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Earth First!

Brigid January-February 2010

\$4.50 US & Canada

Globe Forest Direct Action Camp Report Back

BY BIGAL

What a way to spend Halloween. As I shoved a tarp into my pack and grabbed my rain jacket for what promised to be an exceptionally soggy stint in the woods, I thought of all of the people who had made “other plans” for the weekend. Masquerade balls, art openings, theme parties—but, I wondered, what could be more apposite than facing something truly scary on Halloween—the proposed logging of more than 220 acres of mature and old growth forest within a 10 minute drive of my hometown? Right in my backyard, the Forest Service plans to make over \$100,000 from selling the Globe Forest to timber companies, including trees 100-300 years old. Of all 200 plus year-old forests in the US, only 1.92 percent of them exist on the East Coast. And the Forest Service is coming for them. I knew exactly where I wanted to be.

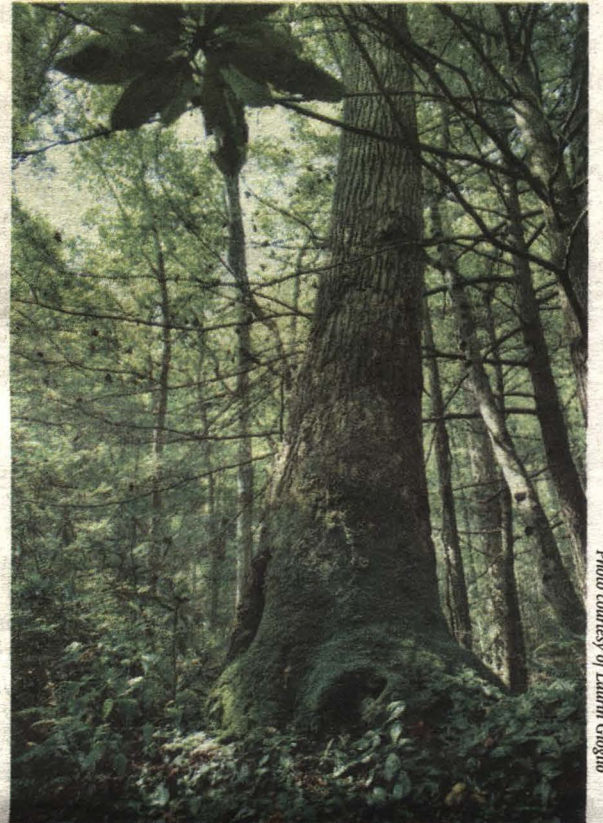
The direct action camp started on Friday evening, October 30, when about 40 people from all over North Carolina crunched their way through the leaves to set up camp in the Globe Forest, right outside Blowing Rock in the NC mountains. My friends and I made our way to the Globe on Saturday morning, as we live within a stone's throw of the forest. As we followed the sounds of laughter and the itinerant clouds of wood smoke to the camp's kitchen that morning, the anticipation of community action and the magical allure of the forest engulfed me. Smiling faces around the fire, pots and pans clinking and kitchen stirrings murmuring in the background...hastened into introductions, averring snapshots of action and passions from around the state. We outlined the day's schedule, with workshops on the state of the movement around defense of the Globe, local ecology,

medic and legal roles, light backpacking, orienteering, climbing, media outreach, and various direct action and forest defense skills.

The sipping of hot tea faded into the light pitter-patter of raindrops echoing over the leaves, and the woods welcomed the commencement of workshops. While several members of my party scurried off to the climbing skills area for the morning, I sought shelter under a nearby tarp to brush up on my blockading skills. I had previous experience with this sort of direct action in the streets, but after an hour of role-playing I realized what a different scenario forest defense presents, and how indispensable this exposure was. I have a much clearer picture of where one might find themselves if they were to choose to protect a habitat from destruction. In the afternoon, I learned how to respond to injuries incurred in the wilderness. My friends learned wilderness survival skills, about the local imperiled species, how to tie knots, and how to use local media outlets to spread awareness and gain support for actions. We each grew with one another, became aware of the Earth around us, and learned countless requisite skills. I became more empowered to stand up for what I believe in, and against what I cannot bear to see transpire.

As the day drew to a close, the dampened bodies found themselves huddled around the warmth of a campfire. People played guitars and sang. We shared stories, played stealth games (where we practiced skills learned from the day's workshops) and formed connections with the encroaching night. It rained, and still, the woods sent a message to those who had endeavored to assemble at this place and time: if not you, then who—if not now, then when?

The cold hours under the stars crept by and at daybreak, more discussions of action, infrastruc-



Historic Globe Forest

ture and roles gave way to carob-chip pancakes and walks in the woods. Perhaps, with these people, I might stand. Perhaps, in this place, we might prevent destruction of an essential, rare, mature and old-growth habitat. Protecting local biodiversity, sensitive species, soil, water sources we would save an essential section of our ecosystem from a profit-seeking machine. Perhaps, all of this would happen in my backyard.

We said our goodbyes and parted, knowing that we'd be seeing each other again...and soon.

N30: International Round up of Actions

BY REDNECK OMNIBUS

As politicians all over the world glide from city to city, bioregion to bioregion, in a seemingly effortless drive to exploit the Earth and human and nonhuman residents, activists lock down. They set up centers of dissent and resistance, and they refuse to accept the intervention of the alienated authorities. No matter where the global elite meet to decide the future, they find opposition to their refined and slick attempt to subjugate the planet.

Typically, opposition forms around the business conferences, World Trade Organization (WTO) talks, and Group of 8 (G8) meetings to draw attention to the devastation that otherwise goes ignored by the media. The most famous intervention of this sort occurred ten years ago, at the WTO protests in Seattle, where protesters from all over the world blockaded the convention and effectively shut down the corporate, profit-driven talks. To commemorate that action, on November 30, 2009, activists collected their organizing powers to interrupt the



Rising Tide lockdown in Chicago.

flow of capital in the global economy. Refusing to wait for the politicians to come to them, people organized in their own bioregions, and shook the devious structure of global trade by its pillars. November 30 (deemed N30 by organizers) and, later, December 5 (D5), marked not only days for trade justice activists protesting the WTO, but coexten-

sive days of climate action—the latter having been called by Rising Tide along with numerous nonprofits under the moniker, “Mobilization for Climate Justice” (MCJ).

As dawn broke over the eastern seaboard of the US on N30, the MCJ went into effect. Protestors rallied in Boston at City Hall Square, delivering an open letter to Senator

John Kerry, which outlined the crucial problems of climate change and the need for political solutions that extend beyond corporate compromises and false solutions. The rally then peacefully laid down on the wet concrete and a mass “die-in” ensued, drawing public attention to the prospect of impending mass-extinction. Nobody was arrested in Boston, and a wake-up call was sent to authorities that would be repeated in rural and urban locales across the US—only in other places, interaction with the police would not go as smoothly.

Rising Tide Asheville rose up on Duke Energy, locking down to a 1.5 million pound generator being shipped to that company's Cliffside coal plant. Two protestors used lockboxes to prevent the moving of the generator as it sat atop its 300 foot trailer, and activists hung a banner from the monstrosity, itself, reading “Stop Cliffside.” Earth First!er and former *Journal* short-termer, Attila Nemezc, put it simply: “Since politicians and corporations refuse to take serious action to stop climate change,

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Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

Brigid January-February 2010

Back at the Drawing Board

Driving through Arizona and Colorado, finding our way to universities and community spaces—for three weeks life existed out of the office and the desert—I was able to take in the countless mountains and trees and leaves, rusty colored and ready to fall. It was me and Agent Em on a 10-date Beehive Collective tour.

As long-term editors of the *Earth First! Journal* we try to take a break from the business of operations, for an entire two months—an issue-in-production—once a year. With only two of us as current long-termers, it's been apparent that breaks are crucial, and they are as necessary as the work we do.

While taking a leave of absence, I had the tremendous opportunity of presenting the new Beehive poster, *The True Cost of Coal*, an experience that reaffirmed all that I give to the *Journal*, my community and in hopes—our planet.

Among the topics I was regularly discussing during the Beehive presentations, I was pressing on about the importance of the preservation of independent media. Today we are witnessing corporate-controlled media divorcing itself from aggressive (or even constructive) environmental coverage, with big wigs like CNN and the *Los Angeles*

Times canning their researchers and scientists. Also recently under fire was the Indymedia US site, one of the most important hubs for news worldwide. Indymedia US fought courageously to defend an international icon that has empowered a movement of citizen journalists.

As 100,000 descended on Copenhagen, the *Journal* Collective kept our ears to the live streaming COP15 Radio from Indymedia Denmark. Though I was not in the streets this year, it reminded me of the mobilizations that have shaped my life, the actions and campaigns that affirm for me the importance of our roles as a people who will not allow the destruction of our planet to continue. Our hearts are with our comrades who were subjected to and continue to suffer under intense police repression. I feel certain that the tactics of the Earth First! movement have never been more important.

As editors and publishers of the *Earth First! Journal* there is a lot of responsibility on our part to produce this fiercely independent publication and make it as accurate of a reflection of our movement as possible.

By the end of this year the *Earth First! Journal* will celebrate 30 years in print! From the early days of being a newsletter, to the new millennium

era of our bound publication, to the most familiar format, a newspaper, the *Earth First! Journal* has relentlessly brought information to the people involved on the ground and those most concerned with the injustices placed upon our Earth. Together, we represent the voiceless wildlife. Our aim is to also represent the struggles and victories of Indigenous communities, urban communities, prisoner communities, those keepin' it rural and those who have passed away in their fight to see the bitter end of this destruction.

While the never-ending ruckus crew of short-term and long-term editors and volunteers of the *Earth First! Journal* sit in an office in Tucson, AZ, we are often plagued with our hearts desire to run after the wildfire burning our lands for useless development, destroying ecosystems for profit, poisoning Earth, air, water, humans and non-humans everywhere. We bring you the news because there is much to report—from the Frontlines and inside of our sewing circle—so much to do and so much to say. We hope dearly that you will continue to communicate your actions and your passions to us through these pages. Here's to the New Year! Lets make our actions bold and brave!

—nettle

Earth First!

January 1, 2010

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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 publication, 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 during the odd-numbered months 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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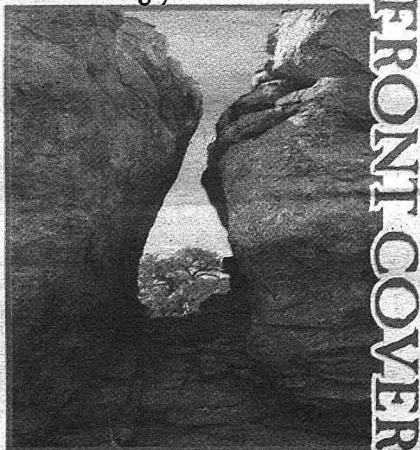


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MAINE EARTH FIRST! DISRUPTS STATE'S APPROVAL OF PLUM CREEK'S DEVELOPMENT PLAN

BY MAINE EF!

On the first day of Fall, Maine Earth First! occupied the Land Use Regulatory Commission (LURC)'s meeting at the Ramada Inn in Bangor, Maine, in protest of the agency's planned approval of Plum Creek's controversial development proposal in the Moosehead Lake region. Six people were arrested for disrupting the planned vote, which gave a green light to the largest development proposal in Maine's history.

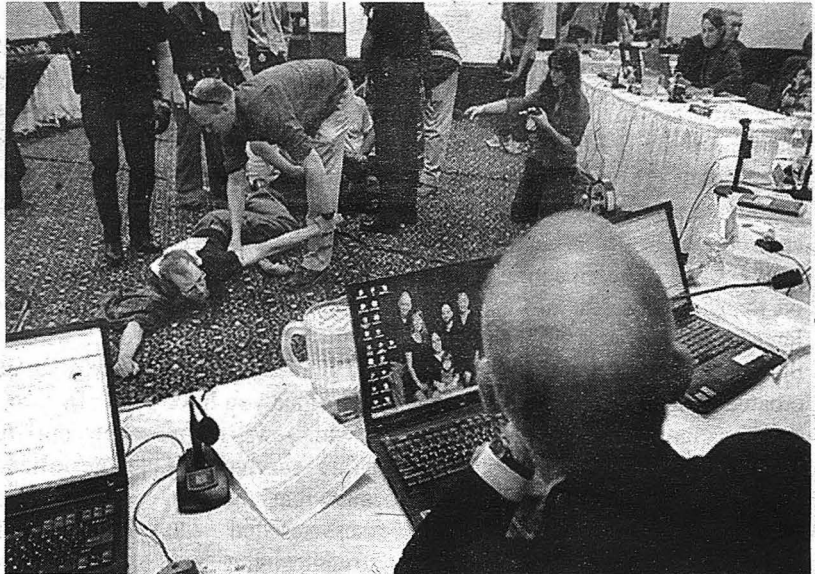
For the last five years, the country's largest land holder has been courting LURC, a regulatory agency of the Department of Conservation, for a zoning change regarding more than 20,000 acres on and around Moosehead Lake. The zoning change process has experienced an unprecedented rate of public participation. The vast majority of Mainers are expressing strong disapproval for the plan. For example, critics of the plan noted that LURC received more than 1,700 comments in 2008 in opposition to a resort development on Lily Bay as part of the Plum Creek Concept Plan, where as only six comments expressed support.

In anticipation of a "yes" vote, four EFlers rushed to the front of

the meeting room demanding a chance to have their own vote. The audience looked on, stunned as the four, joined by others in the crowd, railed against the LURC commissioners for failing to do their job and selling out the state's resources and biodiversity to corporate interests instead. After refusing to leave, they sat down and linked arms. While these activists were being forcefully removed and arrested by the Bangor police, two others were arrested. The six EFlers were charged with disorderly conduct and trespassing. All six later pled not guilty and are seeking a jury trial.

"Plum Creek has really put the 'con' into conservation," said Ryan Clarke of Maine Earth First! "The hundreds of thousands of acres that Mainers believe will be conserved under this plan are in reality still subject to harmful extraction projects. Plum Creek will still be able to make millions by retaining their rights to spread sewage sludge, build roads, clear cut forests to plant genetically engineered trees, extract gravel and build cell phone towers. This plan will do nothing for Maine people and just line the pockets of corporate CEOs from away."

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Photos courtesy of Maine EFlers

Maine EFlers disrupting LURCers

Industrial Wind Power Threatens Maine's Mountains

BY MEG GILMARTIN

Industrial wind power is on the fast track to devastate the remote mountain ridges of Maine. Mainstream groups would have you believe that wind power is the next best solution to climate change; however, many Maine residents are beginning to realize that the only thing green about industrial wind power is the money that lines the corporate CEOs' pockets. Activists from around the state are joining Earth First!ers' to fight the most recent "green-washed" corporate attempt to pillage the mountains of Maine.

This threat is particularly relevant and frightening in the face of our current climate crisis. Wind power, amongst mainstream environmental groups stands as the answer to the crisis. Industrial wind power is not the answer to our current climate situation. Most wind power projects actually require more energy for their construction than they are able to produce, not to mention the energy needed to manufacture all of the elements for such projects. (To manufacture one of the cement pads that the average industrial wind turbine is placed upon produces 250,000 pounds of carbon.) However, nothing compares to the ecosystem destruction necessary to implement these projects in remote areas. Conservation, preservation and restoration of forested landscapes is one of the most valuable solutions to the effects of climate change on this planet's non-human inhabitants. Yet the thousands

of acres of clear-cutting, miles of new road-building, grading and clearing of sensitive alpine forests necessary for industrial wind power is being justified in the name of climate change. Allowing these sensitive mountain ecosystems to remain intact as wilderness corridors and carbon sinks provides an opportunity for these forests to regenerate; to eventually be capable of re-wilding the North Woods to its natural forested state, stretching from Maine to Minnesota, adding to this planet's overall stability. Mountain ecosystems are also extremely important in the role they play in the hydrological cycle, with snow melt acting as a head water to rivers, streams, and ponds. Erosion and sedimentation that are often associated with wind power has the potential to contaminate these fresh water supplies: poisoning the life blood of this planet.

Corporations and the Maine government have been pushing through industrial wind power proposals around the state, following the creation of the "Wind Power Law," signed in 2008, which placed two-thirds of the state within expedited wind power development areas. Within these zones, wind power projects require little to no environmental regulations and can be placed upon mountain ridges with no concern for the plants and animals who inhabit these areas. Two agencies—the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC), infamous for their part in the Plum Creek proposal to develop Moosehead Lake (see *EF!* January-February 2009) and

the Department of Environmental Protection—have been given the authority to expand these expedited areas at the industry's request despite having no qualifications or experience in making such decisions.

TransCanada is a 35 billion-dollar oil company from Alberta, Canada, responsible for the environmental devastation associated with tar sands (the most resource-intensive form of fossil fuel extraction). They have submitted an application to LURC to expand the expedited areas to include 631 acres on Sisk Mountain (they have already built 22 of 44 turbines on nearby Kibby Mountain). Sisk Mountain is located in the Boundary Mountains of western Maine in the Chain of Ponds area. Sisk Mountain and the Boundary Mountains are habitat to the Canada Lynx (listed threatened species), historic nesting grounds for the golden eagle, and home to the Bicknell's Thrush, yellow-nosed vole, rock shrew, northern bog lemming, and thousands of migratory birds that pass through the range annually. Sisk Mountain is above 2,700 feet in elevation, placing it within the mountain protected zone because of the fragility of alpine ecosystems and their susceptibility to erosion. The fate of this remote mountain is being decided by LURC, the same commission that determined the fate of the Moosehead Lake area (the largest area of undeveloped land east of the Mississippi); zoning it to be developed as a playground for the rich.

Luckily, local community groups have formed around the

state in opposition to wind power development. One of these groups, Friends of the Boundary Mountains (www.boundarymtns.org), works to safeguard the Boundary Mountains from development and to conserve the area for traditional uses of wildlife, recreation and forestry. The group formed in 1995 when the protected mountain tops were threatened by rezoning for wind power development. The Friends of the Boundary Mountains has been particularly influential in the fight to protect Sisk Mountain from corporate driven ecological devastation; pushing the lines from "not in my back yard" (NIMBY) driven opposition to industrial wind power to more biocentric-based, no compromise messaging. These groups have recently formed a coalition called "The Citizens Task Force on Wind Power" to protect Maine's mountain tops.

Because of Maine's unique rural nature and "wealth" of natural resources, corporations like TransCanada are always around the next mountain ridge waiting to cash in this year's federal stimulus package check in exchange for their role in ecological devastation. That is why Maine Earth First! is working to restore, re-wild and regenerate the shattered ecosystems that exist here and create long-lasting means of protection for the North Woods ecosystems and all of this planet's interconnected neighbor ecosystems. Maine Earth First! will continue to take a no compromise stance in their eco-defense!

Dear shit fer brains...

Dear SFB,

To the Editorial Collective: Many thanks for two years of subscriptions and counting. You provide news I don't get from any other source and take nothing in return. I will reciprocate when I am more free. Thanks, as well for the many heartening notes from the Roadshow with their beautiful descriptions and emotions.

To Siri: You claim that "our children will have the answers to the problems of the future." However, we already know what these answers must be, at least well enough to begin acting on them, because the problems of the future will be the problems of today exacerbated. With regard to climate change, 10 or 20 years from now may be too late to avert truly catastrophic conditions, because we will have passed what Hansen and many others describe as the tipping point, beyond which positive feedbacks in the climate system will ensure up to 9° C increased temperature according to some estimates. This would have the effect, Li writes, of "making the greater part of the Earth uninhabitable for human beings, raising the sea level by at least 25 meters, and causing the extinction of 90 percent of species and a possible reduction of the world [human] population by 80 percent." Indeed, researchers are not agreed as to whether we have not passed the tipping point already. As Chomsky wrote last month, "The picture might be much grimmer even than what the Stern repost [which he calls 'very highly regarded' for its science, although it is criticized for setting a temperature increase goal that Stern himself acknowledges would result in the destruction of most ecosystems] predicts. A group of MIT scientists have just released the results of what they describe as 'The most comprehensive modeling yet carried out on the likelihood of how much hotter the Earth's climate will get in this century, [showing] that without rapid and massive action, the problem will be about twice as severe as previously predicted six years ago—and could be even worse than that.'"

The main solution must be to reduce consumption below the level that entails a

net contribution to greenhouse gas concentration, which also approaches the level necessary to sustain industrial civilization. Realistically, this also requires a majority reduction in the first-world human population (visions of salvation through hypothetical miracle technology are unsubstantiated).

I gather from your letter that the continuation of certain oppressed nations is important to you. If that is so, or if you simply care whether the biosphere is decimated, you should be for consumption and population reduction, primarily in the First World, because the worse conditions get, the more it will be oppressed nations that get the short end of the stick. Since you have solidarity with Jews, many of whom are survivors of a Holocaust that they, in many cases, resisted with armed struggle, can you not also find solidarity for the resistance to the linked, omniscient consumption and population conditions at the core of empire?

My address is in the back of the *Journal* if you care to respond.

For life,

—GRANT BARNES

Dear Shit for Brains,

As always, it was the highlight of my day to see that the latest issue of the *Journal* had arrived, and I would like to congratulate everyone involved for releasing another great issue. I am, however, concerned about the issue surrounding Ben Rosenfeld's article. I do believe that there are other ways in which he could have written the article, many which may have been more acceptable to many. However, I have to say that I didn't find the article all that offensive, and thought it part of a discussion that very much needs to occur in the movement. The fact that it wasn't published in the latest issue of the *Journal*, I feel, was a mistake. This is especially true since it seems to have had what must be the smallest Dear Shit for Brains section ever along with the a page which obviously needed more than the paragraph about Ben, a blown up DMEF! and the issue explanation. What I don't understand is why the article wasn't published alongside either a piece by the *Journal* or someone else giving a counterargu-

ment and opening up the floor for more discussion in future issues. It seems like this is a problem that never needed to be created, and it's a shame that it was. I've been meaning to write in to thank you all for your hard work on the *Journal* for a while now, and it stinks that the push that got me to do so ended up being this. Looking forward to the next issue and hopefully some good discussion from many viewpoints in its pages.

—ANONYMOUS

Dear Shit fer Brains,

Postmodern jello mold with multicolored chunks of marshmallows, the end of consumerism and, let's face it, y'all, capitalism is on the ropes worldwide. The spiritual crisis has materialized, mirrored by hordes of vacant-eyed teenagers walking throughout enormous shopping malls while the parents fret over home foreclosures. That's materialism on steroids contempo. Meanwhile, global climate destabilization gets more dangerous, which most folks just don't give a thought to because it's all just too complicated. Hey, just keep shopping, right?

Adrift in the world of appearances like characters in a third-rate movie, chronicled by racks of celebrity photo magazines detailing the divorce rate, pill popping and an occasional murder, the fame machine is a miserable producer. Where's the juice, oh Hollywood? A half-billion dollars to make a feature-length movie? What happened to acting as an art form? The theater (in financial decline as usual) still offers the real talent! And, by the way, why does it cost a hundred bucks for an evening of jazz with a date at The Spaghetti Club? Where's the free trumpet player, the electric piano lady and the guy who drummed on the pavement when we really need them?

Cut to Copenhagen, Denmark—the last opportunity to actually do something to stop the ecological tipping point from being reached. Not a sane mind in the house! Schemers, political dreamers, multinational corporation agendas, green-business fix-er-uppers, fourth-world country politicians goin' for a larger piece of the pie that doesn't exist, and the tower of babbling lobbyists crowd, which always



follows the military industrial movable conclave, all together for the holiday season December 7-18, Anno Domini. The anarchists are staying at Christiania.

The United States military command at the pentagon has publicly stated that the future will be defined by "catastrophe management."

And my relatives wanna know why I spend so much time reading Vedanta philosophy, sitting in meditation and identifying with the spiritual absolute unchanging reality? What was the question?

—CRAIG LOUIS STEHR

Dear SFB,

Hello to all my connections at the *Journal*. You know who you are!

What an amazing issue of the *Journal* to return to after spending a week assisting long-time direct-action elders and families on Black Mesa and surrounding areas: Big Mountain, coal mine mesa, low mountain on Hopi Partitioned Lands and Peabody lands.

I just wanted to send you all a quick note of gratitude. This issue is special. I haven't even read through all of the current issue, but I wanted to give a shout out to Luke. Luke: The "Listening to Our Instincts" piece touched me to the core. It is beautifully and tactfully written.

It's a lot of humble work getting a publication like the *Journal* together, and I thank you all for being a part of it's creation.

Love and support,

—RAYANNE

Dear Shit fer Brains,

I am responding to a letter written by Siri in the Samhain/Yule 2009 issue. I agree that human breeding is no more selfish than any other breeding species on the planet; the will to breed is just as strong as the will to sleep, the will to eat and the essential instinct to survive. However, it is very apparent that humans no longer live their lives solely on will or instinct. Humans, no doubt evolved and flourished as

part of the natural world. They have now stepped outside the bounds of what is "natural." Species that remain inside the bounds of nature are those that keep the Earth and ecosystems balanced. However, humans no longer contribute to the balance and cycles of the Earth. We have tipped it, and we have been slowly tipping it farther and farther over the past 10,000 years; since the invention of agriculture, we have been allowed to increase our numbers at an exponential rate. We have conquered this planet, and by doing so, tipped the balance so far that we are causing a massive extinction event. The last time this happened was the K-T extinction, and I would not call the asteroid that caused it part of our balanced Earth.

Yet, hope remains. This hope should not be put blindly in the future of breeding, but in the brains given to us by the miracle of evolution. There are thousands, probably millions, of orphaned babies and children on this planet. Rather than breed, couples (or even singles) who can support children should take these parentless ones in. It is not selfish to want babies, but it is selfish to want to give birth when so many need homes.

Adopting will not only give orphaned children the families they want, but, if done on a large scale, it will, over time, reduce population. And that is a future for this planet that one should surely hope for.

—KAT

Dear Shit fer Brains,

Hey, I was tabling for the *Earth First! Journal* at the first ever Seattle Anarchist Bookfair this weekend, and I had some spare time to read the latest *Journal*, including "Practical Ideas For an Anti-Racist Radical Ecological Movement." What was interesting was that, moments before I started reading this piece, a young womyn of color brought up the topic of birth and breeding as rep-

resented in the sticker (on the table) that read "Thank you for not breeding." I agreed that this sentiment could be specifically applied to lower-class folks and, in that application, could be the remnants of a white-centered ideology based on the ancient-but-still-detrimental culture of Social Darwinism and the practice of eugenics. I also explained that, on the other hand, I could see how this slogan could wake many people (regardless of class or race) out of the stupor of socially-constructed breeding obligations and mindless consumerism: Get married, buy a house, have a kid (or three), buy toys and diapers and clothes and other single-use products for each kid on a daily basis, buy each kid their own car, send them to college so they can get an academic degree and be able to afford to replicate their parents' lifestyle and breeding habits so that they can have kids, etc.

