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Earth First!

Beltane May-June 2010

SPECIAL EDITION

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CROATAN TURNS UP THE HEAT



Croatan EFlers call out the forest service in North Carolina.

EF! FIGHTS LOGGING IN GLOBE FOREST

BY MIKE C. AND ROWAN

The Globe Forest is situated on the steep slopes of the mountains of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, making up part of the Pisgah National Forest. Because of the difficult terrain, many of these areas were not cut by logging companies in the past, but now they've come in to take what remains with a plan to cut over 200 acres of mature hardwoods, including a patch of old growth forest.

A decade ago, loggers clear-cut a nearby area called Frankum Creek and polluted the water so badly that it resulted in fish kills, eventually requiring stream rehabilitation. The Forest Service is assisting the timber companies and hunting interests by calling this a plan to create "early successional habitat" and "wildlife enhancement." The doublespeak is so amazing that they are even designating stands to be cut as "future old growth," promising that next time they won't cut them down.

Despite a large opposition by the residents of Blowing Rock, including going through a formal appeals process, the Forest Service only made some small appeasements, changing it from a clear cut to a two-aged cut, and removing one section of old growth.

Many of these trees are hundreds of years old, including one Chestnut Oak that is aged at 328 years (seeded in the year 1682), which is older than many of the towns in North Carolina. When we think of Earth First! campaigns to save forests, we imagine the majestic Redwoods of the West Coast, but before the white man came here, a majority of the forests existed in the East. Today, of all the 200 year-old trees, only

1.92 percent of them exist on the East Coast, and to make matters worse, the Forest Service in the Southeast is still selling our old-growth to timber companies.

The mainstream environmental groups have exhausted most of their resources trying to appeal to the Forest Service in all the approved of channels, so Croatan Earth First! has decided to step up. After our first demonstration and a successful action camp in October, we have created a steady and growing presence to let the Forest Service know that we are serious and committed to stopping the logging of Globe in the Pisgah National Forest.

We've put on bi-weekly demonstrations at their main office allowing us more visibility and momentum. Our first demonstration had about fifteen folks, two bullhorns and a bunch of signs reading "Not One Stick," "Forest Service = Timber Lackeys" and "Earth First: We're Trouble." During each demonstration, EF! representatives held hour-long conversations inside with the forest supervisor, but she was unresponsive to our demands. Our friends informed her that if we couldn't work it out in the office we'd work it out in the woods. Our demands are plain and simple: a complete cancellation of the Globe timber sale, a re-evaluation of any forest plan that includes changing mature forests into early successional habitat, a No More Roads policy in North Carolina's National Forests, and a policy against cutting all old-growth forests in North Carolina. Our press releases and demands were published in Asheville's papers, *The Citizen Times* and *Mountain Xpress*.

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REMEMBERING JUDI BARI

20 YEARS AGO AN EXPLOSION FILLED THE SKY AND CHANGED EARTH FIRST!

BY KP

I can barely believe it was 20 years ago, because the events are so fresh in my mind. Of course, I've always said that I was about as close to the bomb exploding in Judi Bari's car on May 24, 1990 as I could have been without being in the car myself. I was at work in Berkeley, and got a call from Kelpie, my roommate and fellow activist, that something terrible had happened. Judi and Darryl Cherney had been taken to Highland Hospital in Oakland, California badly injured by a bomb explosion. I had been at a Redwood Summer organizing meeting at the Seeds of Peace house just the night before, and Judi, Darryl and fellow musician George Shook were planning to go to Santa Cruz for a Redwood Summer roadshow event on the University of California Santa Cruz campus. A few minutes before noon, Judi made a lane change, triggering the motion device attached to the pipe bomb that had been planted unseen under her driver's seat. The force of the explosion drove the seat springs up into her body, pulverizing her pelvis and nearly killing her.

When I got to the hospital—before the crowds arrived and after driving like a proverbial bat out of hell on city streets—I was taken downstairs by FBI agents and Oakland police to answer questions. Initially, this seemed routine. Ask questions—that's what the police are supposed to do after a bomb nearly kills someone, right? Because I figured they were Bay Area cops and wouldn't necessarily know what had been transpiring behind the Redwood Curtain, I told them this seemed to be the culmination of what had been unfolding in our lead-up to Redwood Summer. Our campaign, dubbed "The Timber Wars," was heating up and activists had been receiving increasingly frequent and virulent threats—Judi in particular. The

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Judi smiles before making a speech in 1995.

Photo courtesy Nicholas Wilson

Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

Beltane May-June 2010

Old Enemies, New Battles

False solutions are lumbering toward us from above. The Obama administration and its industry allies are implementing their vision of environmental reform, and it stinks of development, infrastructure and resource extraction.

The Obama age presents the latest serving of false hope and solutions. It's been a tough time for anarchists and radicals in the US. Our critiques of power and capital are often overshadowed by the specter of some new America.

They say, "Hope!" We say, "Same shit, different day."

Floating on the inflated promise of change and progress, a palpable eco-awareness has taken form in the public fervor surrounding climate change, energy and sustainability. People make minor lifestyle changes, and wait eagerly for the State to provide a techno-panacea of development to somehow save the planet, without threatening the comfort and convenience of life under capitalism. It is in this consciousness that we find a new front in the battle for all things wild. It is here that the behemoth of global capital fights to keep both nature and technology under its cloak. It is here that we will expose the liar-leviathan and declare that Mother Earth will never be safe under global capitalism. A society based on the destruction of the Earth will never be sustainable!

