federal lands." Another pro-biomass group claims, "Obtaining a consistent supply of woody biomass from federal lands is one of the primary impediments to developing a biomass utilization sector."

Prepare to have your fears and hopes exploited in the logging industry's craftiest fairy tale to date: forest biomass. First the fear: "If we don't log, the forests will burn up in wildfires and put our lives and homes at risk." Then the hope: "The leftover waste will be used for green energy to fight climate change."

The reality is forest biomass extraction would neither protect homes from wildfire nor reduce our carbon emissions, but would instead act as a major obstacle to achieving either of those goals.

With climate change making our summers hotter and drier, forest-edge communities will probably be seeing more wildfires.

Luckily, as Jack Cohen—a scientist at the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station—states, simple measures taken around the home and its immediate surroundings can almost eliminate the danger: "Given nonflammable roofs, Stanford Research Institute found a 95 percent [home] survival with [vegetation] clearance of 10 to 18 meters." In 2003, seemingly with this concern in mind, the Bush administration and Sen. Ron Wyden gave us the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA), the primary stated purpose being "to reduce wildfire risk to communities." Unfortunately, instead of focusing on projects in the vicinity of homes, a vast portion of HFRA funding

has been spent on logging large, fire-resistant trees miles from the nearest town.

Yet thanks to Big Timber public relations campaigns and political distortions, many Americans have bought into the myth that logging stops wildfire and protects their homes from burning. But not only does HFRA not protect communities from wildfire, it gives the public a false sense of security, resulting in millions of homeowners ignoring fire-wise precautions and putting their homes and lives at risk.

Does that mean industry and agencies want homes to burn? Probably not. But their intent becomes clear when you learn HFRA's second stated purpose, "to authorize grant programs to improve the commercial value of forest biomass."

After using fear tactics to dupe Americans into supporting "fire risk reduction" logging, biomass proponents play to our hopes by assuring us that the resulting "waste" can be used to fight climate change, by turning it into a clean, green energy source.

Few deny the need to fund clean alternative energy sources—such as wind and solar—to help wean us off our climate-disrupting dependence on waning fossil fuels. But logging for forest biomass is likely to make climate change worse. According to National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), logging is "the second major way we increase atmospheric Carbon Dioxide," while the May 2008 issue of *Science Daily* states, "the use of harvest residues for energy production decreases soil carbon stocks."

Despite this evidence, forest biomass is getting the big bucks. Already, \$50 million of the Forest Service's stimulus payoff is going to "wood to energy grants to support the increased use of biomass."

The burst of the housing bubble—brought on by peak oil and a collapsing economy—means less trees are being felled for lumber. But we're not out of the woods yet. Say hello to what may be the greatest threat forests have ever faced: forest biomass extraction.

This is not going to be pretty...

•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 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 www.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

•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, #006307, Janet Holloway Africa, #006308, and Janine Phillips Africa, #006309, 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

•Fran Thompson, #1090915, CCC 3151 Litton Dr, Chillicuthe, MO 64601, USA. Before receiving a life sentence in the early 1990s for shooting a stalker in self-defense, Thompson was active in animal rights and environmental campaigns.

•Helen Woodson, #03231-045, FMC Carswell, Admin Max Unit, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127, USA. Serving nearly nine years for violating her parole by dumping a cup of red paint over the security apparatus of a federal court and making warnings ("threats") of weapons of mass destruction. In 2004, Woodson completed 20 years for disarming a Minuteman II missile silo with a jackhammer, mailing warning letters with bullets inside to officials, and robbing a bank and burning the money.

Prisoner Support Groups

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

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

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

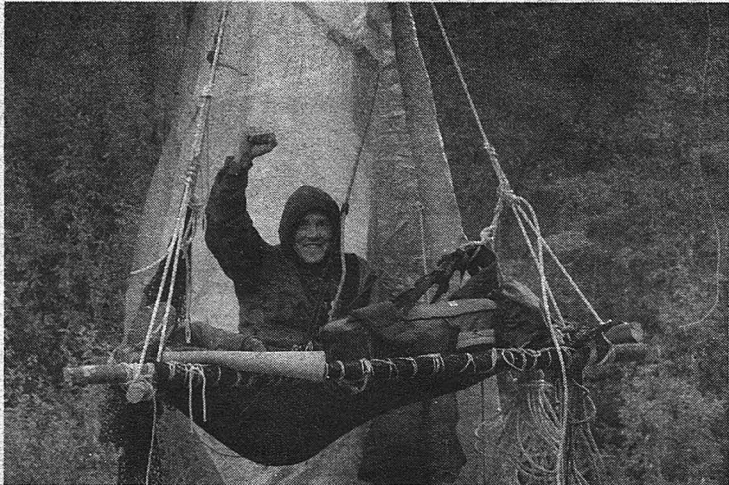
Tribute to Ben, Australian Forest Activist

JULY 20, 1974—JULY 9, 2009

BY JENNY

Australia lost one of its most formidable and passionate conservationists when we said goodbye to Ben Morrow in July. Ben, 34, died after a long and arduous battle with terminal bowel cancer. Ben was a friend to many in Australia's forest movement from Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW) to Tasmania.