But then, after our conversation was over and I sat down to read this article, I was convinced that breeding and population do not have a 1:1 correlation with ecological destruction. Rather, it is the irresponsible behavior of the people (in all classes and races) that is despicable and destructive—population growth just makes it appear to be exacerbated enormously.

At the root, if everyone follows suit with their parents' lifestyles and don't take the personal responsibility to affect their surroundings from an authentic understanding of their own relationship to the Earth, the results will be, negative no matter what the population-count.

With that in mind, I found that those stickers can be reformatted to read "Thank you for being."

—PROFANE STEPHANE,
SEATTLE

Dear SFB,

Loved the latest ish... And I got feedback.

First, Kristian Williams' article was great, but why was there no bio? This author has written great stuff; the *Journal* should be flaunting it when we get someone willing to use their name and lend their reputation to the paper. It helps balance out so many articles coming from pen-names and pseudonyms; it gives more legitimacy to his powerful perspective and helps him promote his great books (such as *Our Enemies in Blue*, published by Soft Skull Press).

Also, there were a few bad typos in the "Approaches to Informants" side bar on the same page. We were in the "Umpqua" not "Lumpqua;" and it's the CLDC, not the CELDC ... another important piece

that loses credibility for minor reasons.

The Domsday Mountain EF! comic was cute, but too damn big! And it was way to sub-cultural to be that close to the front. I love having comics in here, but that one should have been smaller and towards that back (maybe near the book reviews or updates).

Finally, about Frontlines: four out of ten listings were Animal Liberation Front related. They could have been condensed to one listing. The *Journal* should not be primary a mouthpiece for animal liberation actions. They have their own outlets (pretty damn good ones). To put it bluntly, I am not inspired by hearing of sabotage against small and medium meat and leather business owners in other countries. I'm not opposed to it; I just don't think it serves the goals of the *Journal* well. Here in Florida, Seminoles and Florida Crackers have a cattle-ranching culture that predates factory farming and a land ethic that we can learn a lot from. These short Frontlines provide no context about the source of the meat and leather.

Combined with the listing of Greek migrant prison riots (yes, I love 'em, but hear me out) it's confusing for someone expecting actions about fighting industrial-

ism's destruction of the planet. I think it would be better to have less flashy actions that are more on point with biocentric intentions.

In closing this review, critique, rant... I love the paper deeply and am committed to the *Journal's* success in representing and growing the direct action environmental movement. I distribute a lot of them. I want them to be relevant and inspiring outside of young punk anarchist circles.

It's not like I'm calling for some massive change. (Although, come to think of it, I did recently get a strange fortune cookie telling me that a radical ecology publication could be relocating to my neck of the sub-tropics in the future... weird, huh?) I just want to see us use our publication to the fullest.

For a world without borders, prisons or fear of butchering our own food,

—PANAGIOTI TSOLKAS

Dear shit for brains;

Please realize that the forest is more than the trees and that there are all sorts of single and multi-celled organisms in the forest floor that would love to eat your shit. Some are insects, some are fungi, some are bacteria. They would rather you leave your shit in the woods than send it to some fucking industrial centralized shit processing factory or whatever. Now, if you want to take it

home to compost and fertilize fruit and nut trees, that's cool—those soil organisms would be just as happy.

Now, to be sure, there is the rare ecosystem that lacks a plethora of shit-eaters, but I guarantee you that any forest system that has been recently defended by blockaders is not one of those.

Yours, against stupidity, for more shitting in the woods, and for an ecological vision that encompasses more than trees and furry things,

—BEAR



... write us 300 words or less, folks

The 2009 *EarthFirst! Journal* Reader Survey Results

In the September-October 2009 Mabon edition of the *EF! Journal* we included a Reader Survey to get some feedback about the publication and some of the operations. The *Earth First! Journal* is maintained by a collective of editors, some are long-term and others are short-term—those who work on a single issue of the *Journal*.

The people that have collectively worked to produce the *Journal* in the last year or so would like to see some restructuring in the future. We appreciate all feedback, from the 2009 survey and beyond, and encourage our readers to send letters to the editors or, Dear Shit fer Brains, as we say. The Reader Surveys can still be sent to our PO Box address. Here are the results, thank you for your input!

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

- a. Yes.....**80%**
- b. No.....**20%**

2. Have you subscribed in the past?

- a. Yes.....**80%**
- b. No.....**20%**

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

- a. Yes.....**14%**
- b. No.....**86%**

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

50% said 10 years or more
1 person said "since it started"

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

90% rated us a 7 or above

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

- a. Yes.....**10%**
- b. No.....**90%**

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

- a. Yes.....**19%**
- b. No.....**67%**
- 50/50.....**14%**

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

Sierra Club, Earth Island Journal, New York Times, Greenpeace, Orion, Harpers, The Match!, etc.

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

- a. Yes.....**52%**
- b. No.....**48%**

10. Do you wish the *EF! Journal* was:

- a. A monthly newsletter (printed, on 8.5x11 paper, in black and white, staple bound)**14%**
- b. In magazine format.....**38%**
- c. Continuing in its current newspaper style**29%**
- d. A quarterly, bound publication.....**23%**
- e. Able to be purchased in more places.....**9%**
- f. Other ideas: **web-based, just stay inexpensive, whatever works.**

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

- a. Updated more regularly.....**19%**
- b. Downloadable in PDF format.....**5%**
- 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.....**19%**
- d. Completely replacing the print version of the *EF! Journal*.....**5%**
- e. Other ideas: **computers suck, I hate the internet, smash your computers before the feds do, would Ned Ludd approve?**

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.....**33%**
- b. No.....**62%**
- Maybe.....**5%**

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.....**48%**
- b. No.....**28%**
- Maybe.....**10%**
- Don't Know.....**14%**



Banner hung from the edifice of the European Commission building.

photo courtesy of <http://www.cenah.be>

Maine

Update on Plum Creek Development

continued from page 3

Jessie Dowling, of Rising Tide North America and Earth First! Explained, "in times of great climate crisis and economic crisis, our land use planners need to be visionaries and leaders, and not subject to small private interests. The North Woods and Moosehead Lake are a part of the largest undeveloped region east of the Mississippi River. This area plays a significant role in our global community as a carbon sink. Development for second homes and resorts should not be a priority at this time."

Maine Earth First! has been critical of Plum Creek's proposal from the beginning and is pledging continued resistance to the plan as it moves forward in the coming months. Meg Gilmartin, of Earth First!, said, "We are completely dedicated to doing what LURC has refused to do: protecting a way of life, safeguarding biodiversity, promoting climate stability and preserving the culture, which will lead us in the direction of climate and economic sustainability."

Plum Creek is proposing to rezone 20,000 acres for development of high-end resorts and second homes as part of its Moosehead Lake Concept Plan. The plan includes 90,000 acres of conservation easements to satisfy LURCs requirement for a conservation balance. An additional 266,000 acres worth of development rights on Plum Creek land will be sold to The Nature Conservancy and The Appalachian Mountain Club for \$35 million. This conservation is being hailed by many as an unprecedented opportunity to protect a large tract of land in northern Maine.

Still, the conservation easements only prevent further development. They still allow plenty of ecologically destructive practices, such as gravel mining, the spreading of sewage sludge, as well as commercial water extraction, road-building, power-lines building, and industry-defined "sustainable forestry."

Several of the environmental groups who have been consistently fighting Plum Creek have announced plans to appeal the decision. The citizens of Maine have jumped through all of the legal hoops, too, and shown unprecedented opposition to this development, and LURC has shown where they stand. Maine Earth First! will not back down, and will be there every step of the way to make sure that the eco-yuppie resorts are not built and that the Moosehead Lake region will one day outlive Plum Creek's irresponsible ownership.

Join us next Summer at the RRR in Maine, where we will be putting a wrench in Plum Creek's development plans and any other corporate interests that dare to threaten the North Woods!

Climate Alarm in Brussels

Activists Shut Down European Business Conference

BY LEIGH PHILLIPS

British-style "climate camp" activists shut down the annual conference of the Confederation of European Business in Brussels on the morning of Wednesday October 28, occupying and blockading the European Commission building where industrialists were due to talk about global warming.

The new group, Climate Alarm, accused the EU executive of getting into bed with the businesses sponsoring the conference, which include Shell, Daimler and Arcelor-Mittal, companies it says are some of the worst carbon emitters in the world.

"Corporate lobbyists have no role to play in deciding how to deal with the climate crisis," said spokeswoman Anna Martin.

"[These firms] all lobby hard to obstruct strong action on climate change... At the same time, they have made windfall profits from a falling carbon market."

A few dozen campaigners from the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and other nations swooped into the commission's Charlemagne building a few minutes before 9:00 am. EU officials had lent the building to the employers' group, Business Europe, for free for the duration of the conference.

last couple of years in the UK, where activists have occupied or tried to disrupt two coal-fired power stations and stop the extension of Heathrow airport. In April, activists blocked streets in London's financial district to protest the EU emissions trading scheme.

Though it lasted two hours before police used pepper spray to disperse some of the activists and arrested 20, the October 28th blockade was the first time climate campers had taken such action in the European capital.

Martin warned that closer to the UN climate conference in Copenhagen in December, there will be more and more of this sort of activity.

"We will see some very strong actions in Copenhagen. In terms of international attention, Copenhagen will easily match Seattle," she said, referring to the demonstrations that shut down the World Trade Organization ten years ago, the protest that saw the birth of the anti-globalisation movement.

The major environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and development groups in Brussels regularly engage in showpiece stunts outside the EU buildings. On the same day, in an Oxfam action, hundreds of miniature tents were set up in Brussels Central Station as well as in London, Berlin, Dublin and Madrid to symbolise the plight of climate refugees, while Action Aid campaigners "hammered" on the doors of the European Summit of premiers and presidents on Thursday, October 29.

The events are almost always carefully co-ordinated with police and building security. But the Climate Alarm action was not authorised by the Brussels police, which the campaigners believe is why the police took the unusual step of using pepper spray.

The activists, who formed the new organisation at a climate camp on the Belgian-Dutch border this summer, are linked to Climate Justice Action (CJA), a wider global network of groups with a strong presence from NGOs in the developing world, which say that emissions reductions targets do not match what scientists are demanding and that the range of climate solutions on offer actually exacerbates global warming and only benefits business.

Emissions trading, carbon capture and storage, carbon offsets, biofuels and nuclear power—embraced by the EU and to a lesser degree by some of the more mainstream green outfits as the main strategies to tackle climate change—have been denounced by CJA as "false solutions."

They also say that industrialized countries owe an "environmental debt" to developing countries for creating the climate crisis.

"Climate Change is Everyone's Business"

The action managed to prevent a crowd of some 200 delegates from entering the building. Hans Korteweg, a senior manager with Foratom, the European Atomic Forum, told this website, "One of their banners says: 'Our climate is not your business,' but climate is everyone's business, including business."

"Business absolutely has a role to play—we have the solutions available, the technology we can transfer and the money to invest," he added. "They should come into the meeting and debate, not shut it down."

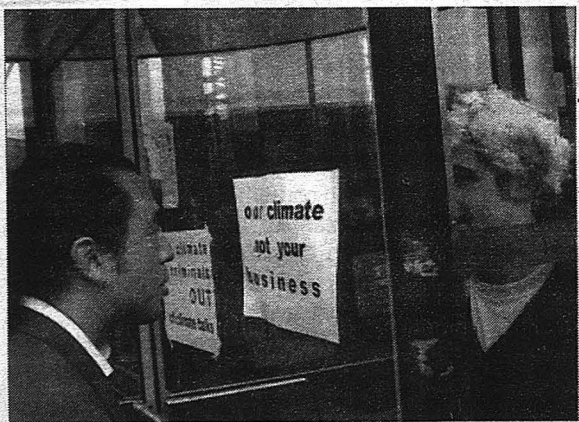
Enzo Gatta, industrial affairs chairman of Business Europe, was furious: "It's just unbelievable. I really don't understand this. We have enormous amounts of money to invest."

"It's not about lobbying. There is already worldwide acceptance that emissions must be reduced. There is no serious debate on this anymore. Now it is just a question of co-ordination. That is what is being discussed."

A bemused researcher on energy and transport from Italy's National Research Council, who was also stuck outside, was more relaxed about the situation. Leaning against his luggage and pulling out a pack of cigarettes, Vincenzo Antonucci said the activists had a point.

"It's difficult. On the one hand, what they are saying is true about the likes of Shell and Daimler, of course. This is a correct point of view. But on the other hand, even inside these companies, there are a few, some who are serious about climate change."

"And green energy is expensive; it's big business. The revolution isn't going to pay."



Protester blocking the entrance of a businessman.

Some protesters chained the entrance closed while others deliberately trapped themselves inside the large glass revolving doors by jamming wooden door stops into its base, preventing any delegates from entering.

"This is the second time the European Commission has hosted Business Europe's annual conference. It shows how close the EU institutions are to business when it comes to climate change," Martin explained.

Such radical direct action has been on the increase over the

photo courtesy of <http://www.cenah.be>

Weather or Not...

By STORM

In the December edition of Environmental Science and Technology, Georgia Tech City and Regional Planning Professor Brian Stone published a paper that suggests that policymakers need to address the influence of global deforestation and urbanization on climate change, in addition to greenhouse gas emissions. A synopsis of this paper and the issues surrounding it appeared in an article in the November 11 issue of *Science Daily* entitled, "Reducing Greenhouse Gases May Not Be Enough To Slow Climate Change." According to Stone's paper, though the international community met in Copenhagen in December to craft a new framework for responding to anthropogenic global heating, policymakers need to work to extensively broaden the range of management strategies beyond just greenhouse gas reductions alone.

Duh! There are EF!ers—and a few others—who have been talking about this for more than 20 years, and they've experienced much frustration at the difficulty many people seem to have in understanding and incorporating this issue into their worldviews and strategies. There are Indigenous peoples who have known this for centuries, often because they learned the lesson the hard way: the Mayan civilization clearcut and eroded itself right into the dark depths of humynity, as have others.

"Across the US as a whole, approximately 50 percent of the warming that has occurred since 1950 is due to land use changes (usually in the form of clearing forest for crops or cities) rather than to the emission of greenhouse gases," Stone states in his paper. "Most large US cities, including Atlanta, are warming at more than twice the rate of the planet as a whole, a rate that is mostly attributable

wholesale clearcutting of forests and draining of wetlands by the Egyptians, Greeks, Carthaginians and Romans as they strove to expand their respective empires. The desert we see there today is far more extreme than it would have been otherwise.

Current climate science research—both that of on-the-ground observation of current climate change as well as that projected by increasingly refined and sophisticated climate models—indicates that what is happening now and that which is to come will likely be considerably worse than what has been projected even in recent years. While most everyone in moderate, liberal, left, progressive, and radical circles are now jumping on the anti-emissions bandwagon (a worthy effort, to be sure), very few—even in green activist communities—are talking about this other facet of humyn-caused global heating, much less tackling it. A handful of us beat our heads against the wall trumpeting this message continually, and that's saying nothing about Indigenous peoples' efforts (who almost nobody else on Earth cares to listen to anyway) regarding this. This oversight is particularly mind-boggling in ecocentric movements like ours where we have people questioning Earth First!'s overall relevance in the 21st Century (as if the other essential underpinnings of EF! have somehow waned in significance).

In a world where virtually nobody else is acknowledging—much less grappling with the role of shabby land-use policies in destabilizing the Earth's climate—it would seem that we in EF! have our work cut out for us. Our adversaries are very aware of this issue, however. It is no accident that people like Al Gore won't touch it with a 10-foot pole (can't alienate all of the special-interest cliques now, can we?). It's no accident that this issue is so "overlooked" by



A view across a devastating clearcut.

Photo courtesy of www.GEORGELOHREHMER.COM

to land use change. As a result, emissions reduction programs—like the cap-and-trade program under consideration by the US Congress—may not sufficiently slow climate change in large cities where most people live and where land use change is the dominant driver of warming."

According to Stone's research, slowing the rate of forest loss around the world and regenerating lost forests could significantly slow the pace of global heating.

A common misconception regarding anthropogenic global heating (much more accurate terminology than global "warming") is that it began during the so-called "Industrial Revolution" with the attendant exponential rise in "greenhouse gas" emissions. Rather, that's when global heating rapidly accelerated. It actually began more than 6,000 years ago, when humyns began clearing forests and woodlands, as well as draining wetlands to launch large-scale monoculture agribusiness, build cities and establish empires. The vast region that is now the Sahara Desert was already experiencing a natural cycle of warming and drying, but this was greatly exacerbated by the

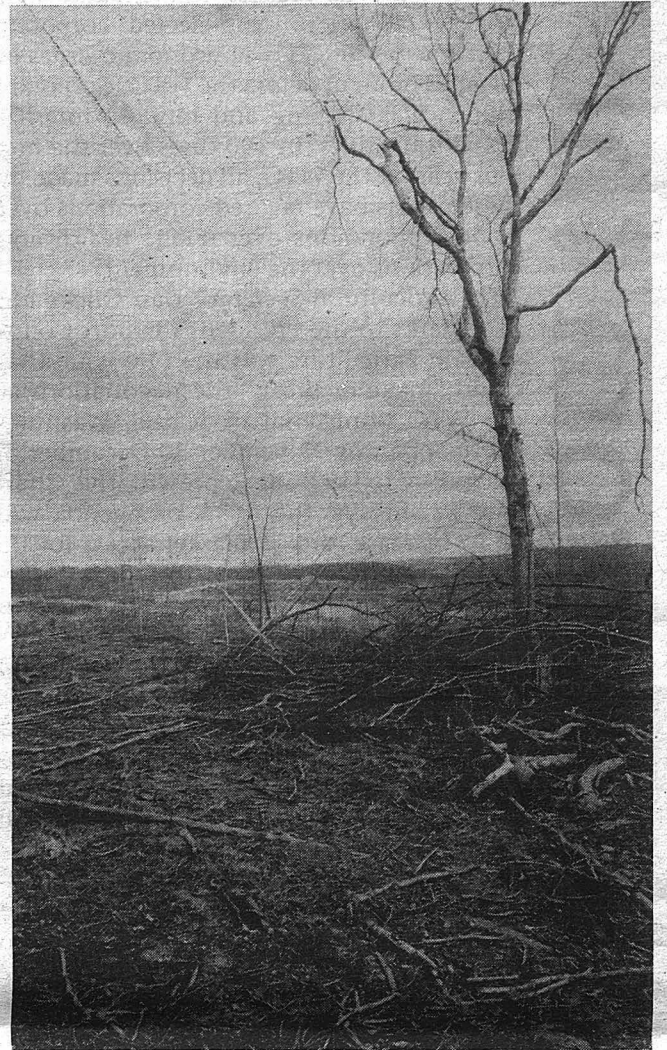
so many and that those scientists—as well as the world's native peoples—who are onto this issue are barely audible in the cacophony that the "global change" craze has created. The coal, oil and gas outfits who know their dark day is coming to a close and want to gobble up every penny that they can before the curtain falls (been to Appalachia lately? How about Black Mesa, Arizona?). The timber industry is already launching

claims that "global warming will take out these forests, so let's liquidate them now before it's too late." Even if they are correct, these current ecosystems will serve as compost for the new ones that replace them, but not if Wall Street desiccates them first (remember afore-mentioned Sahara Desert?). Vegetative ecosystems not only sequester carbon, they sequester water, and water is life. Any questions?

This article was written in Maine, which is home to—among other interesting things—the largest undeveloped wilderness in the Lower 48, east of the Mississippi River. The Moosehead Lake Region of the Great North Woods, the southern buffer of the great Canadian taiga, is in the crosshairs of none other than Plum Creek Timber & Real Estate, the largest private landowner on Turtle Island. Its abysmal land-use practices are legendary. "Scum Creep Plunder" seeks to develop large tracts of the Moosehead Lake Region into a ritzy yuppie "outdoor" resort—complete with gated communities, golf courses, manicured landscaping, swimming pools, resort shopping malls... the works. This is for people who have one if not several homes

already, where so many humyn and non-humyn creatures are homeless.

Two years ago, Maine Earth First! and Native Forest Network-Gulf of Maine participated in several weeks of public hearings, sponsored by Maine's Land Use Regulatory Commission (LURC) regarding this



A barren landscape where there was once forest.

extremely controversial project. Radical environmentalists brought to the table this issue (along with many others) during these hearings. In doing so, they raised the eyebrows of many people (including LURC officials) who were largely unaware of this crucial component to the climate equation. LURC finally made its decision at the beginning of this Autumn, and, after throwing us a rubber bone in the form of a footnote, stating that climate might be an issue, ruled in favor of Scum Creep Plunder's proposed playground for the rich on Moosehead Lake. We are appealing this decision, and we're not stopping there—too much is at stake.

As EF! continues to fight for wild places, wild creatures and wild cultures, we must continue to push the climate/land-use connection to the forefront as part of our

Slowing the rate of forest loss around the world and regenerating lost forests could significantly slow the pace of global heating.

efforts. Along with the defense of all remaining ecosystems must come mass, wholesale eco-restoration projects—in semi-wild, rural, suburban and urban realms—to help animals and humyns to both survive and mitigate the oncoming climate catastrophe. The United Nations had its party in Copenhagen and the attendant protesters disrupted it. Now, let's bring this to equal footing with the emissions-reduction bandwagon—much as we did 10 years earlier in Seattle when we carried ecocentrism into the streets alongside labor, humyn rights and economic justice. We may be the only ones doing so.

The World Trade Organization: Pirating the Planet

BY DANDY LION

Blast from the Past

The World Trade Organization (WTO) formed quietly in 1994 as a result of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Over 130 member countries agree to adhere to many heinous rules regulating international trade. The WTO must be shut down because it is unelected, unaccountable and has the power to undermine local laws that protect the environment and labor from exploitation. Non-elected corporate panels act as judges over economic issues in disputes brought before the WTO. Corporate influence is shaping and binding international trade rules. In 100 cases over the first four years at the WTO, all decisions made by these panels have favored corporations over labor, corporations over public health and corporations over the environment.

US Agricultural Secretary Dan Glickman, in remarks to the President's Export Council, said agriculture was the one issue that could "make or break" the negotiations at the WTO Ministerial in Seattle, Washington, happening November 30-December 3. According to US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, the main US agenda will be to increase foreign market access for US goods. The US also wants to reduce tariffs and regulatory barriers that inhibit farm exports and ensure that science-based rules govern trade in genetically engineered (GE) crops and other products of biotechnology. Review of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS) and the Trade Related Property Rights Agreement (TRIPS) are all on the agenda.

In February 1998, negotiations for a biosafety protocol to regulate the use of and trade in GE products were blocked due to free trade concerns. The Miami Group, made up of the US, New Zealand, Ecuador, Argentina and several other countries that are pro-corporate, see the WTO fighting regulations and labeling of GE products as opposed to other nations, who see the "precautionary principle" as crucial to state sovereignty. As a result of this deadlock, biosafety protocol probably has no more than a 50/50 chance of being enacted. A US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 1992 rule precludes the FDA

from regulating GE crops, so it is unlikely that the US will ever sign onto either the biosafety or biodiversity protocols. Mandatory labeling of GE products has been enacted in several countries and is also threatened by WTO rules.

Here is a brief look at upcoming topics:

The TRIPS Agreement

Neem, haldi, pepper, harar, bahera, amla, mustard, basmati, ginger, castor, karela and jamun all have been patented and are victims of a western style Intellectual Property Rights system. Such biopiracy is epidemic. The implementation of TRIPS, which is based on the US style patent regimes, should be stopped immediately.

The WTO's Agreement on TRIPS creates a significant barrier to encouraging less intensive agriculture in non-industrialized areas of the world. Under the current TRIPS agreement, all countries need legislation to ensure the "effective" protection of plant varieties including trees. TRIPS is coming up for review in 1999, and corporate pressure from industrialized nations is coming down on countries who don't want to accept patents on life.

In international trade law, health and environmental standards and regulations, and even labeling can be considered technical barriers to trade. Under pressure from the US, the existing labeling of GE ingredients in the UK could be threatened. The US has sent papers to the WTO saying that the mandatory labeling of food, such as that now imposed unilaterally by Britain, can amount to a barrier to trade...

The SPS Agreement

The SPS agreement regulates movement of biological goods internationally. It limits the rights of national governments to impose import restrictions on goods, such as food that may be contaminated or timber that may carry diseases. The "precautionary principle" is not acceptable under the agreement because it is considered a barrier to trade. The WTO declared an obscure agency, Codex Alimentarius (influenced heavily by corporate interests), as the authority on food safety standards for the world. This agency poses a significant threat to consumer protections and drastically limits consumers' right to know.

The Global Free Logging Agreement

The "accelerated tariff liberalization" in the SPS agreement is an attempt by the US and Canada to remove remaining import taxes, known as tariffs, on processed wood products in order to penetrate Asian markets. A study by the Forest and Paper Association shows that reduction of tariffs would result in a three to four percent increase in global wood consumption (clearly their goal). Increased consumption means increased logging, making this a virtual "Global Free Logging Agreement" (FLA). In Britain, the introduction of non-trade measures into the agreement could lead to the outlawing of forest protection schemes. The FSC prohibits the use of GE trees while providing independent and international wood certification for the labeling of well-managed forest products.

This sinister FLA is being pushed by Monsanto, big timber, big oil and others with interests and investments in GE trees in hopes that it will produce faster growing plantations and thus make their plantations a more valuable commodity in the future international marketplace. Patents on tree genes are already mounting, resulting in monopoly ownership by transnational corporations.

The Agreement on Agriculture

In another arena, the Agreement on Agriculture (AOA) pits small farms against larger, more efficient agribusinesses in both industrialized and non-industrialized parts of the world, with disastrous consequences for small-scale agriculture and rural communities. GE agriculture is especially pervasive in so-called "third world" nations (with the most biodiversity). So, regardless of how much American farmers decide to grow, biodiversity faces intense threats. Further AOA negotiations will be launched at the Seattle Ministerial. According to the UN, roughly 1.4 billion people depend on farm-saved seeds for food security. Under WTO-enforced patent laws, Monsanto has the right to take farmers to court if they collect and use seeds from its patented plant varieties—including GE seeds. Monsanto has opened more than 475 such seed piracy cases nationwide.

This article originally appeared in the EF! J Samhain edition, November-December, 1999. Back issues of the EF! J are available for \$5 each.

SEATTLE+10

BY VITORIA 2012

By all accounts the accomplishments of the 1999 Protests in Seattle were phenomenal. Citizens of the world, afforded little to no representation on the

conventional forms of governance and power, assembled for the elite to express dissent. As opposed to demonstrating alone against the force of legislation that tore asunder centuries old work of labor and environmental movements, they locked arms in solidarity.

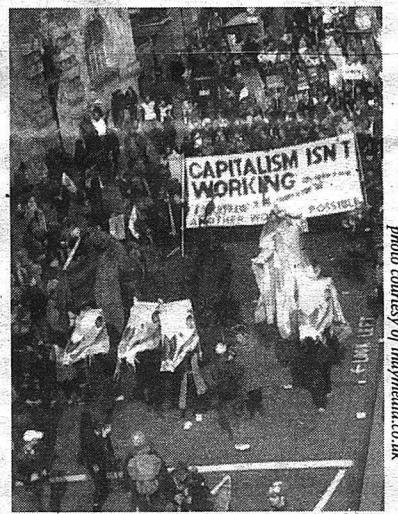
Together, with combined power of unity, the old Direct Action Network (DAN) brought activists from a diverse range of backgrounds

and interests together to engage in a totally inclusive project: a carnival against capital. On the morning of N30, activists surrounded the Washington State Convention and Trade Center, blockading the access streets, and opening an autonomous liberated zone. There, non-violence led to wild, ebullient street festivities, complete with puppets, costumes, music, and free food.

For this reason, academics situate the legacy of Seattle 1999 among other historical outbursts of popular rebellion. For instance, the 1871 Paris Commune and the wild mirth of May 1968. Unfortunately, just as the Insurrections of the Paris Commune and May '68 fell to violent repression and martial power, the legacy of Seattle '99 includes the unprecedented militarization that ensued under the Bush Administration. Since 1999, those meetings of the global elite that define the course of international relations have not given way. They have become far more aggressively protected. No-protest zones have extended into miles-wide areas under total police con-

trol, while authorities employ numerous undercover agents to infiltrate, agitate and destroy protestors. Most infamous was reports of rape and torture by police forces during the 2004 Miami Free Trade Area of the Americas.

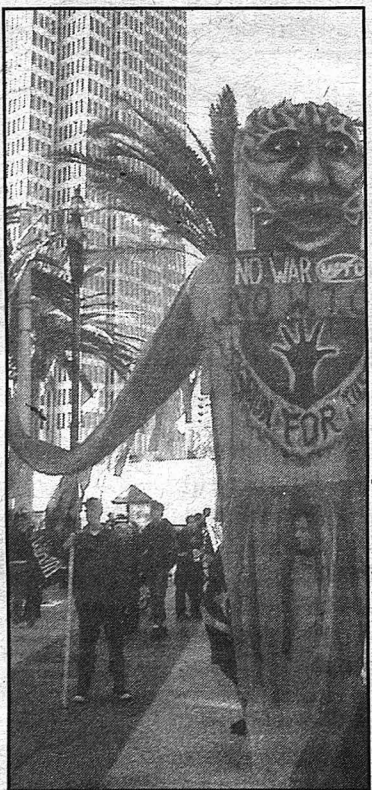
Even still, the solidarity of forces that joined together in 1999 to form coalitions of "teamsters and turtles" has held loosely together in Blue/Green Alliances throughout the United States, while anarchist networks continue to mobilize. As protests continue to develop, along with diverse societies throughout the world (from the Citizens Trade Campaign to squatter communities), a more widespread call to end neo-liberal globalization expands over the entire public spectrum. The electorate voted for the current US Congress, along with Obama himself, on the mandate of ending the "free trade adventure." In the midst of the crash of free market capital, the State floods public resources back into the subsequent undertow of power relations to rescue the project of finance capital. The memory of Seattle should encourage activists to continue struggling to create liberated spaces everywhere, against the tide of world domination.



Militant workers' bloc.

The impetus of Seattle 1999, as a product of the anti-globalization struggle, has been validated by the historic crash. To wit, the People's Summit, the organizers of COP15 protests recalled the climactic emergence of social space during N30, out of which a new world of creative action was realized. Indeed, through the tear gas and pepper spray, we trace the residue left behind by the Battle of Seattle along the spray-painted scrawl that adorns the walls holding back our collective desire.

From the backwoods to the slums to the suburbs and back to Copenhagen: "Remember, we are winning!"



Puppets walking against the WTO.

N30: International Roundup of Actions

continued from page 1

citizens must step in to shut down coal plants."

In New York City, an MCJ rally assembled outside of Bank of America to protest the bank's investment in false solutions (anti-climate policy lobbying) and exploitation of natural resources (investment mountain top removal, oil & gas exploration, etc). NASA climate scientist, Dr. James Hansen, spoke on the "privatization of the atmosphere" via cap and trade to the rally, which then chanted until a marching band broke out, leading the protest to its next destination, the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC). At the NRDC building, protestors acted out a street theater performance of activists chasing corporate lobbyists, politicians, as well as the NRDC's own promoters of false solutions and the grim reaper down the street. Briefly taking the street, the march of over a hundred like-minded activists stood up to the police ranks, vans and motorcyclists present. A team entered the NRDC to engage officials in a discussion, but were prevented from climbing the stairs by police. One dedicated protestor was arrested for allegedly attempting to chain themselves to the front doors, but the protest continued undeterred for some time.

Further rallies took place throughout New England—in Portland and Bangor, Maine and Burlington, Vermont—but the Midwest was not to be outdone. In Chicago, 200 climate activists thronged to the financial district, targeting the Chicago Climate Exchange. Angie Viands, of Rainforest Action Network (RAN) Chicago, explained the relevance of local action to international struggles like the December 15 climate talks in Copenhagen: "From Chicago to Copenhagen, powerful companies are cashing in on the climate crisis, taking advantage of public concern over climate change in order to make a buck. Carbon trading institutions like the Chicago Climate Exchange are privatizing the air we breathe and handing over rights to the atmosphere to the biggest polluters. Carbon Trading is a fraudulent market that intensifies social injustice, does not reduce emissions in a meaningful way, and acts as a dangerous distraction from the real climate solutions we urgently need." A "Battle of Seattle"-style lockdown took place, as 12 people—arms locked together through cement tubes—blockaded a central intersection and shut down Chicago's financial sector for two full hours before being arrested. "This is a message that we will not allow officials and negotiators to forget from now on," Viands declared. "We will be back until we are heard."

MCJ West sprung into action in similar fashion. After careful and cautious planning, over 300 activists in San Francisco rallied at Justice Hermann Plaza in the morning, and marched down Market Street chanting "System Change not Climate Change!" The crowd halted outside of Bank of America, while two dozen ac-

Finally, in Seattle, people from all over the Northwest convened in Seattle to attend the People's Summit from November 27-29. Keynote speaker, Amy Goodman, spoke on grassroots organizers, and other workshops convened covering issues from immigration to employment and climate change. On November 30, a contingent of protestors followed up the Summit with demonstrations against Bank of America and Chase Bank. At the latter location, two demonstrators performed an act of non-violent civil disobedience, locking down to Chase Bank



Protesters converge on Coke plant in India as a crowd encouragingly chanted, "Chase Bank, Climate Criminals!" Police arrested the two, wrapping up the N30 actions in Seattle. As with the WTO actions in 1999, however, the first day was only the beginning, and resistance in the US was only the tip of the iceberg.

In India on N30, over 2,000 villagers marched to the Coca-Cola plant in Mehdiganj, chanting "Shut Down Coca-Cola" and "Climate Justice Now!" As the worst drought in 40 years rampages through India, Coca-Cola's pollution of water supplies throughout the subcontinent have enraged many. Nandlal Master, an organizer with the key community organizing group, Lok Samiti, explained, "Coca-Cola cannot continue to mine for millions of liters in Mehdiganj when our communities do not have enough water to sustain their lives and livelihoods. Coca-Cola must shut down." Perforce, Coca-Cola's claims to be "water neutral" in Mehdiganj have been proven "misleading" and "impossible" by its own study.

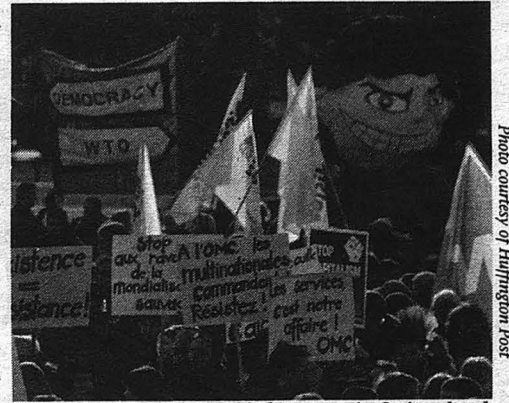
Much of the action of November 30 took place in Geneva, Switzerland, where this year's WTO Ministerial took place. Four thousand non-violent marchers rallied to demonstrate their dissent against the WTO meeting. Discussions among the 110 ministers inside ran in circles, according to press reports. Talks concentrated on the "Doha round" of talks without actually engaging in them. In fact, all the engaging was going on outside of the conference, as roughly 200 rioters struggled against police control, breaking windows, setting cars ablaze, and desperately attempting to disrupt the elites in their quixotic quest to conquer the world.

Activists in Canada picked up the slack for the next week, giving the public a few refreshing reminders that Seattle was still a battlefield well into December of 1999. A consistent stream of six successful sit-ins across the nation, waged against politicians, false solutions promoters and tar sands advocates, inspired the country from November 22 to December 5. The offices of Canadian Environment Minister Jim Prentice, Labour Minister Rona Ambrose, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, Minister Gary Lunn, Minister of Transport Infrastructure and Communities, John Baird, and finally, Tory Member of Parliament, Andrew Saxton were all occupied. All told, by December 5, 29 people had been arrested on the same ridiculous charges—"Assault by Trespass." They still await trial.

Meanwhile, Phoenix activists disrupted a JP Morgan Chase luncheon. They grabbed the stage and addressed the hall of lunching bankers with chants against coal interests. The group was eventually escorted out by a security guard. They found themselves

detained outside the Phoenix Convention Center for a brief time, but managed to elude arrest up a workers' ramp and onto the light rail, proving Sheriff Arpaio's plans for a perfectly surveilled society are completely ridiculous.

On the last day of action, D5, more demos emerged around the world. First, in Portland, an estimated 700 people marched on Portland State University to demonstrate their support for "turning around the WTO." Teach-ins and house parties were also conducted in Tucson, Arizona, and other cities throughout Texas and Minnesota, reflecting a shared vision between climate and trade justice activists. In London, England, 40,000 people marched through the streets in a "Stop Climate Chaos" march, on December 7, police arrested 31 demonstrators shutting down Chevron headquarters in San Ramon, California, and actions continued to mount in preparation for the Copenhagen Climate Talks of COP15.



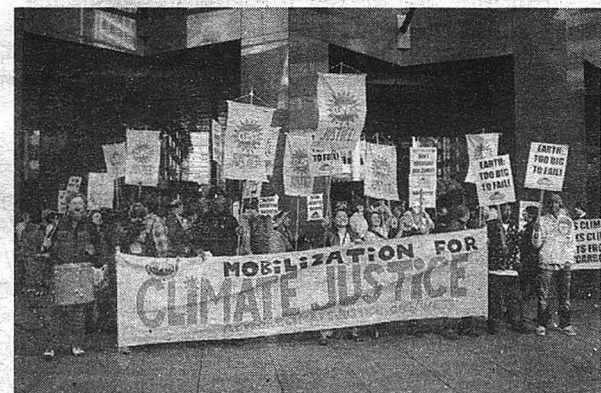
Large puppets accompanied protests in Switzerland.

Excerpt from "Taking Action Against Carbon Trade: What the Clouds Say"

BY RACHEL SMOLKER

While I was lying on the pavement in the middle of LaSalle and Adams Street, looking up at the sky, I contemplated the big picture of carbon trading, recalling some lines from the seminal "Durban Declaration" for Climate Justice: "History has seen attempts to commodify land, food, labor, forests, water, genes and ideas. Carbon trade follows in the footsteps of this history and turns the Earth's carbon cycling capacity into property to be bought and sold in a global market. Through this process of creating a new commodity, carbon, the Earth's ability and capacity to support a climate conducive to life and human societies is now passing into the same corporate hands that are destroying the climate." While it is presented as a "solution" to the crisis, a way to reduce emissions, it is in truth no more than a mechanism for expanding corporate control over the commons. It is the antithesis of what climate justice activists are calling for. Instead of addressing poverty, injustice, hunger, environmental degradation—the root causes of all our varied crises—carbon markets are on course to converting virtually every scrap of land, every drop of water, every patch of sky, into a commodity, available for polluters to buy and sell in their grand game of pretend. Even worse, it seems, the charade has robbed us of our own will and integrity, leaving us feeling entirely impotent, because, we are told, it is not our own personal force, our own strength, wisdom and common sense that will lead us forward, but rather, the blind, entirely amoral "market forces" we are to put our faith in.

Surely the Earth and her people will rebel! Surely we will not allow this to happen! Surely we will all stand up (or lie down) and declare that the air is not for sale, the Earth is not for sale, the forests are not for sale, our farms are not for sale, nor our soils. Our biodiversity is not for sale, not the polar bears, the ice caps, the orangutans—not even the spiders or fleas or even the mosquitoes. Our children's futures are not for sale. It is time for a new relationship with the Earth and each other, and the time to make it happen is now. That is what the clouds told us while we were lying on the cold pavement with our arms locked in tubes, in the middle of LaSalle and Adams.



Protesters mobilize at Bank of America in San Francisco. Protestors locked down to each entrance. The protest ended at 2:30 pm, but not before 23 activists had been arrested, and a clear message had been sent to the establishment on the urgency of action to contravene climate change.

REPORT BACK FROM CHICAGO-RISING TIDE N30 ACTION

...while I was lying on the pavement in the middle of LaSalle and Adams Street, looking up at the sky, I contemplated the bigger picture...

Frontlines

African Delegates and European Activists Find Common Ground

Tension between the rich and poor nations of the world ground the November 4, Pre-Copenhagen climate talks in Barcelona to a halt. The African Group of the G77 Group of Developing Nations walked out of the discussions after representatives from the G8 Group of Developed Nations refused to promise to cut emissions. The next morning, forty activists blockaded the entrances to the conference center and posted stickers insisting that the talks had closed. As the talks proceeded to fall apart, hundreds of protesters marched through the streets under the slogan "the climate is not for sale." Finally, crashing the closing ceremony, activists chanted, "Markets are the problem, not the solution," and marched to the front of the closing plenary with a banner in tow. It appears to have declared, "Obama is finishing what Bush started." No arrests were made.

Mink Liberation Spree Strikes Europe

Between the days of October 15 and October 19, activists set free over 20,000 mink. On October 15, French liberationists opened up a fur farm in the village of Saint Byvranet in Southwest France, returning approximately 4,200 mink to the wild. Not to be outdone, Spanish activists freed over 17,500 mink on October 19. These mink came from four liberated mink farms in the provinces of Galicia and Soria, which lie several hundred miles apart, indicating that the efforts may have taken careful and coordinated, inter-state planning.

The ELF Emerges from the Russian Countryside

In a lyrical dispatch sent on October 3, the Earth Liberation Front proclaimed "the beginning of the continuation of the struggle" to protect the Butovo forests. Standing up to the internal intelligence service's plans to chop down 135 trees and 268 shrubs, ELF activists sabotaged one tractor and one excavator, both of which would have been used to make a trench for heating infrastructure to new government buildings.

Homeless Polar Bears Spearhead Scottish Day of Action

When Rising Tide called a national day of local action on October 15, the polar bears came in force. Leading the charge against false solutions to climate change, four homeless polar bears blockaded the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS)—a leading financier of oil and gas—for six and a half hours. Just kidding. Well, sort of. The activists in bear costumes managed to get off with "willfully obstructing the public highway with a non-motor vehicle" (i.e. a suit case). They forked over less than \$30 each before going to picket the RBS branch around the corner.

More Scottish Actions Against Coal

Anonymous saboteurs calling themselves "a group of autonomous people" lent their proverbial monkey wrenches to the cause on October 20, breaking two heavy drilling vehicles in the Mainhill Wood area. The struggle against the coal interest in that area is part of the ongoing campaign in Scotland to confront the country's hypocritical venture to open twenty new coal mining endeavors in the legendary Highlands.

More on Coal in West Virginia

Between the dates of October 8 and October 12, a 25-mile long Senior Citizens March coursed through Appalachia, beginning in Charleston, West Virginia, and ending in Massey Energy's Mammoth mine outside of Cedar Grove. Organized by Roland Micklem, an 81-year-old from upstate New York, the march raised awareness for the anti-mountaintop removal campaign. Encountering a diverse array of opinions from spectators along the selected path of Route 60, the march ended safely without any significant interference.

Greenpeace Climbers Make Headlines

On October 12, 50 Greenpeace activists scaled the walls of Parliament in London, England. Activists unfurled a banner proclaiming, "Change the Politics, Save the Planet," and occupied the roof for over 28 hours, making it clear that the talks going down in Copenhagen will not suffice to change the ecological direction of mass extinction and climate change. Only a few weeks later, 19 more Greenpeace activists took the roof of the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa, Canada, hanging banners off the building stating, "stop the tarsands," and "Harper/Ignatieff, climate inaction costs lives." In other actions this past year, Greenpeace activists locked down to four conveyor belts in a Fort McMurray Suncor Site and briefly occupied two other tar sands sites.

Tiktiktok Movement Makes it Big in the Philippines

On December 12, an international day of action in support of COP15 protests, some 300 protesters brought a barrage of drums, music and festivities to the Raised Gardens of the Philippines. Global Climate Change Alliance, Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund helped program the entertainment—which included the screening of the apocalyptic film, "The Age of Stupid."

This action comes after a successful hunger strike by an estimated 25 Philippine farmers (and one farmer from Mindoro Island who was present for the Food and Agriculture Organization's World Summit on Food Security in Rome) to protest the Mindoro Nickel Project, a nickel mine and one of the largest processing plants in the world. There was previously a moratorium in Mindoro on large-scale mining and the project has been rejected by the people and authorities for 15 years called for the relocation of 20,000 citizens before the popular revolt.

Indigenous People of Mexico Throwing Down

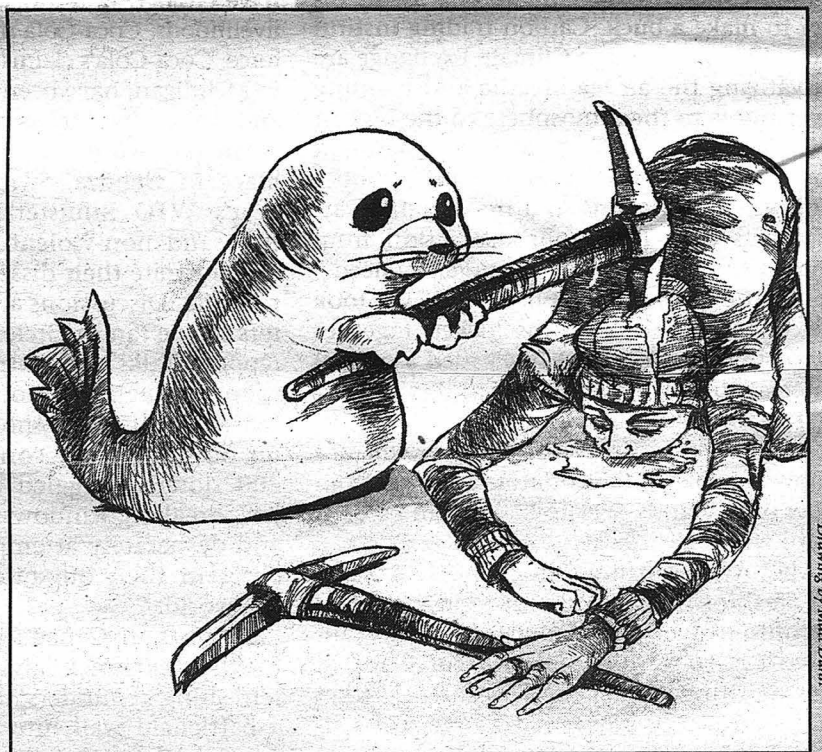
After recent terror strikes against indigenous people by paramilitaries in October, resistance to the state bloomed in Mexico. Around 150 Tzotzil farmers took over the UN office in Chiapas, Mexico on October 31. The Emiliano Zapata Campesinos' Organization (OCEZ) claims that the farmers occupied the building to free three political prisoners and to bring attention to the need for land rights in Mexico's poorest state. The police claim the three imprisoned activists played a role in the Sinaloa drug cartel, but Indigenous groups claim they are actually important activists. The occupation occurred after a week of political and social mobilization led by three groups: the "community of Faith (Pueblo Creyente)-Tzotzil Region, The Other Campaign, and the Emiliano Zapata Campesina Organization-Carranza Region (OCEZ-RC).

Inhabitants of San José del Progreso who are affiliated with the Assembly of People United for the Valley of Ocotlán in Defense of Nature and Popular Autonomy got a boost from the Asamblea Popular de los Pueblos de Oaxaca (APPO), occupying the town hall (Palacio Municipal) on November 18 in attempts to evict the municipal president Oscar Venancio Martinez Rivera. Rivera supports a mine roundly opposed by residents in the area. The next day, at nine in the morning, security guards armed with sticks, ropes, and machetes guarded the occupied town hall, taking five councilors and seven municipal police as prisoners, capturing a municipal police vehicle, and demanding that Martinez Rivera resign his position. The rebels released all hostages safely and negotiated with police after hours of occupation.

Finally, Indigenous Mayans blockaded a road leading to Cancun on November 27. Police arrested 200 *ejidos* (communal farmers) for their action, which drew attention to the Mexican Government's neglectful failure to compensate small farmers for the failure of this year's monsoon season.

Fur Free Friday Reaches Out

This year's Fur Free Friday occasioned more than 50 events, occurring around 25 US states as well as in Canada, Germany, Spain and other countries. Raising the old chants of "Compassion is the fashion! Don't buy fur!" and "Forty dead animals! One fur coat!", thousands of activists around the world united to decry the fur industry's abuse of 50 million fur-bearing animals. Seeking out big targets like Nordstrom, Sak's Fifth Avenue, and Neimann Marcus, protesters hit the mall with Black Friday shoppers, ensuring that the truth would be heard. Two hundred protesters took the streets in a Portland march, 100 advocates marched down Rodeo Drive in LA, and street theater performances took place in San Francisco's Union Square as well as other cities, from Johannesburg, South Africa to Zaragoza, Spain



When baby seals fight back...

(for more details, see In Defense of Animals' website, [HTTP://WWW.FURFREEFRIDAY.ORG](http://www.furfreefriday.org)).

Fur Free Friday also saw protestors take action against the World Trade Organization, as activists with the group, Global Justice for Animals and the Environment, performed street theater demonstrations in New York City and Tucson, Arizona, denouncing Canada's recent move to sue the European Union for banning inhumane seal products. One person was arrested in New York City for non-violent civil disobedience, while, in Tucson, the mall security guards were said to have been "ornery." The lawsuit will be brought before the WTO, which has historically ruled against animal protections for the sake of corporate profits. "Until the WTO is dismantled," one GJAE activist mentioned, "no animals are protected." Go to [HTTP://FREETRADEKILLSANIMALS.ORG](http://freetradekillsanimals.org) for more information.

Dear Ned Ludd,

We live in a subdivision (not a place to live if you value animals and the earth!). Behind our house is approximately 300 plus acres that was owned by Exxon and then sold to some or other greedy developers. The area is teeming with wildlife, and I have been doing everything I can to save this land. Presently, the land is zoned for commercial development, and the present owners are trying to get it switched to residential as residents have been furious about the possibility of commercial development. *I do not want any development.* So much of the land in this town is destroyed daily, and yet there are so many empty stores. But it is always about dollars, as usual, and zero thought for the animals. I have written to attorneys—no one has been prepared to help. This is something that needs full time commitment, and I am unable to give it 100 percent as I work and do animal rights stuff as well. Do you know any environmental attorneys willing to help—willing to stop the destruction? I have no idea where all the deer, raccoons, opossums, skunks and many others will go when the developers start their destruction. Sincerely,
—Earth Animal Defender

Dear Earth Animal Defender,

I must say, your letter came as a breath of fresh air on a crisp winter's morning, but what's a crisp winter's morning without the ashes of development blowing away in the wind. I must admit, if you want a lawyer, you're barking up the wrong tree with me. I understand your commitment as much as I understand your frustration, and my advice is, if you haven't had luck finding lawyers yet, dump the search for the starched collars. Unless the big liberal groups are ready to join you, it's not worth the effort. It's time to get your hands dirty!

I'm assuming that, like any good eco-defender, you've gone to the town hall meetings, you've talked the subject up to your friends until you're blue in the face, and by now, you've probably resorted to the company of trees—who probably seem much more understanding at this point. Surely, though, your dedication has amassed a list of contacts who share your dissent—you may have even visited the local infoshop and given a talk there about this crisis, or put out a call to your area for an EF! group (hopefully, if there's not a band of rabble-rousers organizing yet, you can put a fire under their asses). Ideally, you have found several other folks interested in supporting you,

and you have formed an affinity group around a common purpose. These contacts are key for what you are going to accomplish in the not-too-distant future! There's a time for petitions and calling city hall, and a time for direct action.

The first step to a good old fashioned eco-campaign is dissemination, and nothing shows off the dignity of the Earth like a banner drop. Primitive writing is a plus, as you paint an incendiary slogan on a patchwork banner of drop-cloths, bedsheets and other available recycled materials. "Stop the Development" might turn some heads, for instance, but the kids today love more catchy slogans. Either way, you will be rewarded for your small interruption of the daily mill.