Ben was a man who had a connection to the Earth that many people in this world



Ben cheerfully saving the forests of Australia.

don't experience. Ben was a long-term forest activist who always had a wise word and compassion for his fellow blockaders, the wildlife he was standing up in defense of and even the loggers he met when in the forest.

A brave and strong defender of Tasmania's ancient forests, Ben spent most of his last years living in the threatened forests, from the Styx, to the Weld, to the Upper Florentine Valleys. He was a talented climber and rigged many a treesit for defenders to take a final stand on the frontline. Ben's involvement in the tall, threatened eucalyptus forests of the Styx Valley and in an action shutting down the woodchip mill in Triabunna, Tasmania, resulted in his inclusion in the Gunns 20 lawsuit in 2004. Gunns Ltd, Tasmania's billion-dollar wood-chipping company, was suing Ben, along with 20 other defendants, for standing up for Tasmania's wild forests.

Ben made history with his brave effort to sit for 12 hours in Australia's first ever bridge sit. In 2007, the sit was set up over the wild Weld River in Tasmania's south to halt logging of steep old-growth forest.

Ben started his forest activism in the NSW forests of the mid-north coast. One of the stories that has surfaced is of an early Chitchester action, when Ben was set up in a tripod above logging machinery. It wasn't long before one of the logging contractors showed up, wanting to express his frustration by taking an axe to one of the tripod legs that supported Ben. Other contractors showed up and started pegging rocks at Ben. Ben wasn't budging and wasn't fazed—an early sign of his renowned calm and conviction.

Ben's efforts directly contributed to the protection of thousands of acres of precious native forests from logging—an achievement that will outlast all of us and serve as a permanent memorial to his belief in being able to make a difference.

His big heart, wide smile and unwavering belief in what is right earned him the love and admiration of a diverse community who now consider him a brother. We are wiser for having known him and mourn his passing. Ben will be dearly missed and well remembered, and his contributions will never be forgotten.

In Ben's own words, "We will always be together, in the forest. We will always be together, in the forest."

In Loving Memory of Brain "Frog" Gharst

SEPTEMBER 30, 1978—JUNE 11, 2009

BY SOME FOLKS WHO INSANELY MISS HIM

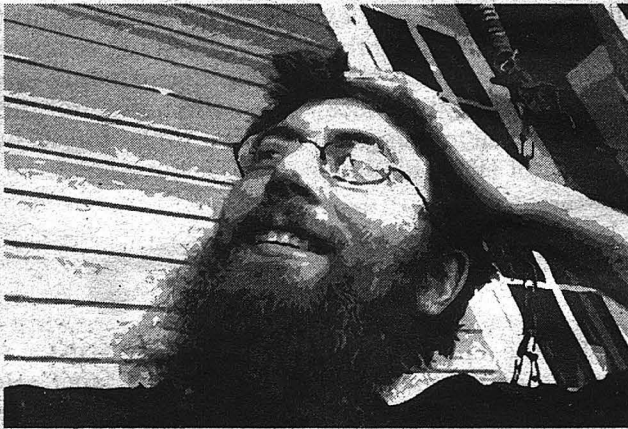
The forests and the free-running waters, the buffalo and the bull trout, and the mountains and the people who love them all lost a dear friend and ally this Summer. Brian Gharst, known to many as Frog, exited this world on June 11, 2009. Frog's last days were happily spent with the sun the wind and the water on a canoe camping trip in the San Juan Islands, Washington. As the ocean took his life from his body, a seal appeared on the surface of the water, as if to reassure us that his spirit would be safely carried on to wherever it needs to go next. He leaves behind a legacy of big love, good works and many people aspiring to honor his life by living up to his example.

Frog was a long-time member of the Northern Rockies activist community. He began volunteering with the Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) early on and spent many days hiking, skiing, driving and sitting on patrol to document and protest the government-sponsored slaughter of the last wild bison. In 2001, Frog was arrested and served time in jail for supporting a tripod action blockading the road to the buffalo capture facility. One favorite memory of Frog from his time at BFC was the cold, snowy night when he and two friends stripped down to nothing, wrote "DOL SUX" across their butt cheeks and jumped out in front of a security guard rig that was patrolling the road.