Make your presence known to the developers by locking them out of their own office. If you think their office is too remote, try locking down to one of their financial backers. Now, let's all reach into our back pockets and pull out our *Earth First! Direct Action Manual*. Skip past all that stuff about affinity groups and legal issues, and open up to page 51: here's the stuff that'll help you plan your lock down. You can lock your neck to just about anything using Kryptonite U-locks. Consider getting your affinity group together to occupy the office's lobby, forming a human octopus by locking each others' necks together in a circle. If you have a little

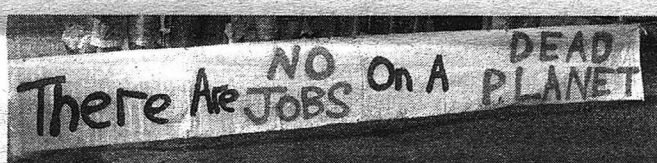
extra time to plan, lock boxes might be a better way to go. A lock box is a steel-pipe, cut for two people, sitting or lying side by side, to chain their arms together within a protective casing. Lock boxes have been used throughout the 1990s and 2000s, because they are more difficult to saw through than U-locks or exposed chains. Of course, the *Direct Action Manual* goes into more detail about super lock boxes, locking down to cars, and creating road-blocks. All of that stuff may work out for you in the future, but for now, let's move on to our final step. If you want to help with these actions but aren't sure about locking down, remember that legal support and police liaisons and medics are crucial to your success.

If you've tried everything, and the public aint acting or the state aint buying it, come find me when you're ready to occupy some land!

Dear Ned Ludd has been an irregular column in the EF! J for many years, and the material in the book Ecodefense largely comes from this space. It serves as a forum for the discussion of creative and diverse means to effectively defend the Earth. Neither the EF! movement nor the EF! J necessarily encourages anyone to do the things discussed on this page, which should not be legally construed as anything other than mindless entertainment. Please write to Ned via the EF! J with your top tips on ecodefense.



UPDATES



AMP Coal Plant Construction Canceled

The proposed construction of an American Municipal Power (AMP) coal plant in Racine, Ohio, was cancelled on November 25. The AMP Ohio corporate office in Columbus was the target of the Earth First! post-Round River Rendezvous action on July 7, 2008, where 100 EF!ers assembled—of these, four locked down and two ascended the flag polls out front—delivering messages via chants, songs, banners and signs (see *EF! J* September-October 2008). Residents of Meigs County had opposed this project since its proposal in 2006 due to its negative effects on their health (from the resulting pollution) and local electric rates. AMP and its members decided to cancel the plans when it was determined construction costs would be too high, having increased in the past six months from around \$3 billion to more than \$4 billion.

Coal Slurry News

On May 11 the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signed an administrative order agreeing to oversee the clean up the toxic coal ash in Roane County, Tennessee. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was responsible for the December 22, 2008, spill, in which an excess of five million cubic yards of coal slurry flowed into the Emory River and the surrounding countryside, destroying several homes (see *EF! J* March-April 2009). Since the order was signed, the EPA approved TVA's plan to dredge the Emory River and transfer the ash to a more "ecologically friendly" resting place—a landfill in Alabama. Beginning in August, a 1.5 mile section of the river has been closed as the slurry is removed with heavy equipment only to relocate it elsewhere.

RNC "Milwaukee 3" Sentencing

Two of the "Milwaukee 3" defendants were sentenced on November 10 and Christina Vana and Karen Meissner each got seven years of probation, eight hours of community service each month for two years, a \$100 fine and an order to pay standard court fees. Although they were fortunate to avoid spending any more time in jail, during the next seven years, they will have to abide by restrictive conditions, including obtaining permission to leave Minnesota and participating in whatever educational or vocational programming that is required. As is usual in felony cases, DNA samples were also taken. The issue of restitution will remain open for 90 days.

Judge Teresa Warner decided to dole out a lengthy probation and community service instead of a jail sentence because she thought it to be more useful for rehabilitation. Warner stated that a jail sentence could be completed relatively quickly, while a long probation with extended supervision will provide plenty of time for them to see the consequences of their actions. Warner's audacity to imply that being incarcerated is "easy" is unreal, and her decision to sentence Christina and Karen in a more vindictive motion clearly represents what the "justice" system is all about—controlling people's lives and establishing authority over them.

British Columbia Doesn't Want Gateway's Truckin' Freeways

In East Vancouver on December 7, around 50 folks from across the region showed up to shut down construction at a Gateway site. The Gateway Project is a \$10 billion freeway and port expansion that will replace indigenous lands, homes, farmland and wildlife

with pavement in the interest of furthering Canada's global endeavors (see *EF! J* July-August 2009). Despite the below-freezing temperatures throughout the evening, protesters kept warm dancing, climbing equipment, and enjoying pizza and hot chocolate sent by supporters who were unable to attend. Police made threats, but no arrests were made and work was halted for four hours. Visit WWW.GATEWAYSUCKS.ORG, for additional updates.

On the I-69 Arrests of Summer 2008

There is finally an end in sight for those arrested nearly two years ago in southern Indiana (see *EF! J* September-October 2008). Of the eight arrestees from the June 20, 2008 treesit eviction, three pleaded guilty to misdemeanors, leading to jail time for one person (whose two felonies were reduced); two were acquitted of misdemeanors; another person's charges were dropped out of court, because the cops forgot to sign her arrest papers; and one trial in November led to another activist's conviction on two misdemeanors, though one charge was dropped. The final arrestee will—at last—go to trial on January 8.

Of the folks who were arrested at the June and July 2008 lockdowns at Gohmann Asphalt and Construction (GAC), 11 signed plea agreements in August 2009, admitting to trespass, while other charges, including conversion and resisting arrest, were dropped; on March 29 one more will likely take the same plea. One arrestee is scheduled for a progress hearing on January 14 and will potentially join two others in trial on March 25. There is still an active restraining order on all of the lockdown arrestees and they are still fighting a lawsuit filed by GAC.

Unsettling Minnesota An Introduction

By COURTNEY

Unsettling Minnesota (UM) is a collective in Minneapolis that formed in the spring of 2009. We were initially brought together by a class called, "Dakota Decolonization: Solidarity Education for Allies," taught at the Twin Cities Experimental College (EXCO). At this point we are comprised of people of European descent; we work to support Dakota-led struggles for liberation, justice and decolonization.

So far, one of our main projects has been putting together, "Unsettling Ourselves: Reflections and Resources for Deconstructing Colonial Mentality," a source book that includes history, analysis, and personal essays on everything from how rape culture and colonialism intersect to eco-defense and spiritual appropriation.

Our hope is for the compiled works to be an active reference for those who want to unravel colonial mentalities and their subsequent institutions. UM will continue to use it for these exact purposes.

UM advocates that social transformation can only take place if some of us who identify as settlers get up and get out of the way, so to speak. That doesn't mean inaction—it means understanding our privileges. It also means having a relationship with our privileges and opening a new dialogue so we can better know our roles and our places here on this continent. UM's actions come from the understanding that we are here because of genocide. Dakota people are still displaced on their land and treated as substandard citizens, or worse. That reality doesn't go away. Part of our work is to identify and unlearn our own colonial disposition and behavior. It is this sort of mind-set that manifests in white supremacy, class privilege and normalized hetero-patriarchy. The internal work feels like baby steps at times—especially when we look around and there is so much to be done externally. Still, it is fundamental to enact transformative justice and to know our place in revolutionary struggles for justice and decolonization. The solidarity education that came out of the initial EXCO class made these points very clear.

Solidarity education has come up in our own internal group structure. Part of our goal as aspiring allies is to be very solid in our own group's culture. Even the formation of UM has been a major un/learning process. If our desire is to be good allies to indigenous communities, then we must also be allies to ourselves across class, gender, race, and age. Part of our solidarity work, then, also includes cultivating positive settler identities and creating a sustainable culture of accountability. For me, it's a balancing act of challenging assumptions and thinking critically while we make space to learn and grow from our collectively-socialized ways of interacting with the history, culture and people our ancestors oppressed through colonization.

Transformation of society doesn't happen if we're operating from the same base of assumptions that were bred into us by our capitalist, colonial society. Doing the internal work of understanding and defining our own identities—how our privileges and learned assumptions play out—and then unlearning and dismantling them, is essential. It informs the actions we take. We are

working toward action. So that's why the source book was such a major project for us.

Some of the actions our group has taken—and these are things that can happen anywhere—is what Waziyatawin, the leading voice in the local Dakota decolonization movement, calls "truthtelling." Waziyatawin describes truthtelling in her book, *What Does Justice Look Like?*, Living Justice Press, 2008.

Fort Snelling, just south of Minneapolis, is a place of particular importance because it is a site where Dakota people were held in concentration camp. It is also the location of a mass hanging of 38 Dakota men at the hands of colonial generals by order of then President, Abraham Lincoln, in 1862. The Minnesota Historical Society frequently offers tours at Fort Snelling, except that they won't use

the term genocide and don't mention it was a concentration camp. The tour barely pays homage to the fact that people were hung there. A couple of times, UM

went to ask prodding questions. Adding our voices to the tour guide's, we provided the factual information about what actually

took place there, and that, since Dakota people still live here and want their land back, its return to the Dakota

would be a step toward justice. It is, of course, rightfully theirs. A part of solidarity work is being vocal about

truthtelling—or mythbusting, if you will. What we have today is largely a society of people operating

from the basis of false history and false identity, a hallmark of our successfully colonial US

culture. It enforces the idea that settler presence—and the settler state—is legitimate.

In Minneapolis, streets, neighborhoods and even stores all over the city are named after army generals—Ramsey, for example—many

whom are responsible for the deaths of Dakota. Some of us involved in Un-

settling Minnesota plan on embarking on the process of removing these names from our streets and other shared spaces.

As settler-identified individuals we feel that we can do our best to learn the history as it was experienced and work to raise awareness, but that in itself

still isn't justice. For those involved in UM, land restoration is a part of our intentional work to be an ally in the Dakota Oyate's effort to take back what was wrongfully stolen from them.

During the Fall of 2009, much of our focus went into planning and organizing a fundraiser event called, An Eve of Reparations. So far we have raised \$2,000 that will go toward purchasing land in southern Minnesota for a Dakota-led land project, traditional wild rice and sugar bush camps and cultural center. The project will focus on pairing Dakota youth with elders in learning language and other traditional life-ways.

We've been in contact with other local groups who share similar desires to understand settler privilege and the illegitimacy of the settler and colonizer state. We are working to network and build a broader movement of support and—hopefully, someday—allyship. Because, we feel, that you can't just claim allyship. Those you want to be an ally to must claim you.

"Unsettling Ourselves: Reflections and Resources for Deconstructing Colonial Mentality," source book is available online [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/UNSETTLINGMNBOK](http://tinyurl.com/unsettlingmnbok), of which the cover art appears on this page, courtesy of a member of Unsettling Minnesota. Email the collective at unsettlingmn@gmail.com.



Unsettling Minnesota Points of Unity

Unsettling Minnesota shares these points of unity to guide our affinity and activism.

1) All people not indigenous to North America who are living on this continent are settlers on stolen land. In particular, the vast land base surrounding the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers is the homeland of the Dakota Oyate—the original people of this land. We acknowledge that the state of Minnesota was founded through genocide and colonization of indigenous peoples—which continues today and from which settlers directly benefit.

2) All settlers do not benefit equally from the settler-colonial state, nor did all settlers emigrate here of their own free will. Specifically, we see slavery, hetero-patriarchy, white supremacy, market imperialism and capitalist class structures as some of the primary tools of colonization. These phenomena divide communities and determine peoples' relative access to power. Therefore, anti-oppression solidarity between settler communities is necessary for decolonization. We work to build anti-colonial movements that actively combat all forms of oppression.

3) We acknowledge that settlers are not entitled to live on this land. We accept that decolonization means the revitalization of Dakota sovereignty, as well as an end to settler domination of life, lands and peoples in Dakota territories. All decisions regarding human in-

teraction with this land base—including those who live on it, are rightfully those of the Dakota Oyate and the Oceti Sakowin.

4) As settlers and non-Dakota people acting in solidarity, it is our responsibility to proactively challenge and dismantle colonialist thought and behavior in the communities in which we identify ourselves to be part. As people within communities that maintain and benefit from colonization, we are intimately positioned to do this work.

5) We understand that allies cannot be self-defined; they must be claimed by the people with whom they seek to ally. We organize our solidarity efforts around direct communication, responsiveness and accountability to Dakota people fighting for decolonization and liberation.

6) We are committed to dismantling all systems of oppression, whether they are found in institutional power structures, interpersonal relationships or within ourselves. Individually and as a collective, we work compassionately to support each other through these processes. Participation in struggle requires each of us to engage in both solidarity and our own liberation—to be accountable for all of our privileges, while also struggling for liberation from internalized and/or experienced oppression. We seek to build a healthy culture of resistance, accountability, and sustenance.

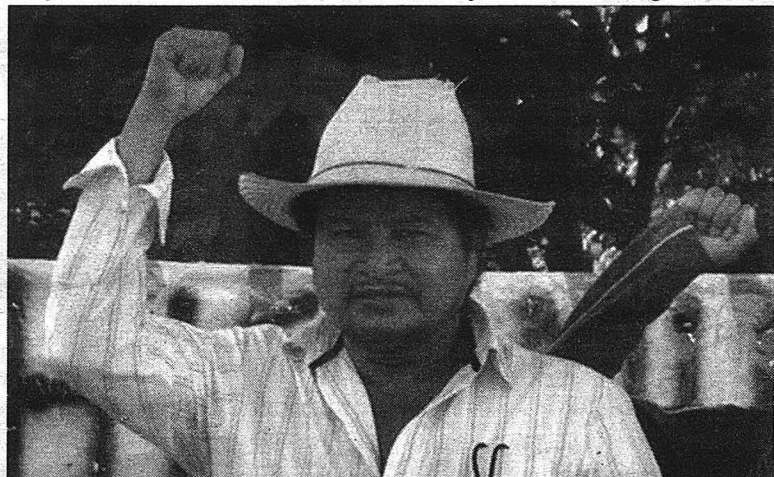
barebones

Dakota Land Seized by the IRS

The Dakota of Crow Creek Reservation in Minnesota have occupied their land in defiance of a federal scheme to snatch it. Owing \$3 million in taxes, due to faulty advice from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Dakota had their land seized by the IRS and auctioned off for a portion of its real value. Developers are especially excited because this land has prime wind-power potential, but the Dakota have other ideas! Call Tribal Chairman Secretary, Carol Quilt at (605) 245-2221, or visit [HTTP://WWW.PETITIONONLINE.COM/CROWCREEK](http://www.petitiononline.com/crowcreek), if you'd like to help the Dakota in their fight for their land.

Anti-Mining Organizer Murdered

On November 27, Mariano Abarca, one of the most prominent organizers in the resistance to mining in Chiapas, Mexico was shot in front of his home. Previous to Abarca's murder, his life had been threatened by employees of Blackfire, a Canadian mining company that owns and operates an open-pit barium mine. Local authorities supposedly tried to protect Abarca in the last days of his life—their short-comings cost him his life and were clearly in alliance with the powerful mining company. Abarca was a part of a large opposition to mining in Chiapas. Last summer, Abarca and the Mexican Network of People Affected by Mining (REMA) blockaded a highway to prevent Blackfire trucks from passage in protest of the mining company's abuse of their water resources and the pollution that affects their crops. REMA also staged an encampment last July in front of the Canadian Embassy in Mexico City. Since the World Bank-



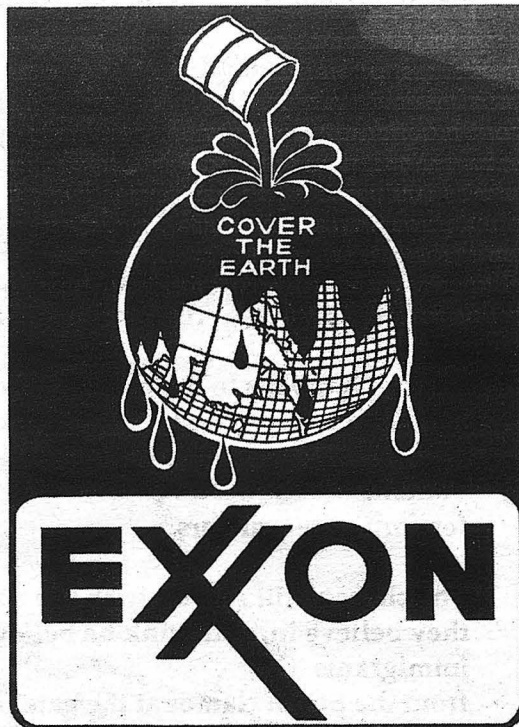
Abarca prior to his assassination.

manadated "Mexico Mining Sector Restructuring Project" 10 years ago, a strong opposition has developed in Chiapas.

Twenty Years After Exxon Valdez Spill

It's been 20 years since the Exxon Valdez spill and full recovery has not been reinstated. One of the most devastating natural disasters, the Exxon Valdez spill was well-covered by corpo-

rate media 20 years ago. Today it remains more commonly known to the public than the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) spill that happened in December 2008



(eight times larger than the Valdez spill). Almost eleven million gallons of oil poured from the rig after it hit a reef in the Valdez Narrows in Alaska. The Spill Trustee Council will not define the sound as recovered until all species harmed by the spill have returned.

Bio-warfare on Our Public Lands

The Oregon Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to increase toxic herbicide use on BLM public lands in Oregon from about 17,000 acres herbicide a year to almost three times as much—45,000 acres a year, in an effort to control invasive plants. Most of the herbicides proposed for use are highly toxic to native, non-targeted plants. They are known ground-water

contaminants, and the herbicides will most likely damage food and threaten wildlife. The Blue Mountain Biodiversity Project, among many others, has been fighting the BLM and its efforts to poison the land.

Tribal Government Claims That We Are Their Threat

Former President of the Navajo Nation, Joe Shirley, was recently quoted stating that environmental

activists are a threat to tribal sovereignty. Shirley was working in cahoots with coal thieves, such as Peabody Energy, in exchange for measly jobs and ultimately for the waste and destruction of Navajo land—land that is being protected by the Indigenous communities that still thrive there. Coal mining will continue to threaten sacred places until we make it stop.

The Unsustainable West

Government officials in the Las Vegas and Phoenix regions of the West are looking for sources of water and electricity to serve their energy-starved, unsustainable cities. Los Angeles also joins these cities in their

effort to privatize and monopolize the land and resources where Indigenous communities are resisting development. The Navajo Transmission Project, which has been in the works for 18 years, proposes a massive extraction of resources, such as coal and natural gas from Navajo territory. Another project, one that has spent two decades in the making, is a proposal (nearly completed in its victory) for Las Vegas to own the water rights to half of the Snake Valley in the Great Basin desert of Utah. Water is on the rise, wherever it can be privatized.

Bad News Nukes

In Braceville, Illinois, tritium has been released into the ground for more than three years. During this time period, six million gallons of chronic tritium has leaked into the groundwater and atmosphere in Braceville. The chemical is heavily radioactive, though the operators of the Exelon reactor claim that the release does not pose a threat to the environment or public health. It is, however, a radiation hazard when inhaled or ingested via food or water, or absorbed through the skin.

When Will the Wild be Left Roadless

What was once the most widespread campaign to protect US wild spaces, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule is once again on the chopping block. A judge in Wyoming, just shy of retirement, appears to be disregarding the crucial tipping point our environment is resting upon. He recently issued a series of rulings against the current roadless statutes, which can only mean one thing: Big Industry is interested in a path free of

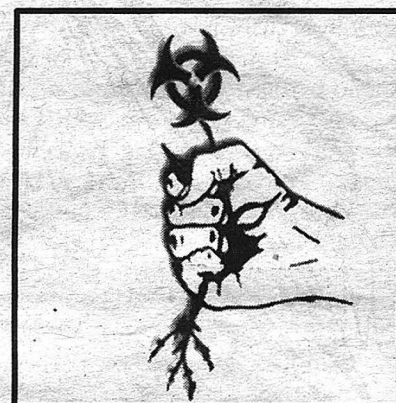
obstacles. While 30 percent of our national forests remain roadless, some 386,000 miles of roads exist and continue to allow pollution and erosion to threaten delicate animal and plant species.

A Small Concession for the Everyday Destruction

The Forest Service Legacy Roads and Trails Remediation Initiative secured \$90 million—\$50 million more than last year's budget. The new increase in funding will be used to rebuild what the Bush Administration helped destroy of our national forest roads. Wildlands CPR, based out of Missoula, MT, has been working on a roads recovery plan, an essential program to help protect threatened endangered salmon and clean drinking water for thousands of communities and wildlife that depend on large blocks of intact habitat to survive.

New Roads for GMOs

Industrialized agriculture is creeping further across the lands. Biotech industries are getting their hands dirty with the Global Food Security Act, which is supposed to double the amount of support given to the world's one billion subsistence farmers. Essentially, this would



be a way to dispose of unwanted agricultural surpluses on poor farmers. While Austria, France, Greece, Hungary, Germany and Luxembourg ban the cultivation of genetically modified (GM) food completely, and the European Union holds some of the toughest legislation on GM crops in the world, Turkey has passed new legislation to allow imports and exports of GM crops, a contract they recently signed with the US.

In Other GMO News...

Just for the record, GM sugar beets have been commercially farmed since 2006 and currently produce 95 percent of the sugar grown in the US. Candy giants Hershey's and Mars are the main growers of the GM beets, but this could change. A judge in California has ruled that the Department of Agriculture approved the crop before there was a full environmental impact statement to assess how Monsanto's Roundup Ready sugar beets will affect groundwater, soil and native species.

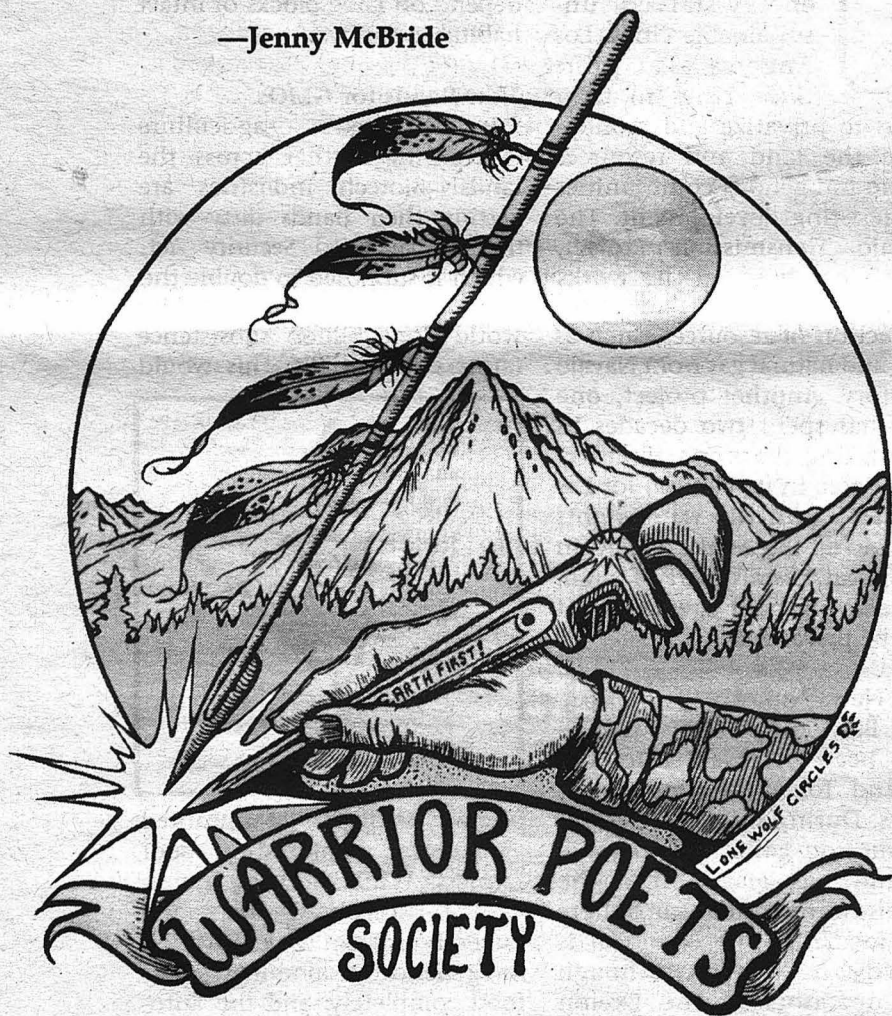
ARMED WITH VISIONS

Clear as cut glass & just as dangerous

Orientation

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

—Jenny McBride



I Know You Wild Skykomish

I know you wild Skykomish River I know you
glaciers melting in the warm spring air
and you - rushing down the mountain full of snowmelt
roaring and shaking the ground, the granite boulders,
the granite mountains

I know you too my wild Skykomish
wide and quiet in a mountain meadow
flanked by a million tiny flowers
singing in the dawn with crystal notes
murmuring through starry nights

I know where you come from my wild Skykomish
deep in the turquoise heart of translucent ice caves
following a serpentine trail through the grandfather hemlocks
past carpets of tiny liberty cap mushrooms
glistening like jewels in the dew

I come to you when I'm done with the rushing traffic,
the clatter of machines, the rough scream of chain saws,
the endless slap slap slapping of my windshield wipers

I come to you my wild Skykomish
and touch my soul again.

—Rebecca Swan
May 2008

John Calvin's Ghost

Oil and gas companies from the U.S., Canada, Russia and Denmark are circling the Arctic like scavengers circling a wounded animal anticipating its death, exposing petroleum riches hitherto buried beneath Arctic ice.

Mother Earth isn't dying at once, but as a diabetic, a part at a time. The Arctic is the first to go, thus the vultures. Mother is dying from the greed of her children.

Scientists predict inundation of Pacific Islands, Bangladesh and half of Florida. Killer droughts in Africa. Drying rivers in India, China and Vietnam due to disappearing glaciers in the Himalayas. All a boon for disaster capitalists.

This all happens to the preterite, not the chosen, in the Calvinistic corporate view. The chosen will be raptured to a gated community guarded by Blackwater Security. The Valhalla for corporate warriors.

The chosen will live on with the approval of the strange God they believe in, and think he believes in them, while immigrants from the South clamor at the gate for work. Price evicted from their land by low priced corn produced by agribusiness.

The revenant of John Calvin lives on in every corporate structure. It is the driving force of the rapacious corporate faith and philosophy. It is the real ghost in the machine.

—Sid Bridges

The Mystery

something calls us out of our houses
toward a place of deeper shadows,
through undulating moonlit fields,
past vulture roost in eucalyptus,

where roots reach in wet black soil
and this night again we stand
by the creek that ran through childhood
where darkness is still alive,

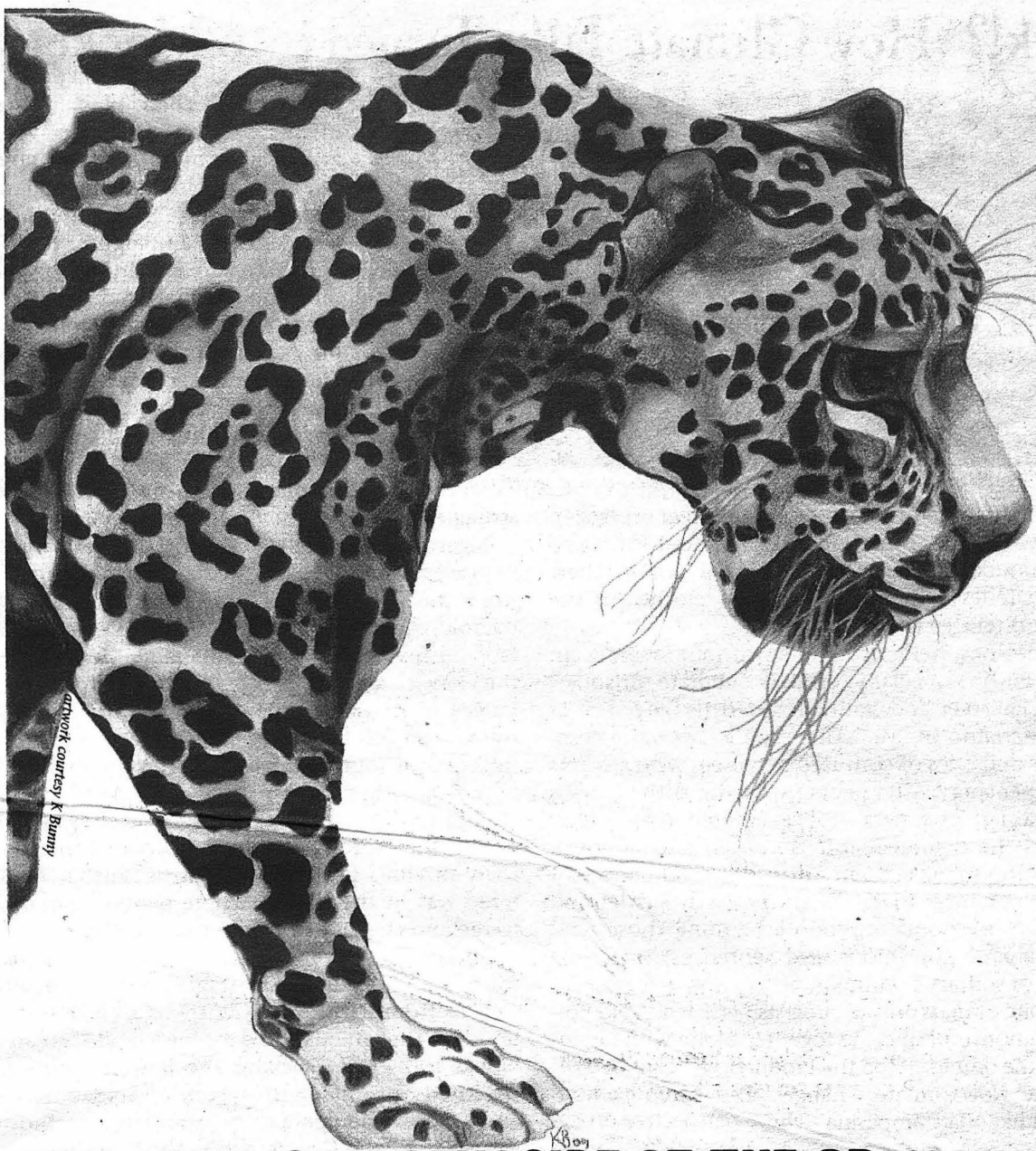
where the waters of fear and love
snake trembling through the streambed night,
where bare limbs are antler dancers
and the stars look back with bright buck-eyes,

something rustles the underbrush,
a wind pushes back branches—
while more silently than owl wings
the dew stores up its blessings

—Kirk Lumpkin

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



The Ballad of Macho B

he was looking for a lady jaguar;
 he had come up north to see
 if there were any ladies
 for a jaguar such as he.
 he had come up desert canyons,
 and slipped through desert draws;
 he was young and liked adventure,
 and had time on his paws.
 by night and the stars he hunted;
 he rested during the day;
 he knew how to keep well hidden,
 or so the papers say.
 yet a stationary camera
 took his picture as he passed;
 and all the wildlife biologists said,
 "there's a jaguar here—at last!"
 for they knew that down in Mexico
 the mighty cats still roamed,
 and they figured that Arizona
 wasn't that different from their home.
 sure, there had been sightings—
 early in the century—
 but no one had seen one in a while,
 till along came Macho B.
 for that was the name they gave him—
 it's silly, and that's a fact—
 yet that was the name they gave him,
 and they couldn't take it back.
 all the reporters loved it,
 the wildlife biologists too;
 so Macho B's reputation
 just grew and grew and grew.
 yet humans also are hunters,
 of a grim and deadly sort;
 and sometimes they hunt for science,
 and sometimes they hunt for sport.
 the hunter becomes the hunted,
 and then a casualty;
 and that, dear friends, I'm afraid is
 what happened to Macho B.
 somebody set a trap out—
 we don't know who, just where—
 ostensibly for lions,
 or maybe to catch a bear.
 at least, that was their story
 they related on the phone—
 they neglected to say the bait was
 a female jaguar's pheromone.
 after months and months of hunting
 for a female with which to mate,
 Macho B thought he smelled one—
 and fell for the treacherous bait.
 he approached the trap without caution;
 his hormones were running wild;
 the thought he had found a mate at last
 had him totally beguiled.
 he was caught! and in an instant
 he knew he had made a mistake;
 yet no matter how much he snarled and fought,
 from the trap he couldn't break.
 they decided to euthanize him;
 they said he was sick and old;
 they said it was for his own good—
 'least, that was the story they told.
 America's only jaguar
 seen in 30 years, or more—
 just another casualty
 in the humans vs. wildlife war.
 so when you're eating your dinner,
 and listening to the six o'clock news,
 and you hear all the commentators
 tell the stories and give their views,
 let your mind drift down to the desert,
 now less wild than it ought to be—
 and resolve that you'll tell your co-workers
 the story of Macho B.

—DENNIS FRITZINGER

THE AMERICAN GENOCIDE OF THE GRAY WOLF

How Delisting Species Endangers Their Ability to Prosper

By GRIZZEMILY & S@SH@

The gray wolf is an awesome form of life that originated 300,000 years ago and survived the ice age. However, due to the expansion of human population, gray wolves had all but disappeared from the US by 1974. That year, the Endangered Species Act granted privileges to the gray wolf, and its population has gradually recovered. Today, there are an estimated 4,000 gray wolves thriving in the Western Great Lakes region, 1,300 in the Rockies and around 8,000 in Alaska. Even still, the gray wolf is fragile and threatened by human intervention. For this reason, federal courts struck down three attempts by the Bush administration to remove gray wolves from the endangered species list.

Facing tooth-and-nail opposition from groups like the National Resource Defense Fund and Defenders of Wildlife, the Bush administration failed three times to grant its cadre of ranchers and farmers the right to hunt down and mercilessly slaughter packs of gray wolves. In a final act of cowardly backbiting that any wolf would snarl at, Bush pulled a cut and run, one foot out of the door of the White House, delisting gray wolves one more time in 2009. And wouldn't you know it, the new Obama administration, under the Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar's leadership, upheld Bush's atrocious war against wolves (see *EF!* J May-June 2009).

Federal protection of the gray wolves in the Western Great

Lakes region was reinstated on July 1, after a lawsuit challenging the ruling was won. However, their kin to the west are not as fortunate. Although, only 200 breeding wolves exist in the Northern Rockies, Idaho and Montana have officially initiated a wide-scale, regional wolf hunt.

Idaho and Montana have set quotas for the number of wolves to be shot as trophy game, to supposedly manage their populations. Neither state takes into account that the alpha animals within a pack are usually the only ones who breed, thus self-regulating their population. Idaho extended its wolf-hunting season three months longer than planned, through March 2010, to reach its kill quota of 220. This extension could have devastatingly negative effects on Idaho's wolf population, considering mating season is between January and April. Conversely, Montana's quota of 75 was nearly fulfilled two weeks prior to the end of their wolf-hunting season, causing it to be closed early. In addition to permitted hunting, virtually limitless killing in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming is excused if humans feel themselves or their livestock are threatened.

Any jerk who wants to win a trophy for having a big gun simply has to go to the Fish and Wildlife Department to obtain the proper permit and license to kill. For residents of each state, the fee for a hunting license is around \$10, a permit to take a wolf's life is \$19 in Montana and \$11.50 in Idaho; tags for non-residents cost \$350 in Montana

and \$186 in Idaho. Even though the state gives these amazing creatures a very low monetary value, a definite motivation for the hunts is to generate revenue. Montana collected \$325,859 for their state license fund, selling 15,600 wolf-hunting permits in their shortened season. At the beginning of the season, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission estimated that 70,000 permits would be sold, which would bring in upwards of \$805,000.

The rarest form of gray wolf, the Mexican gray wolf, exists in the Southwestern states of New Mexico and Arizona. Ironically, it is fortunate they are still bred in captivity, hence giving them protection. Under the anti-wolf administration of the Mexican Wolf Adaptive Management Oversight Committee (AMOC), the population has dwindled from 102 wolves in 2006 to 52 in January 2009. Outraged over the mishandling of the Mexican gray wolf, conservationists filed suit. On November 13, in an out of court settlement, the US Fish and Wildlife Service repossessed jurisdiction from AMOC.

Today, conservation groups like the Center for Biological Diversity see the November settlement as "a pivotal step in the right direction" for the Mexican gray wolf, a recovery on the way to rewilding the species and further creating protections under the Endangered Species Act. In the Northern Rockies, several conservation groups have an ongoing lawsuit putting pressure on the courts to reinstate federal protection for the wolves in this region.

Macho B was the last known jaguar in the US, until it was euthanized in March 2009 following a botched capture by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Department officials blamed kidney failure due to old age, but independent forensic analysis indicated that the tranquilizing drug used in the capture procedure likely led to the big cat's death. The Center for Biological Diversity has sued the Department to prevent any further capture of jaguars in the US, and also sued the federal government under the Endangered Species Act to force development of a recovery plan that will ensure that all management decisions regarding the jaguar are based on the best available science. *Randy Serraglio, conservation advocate at the Center for Biological Diversity, read this poem for accuracy.*

Hopenhagen, What the Fuck!? How Climate Talks Turned into Mockery

BY THE INSANE CLIMATE POSSE

December's Copenhagen climate conference failed before it even started. In the weeks leading up to the event, the African Group (Algeria, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, Gabon, and South Africa) made the position of the global south absolutely clear: any climate treaty requiring serious emissions cuts would face rejection unless wealthy nations offered adequate financial compensation. Meanwhile, somewhere between 50,000-100,000 demonstrators flocked to the city to protest the false solutions under-writing the conference. Also known as the Conference of Parties (COP15), The 15th Annual Climate Change Conference that took place from December 11-18 fell apart in one of the most embarrassing displays of police repression and political blundering in recent history. In spite of the foolishness within the Bella Centre, where the talks took place, protesters could not shut down COP15 and neither could the African Group. COP15 failed because the developed world refuses to share its wealth for the greater good of the Earth.

Two conflicts, in particular, divided the conference—the first is economic and the second is ecological. First, poor nations cannot afford to implement the proposed climate treaty without financial support, and second, the rich nations refused to provide financial support unless the poor agreed to insufficient emissions cuts. Calling this position “naked blackmail,” Naomi Klein observed the beginning of “climate structural adjustment,” wherein developing nations sacrifice effective action for financial resources.

Representing 18 percent of the world's population and 60 percent of the gross world product, the Group of Eight (G8) richest countries in the world refused to address concerns of poorer nations—namely, complaints about adhering to Kyoto Protocol requirements and reforming the EU climate constitution—until days into the climate talks, after the African Group walked out of the conference all together. The G8 also backed out on the originally agreed upon 80% cut in carbon emissions by 2050 (based on 1990 levels), projecting a much slower start, with the EU conceding only 20-30 percent in cuts by 2020, and the US insisting on an exiguous four percent cut over the next 10 years. These numbers proved insulting to the Group of 77 (G77) poorer nations, which openly stated intentions of cutting global emissions 50 percent by 2050.

The Copenhagen climate talks failed to meet any kind of standards, because the US used finance as leverage to swing their end of the bargain. Although deep emissions cuts undermine the G8 model of “economic development” forced on the G77 through debt, militarization, urbanization and land transformation, the G8 seemed to expect developing countries to juggle ecological and economic expectations without asking questions. To wit, since COP15 authorized only corporate false solutions, and admitted an “inevitable” two-degree centigrade increase in global temperature from the start, it already exhibited a work of “climate cynicism,” to which the attempted bribery only added frustration. Protesters, descending on the conference with chants like, “our climate is not your business,” and, “climate justice now,” echoed concerns that the G8's lip service about cuts in emissions only pay heed to a system that expects to fail.

Police set the tone early, enforcing strict control over Denmark's borders, and, in Copenhagen, targeting street medics for arrest during opening protests on December 11. The next day, Mobilization for Climate Justice (MCJ) rallies, along with a December 12 International Day of Action demonstration and a Flood for Climate Justice demonstration, amassed upwards of 100,000 participants. Filling the streets with banners, songs, and chants, the demonstrations turned into an ecstatic social convergence, with indigenous leaders in the front lines. According to police, a couple of exuberant marchers allegedly smashed two windows of a bank, warranting the sudden arrest of a huge, arbitrary section of the protest. Surrounding over 900 innocent peo-



Homeless clowns secretly run the show.

justification. Then, plainclothes officers began to selectively arrest important spokespeople like Tazio Mueller of Climate Justice Action (CJA), portending a systematic campaign of media control up to and including assaults on international reporters. Amidst the continuous reign of human rights abuse, Indymedia Denmark provided crucial journalism from the ground up. Meanwhile, the mainstream press spun the loom of insider discourse, ignoring most of the

struggles in the streets.

Regardless, the talks proved irrelevant long before the mainstream media turned its focus from the protests. The politicians, scrambling to hold each other accountable, played out the farcical masquerade of democracy. Meanwhile, the Copenhagen authorities continued to silence voices of dissent throughout the process, denying 15,000 delegates, civil society representatives and journalists legal access to the talks by delaying applications and refusing valid accreditation. As disenfranchised delegates began to join the protesters outside, it became increasingly obvious that the only struggle that mattered was in the streets, where people marched to reclaim the city from the rootless elites.

On December 16, between 200-500 delegates formed an “inside bloc,” staging a walk out on COP15 from within the Centre as a “bike bloc” flooded the streets, and “blue” and “green” blocks formed a “Reclaim the Power!” protest. Hundreds of marchers penetrated roadblocks and avoided their pepper spray and batons, moving on the Belle Centre, while the “inside bloc” burst out to join the People's Assembly forming outside. Unfortunately, police betrayed earlier promises to facilitate the meeting, heading both groups off, using their batons to beat back the non-violent civilians and delegates alike. While a few activists remained inside the Belle Centre overnight on an extended sit-in and fast, most convened later at the People's Assembly for a rally against false solutions.

Further demonstrations, involving thousands of protesters, continued throughout the rest of the talks. Although minor acts of sabotage occurred over the week—most notably, activists glued Chevron's office locks shut and spread red paint over the walls—nearly all of the protesters arrested suffered for non-violent assemblies.

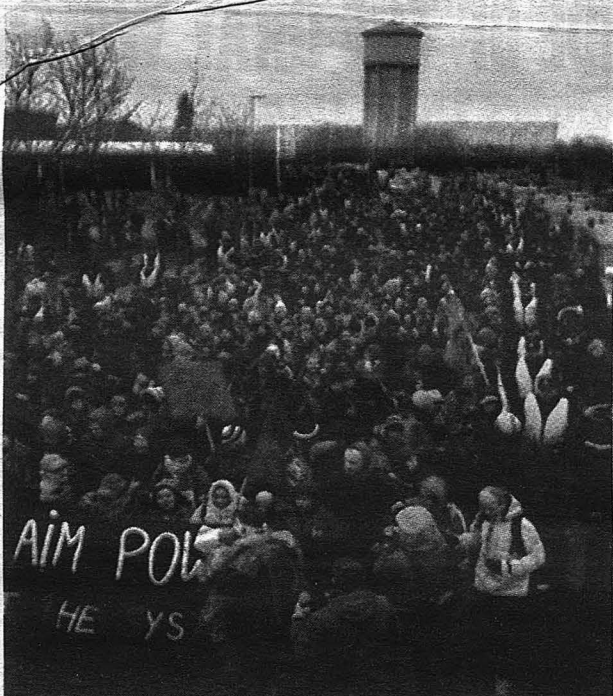
Desperate to reach an agreement and save face, President Obama wrangled with Chinese Prime Minister Wen, to come up with a final proposal: The Obama-Wen proposal indicated no standards for emissions cuts, and inexplicably brought the US's offer of \$100 billion to finance the developing world down to \$30 billion. In fact, the proposal annihilated every single fundamental principle of COP15. Obama led the charge, celebrating the proposal as “unprecedented,” and the mainstream media followed suit, posting instant reports of a miraculous deal in spite of the fact that only 30 out of 192 countries had even read the proposal. Fuming over the total circumvention of the plenary process, the G77 joined the voices of Climate Justice Action and other non-profits in protest against the pretend climate agreement. Unable to pass the proposal, the assembly officially “took note of the deal,” and the talks ended. In spite of headlines like “Deal Agreed Amid Chaos” and “We have a Deal on Climate Change,” there is no deal!

As protests wrapped up, it became clear that the demonstration of popular dissent in Copenhagen exposed both the strengths and weaknesses of mass mobilization. No deal would have stopped the corporations, and if anyone succeeded beyond the government charade, the protesters exposed repression through magnificent movement building. As Ian Fry, a representative of the small Pacific island-nation of Tuvalu put it, “We are extremely disappointed. I have the feeling of dread we are on the Titanic and sinking fast. It's time to launch the lifeboats.” A hundred thousand people mobilizing for COP15 reveals need for strategic development of greater infrastructure for millions more to reclaim power in every bio-region.

ple, police forced the protesters to kneel on frozen pavement, where many of them waited for up to eight hours. Many protesters fainted, while others had to relieve themselves in their clothes in the sub-zero temperatures.

Authorities held protesters without charges in cages within specially created “climate prisons,” called Retorvej and Valby, referred to by police as “Guantanamo Junior.” There, police met the complaints and cries of confused detainees with streams of pepper spray. After pepper spraying entire crowds of detained prisoners, police entered their cages, pushed the detainees into a corner, and removed their water to make them suffer for longer periods of time. Rockslide, a High Country Earth Firster and *Journal* correspondent, counted among those who faced arcane conditions and sentences, including weeks of solitary confinement.

In spite of mass arrests, protests persisted. A No Borders demonstration came together, along with demos under the names, “Stop the Production!” and “System Change Not Climate Change.” Led by indigenous groups like Via Campesina, whose perspective on ag-



Reclaim the Power! on December 16 says, “No Deal, Assholes!”

ricultural production and commercial consumption the G8 regularly ignore, protests drew attention to the insufficiency of the corporate structures entertained by COP15. A strategy of separating protesters into a massive “blue block” and a smaller, agile “green block” went into effect with better results. However, the repression continued, as police made aggressive incursions into Christiania, a squatted “free town” within Copenhagen, under the cover of night, breaking through burning barricades, shooting tear gas into surprised crowds, dispersing rallies, blocking off entrances and exits to the area, unleashing police attack dogs and searching everyone around the perimeter. By the morning of Tuesday, December 15, dubbed “agriculture action day” by organizers, the climate prisons held over 1,600 people.

As Copenhagen transformed into the police state so familiar to seasoned G8 protesters, the talks within the Belle Centre fell apart. Chairman of the G77 delegation, Sudanese diplomat, Lumumba Di-Aping stated, “it has become clear that the Danish presidency—in the most undemocratic fashion—is advancing the interests of the developed countries at the expense of the balance of obligations between developed and developing countries.”

In the final days of demonstrations, marches continued as the atmosphere of repression intensified. Raiding a DIY bicycle workshop, the Candy Factory, police confiscated two bicycles without

What Kills You Stops for One Moment

BY DEA G.

The two rows of blasting holes had a singular purpose: dismantle the contours of Coal River Mountain, the last high elevation range in the Coal River Valley that hadn't been mined by mountaintop removal (MTR). MTR is a detrimental form of mining that uses explosives to get to the coal beneath the surface of mountains and results in flattened, barren plateaus in the place of peaks. News broke of blasting on Coal River Mountain in October. A drill rig parked at the edge of the rows had cored the Earth, creating pockets in which to tuck ammonium nitrate explosives. It was just after sunrise in late November, and that drill rig, looming over a big cliff at the edge of the MTR site, was the goal.

Climbing on to it, four of us set about our work. One activist locked himself to the drill casing; I chained myself to the inside of the operator's cab. Two others hung a banner reading "Save Coal River Mountain" across the back of the machine. Then, we waited (and waited some more) to be noticed by mine security.

By the time we were being driven off of the mountain, handcuffed, toward the local police station, we had stopped work on Coal River Mountain's Bee Tree permit site for almost six hours and prevented blasting for the day. "Those few square feet of land were on this Earth for a longer period of time. What kills you stops for one moment," my friend, Zoe, told me once, referring to her ground-support role in a treesit above a southern West Virginia MTR site this past August. I can and will write about strategy and mention tangible victories, but I think she's on to something about this gang of tree huggers and mountaineers crazy enough to take on the coal companies blowing up Appalachia's mountains, dumping the debris in to valleys and poisoning headwater streams that flow out across the eastern US.

"A lot of [local] folks understand and respect direct action more than they do the other important legislative, regulatory and legal work. I think we proved how serious we are about this, and people around here have respect for that," said Mat Louis-Rosenberg, an organizer with the Climate Ground Zero (CGZ) campaign of civil resistance to MTR. "They understand direct action around here, because they've been doing it longer than all of us combined."

Resistance is an Appalachian tradition, and mountain people

have stood up to protect their land, health and communities from strip mining since the mid-20th century. To Save the Land and the People, a group operating out of the coalfields of Kentucky, led a grassroots fight against strip mining in the 1960s and 1970s. Laying down in front of a bulldozer set to strip her farm in 1961, elderly Kentuckian Ollie "Widow" Combs became one of the heroes of

with [violent] action," said Grace, who returned to the valley this past November and played a support role in the drill rig action. "What we were doing was making people more comfortable so that maybe in the future there would be able to be actions. We had things like a sit-in and marches, large rallies, a lockdown in Richmond and a lockdown [at Zeb Mountain] in Tennessee."

spread the message and access the media, the courts and the increased attention that jailed activists receive."

"[Environmental nuts] are easy to recognize," quipped Don Blankenship, CEO of Massey Energy—a primary driver of MTR in Appalachia—at his company's Friends of America rally this past Labor Day. "They're easy to recognize because they're the ones chained to your equipment and hanging from your trees." He then elucidated, reminding the crowd that they—the company and (in the populist mythology Blankenship spun) the workers—own the trees.

A month later, Steve Walker, CEO of machinery company Walker CAT, compared two activists who dropped a banner off of his building in Belle, West Virginia, to suicide bombers. "People fill their heads with this dogma and use

them to do their dirty work," he said in a radio interview with West Virginia Metro News. "They're involved in that group down in Raleigh County, North Carolina, with roots tied to eco-terrorists. We worry they may have been in here to sabotage some of our machinery."

Stalwarts of the West Virginia coal and energy industries have taken to fear mongering about nonviolent civil resisters. Their comments follow in the footsteps of increased media attention (*The New York Times*, *Reuters*, most local news outlets), drummed up community support and a minor, but increasing, influence on local and national politics.

The pressure CGZ and preceding coalfield campaigns have put on the media and government is incredible work, a testament to deeply rooted local organizing and MTR through a myriad of channels.

But I keep going back to what Zoe said. Part of what's worth the court dates, fines and potential jail time is being able to pause—for a few hours or a day—the destruction of a mountain. When we take action, what kills us stops for a moment.

Dea G. is a writer and organizer based out of the coalfields of southern West Virginia.



Former West Virginia Secretary of State and US Representative, Ken Hechler, at the gate of Massey Energy's Marfork coal facility in May.

the burgeoning movement. For more information about this history of resistance, refer to: the Battle of Blair Mountain, United Mine Workers of America, the mine wars, Highlander Folk School, etc.

Many coalfield organizers fighting MTR, including Coal River Mountain Watch's indomitable Judy Bonds, have been arrested multiple times in protest. They have also engaged in legal, poignant actions. In 2006, Ed Wiley walked from the Coal River Valley to Washington, DC, to ask that Marsh Fork Elementary School, which sits under a sludge dam and next to a coal processing plant, be moved to a safe and healthy location within the community. These acts have been paired with extensive community organizing, research and sustained efforts towards legislative change.

Mountain Justice Summer (MJS) is another group dedicated to direct action and community organizing against MTR. MJS was initially spurred in 2005 by the death of Jeremy Davidson by flyrock in Virginia, at the time, local groups were working with organizations like Katuah Earth First!, Virginia Tech's Earth Club and others. Coal River Valley hell-raisers began hosting the traveling circus of students, punks and activists that tramped across Appalachia that summer. Grace, a member of Katuah EF!, participated in the very first MJS, then stayed in the valley for almost two years.

"At the beginning, community members were... afraid [our] actions... would be met

The CGZ action campaign began in February with a lockdown on Coal River Mountain and a rally at the gates of Marsh Fork Coal Company in the hollow below. Since then, there have been 18 actions in the coalfields of southern West Virginia. "In between this year and 2005, not much has happened, except for ground work, which was important," Grace reflected. "In some ways, this is the vision we had four years ago."

Nonviolent civil resistance is at the core of CGZ's campaign strategy. A diversity of tactics has been employed, including direct action, civil disobedience, protests and consciousness raising—we do not participate in property destruction. Some of our actions, including a six-day treesit and lockdowns to mine site equipment, stop work directly. Others, including the Senior Citizens Walk to End MTR as well as banner drops, play a valuable role in attracting media attention and engaging new participants and supporters. CGZ activists do not flee the scene, and they aim to be "open, honest and friendly" with everyone they encounter during an action.

"Our position is that we are doing nothing wrong, we are trying to protect communities," said Mat. "Accepting responsibility for our actions [allows us] to continue to

Appalachians "understand direct action around here, because they've been doing it longer than all of us combined."