Frog also spent time volunteering with Wild Rockies Earth First! in forest-defense campaigns, including the struggles against Otter Wing/Mackey Day, Boise Cascade and the Bitterroot Burned Area Recovery. After those campaigns ended, he continued to do forest defense work by monitoring timber sales in national forests throughout the region.

Frog also volunteered with the Seeds of Peace Collective, providing food and logistical support to other direct action campaigns. He cooked for protestors at the Nevada Test Site, delivered food and maintained transportation for protestors at the 2004 Republican National Convention (RNC) protests, cooked at a Round River Rendezvous and played a major role in converting an old school bus into the Seeds of Peace waste vegetable oil (WVO) kitchen-bus.

Frog was a true anarchist. In addition to all of his work with direct-action groups, he also spent countless hours volunteering his time and skills to build community and foster networks of mutual aid. He helped to revive the free community bike shop in Missoula, Montana, and would spend hours upon hours every day building useful projects for community members, including bike trailers, rickshaws, a trail cart for a paraplegic man and a giant cargo tricycle. He helped numerous people convert diesel vehicles to run on WVO. He built homes, treehouses, greenhouses and



Frog enjoying the porch.

gardens. He also despised the cops and spent many nights hilariously blasting "Fuck the Police" from his rickshaw sound system on the streets of downtown Missoula.

Frog was a gifted artist. He dreamt and crafted incredibly beautiful and inspiring projects. From basket weaving and pot-throwing to carpentry and professional welding, the things his hands crafted were impeccable. He humbly excelled at nearly everything and freely shared his skills in the most gentle, encouraging and empowering way. His knowledge and appreciation of beauty and hard work led him to deeply respect and support the beautiful works of others.

In the later years of his life, Frog began to focus on perfecting and expanding his skill set as a professional custom fabricator. He established a workshop, first in Missoula and then in the San Francisco Bay, where he began formal training. In the Bay Area, he fabricated custom tanks for WVO conversions, continued crafting outlandish projects, did repair work for his neighbors in exchange for tacos and just this year started professionally teaching.

When he wasn't working around the clock on projects, we could find Frog enjoying the wonders of the natural world: swimming in rivers and lakes, canoeing, floating, soaking in hot springs, fishing, picking berries, climbing trees, camping, hiking, gathering plants and more. He also enjoyed taking bike trips, including trips in Mexico, Maine and California, as well as the infamous "Tour de Struction" from coastal Washington, over the Idaho mountain passes and into Montana. His more urban adventures included eating a lot of trash, receiving beer donations from the corporate grocery store and figuring out how to turn off street lights with just a little bit of whiskey and a shotgun.

Around 100 family members and friends from all over the United States gathered in Missoula about a week after Frog's death to celebrate his life and mourn his passing in ceremonies and gatherings. Less than a week after his death, we lit a fire by bow-drill and maintained the fire for four days in honor of the four directions. On the third day, we held a memorial dinner that culminated in a big, loud, late-night bike parade/dance party that took over the streets of the city. On the fourth day, coals from the fire were transferred via bike cart to Rattlesnake Creek, one of Frog's favorite Montana swimming holes. We held a ceremony there for friends and family to share stories and emotions, and to begin the process of spreading Frog's ashes. Some of his family and friends then traveled to Horse Butte, outside of Yellowstone National Park, to spread some of his ashes in a ceremony at this sacred place where Frog lived and worked over multiple years to stop the buffalo slaughter. Some of his friends held another memorial event later in the Summer in the Bay Area, and friends and family continue to take individual actions and engage in ceremonies in his memory.

We intensely loved Frog. His death was, and continues to be, an enormous loss to our community. However, it has also been an enlightening experience to realize how much love we all feel for each other in this extended family, and how we can and must continue to support each other through this very dark time, as well as through all of the other dark times that are sure to come.

Thank you Frog, for everything you gave this world. We love you and will continue to be guided and inspired by your spirit.