Photo courtesy of Maggie

Mountaintop Removal, Civil Resistance, & the Climate Ground Zero Campaign

Damn Cars & the Carnage of Dams

Introducing Diablo Earth First!

BY DEEMUS WOLF AND MARIGOLD SPOON

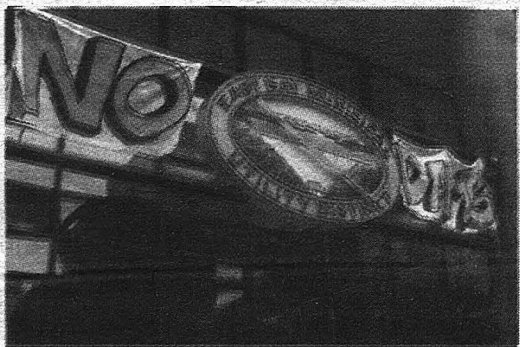
The Carnage of Dams

Here in the East San Francisco Bay, a quiet storm rages over the proposed building of a new 450-foot tall dam in our barely-wild Mokelumne river watershed. "Our" East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) has announced plans to consider this dam in anticipation of future population growth. The dam would flood more than two miles of popular free flowing river, which is habitat for the California spotted owl, foothill yellow-legged frog and goshawk, and a potential restoration area for chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

Flashback to 1922—Tulare County, the last California grizzly bear, the official state animal, is extirpated. Today, California has lost 95 percent of its salmon and wild fisheries. Malls, suburbs and mega farms steadily march on our remaining wilds as an increasingly grave environmental literacy slowly seeps into our consciousness.

The dams physically block the fish's journey to their traditional breeding ground, but many fish don't even make it that far. Jerry Neuberger from the California Sportfishing Alliance on the state of the salmon in the Mokelumne stated, "the problem is that the young salmon trying to reach the ocean never make it. Instead they're sucked up, ground into fish paste in the SWP [State Water Project] and CVP [Central Valley Project] pumps and their flesh washed down the aqueducts." It's almost as if they are trying to drive these species to extinction.

A glance at EBMUD's web page trumpets that it is their mission to "Promote Environmental Responsibility and Sustainability." Yet there is no serious support of the surging local water movement and its greywater, rainwater and permaculture strategies, whose widespread implementation could more than offset the need for new dams. It is only through localizing our community dependencies that we have a snowball's chance in hell at reversing this plague of ecosystem collapse. It's been said that California water projects consist of the most altered ecosystems on the planet. It is incumbent upon California to admit the errors of our ways and implement the world's largest ecosystem resurrection.



Diablo EF!'s improvements: to the EBMUD building.

As Orwell grumbles in his grave about the cruel farce of greenwashing, the citizens of the Mokelumne watershed fight in Congress for a "Wild and Scenic River Designation," which would permanently protect the river from being dammed. Our small group prepared for battle. The EBMUD Headquarters in downtown Oakland proudly displays a colorful image of the Pardee Dam about 15 feet above the front entrance. Thus, in order to express our discontent over the proposed expansion, we only needed to provide the universal symbol of "no"—a red slash. While embarking vertically upon their street display, we also wrote our message in bright capital letters, given that there is no true forum for it to be heard.

Days before the action we gathered in preparation, the chilliness outside only increasing the coziness inside, and excitedly scrawled the expected conditions on a whiteboard full of the plan. Arrows, anonymous stick figures and approximated distances all began to appear, while an old canvas sign was sliced into appropriate sizes for the anticipated ascent. Our graffiti artist tried their skillful hand at drawing legible letters, and to our great joy, produced lovely composition of

we felt, so we agreed to regroup. We untied knots and passed bags down. As we took a last glance at Oakland from this unlikely vantage point and tossed down the canvas signs, they caught the up-flowing wind in a jaunty little swing—convincing us momentarily that they were the overlooked sails of a great ship upon a vast concrete ocean.

During the public portion of the meeting that took place inside, about 70 people gave their allotted 3-minute comments. There



The truck demolished in the Bay area as a part of the 350.org International Day of Action.

neon yellow-green. Our nimble tree-person ensured that the sign climbers were taught the necessary skills, while our resourceful host cut a long plywood slash and prepared it to hang. The evening's preparations complete, we parted ways to re-converge on the morning of our planned action.

On October 13, cold, grey rain had found us again inside with tea; we struggled with a stubborn grommet kit, stepped into harnesses, and stuffed bags with our "no" and "dams" signs, double checking that each climber had their appropriate sign so as not to arrive on the platform and shout to the world, "Dams No." We piled into a pickup truck and made our way through sheets of falling fresh water towards the center of the city. We arrived around the corner, hopped out and approached the scene of 30 or 40 lively citizens with salmon-hats and signs, shouting loudly over the rain, hoping to be heard.

We approached the entrance of the EBMUD with a ladder, and someone shouted, "Hey what are you doing?" before ushering all the other protesters inside, causing an unnecessary divide in the dissent. Up went the ladder, then us and the signs. Some men in suits quickly advanced below us, but by then we were all the way up, which rendered their burly demand for us to "get down from there this instant!" hopeless. I looked over at my vibrant and passionate comrade, we reached across the Pardee Dam image and each took a side of our six-foot red, wooden disapproval sign. Other signs, bigger than ourselves, emerged from our Mary Poppins-style backpacks and we made our ways across the beams of the building's entranceway.

The news cameras found us and numerous pictures were taken. Our team's knowledgeable police liaison reported that the police were being surprisingly calm and agreed that, if upon our descent, we took everything down with us, no charges would be pressed. The signs had been up there long enough already to have accomplished our goal of displaying a part of the strong conviction

were people from neighborhood organizations, river protection alliances, fishing groups, greywater collectives, engineers and other concerned citizens who gave a myriad of reasons why building a new dam was entirely unnecessary. The meeting lasted about 6 hours, the longest in EBMUD history. The board dutifully listened as we gave our informed pleas, and then made the decision they were going to make regardless—to include the dam. At least if they do decide to go ahead with construction, it wouldn't be 15 years from now, providing plenty of time for the importance of rivers to contagiously sprout.

Meanwhile, the SWP that pumps fresh water from the San Francisco Bay Delta to southern California is not only implicated in the demise of the 176 threatened and endangered species of the bay, it is also the largest single user of energy in the state. The Edmonston Pumping Plant at the base of the Techahapi Mountains is the largest, and boasts that each of its fossil fuel guzzling pumps weigh 400 tons and stand 65-feet-tall.

Damn Cars

From a climate justice perspective, pumping water may be California's largest contributor to atmospheric carbon, but in our everyday reality car culture is the most tangible perpetrator of social and environmental carnage. Time and time again highways are built through poor communities, polluting the air with foul gasses. The automobile's constant assault on our senses—the noise, lung-clogging smoke and vibrational and psychic pollution—cause not only epidemics of respiratory disease, but destroy the social fabric of neighborhoods. The supreme reign of these high-velocity, metallic death machines over our cities needs to be checked in a systemic way, but the automobile-roadway industrial complex has a death grip on our economy.

continued on the next page

As bicyclists and pedestrians we often have to fight against the almost psychotic sense of entitlement that car drivers wield. In places like Copenhagen, where 100,000 bicyclists commute to work daily, every day is "bike to work day." As the pre-COP15 clamor reached near fever pitches, we decided to sponsor a 350.org event by symbolically inverting the carnage that car culture inflicts on our planet. We hatched a plan to annihilate a car in public, using nothing more than our bodies and a handful of sledgehammers. October 24 was the perfect day to destroy an old pickup that had been polluting since 1982, in the name of the International Day of Climate Action.

All sorts of people came to ask what we were doing when they heard the calculated, resounding hits. We explained our action, invited them to join us and almost everyone did. Surprisingly unhindered by the presence of the law, women, men, girls and boys all happily smashed and pounded, and the truck slowly became unrecognizable. As it reached a satisfying state of disarray, we attached rope to its raised front bumper and to five bicycles then started pulling!

We pulled from South Berkeley to West Oakland, occasionally stopping to switch riders or explain our intentions to befuddled and amused passersby. Upon arriving at the truck's temporary resting place in West Oakland, a few kids came over to check out the commotion. We explained why we demolished this specific car and their immediate reaction was, "Can we? Can we?" Armed with the appropriate tools, they began to swing. As the sound echoed down the street, three kids quickly became a small army. After they had added the finishing touches to this community masterpiece, they reluctantly handed us the hammers and retreated. A couple days later, Pick n' Pull came and towed the shadow of a truck to be recycled.

I had never smashed an unwanted car with strangers before—or any car for that matter—but a subtle, ephemeral union sprouted from such shared catharsis. (Plus, it was just plain old fun.) The word "movement" started to enter into our conversation, and we began to wonder how to dimensionalize and span the gaps between activists, tired workers, farmers, fishermen,

immigrants, frustrated students, medicated children, heroic teachers, elders, alternative health care practitioners and disgruntled veterans. A vast array of people all bear the brunt of a dysfunctional government.

As disparate groups, we make minor modifications. By introducing affinity between previously non-communicating groups, we become a large body of concerned citizens—the greater number of people organized, the better our chance at succeeding. We can suddenly become an unlikely ensemble, spanning multitudes of outlooks and backgrounds, which may make us able to harness the ample strength of diversity and seep like water seeps through cracks. On a map of resistance there are many dots of concentrated strength, and I wonder if it isn't the vigorous drawing and redrawing of lines between those dots—even the unexpected ones—that will help weave us into an unbreakable net of unbearable might.

Diablo EF! is a new group. You can reach them at diabloearthfirst@gmail.com. To view footage of the October 17 action visit [HTTP://ABCLOCAL.GO.COM/KGO/VIDEO?ID=7063187](http://abclocal.go.com/KGO/VIDEO?ID=7063187).

What If? A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE 350.ORG INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

BY KEVIN MORAN

On October 24, hundreds of thousands of people in 181 countries came together in an international day of action against climate change. Organized by Bill McKibben's 350.org, the event is being reported as the largest and most widely-coordinated political day of action in history. Rallies filled the streets of urban metropolises around the world to demand action on climate change. Banners dropped from national monuments on every continent, proclaiming a carbon cap of 350 parts per million (ppm) to be the new mandate of The People. Aerial photos depict clusters of people all around the globe forming giant "350" configurations to highlight the issue. In my hometown of Boulder, Colorado, we called for a Critical Mass bike ride and joined hundreds of people in a trip to the reviled Valmont Coal Plant, demanding an end to coal-fired power. Still, when I looked back across the seemingly endless line of cycling protesters—the hundreds of individuals, many of whom had never participated in any form of protest—I found myself wondering: "Is this really the best way to approach this issue? Haven't we tried this before? What if all these people showed up to participate in direct action, rather than symbolic action?"

The assumption put forward by the 350.org campaign—and the logical basis of displaying immense global support for this unifying issue—is that, if the mobilized masses can inspire enough allies in high places and if politicians and policy makers around the world could realize the imperative threat of global warming, conscious policy would inevitably result. In reality, state policy has never been crafted toward the end of reversing economic growth—which is necessary to reduce carbon emissions. Governments establish policy around the interests that comprise their subjective political reality. Big Business is presumed to represent large chunks of the population, as the employer (or enslaver) and "service provider" of the masses, so the corporations will always be the loudest voices in the room. Thus, government is nothing more than a tool of a corporate realm in an ailing world economy reliant upon cheap energy, transportation and industrial production.

Let us not forget that Mr. Inconvenient Truth himself, longtime board member of Occidental Petroleum, managed to hinder the Kyoto Protocol on behalf of the US government. Al Gore sat on top of the war-and-profit machine for eight years of dismissals and false solutions toward environmental crises. Even Barack Obama, who has used strong language in favor of reducing carbon emissions, has since been hesitant to join global climate talks (largely because the rich expect developed countries to pay for their irreparable damage of the ecosphere). There is no reason to expect anything but more of the same from the sociopolitical elite—false solutions, commitments of inconsequential sums of money toward research and development of "cleaner" forms of energy, concurrent with the perpetual destruction of mountain ranges, clear-cutting of forests, pumping deadly chemicals into the air and dumping waste into the oceans.

The objective of the October 24 International Day of Action was to reiterate the number "350"—a number that even James Hanson, climate scientist and originator of the 350 ppm carbon dioxide cap, has contended is likely too high. McKibben and friends intended to make "350" an unavoidable aspect of political reality by employing the number with as many people in as many places and as many ways as possible. The campaign strived to shun the false stigma cast by energy-industry-funded climate change deniers, and to build the awareness of the reality that is unfolding. To this end, the campaign was inarguably a success, displaying global solidarity against climate

change that undoubtedly resonated during the Copenhagen negotiations (COP 15). Indeed, the discussion has shifted from whether the climate is changing to how much longer we can continue on the same path without disaster—global warming has become a political reality. However, as the COP 15 talks will likely have no serious impact, as did Kyoto, the Rio summit, and the Millennium Development Goals. Those of us who are seriously trying to alter the disastrous trajectory of industrial society are forced to ask ourselves the question, "What if?"

What if—instead of wasting precious time in the futile game of representative politics—we came together, not in symbolic action, but in the world's largest day of direct action? What if the wealth of social networking tools—the vast potential for communication endowed upon us by this tragic civilization—was used to empower people to participate in directly modifying the world around them? What if 350 people, instead of just riding bikes through downtown Boulder, were motivated to disassemble every vehicle on the road? What if at the same moment, a thousand people in Denver, instead of rallying around the capitol holding "350" signs, began to demolish their local Super Wal-Mart in favor of an urban garden? What if our friends and neighbors came to our defense with rocks and bricks when the police came to stop us? What if in DC, hundreds of people gathered, not to form a photo opportunity in front of the White House, but a road blockade in front of the coal plant? What if in Rio, we shut down industrial polluters, or in India, we drove out Monsanto? What if millions of people around the world came together on one day in defense of a dying planet—not to ask the rich to voluntarily hinder their sources of wealth, but to dismantle the luxuries that are killing the Earth and us? What if The People simultaneously dedicated their every remaining effort to restore the conditions that allows the Earth and us to thrive? What if we organized ourselves, not under the umbrella banner of celebrity activists, but out of a unified understanding that we cannot continue this way of life? What if we rejected the fallacy and false solutions of representative, authoritarian government, and resolved to act on behalf of ourselves and to stand in solidarity with the countless others who are perpetually misrepresented, marginalized, and ignored? The answer to this question, of course, would be a worldwide revolution.

This is not to say that the 350 actions were a waste. I personally contributed time and effort to the campaign, working with committed and passionate individuals to organize a 350-bike ride. I would never have done this had I thought the campaign was a completely misdirected effort. In many ways, the decentralized organizing and impressive attendance was the most impressive mass action to happen in Boulder in years. The powerful format provided by 350.org showed participants—and power-holders—that we have the potential to organize on a scale that the world has never seen. It proved, at least to some degree, that we are ready and willing to work together to surpass expectations, defy contrived norms and create a better world. Most importantly, it forged networks and connections that can be utilized toward greater ends.

What should follow, however, is an honest dialogue as to whether our desired goals are truly attainable through symbolic means. If not, we should consider a more direct approach. And maybe next year, on October 24, we can try again without asking—only acting.

A new world is ours to create and the sooner we start, the better.

Kevin is a writer, artist, organizer, aspiring revolutionary and disgruntled student at the University of Colorado, in Boulder. Visit him at [Left Hand Books](#).

SHOUT OUT to Earth First!ers Across the Globe

November-December 2010 officially celebrates 30 years-in-print for the *Earth First! Journal*! We have good reason to start the year off with a big heads up to all who have stories, photos, songs, original artwork or, perhaps, an article about how you found yourself organizing with a rambunctious crew of monkeywrenchers—those who make no compromises in defense of the Earth!

In addition to gathering stories to span three decades of direct action to commemorate the international movement of Earth First!, the current *Journal* collective would also like to run a 2011 Direct Action Calendar and release a compilation album.

However, we will not be able to achieve any of this without your help! Please start thinking about your photos and stories—how you

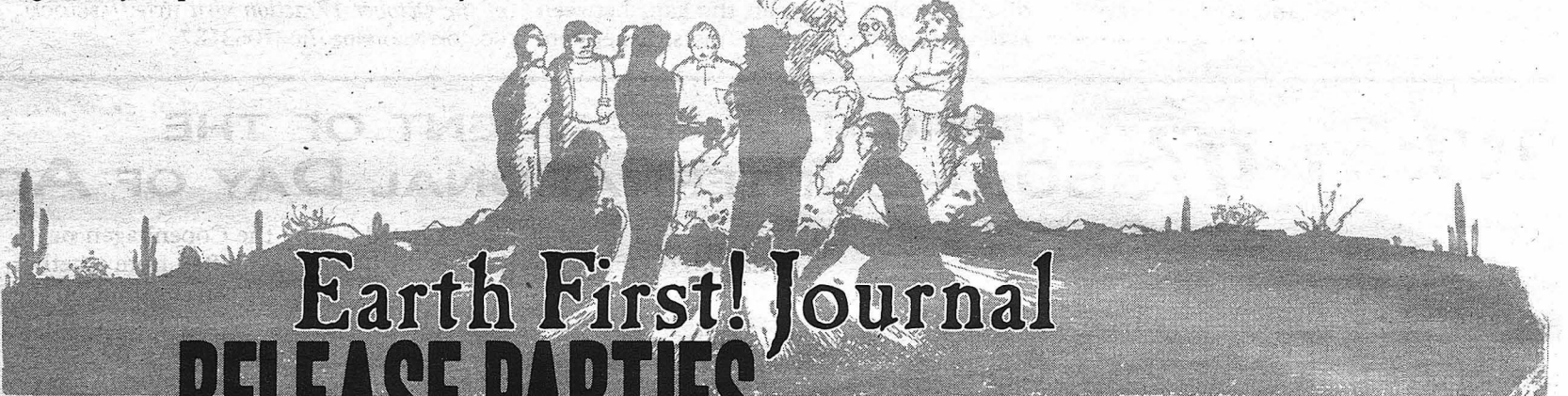
want to capture a piece of the history—and send them to us in a timely fashion. Send your suggestions for song picks and artists to contact! We need your well captured high-resolution action shots! Each issue this year we intend on asking folks to contribute and hope that our mailbox starts to burst from the seams with exciting letters and packages!

Donations are, of course, also needed to help us have a good year and hopefully save some cash for the proposed anniversary trinkets. We appreciate all the contributions that were made in 2009; we thank you for effectively keeping the *Journal* going! If you donated \$50 or more during the Summer donor drive we are still planning to get trinkets out, as soon as we have two long-term editors back in the office!

Help is also needed in other ways at the *Earth First! Journal*. If you are interested in working at the *Journal*, fundraising, making merchandise, tabling, doing edits/layout from a far (other suggestions are welcomed) get in touch and we can get the ball rolling!

The Winter fundraising letter has been included in subscriber copies of this issue, if you don't see a donation form and would like to contribute please visit us online at WWW.EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG and click "Donate" on the home page. Alternatively, donations can be sent to our PO Box or by calling the *Earth First! Journal* office to place a debit/credit card donation:

Thanks for your readership and support!
For the Wild,
—The *Earth First! Journal* Collective



Earth First! Journal RELEASE PARTIES

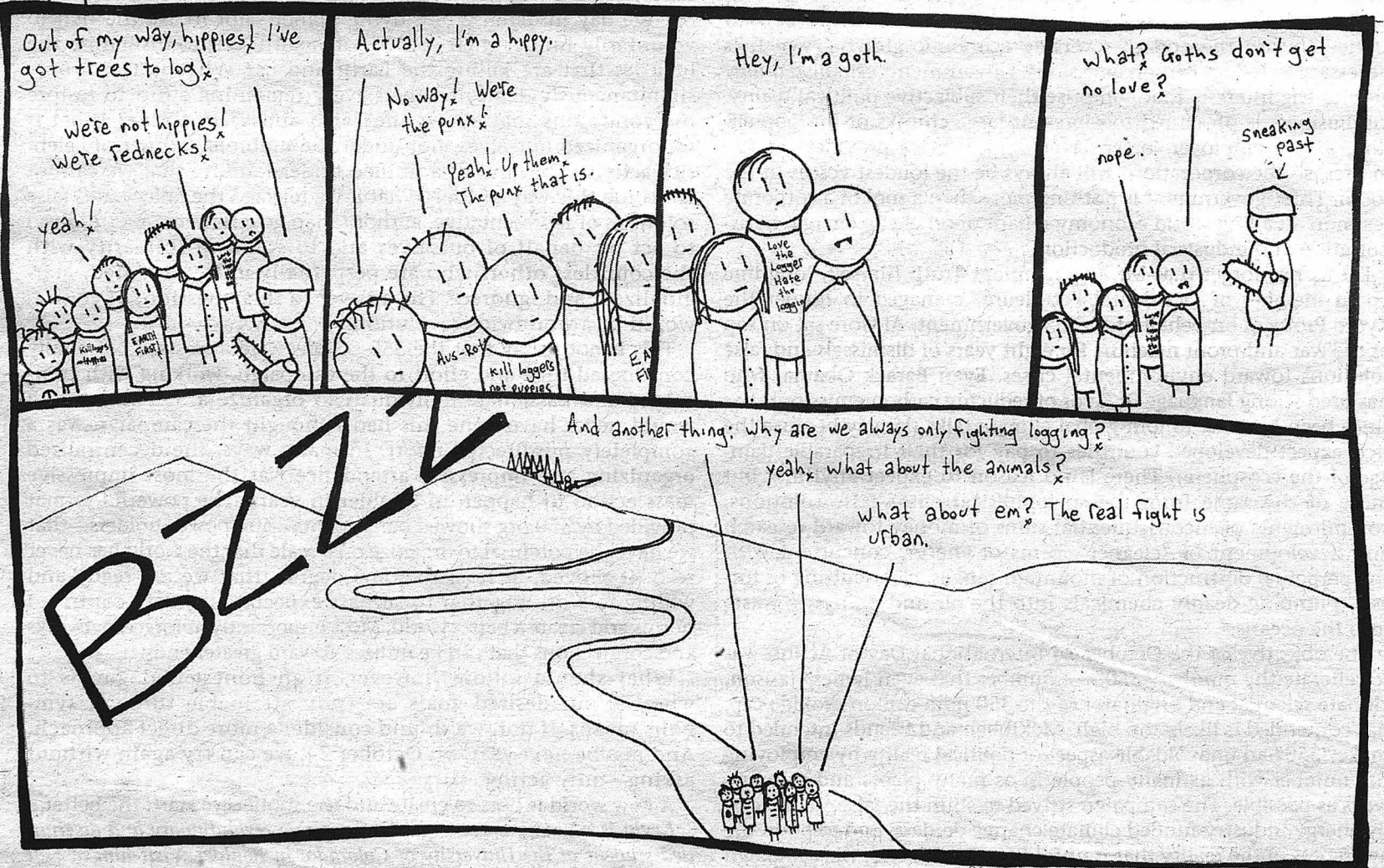
While the January-February 2010 Brigid edition of the *Earth First! Journal* reaches readers far and wide, organizers from the Earth First! movement in the US will be meeting in southern California to discuss current campaigns, problems within our movement and solution-building, hold discussions and workshops that encompass our tactics and analysis, as well as take time to talk about the *Journal*.

Here in the office of the *EF! Journal* we have brainstormed various ideas about the future of the publication; some thoughts we have appeared in the 2009 Reader Survey, other ideas will appear as they become firm. As of yet, nothing is set in stone. Though, as we've said before—one thing is certain, there is no end in sight for the radical environmental journal!

Another clear notion is that we need to get more *Journals* out in the world and into the hands of folks who are looking for a movement as dedicated to stopping the destruction of our planet as those who have known about Earth First! for years.

We are very interested in helping *EF!*ers and allies host *Earth First! Journal* mailing parties in their bioregions and would like to encourage anyone who feels they can initiate the project of organizing a mailing party in their region to get in contact. Mailing parties only happen once every two months, so there is not a huge time commitment. With good planning and publicity you could easily use the *Journal* mailing party as an outreach tool for your community! Anyone who is interested in the development of this concept, whether you live in the US or Indonesia send us an e-mail, letter or phone call! (Our information is listed on the contents page.)

4 @msday mountain earth first!



The Nuclear Renaissance & the Necessary Resistance

BY MAC LOJOWSKY

There is a shocking lack of awareness and opposition, in both the mainstream environmental and the EF! movement, to currently proposed legislation that will usher in what industry executives are joyfully calling a "nuclear renaissance." As Craig A. Severance explains in his 2009 report, *Business Risks and Costs of New Nuclear Power*, "An entire generation has passed since nuclear power has been seriously considered in America. New faces are now on utility boards, and new reporters are covering the energy beat. After so much time, a particular amnesia about the record of the nuclear industry is evident in discussions." Nuclear power and the resulting nuclear waste is the most deadly stuff on the planet and the latter will remain that way for the next 500,000 years or so. Coupled with that scientific reality, the gross history and current practices involving Native Americans in uranium mining and waste storage provides one of the most glaring and ongoing examples of environmental racism in United States history. It is critical that this "nuclear renaissance" be resisted and refused before another reactor goes online.



Toxic waste-filled holding pond at a Uranium processing mill in Uravan, Colorado.

Senators John Kerry and Lindsey Graham, summarizing the nuclear section of the Clean Energy Jobs & American Power Act, state:

"While we invest in renewable energy sources like wind and solar, we must also take advantage of nuclear power, one single largest contributor of emissions-free power. Nuclear power needs to be a core component of electricity generation if we are to meet our emission reduction targets. We need to jettison cumbersome regulations that have stalled the construction of nuclear plants in favor of a streamlined permit system that maintains vigorous safeguards while allowing utilities to secure financing for more plants." (New York Times, October 11, 2009)

The US Nuclear Regulatory Council (NRC), which issues permits for nuclear power plants, currently has 17 pending applications for new plants. Most of these plants are located on the east coast. For a complete list of proposed plants and locations, visit www.nrc.gov.

It's doubtful that President Obama will voice any opposition, as the LA Times reported, "Obama is the largest beneficiary of money

from companies that have a stake in nuclear energy's future. The Braidwood Plant—located outside of Chicago—is owned, by Exelon Corporation, which has donated \$275,000 to Obama over his career." (February 3, 2008)

Politicians, industry executives and mainstream environmental groups maintain that nuclear power is cost-effective, non-polluting "green energy." On every point, they are wrong—either very misinformed, influenced by nuclear money or just plain lying. The realities of nuclear power are not a matter of opinion—the subject is not up for debate. Clear scientific and historical fact demonstrate that there is absolutely nothing cost-effective, pollution-free or "green" about nuclear energy.

What is most seldom discussed is exactly where the uranium that will power these proposed plants will come from, but history suggests that Indigenous peoples will continue to bear the brunt of nuclear hazard. Public Citizen's Nuclear Information & Research Service explains, in a report entitled "Radioactive Racism: The History of Targeting Native American Communities with High-Level Atomic Waste Dumps," "Uranium mines were, and continue to be, on Navajo lands throughout the Grants Mineral Belt (Arizona and New Mexico), on Laguna Pueblo land in New Mexico and tribal lands in the Northwest, as well as on and near Sioux Indian lands in western South Dakota. These mines have taken a particularly hard toll on the communities near them. Native American miners, most of whom were never informed of the dangers of uranium, were exposed to its particulate and radioactive gases in the mines for decades. They have suffered large numbers of lung cancer fatalities, a disease almost entirely unknown among the Navajos and Pueblos before uranium mining. Mining debris and mill tailings, as milling often takes place near the mines to minimize transport of waste rock, were put into unlined storage ponds or out in the open air, where often they leached into nearby soil and water. Groundwater that entered into the mines, and thus became contaminated, was regularly pumped out into rivers and lakes."

The same issue applies to what is possibly the hardest position to defend in the greenwashing of nuclear power—nuclear waste. High-level nuclear waste is deadly now and it reaches its most deadly phase about 300,000 years from now. It is inconceivable to plan or to construct anything made with human hands that will remain sound and safe for that long; we do not have the ability to deal with it. No matter where we put nuclear waste, it will never go away and it will never, ever cease to be a serious threat to the planet, the plants and the species. No amount of greenwashing can change that fact.

In 1982, Congress passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, which mandated that a permanent waste repository would be in place by 1998. It is now 2010, the US government is twelve years late, and it has no current prospects for a long-term solution for nuclear waste. The waste is currently stored onsite at the nuclear plants where the waste was produced. Due to the proximity of these plants to large population centers and natural resources (like rivers, lakes and oceans), this is not a tenable solution for storage. In addition, if one was to believe the government's own fear-hype, these massive above-ground waste storage areas would

make attractive and vulnerable targets for the dreaded 'terrorists.'

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the US government almost exclusively targeted Native communities to house high-level nuclear waste. Among the targeted tribes were the Western Shoshone, Mescalero Apaches, Prairie Island Community, Skull Valley Band of Goshutes, Eastern Shawnee, Ute Mountain and others. Eventually, the government decided that just one site—Yucca Mountain—would be studied and considered.

Yucca Mountain sits squarely on Western Shoshone tribal land, adjacent to the Nevada Test Site. For almost two decades, the Western Shoshone and thousands of activists fought against making the Yucca Mountain into a nuclear waste site on cultural and scientific grounds. Today, about \$12 billion later, the site has been abandoned as a potential permanent storage facility. Matthew L. Wald, writing for *Scientific American* magazine, cautions that just because Yucca Mountain has been abandoned for the moment, that does not mean it is off the table.

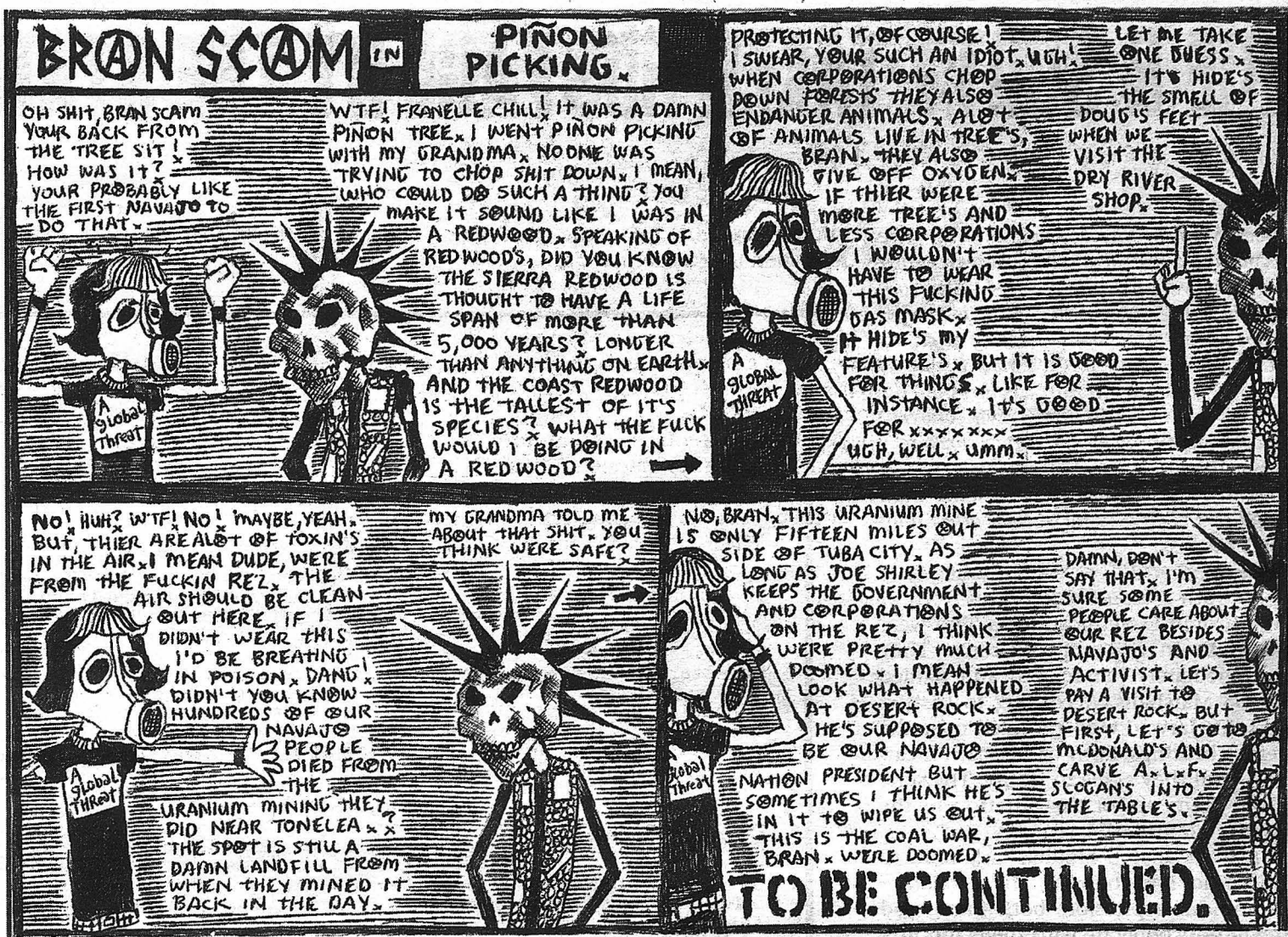
"Yucca could always come back. 'Thirty-nine states have high-level waste—either civilian-spent nuclear fuel, Navy spent nuclear fuel or defense program high-level waste,' says Edward F. Sproat III, who was the DOE (Department of Energy) official in charge of the Yucca project for the last two and half years of the Bush administration. The waste 'is all designed to go to Yucca, and there's no other place to send it.'" (August 3, 2009)

The nuclear debate largely focuses on "invisible" places, completely outside the consciousness of mainstream of America. Skull Valley, Utah—where the hell is that? Church Rock, New Mexico? Grants Mineral Belt? These adverse targets are home to people who have become "invisible" populations—the Goshutes, the Utes, the Western Shoshone, the Mescalero Apaches.

That being said, there are a number of groups, especially Indigenous groups, that have been fighting and continue to fight the long fight against the nuclear industry. These groups include: Honor the Earth (www.honorearth.org), the Shundahai Network (www.shundahai.org) and the Indigenous Environmental Network (www.ieneath.org). In addition to fighting the government-proposed climate bill, hundreds of indigenous groups have joined together to draft their own energy legislation within the Intertribal Council on Utility Policy (www.intertribalcoup.org). There are numerous other groups and sources of information available, including Beyond Nuclear (www.beyondnuclear.org).

It is important to remember that there are no victories in our work—only temporary truces. The nuclear industry was in many ways contained by the hard, consistent work and sacrifice of activists who came before us. Then they went away for awhile, licked their wounds, gathered their money and waited. Today, they are back, and bigger than before. They have appropriated the terms of the debate and somehow constructed the notion that nuclear power is "green." It is critical that we call this bullshit, "bullshit." We need to draw attention to the facts of nuclear power. We need to form alliances with the groups, especially the Indigenous groups, who are struggling against this menace. Reinforcements are desperately needed and they are needed right now to oppose this insane legislation. Nuclear power is not an option.

Mac Lojowsky is a playwright and union carpenter, currently based in Olympia, Washington. He has been involved in environmental justice work since 1996.



Bran Scam is an artist and a prisoner in Arizona.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Weather or Not, They're Wrong

The most recent issue of the Compendium Newsletter, based out of Los Angeles, states that 89 percent of the weather stations used to track U.S. Surface Temperature fail to meet the National Weather Service's own requirements. Positioned next to exhaust fans, surrounded by asphalt and situated amidst the concrete-heated environs of the inner-city, most weather stations are, like the planet itself, artificially heated by urban development. If you can't trust the National Weather Service, who can you trust!?

Greenwashed Lego World

The modern sustainability movement has modeled itself on the three Rs, but what do you do when the paradoxes really start becoming obnoxious? Take for example, the Dwellbox: a house made out of recycled shipping containers. If you want to know how a commodity authentically feels, try living like one, in the

14-gauge steel hull of a shipping container.

Hey Ranchers, Go Hunt Yourself

A new ruling in favor of Friends of Animals has outlawed hunting endangered species on the historic Y.O. Ranch in Texas. Prior to this decision, Y.O. was breeding endangered Scimitar-horned oryx antelopes and Dama gazelles to be hunted in captivity at the price of \$5,300 a head. These kinds of "hunting ranches" exist perfectly legally in 40 U.S. states, where psychotic killing frenzies are deemed "manly" and "exciting."

Plain Stupid False Solutions

Another macabre contribution to Environmental News of the Weird was introduced by Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City, who has recently decided to capture and gas 2,000 resident Canada Geese. They supposedly present a clear and present danger to national security. No, seriously, these "terrorist" geese are in danger of

flying into the engines of airplanes, so instead of protecting them with sound devices, which will remove them from harm's way, the benevolent Mayor has decided to execute them. But look on the bright side, at least they won't be detained in some bizarre, privately owned military prison, tortured and moved to Afghanistan, Egypt and Syria before being executed. They won't even be microwaved by the military's brand new "pain ray." Not this time, at least...

Operation Parasol to the Rescue

In an homage to false solutions to climate change, here's a glance back at the best and bravest of the worst ideas of 2009. We should all be familiar with these great ideas: creating an enormous algae bloom in the middle of the ocean, pumping more pollution into the sky to provide better shade from the sun, and replacing trees with synthetic carbon dioxide converting machines. But what about *EF!*'s neighbors

over at the University of Arizona? Obviously not readers of the *Journal*, they intend to launch "Operation Parasol"—a project to send trillions of spacecrafts into orbit to reflect the sun's rays away from the earth. What is this, a science fiction novel?

You Can Take the Woman Out of the Wild, but...

Readers might be more sympathetic to Rochom P'ngieng, the so-called "jungle woman" of Cambodia, who emerged in 2007 after 18 years in the wild, only to go on a month-long hunger strike against civilization. Living alone in the jungle from age 8 to 26, P'ngieng was captured after attempting to steal, and is currently under the custody of her father. After two years, she refuses to learn language, speak, or eat rice. Her father has explained, "Her condition looks worse than the time we brought her from the jungle. She always wants to take off her clothes and crawl back to the jungle."

SHORTS

- Obama appointed the former pesticide lobbyist, Islam Siddiqui, to the post of Chief Agricultural Negotiator at the U.S. Trade Representative's office, ensuring DDT and other pollutants a special spot in trade agreements—sounds like a change we can believe in!

- A new vehicle barrier is being built along 56 miles of U.S. border with Mexico in Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, employing 125 massive machines, from bulldozers and road graders to hole drillers and dump trucks the size of houses.

- No migratory birds roosted on Alcatraz Island this year, as opposed to the 1,782 counted in 2007, because their food source,

- anchovies, has moved south to follow fluctuations in the California Current concomitant with the global increase in ocean temperature.

- The Greenhouse Neutral Foundation is calling for a ban of plastic shopping bags, citing that only two percent are recycled, and their current rate of consumption now reaches nearly 1 million per minute.

- The Animal Protection Agency of England is sounding the alarm about the South Staffordshire Council's failure to enforce laws against the sales of pet animals at market stalls.

- The so-called "flying fox," a species of bat, has been hunted into near extinction

- in its native Malay peninsula, in Malaysia, while another grouping of bats in Arkansas are developing a mysterious syndrome that is killing them off by the thousands.

- Panic over the invasion of Big Head Carp led Chicago officials to poison 10 kilometers of the sanitary and ship canal, massacring over 90 tons of fish and killing only one carp in the process.

- Research on the 2007 Lick Fire in Henry W. Coe State Park shows that the fire recovery has generated the regrowth of plants that had not been seen in Coe in decades.

- Recent reports show new evidence that theft of solar panels is on the rise. Hot commodities, indeed.

CARRIE & SCOTT TAKEN HOSTAGE BY THE STATE!

BY FRIENDS OF CARRIE AND SCOTT

Carrie Feldman and Scott DeMuth are activists from Minneapolis, Minnesota, who were subpoenaed to a federal grand jury investigating animal rights vandalism from 2004. They both were put in jail. Carrie is still being held on civil contempt of court. She had a hearing regarding a motion for her release on December 8 and, as of this writing, is still awaiting a ruling from the judge. On November 19, Scott's civil contempt was dropped and he was indicted for conspiracy under the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. Scott was released on November 30, pending trial. What follows is an account of their arrest prior to Scott's release.

On November 17, Carrie Feldman and Scott DeMuth refused to testify in front of a grand jury in Davenport, Iowa, and were found to be in contempt of court. They were immediately handcuffed and hauled off by US Marshalls. According to District Judge John Jarvey, who presided over the contempt hearings, both will remain incarcerated until they agree to testify. The state can lock them up for the duration of the grand jury—another 11 months.

For reasons all too familiar and valid to anyone who has followed the escalation of Green Scare repression, both Carrie and Scott will not cooperate with the grand jury by providing information about themselves and their comrades. We stand in solidarity with them for refusing to be complicit in their own persecution. We will stand with them every day until they are free.

While the law does not compel the US Attorney's Office to disclose the subject of the grand jury investigation, supporters believe that it is likely related to an unsolved Animal Liberation Front action in 2004 at the University of Iowa. At the time, Carrie was only 15 years old and Scott was only 17 years old—both were residents of the Twin Cities.

However, they have more recently been involved in supporting political prisoners, specifically those incarcerated as a result of the government's targeting of animal-rights and environmental activists. Carrie, Scott and their communities feel that this support work has now made them targets, as well.

Prior to their grand jury appearances today and the contempt hearings that followed, between 30 and 40 supporters rallied outside the Federal Courthouse in Davenport. The support rally was characterized by a disproportionate law enforcement presence, and the proceedings themselves by a sense in the courtroom that the state's actions were perfunctory at best. District Judge Jarvey dismissed out-of-hand arguments offered by both Carrie and Scott's

continued on the next page



Carrie & Scott aren't messing around when it comes to their rights!

Prior to appearing before the grand jury, Carrie and Scott prepared statements regarding the repression they are facing:

Today I have my second appearance before a federal grand jury that is investigating animal rights actions that occurred at the University of Iowa in 2004. Last month—after being subpoenaed in Minneapolis with one day's notice—I appeared before this grand jury and plead my Fifth Amendment right to remain silent. Today, that right will be sidestepped with technical legal "protections" that have little or no substantive value. I will once again be put in front of a grand jury with no lawyer present in the room, and once again they will attempt to coerce me to testify.

The prosecutor has filed to grant me immunity. I do not need immunity from prosecution for a crime that I was not involved in and have no relation to. This will not change my decision to refuse to cooperate with the grand jury. I stand here today in solidarity with everyone who has stood up to resist the exploitation of the environment and animals, the repression of the state, and the abuses of the justice system.

In anticipation of my refusal to cooperate, the court has scheduled a contempt hearing for today at ten o'clock. And they're right. I do feel contempt for a justice system that prosecutes people for property damage that is done in defense of life, while real violence is committed at the hands of vivisectioners, the police and the military on a daily basis. I feel contempt for the federal agents that would use these prosecutions as a pretext to investigate aboveground movements and activists like me, with no apparent grounds other than my political beliefs and legal activities. I will not help them to do this, and I will not let them violate my rights and privacy.

Today, I may be taken to jail for up to eleven months, solely for taking a moral stand against an institution that I believe to be corrupt and obsolete. I have not been accused of any crime. So let me ask you this, Clifford Cronk: is it worth it to you? Is it worth it to you when my friend's eight-year-old sobs, wondering if her mother could be going to jail next? Is it worth it, Tom Reinwart? Is it worth it to you when my elderly grandma is without a caretaker? Is this what you work for, Melissa Hendrickson? Is it worth it to tear an innocent 20-year-old woman away from everyone that she loves and cares for? Is this justice?

Thank you for your support.

Carrie Feldman

—Carrie Feldman

Hau Mitakuyapi. Cante wasteya nape ciyuzapi do. Iyuskinyan wacyankapi do. Dakota ia Hegan emakiyapi do. Wasicu ia Scott DeMuth emakiyapi do. Damakota do. Oyate mitawa kin hena Bdewakantunwan ewicakiyapi do. Bdote heciya tanhan wahi do. Wanna nina cante mawaste do.

Hello all my relatives. With a good heart, I greet you all with a handshake. It is good to see all of you here today. My name is Scott. My place name in Dakota is Hegan. I am from Bdote, the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, where the creation of the Bdewakantunwan took place.

Before anything else, I wanted to address you all in the Dakota language. State repression isn't anything new to this country, or even to this city. One hundred, and forty-six years ago—only a few miles from this courthouse—over 300 Dakota prisoners of war were held in a concentration camp. Over a third of them died in their captivity. Whatever happens to me today, whatever I face, it will be easy in light of the hardships those men faced. Right now, my heart is really good. I am glad to see so many people from so many of the communities I am a part of here to support me today. Being part of a community means we help each other. We support each other; we strengthen each other; and sometimes, we must make sacrifices for each other.

Grand juries started as an important part of our justice system to prevent over-reaching prosecuting powers. However, this process has been used historically against political movements. In the context of this history, most recently in the Green Scare, when investigative techniques of law enforcement have been halted by the silence of political movements, grand juries have been used as a tactic to intimidate our communities and as an attempt to coerce testimony from movement members. This is an abuse of a constitutionally mandated process by using it as an investigative tool rather than its intended purpose.

Grand juries can be very disempowering for us all, and especially for those targeted by them. We face questioning without legal counsel present or a right to remain silent. We can be threatened, coerced and jailed. However, no punishment could be worse than surrendering our values, and this decision—whether we cooperate or resist—is the one thing we, as individuals, have control of in this process. Luckily, this is the choice that allows these grand juries to succeed or to fail.

Our willingness to cooperate and to be complacent, our willingness to be intimidated and to be scared, not only serves to legitimize these proceedings, but it also empowers the tactics of state repression. However, when we as individuals—with the strength and backing of our communities, are no longer afraid of their punishment—choose to resist this process and refuse to cooperate, we disempower this tactic and give strength to our communities. We return the strength that is given to us.

So thank you all for giving me that strength. I only hope to give back as much as has been given to me.

Scott DeMuth

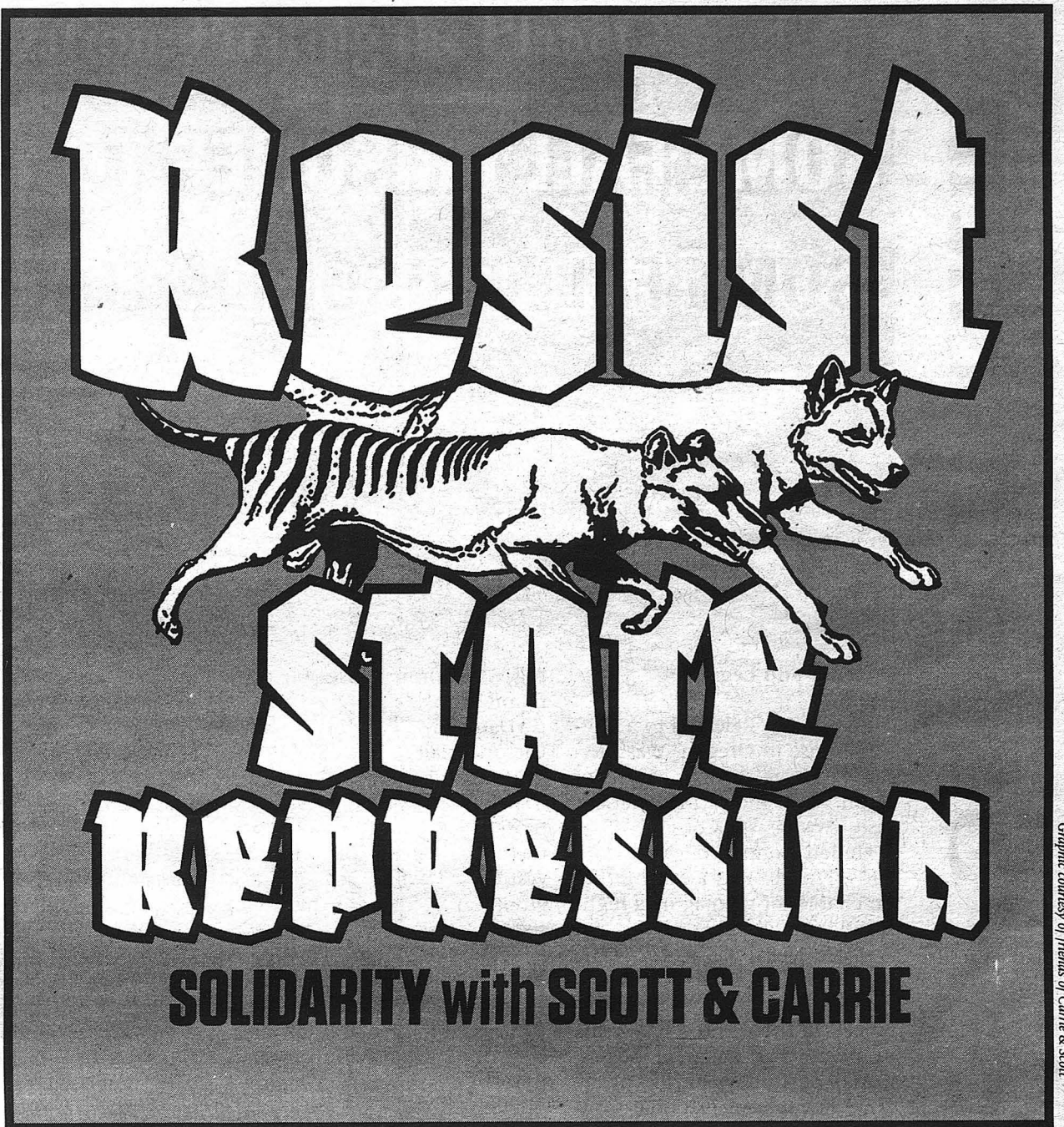
—Scott DeMuth

Support & Resource website: DAVENPORTGRANDJURY.WORDPRESS.COM

counsel, regarding the need for them to remain free. For instance, Carrie is the caretaker of her ailing grandmother, and Scott is currently a graduate student whose intellectual and professional integrity would be irreparably damaged by participating in a sealed investigation. In response, the judge simply read verbatim the legal language about contempt charges and then ordered the two taken into custody immediately.

For his part, US Attorney Cliff Cronk ignored the calls that flooded his office on Monday demanding that the subpoenas be quashed, and that Carrie and Scott be allowed to continue their lives. Then he went substantially further down the rabbit hole: in Carrie's case, in particular, his arguments and implications were egregiously over-the-top. Cross-examining Carrie's father, for instance, Cronk cynically implied that the elderly grandmother she cares for was a sort of pawn in an elaborate ruse to avoid incarceration. He suggested that a shirt Carrie had been photographed wearing, in which the letters "L" and "F" were visible, was evidence of "membership" in either the ALF or ELF. He even cited the fact that she has a white rat companion animal as evidence of something suggestive. It would all be a rather inspired piece of satire if he were kidding, but as Carrie and Scott are currently incarcerated, it's unfortunately clear that he is not.

The community members who attended the morning's rally, as well as those who publicly gathered in support from Minneapolis to Dallas, TX, aren't laughing. They have vowed to mount pressure on Cronk's office, demanding Carrie's and Scott's immediate release. Since the grand jury process gleans much of its power from its secrecy, supporters intend to draw attention to the Orwellian proceedings Carrie and Scott are facing.



Graphic courtesy of friends of Carrie & Scott

Tragedy in the Sweat Lodge Ceremony

BY JAMES "COYOTE" ANDERSON

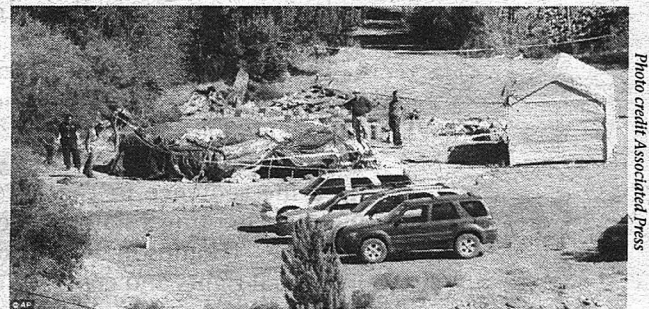
Most of us are aware by now about the devastating tragedy that occurred on October 8, at Angel Valley Retreat Center, near Sedona Arizona, when motivational speaker James Arthur Ray held a so called "spiritual warrior" event that has so far cost the lives of three people and will forever change the lives of 64 more. The facts are slowly coming out in the investigation in regards to what actually happened that day. Investigators found that the lodge used in the sweat lodge ceremony that claimed these lives was made of plastic tarps, which is very dangerous and can be fatal. Still, the investigation continues to determine the actual cause of death. What people don't seem to understand is that the real problems lie where forensic teams refuse to look or examine. This tragedy is far deeper than some mishap and will not only affect the 67 people involved, but now has the potential to affect many others, both directly and indirectly.