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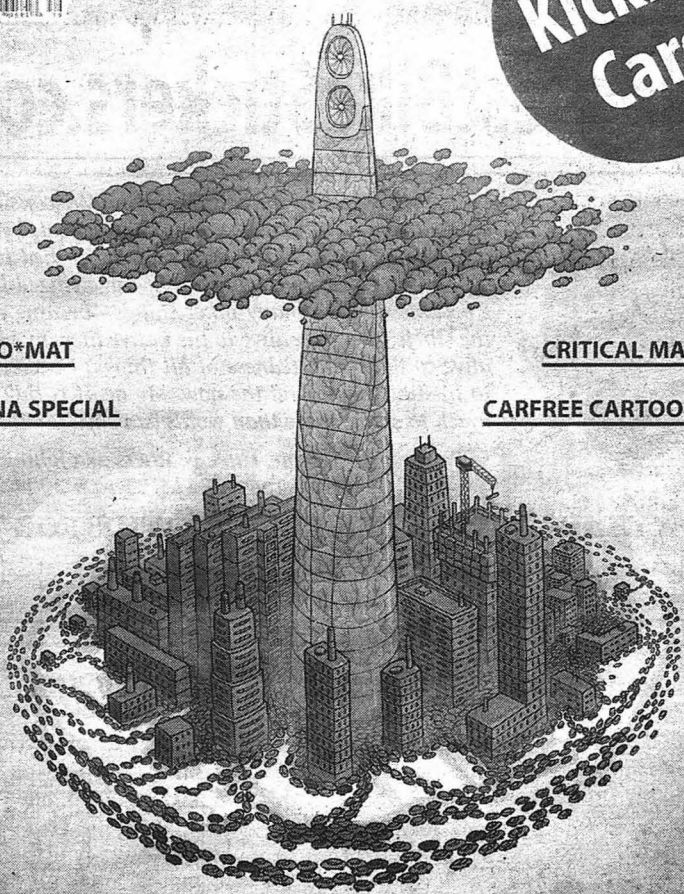
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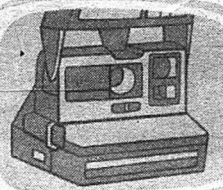
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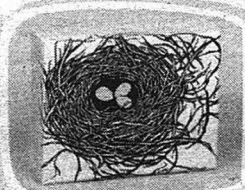
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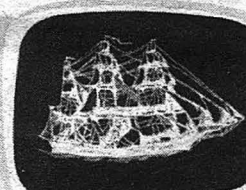
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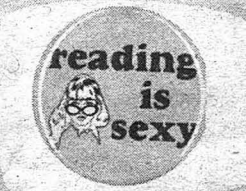
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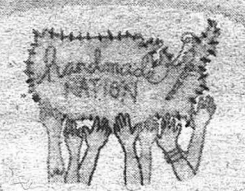
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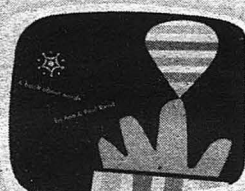
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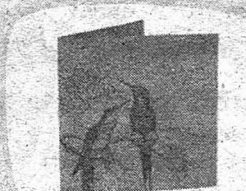
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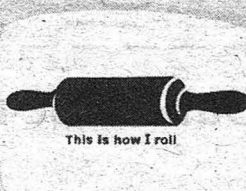
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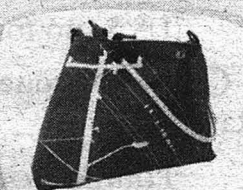
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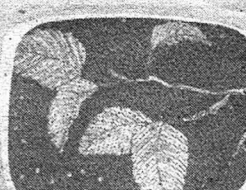
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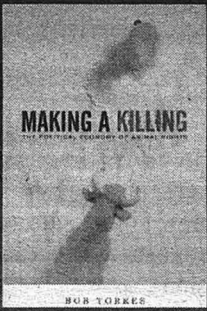
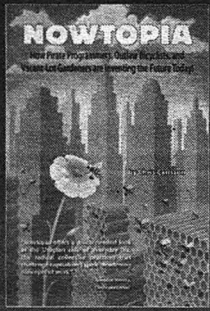
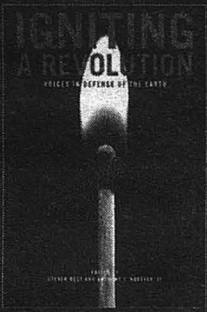
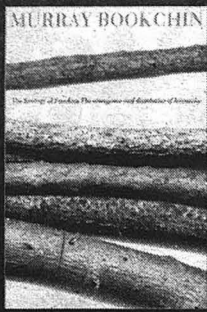
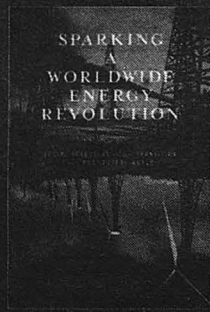
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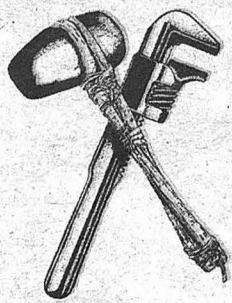
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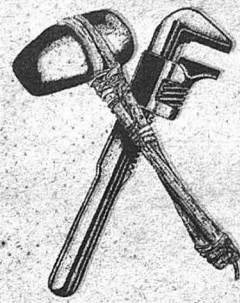
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