I ask all Mother Earth's children, spiritual people, Indigenous peoples, traditionalists and people seeking a spiritual foundation to read this and think for a while as I share some truth forensics will never find. I personally write this as a traditionalist, and as a prisoner within the federal system who has been doing sweat lodge ceremonies for many years. As we are coming into the Aquarian age, a time of healing, many people are starting to wake up, remove the blinders, and realize the need to strive for higher consciousness. Much of the time people are turning to spiritual advisors and people of Indigenous cultures with hope for guidance. They come with open minds, open hearts and trust in the spiritual advisor. Some people seek out wisdom in motivational speakers to help them in the financial, intellectual and spiritual areas of their lives.

In the self-help book entitled *The Secret*, by author Rhonda Byrne, page 195, James Ray claims to be an expert on many Eastern, Indigenous and Mystical traditions. I have to disagree for many reasons. The first reason being that there is no one human who is an expert in indigenous traditions. Only Creator is the expert. Second, as spiritual people or advisors or medicine men, it is far from proper to charge people for your services. It is okay to accept donations, due to the cost of living, but to try to get rich off of spiritual advice is bad medicine in itself. James Ray was charging approximately \$10,000 per person. That's roughly \$670,000 for his services. Third, I will say Ray has some positive things to say in the book *The Secret*, but they're just words. It's a whole different setting when you start tampering with sacred ways. To walk the Red Road is a very precious and sacred path and there is much healing power in the ceremonies if

you utilize them in a humble way. However, if you abuse these ways, you will suffer and so will those around you.

On October 8, Ray abused the sacred ways and the results of his actions are shattering. If Ray, who claims to be an "expert," had spent any time around traditional sweat lodge ceremonies he would have known that the lodge was not properly built and plastic and metal are forbidden. Also, Ray had the participants in the event endure a 36-hour fast then fed them a breakfast buffet before the lodge ceremony. This whole procedure was done completely backwards. Once inside the lodge, as the guide or sweat lodge leader, it was his job and responsibility to take care of every other person within that ceremony. Reports say many people were crying and screaming to get out, yet he made them suffer beyond the limit of even the hottest lodges. It has also been stated that other participants who attended prior lodges run by Ray have been sickened, as well. Ray is not some spiritual guru. He is a fake and now he has sold his soul along with others' for \$670,000. He took the little bit of knowledge he had been blessed with for granted and abused it, and now it is affecting more than just him and the 67 people involved in this ceremony. Ray should never be allowed near another sweat lodge or any sacred item again.



The tiny sweat lodge that contained almost 70 people.

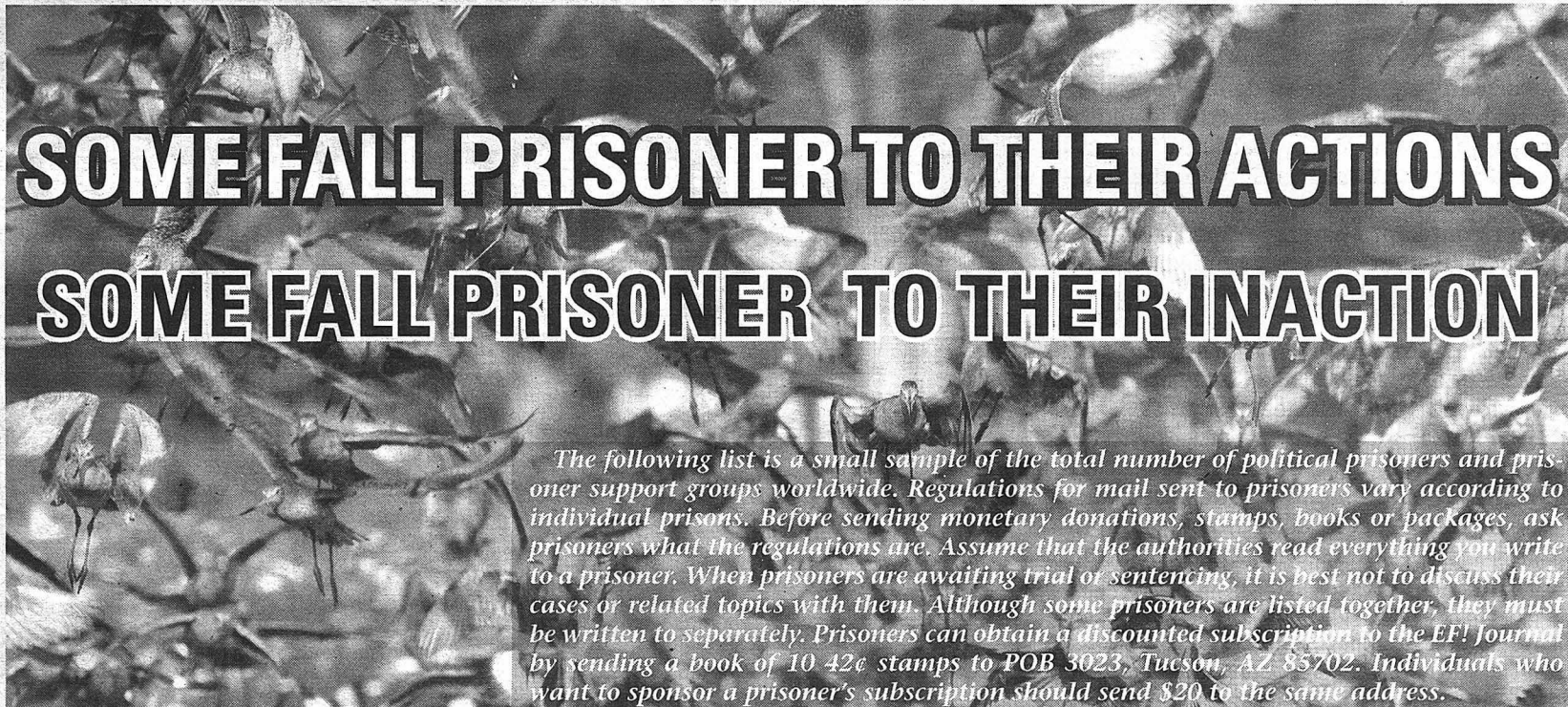
If one knows their history even a little, they will see that Native Americans as well as all other Indigenous peoples have been in a constant struggle for their rights to keep their religious beliefs and practices. For hundreds of years, Native Americans have fought just to survive as a whole. The government looked for any reason to justify the genocide of Indigenous peoples. Because of the power of our spirituality, sacred ways and the sacrifices and lives of our ancestors and elders, our ways still exist.

As a Native American/Breed prisoner in the federal system who walks the Red Road to the best of my ability, I take my spirituality very seriously and I am truly grateful for these ways and the people who fought for them. It wasn't until the late 1970s and early 1980s that the sweat lodge ceremonies were allowed inside the penitentiary walls. Thankfully, with the help of the American Indian Movement and the Native American Rights Fund, and through the grace

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Photo credit Associated Press

SOME FALL PRISONER TO THEIR ACTIONS SOME FALL PRISONER TO THEIR INACTION



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 42c 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

•Tre Arrow, Released to a halfway house in Oregon. Was serving 6.5 years for two counts of arson. For more information, visit WWW.TREARROW.ORG.

•Julien Coupat, released from Paris, France. Was awaiting trial on charges of sabotaging a high-speed train line in France.

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

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

•Joshua Harper, has been released to a halfway house in Washington. Was serving three years for charges stemming from his work with SHAC. For more information, visit WWW.JOSHARPER.ORG.

•Jeffrey "Free" Luers, has been released! For more information, visit WWW.FREEFREENOW.ORG.

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

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

•Fran Thompson, #1090915, transferred. Her new address is WERDCC, POB 300, Vandalia, MO 63382-0300, USA. Before receiving a life sentence in the early 1990s for shooting a stalker in self-defense, Thompson was active in animal rights and environmental campaigns.

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 interfer-

ing with animal research on a rabbit farm.

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

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

•John Graham, Pennington County Jail, 307 St Joseph Street, Rapid City, SD 57701, USA. Awaiting trial on murder charges. Graham was framed by the FBI for the 1975 murder of fellow American Indian Movement (AIM) activist Anna Mae Pictou-Aquash.

•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.

•Steve James Murphy, Central Detention Center, 630 East Rialto Ave., San Bernadino, CA 57701, USA. Awaiting trial on charges of decommissioning a tractor and placing an incendiary device in a housing development construction site.

Animal Liberation

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

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

•Gregg Avery, TA7450, HMP Coldingley, Shaftesbury Road, Bisley, Woking, Surrey, GU24 9EX, UK. Serving nine years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more infor-

mation, 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 Huntingdon Life Sciences. Visit WWW.MYSPACE.COM/SHACUKPRISONERSUPPORT.

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

•Jacob Conroy, #93501-011, FCI Terminal Island, POB 3007, San Pedro, CA 90731, USA. Serving four years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC). For more information, visit WWW.SUPPORTJAKE.ORG.

•Donald Currie, A3660AA, HMP Parkhurst, Clissold Rd, Newport, Isle of Wight, 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.

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

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

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

•Kevin Kjonaas, #93502-011, Unit I, FCI Sandstone, POB 1000, Sandstone, MN 55072, USA. Serving six years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with SHAC. For more information, visit WWW.SUPPORTKEVIN.COM.

•Heather Nicholson, VM4859, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Serving 11 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit WWW.MYSPACE.COM/SHACUKPRISONERSUPPORT.

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

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

•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 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.

•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.

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of the Great Spirit, we now sweat every week. We pray hard and suffer in a good way.

When People abuse these ways it gives reasons for the government to once again question our ways and start harassing us and our spiritual beliefs. They start conjuring up rhetorical questions in regards to the liability issues they would face if someone were to get hurt or if a fatality were to happen in a lodge behind the walls. Ray has not only broken the hearts and trust of many people, but he has jeopardized all the hard work, blood, sweat, tears and sacrifice that Native American people have gone through to get us what we have.

Also, as an "expert" of these ways, Ray would have known that traditionally you do not mix men and women in a lodge together. If women sweat, they have their own lodge. Even if women do sweat with men it is forbidden for women to enter a lodge or even be around sacred items while on their moon. For someone to be charging approximately \$10,000 a head, I feel Ray would not have told women this because it could have potentially cost him \$10,000 or more.

My reasoning for writing this is not solely to chastise Ray or Paul Michael Hamilton, owner of Angel Valley Retreat Center. Indeed, I do write out of anger and hurt, for it breaks my heart when I see people abuse these ways, but I also write for the sake of others who may be seeking a spiritual path. I want people to know this tragedy is spiritual. It wasn't because anyone was unhealthy. Another reason I'm writing this is because no one besides the media seems to be talking about this and it needs to be addressed.

My message in all of this, for "motivational speaker" James Arthur Ray: you have upset Creator and the spirits and in time Creator will deal with you accordingly, that's for sure. You cannot frivolously play with sacred ways. Now you and many others will reap the consequences for your actions. You should have stuck with being a motivational speaker. I pray Creator will humble you.

Paul Mitchell Hamilton: you are just as guilty of playing with sacred ceremonies and ceremonial structures. You are living on sacred land and you're making a mockery of these Indigenous ways. If you don't know what you are doing, you should not be involved with the assisting in, sponsoring of, or construction



of a sweat lodge. You should have stuck with your faux-Asian symbols on your replicated tepee. At least now you know to never use plastic. If you're not a firm believer in karma now, you will be, in this life or the next. I pray Creator humbles you as well.

To all the people seeking a higher consciousness or a spiritual path: please, do not let this incident scare you away from what you are searching for. The sweat lodge may very well be what your spirit needs. I only ask that before you jump out there and trust someone to be your spiritual advisor, take the time to check their credentials. Take great caution of those who claim to be an expert or professional in the realm of spirituality. Always remember, just because someone has some fancy sounding Native American name such as "Two Bulls" or "Four Feathers," it doesn't mean that they are legit. Be very skeptical of those charging standard rates to get closer to God. Creator doesn't charge rates for his love. Respect our sacred ways. This is our way of life and anyone with a good heart of love and compassion is welcome to walk down this path.

Now, I ask anyone who reads this to take a few moments to acknowledge and pray for these people who lost their lives, and for those who were traumatized in all this. Pray for their loved ones, their children, for them to understand that this was more than an accident—it's spiritual. Pray for our spiritual people, our Elders, our youth, our sick, our women and our warriors. Pray for Mother Earth and pray to Creator for forgiveness and guidance. Lastly, please pray for the prisoners who sweat and suffer in the sweat lodge ceremonies behind the walls. We may have made some mistakes in our loves—no one is perfect. We're all in here for a reason but we're not all bad people. The brothers in the Native American circles sweat and suffer for the people, for the earth, for all relations and to help better themselves. We pray for those involved in the October 8 tragedy. Our hearts and prayers go out to you and your families. I personally have shed many tears over this and it will forever leave scars on my heart.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and hopefully for your prayers. In my opinion, there are many lessons to be learned from all of this. I only hope people will take the time to listen and see the message behind this tragedy.

Much Love and Respect,
—James "Coyote" Anderson
ANI-WA-YA TSA-LA-GI
Cherokee Nation/Wolf Clan

Tragedy in the Sweat Lodge Ceremony

Support Political Prisoners!

continued from previous page

•Eric McDavid, #16209-097, FCI Victorville Medium I, POB 5300, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA. Serving 19.5 years for conspiracy to destroy the US Forest Service's Institute of Forest Genetics, a cell-phone tower and power plants. For more information, visit www.supporteric.org.

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

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

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

chisel through cement in his jail cell. For more information, visit supportmichael.wordpress.com.

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

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

Indigenous Resistance

•Byron Shane of Chubbock© Clan, #07909051, FCI Talladega, POB 1000, Talladega, Alabama, North America. Serving 80 years for aggravated assault of federal agents, escape and bank robbery. "Oso Blanco" funneled money that he stole from banks to the Zapatista Army of National Liberation in Mexico.

•Leonard Peltier, #89637-132, USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lew-

isburg, 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, Fol-

lies Rd, Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612, USA.

Other Political Prisoners

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

Prisoner Support Groups

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

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

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

Glad I'm Not a Tree or a Coyote or a Heron

By BETH R. JACOBS

Over the past decade, everywhere within fifty miles of where I live has become almost completely deforested—roads widened; endless developments and parcels of land sold, stripped and just left bare. The town has never been obstructed in its ceaseless destruction of marshland, where more concrete is laid for more condominiums and over priced houses, driving up property taxes and leaving the police station complaining about constantly having to answer their private alarm systems. I assume there is some sort of kickback going on because there is no other way of getting authorities settle for higher traffic and taxes and flooding in the streets, yards and basements caused by this overdevelopment.

I called the county about a month ago, as a neighbor was cutting down a young tree. With huge flood lights in the school yard behind us we need all the trees we can get to block the glare at night, to absorb the

increasing exhaust fumes, and to help stop the increasing streams of water that run by the fence. A few houses around here have been destroyed due to improper drainage from developers. The county said the tree was out of their jurisdiction—this tiny ten-year-old was cut down to widen a driveway. Oh, to be in Westchester, New York where one can be fined for cutting down a tree.

Within a week of my complaint I got a call, "There is a limb on a tree in your yard which is breaking off and needs to be removed..."—someone called the county. A rainstorm had knocked pieces into the road. (Several times I ran out and removed much larger sections of this oldster before.) Then it got worse—the county wanted the entire thing gone or our homeowners' insurance would be notified, and we would not be covered for it. Two experts refused to sign papers saying they could save it. And this past Saturday the county came and took it. It was possibly dangerous, but with certified arborists who also advertise tree removal, I wonder what could've been done.

That phone call makes me feel so responsible and worried. The county moved the road over in front of my home a few years ago on the side which the tree was rotting. I assumed the roots couldn't spread out. All around the capital region roads in upstate New York more trees are rotting the same way, on the side facing the streets. My tree was cut down in an hour and its stump ground in less time. That was the final straw.

The morning they came for the stump, I eased over the edge of the sink and knew. Some kind of puller was coming toward my home. It looked just like the one in the car

manual I'd been studying over the weekend. I'd hoped to at least count the rings, but they came at 8 a.m. I ran out the door in my pajamas and bare feet, hair a mess, to ask if they could wait, but they just started right in, and I didn't put up a fight. It had measured twelve feet around and about forty feet high. There are pictures of my family near it from my childhood, and this past weekend it was taken. Now it will be a good ten degrees hotter in the summer, and with new buildings in the school yard (built on a marsh), I fear our homes' foundation will be eaten away by rain that will have no place else to go.

The change in eminent domain laws has made it so one can see the landscape being destroyed daily. There have been a few groups fighting this, but with little success. One intersection where land was stripped hasn't even been sold yet. It just stands bare of its former thicket, causing flooding as the rain washes right over it into the busy street. New York has been cited as one of the most horrible, if not the worst, abuser of eminent domain in the country.

Another road intersecting was widened so much it is now dangerous when rain falls. Driving on it this past Saturday, there was a heron I'd seen across the river, and I saw it again about twenty miles away. My heart began to hurt—a builder, also an assemblyman, was bulldozing its home—oh, my. I constantly see the homeless herons, dead coyotes, and must, with increased frequency, decide if water is too deep to drive through.

In an area where men wear camouflage, have gun racks and bumper stickers of female silhouettes with deer heads, a hand painted sign stands testament to the carnage: "There will soon be no more open spaces." I'm glad I'm not a tree or heron or coyote, but what does this mean for me?

Beth is a lifetime resident of Niskayuna in Schenectady County, New York.



Flooding caused by a lack of trees and brush that once absorbed the rain.

Photo by Marvin Numan

announcements

Anti-Olympics Convergence—February 10-15

Join the resistance to the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver, Canada to confront the colonial and capitalist forces behind the Olympics. The convergence coincides with the February 12 opening ceremonies, and the Games last through February 28. For more information on how to help disrupt this multi-billion dollar event, contact olympicresistance@riseup.net or visit NO2010.ORG.

2010 Earth First! Organizers' Conference and Winter Rendezvous—February 11-15

Santa Barbara, California will be hosting the 2010 Organizers' Conference (OC) and the Winter Rendezvous this year. The OC is Thursday, February 11, through Saturday, February 13. The yearly OC brings together EF'ers representing local groups and bioregions around the country to discuss strategy, campaigns and other movement issues in spokes-council style meetings. There is a vetting process for the Organizers Conference, so please get in contact with the OC committee if you or a representative from your campaign or group is planning to attend. The Winter Rendezvous will follow, beginning on Saturday night, running through Monday, February 15, with the traditional post-Rondy action likely on Tuesday, February 16. No need for advance notice for the Rondy as it is open to all. Be prepared for mild-but-rainy weather, warm campfires, great company and an absolutely spectacular time! For more details, including location, workshops, the OC agenda, a ride board and other information visit www.2010OC.org. If you have large tents, tables, extra camping or other resources to contribute contact EFinSB@gmail.com.

Help the Beehive Design Collective & The True Cost of Coal Campaign This Spring!

A Swarm is coming! This spring the Beehive Design Collective, a non-profit, volunteer driven, political arts organization based in eastern Maine, is touring the US with its newest graphics campaign. The Beehive will be presenting a giant banner reproduction of *The True Cost of Coal* graphic, about 80 percent complete, to explore the true cost of "cheap" mountaintop removal coal mining—from its devastating local impacts, to the larger context of systems, which both demand coal-fired electricity and suffer the results. Bring *The*

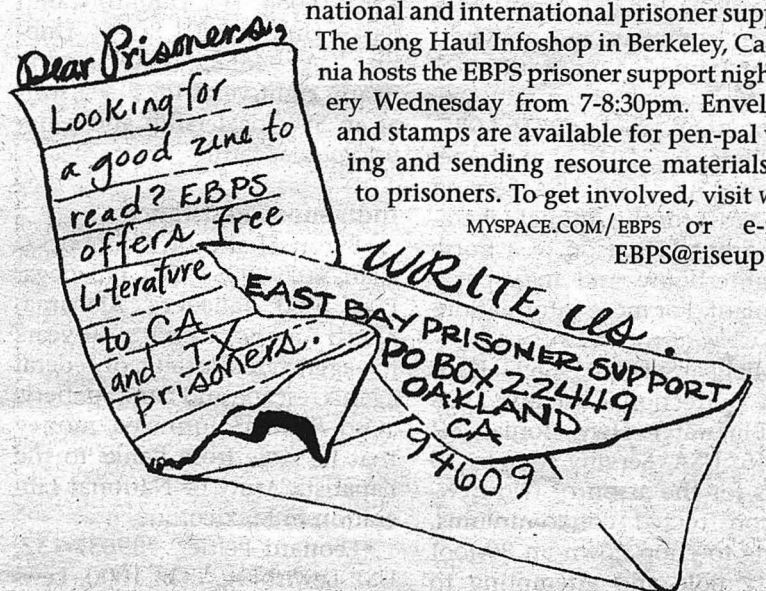
True Cost of Coal to your community, school or collective living space and help the Bees fundraise to print the poster for mass distribution this spring. To learn more about fundraising with the Beehive poster and how to book a presentation, visit their website at WWW.BEEHIVECOLLECTIVE.ORG.

15th Annual Bay Area Anarchist Book Fair—March 13-14

Bound Together Bookstore presents two days of anarchist and alternative booksellers, distributors, independent presses and political groups exhibiting materials for folks of all ages. There will also be food, speakers, panel discussions and much more. Go to SFBOOKFAIR.WORDPRESS.COM for specifics, or just go the San Francisco County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park in March.

New Free Literature Distro for Prisoners

East Bay Prisoner Support (EBPS) is a brand new prison abolition group and a member of the Anarchist Black Cross Network. They serve as a resource center, providing information about Bay Area prison abolition and prison support work and some information on national and international prisoner support. The Long Haul Infoshop in Berkeley, California hosts the EBPS prisoner support night every Wednesday from 7-8:30pm. Envelopes and stamps are available for pen-pal writing and sending resource materials out to prisoners. To get involved, visit WWW.MYSPACE.COM/EBPS or e-mail EBPS@riseup.net.



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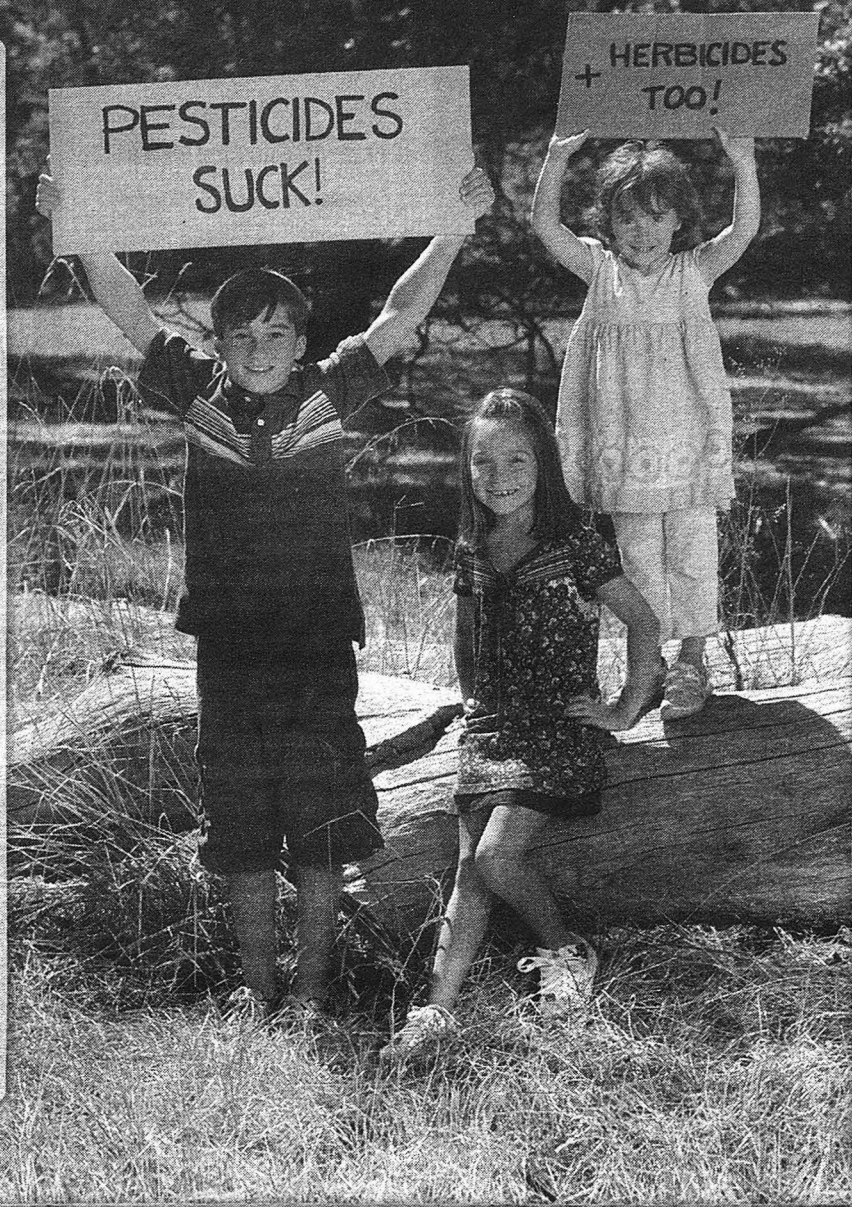
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Pictured here are the children of Mountain Rose Herbs' employee, Felicia Colden (from left to right: Ariel, Talia, and Ayianna)



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WORK COLLECTIVELY... WHILE MAINTAINING YOUR SANITY!

Come Hell or High Water: A Handbook on Collective Process Gone Awry helps individuals navigate the world of egalitarian, directly democratic groups. From their experiences working with egalitarian and anarchist organizations, Delfina Vannucci and Richard Singer offer a street-level view of how social relationships and power work. Lessons are learned and hindsight is 20/20, and *Come Hell or High Water* offers readers both in this little gem.

Critical, humorous, and prophetic, this book is a must-read for those new to egalitarian groups as well as for the salty old vet that thinks she's got it all figured out. It's a tough world out there; it's a world that doesn't prepare us for developing social relationships based on trust, caring, and solidarity—as well as a healthy respect for differences. Whether playing a role in an anarchist organization, horizontal social or political group, worker co-op, or trying to incorporate egalitarian processes where they don't already exist, *Come Hell or High Water* will help keep you focused on the positives and help in avoiding the pitfalls.



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