Government, industry and corporations are all piggybacking this "green" cultural inertia to slip their profit margins out of the impending noose of carbon dioxide restriction and the realities of peak everything. As radical environmentalists, we are faced with the same challenge originally presented by the Obama campaign: debunking false solutions that fill an ecologically minded public full of hope.

Why would we stop the construction of a power plant that "sequesters" carbon dioxide? Why would we interfere with genetically modified trees that could trap greenhouse gases? Why are we protesting a dam that could provide "clean" energy? Why will we never be appeased by new reform?

Our answer is simple: "Same bullshit, different technology."

The blatant contrast between EFlers and the average environmentalist has always been apparent in these questions, but the frame has shifted. Progress is no longer just an end in itself; it's now progress that can save the world. Policy-makers have capitalized on this insidious mentality to ensure future decades of environmental tyranny. For this, we too must make adjustments to our strategies, further diversify our tools and tactics, and clearly locate our movement on the map of resistance. We can-

not let these false solutions rob us of potential allies—people living in the communities that are trashed by the industries we oppose, in the factories of poisoned workers, in the law offices of paper-pushers, and in anyone ready to take action. We must meet them with answers that demand the importance of Deep Ecology and direct action.

We are given here an opportunity. False solutions give us the inroad to show that environmentalism is a struggle of the people, or rather that a people's struggle *must* be environmentalist; the same capitalist system that alienates, separates and exploits people also destroys the very land that supports our inherent human and animal needs for food, water and freedom. Even "green" capitalism exists only to reproduce and tighten its exploitative stranglehold over *everything*, people and nature alike.

Through educating ourselves and others, building relationships across all lines and borders, and standing in solidarity with everyone in the struggle against capitalism and ecocide, our collective voice will thunder through the canyons and the forests, echo in the oceans and skies when they ask of our solution and we bellow, "No compromise! Keep it wild!"

—Kenton & Ludwig

Earth First!

May 1, 2010

Vol. 30, No. 4

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Earth First! is a forum for the non-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 First!ers.

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

Submission deadlines are 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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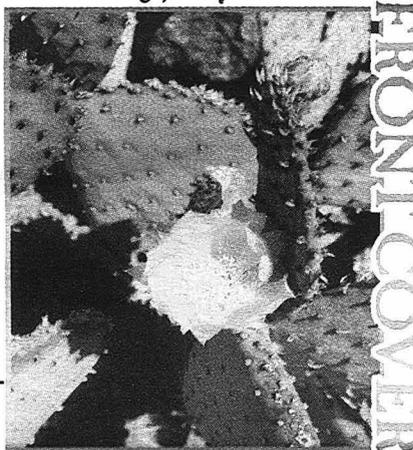


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Artist: Hungry Knife



Website: www.hungryknife.com

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BRINGING THE COAL FIGHT WEST: Taking Action to Stop Montana's Otter Creek Coal Lease

BY NORTHERN ROCKIES RISING TIDE

The Otter Creek coal tracts sit under the pristine Otter Creek valley in Southeastern Montana in the northern portion of the Powder River Basin. For thirty years, farmers and ranchers have opposed developing the tracts, which were turned over to state ownership through a federal deal to prevent a gold mine just north of Yellowstone National Park. For the past nine months the fight over Otter Creek built a statewide front, and the issue came to a head on the day the Montana Land Board approved the lease.

On that day, five activists with Northern Rockies Rising Tide (NRRT) shut down the meeting of the Montana State Land Board in Helena, Montana, temporarily halting the lease of 572 million tons of state-owned coal. Following more than two hours of public comment regarding the leasing of Otter Creek Coal, Secretary of State Linda McCulloch moved to accept the bid. Activists rushed the front of the land board meeting room, locked down to each other, chanted, "You're not listening! Hands off Otter Creek!" and refused to leave until the decision to accept the bid was tabled indefinitely. After halting the bidding process for nearly an hour, all five were finally arrested and taken to the Lewis and Clark County Jail on charges of disorderly conduct.

After the sit-in was broken up by the police, the land board unfortunately proceeded to award the lease to mine the Otter Creek coal tracts to Ark Land Company—a subsidiary of mining industry giant Arch Coal, Inc.—for just under \$86 million, or 15 cents per ton of coal (that's drastically below the going rate in nearby Wyoming).

After spending months submitting public comments, writing letters to the editor, testifying in front of the land board, and taking all possible action within official channels, opponents of the lease (ranchers, high school students, environmental justice advocates and other Montana citizens) realized what they had suspected all along: the process for leasing state lands in Montana is far from democratic.

Montanans from every corner of the state have overwhelmingly vocalized their opposition to the lease through public comments, demonstrations and the country's first high school walkout in opposition to coal, but three of the five members of the Land Board—Governor Schweitzer, Secretary of State Linda McCulloch and State Auditor Monica Lindeen—refused to stand up to the pressure of "King Coal."

Arguments for halting the Otter Creek coal lease ran the gam-

ut, from students refusing to accept funds from the sale to the destruction of the pristine Otter Creek Valley to the way of life for the people who live there. In particular, the NRRT activists argued that the impact burning Otter Creek coal would have on climate change was not taken into account. Governor Schweitzer refused to allow activists to talk about climate change and claimed that the issue was about mining coal, not burning it. (Hard to see his logic there. What else do you do with coal?)

The Otter Creek coal tracts are arranged in a "checkerboard" land ownership pattern, and the state of Montana owns half of the tracts while the rest are owned by Great Northern Properties. Great Northern Properties' portion of the tracts was leased to Arch Coal in November. Overall, the Otter Creek tracts contain about 1.3 billion tons of coal.

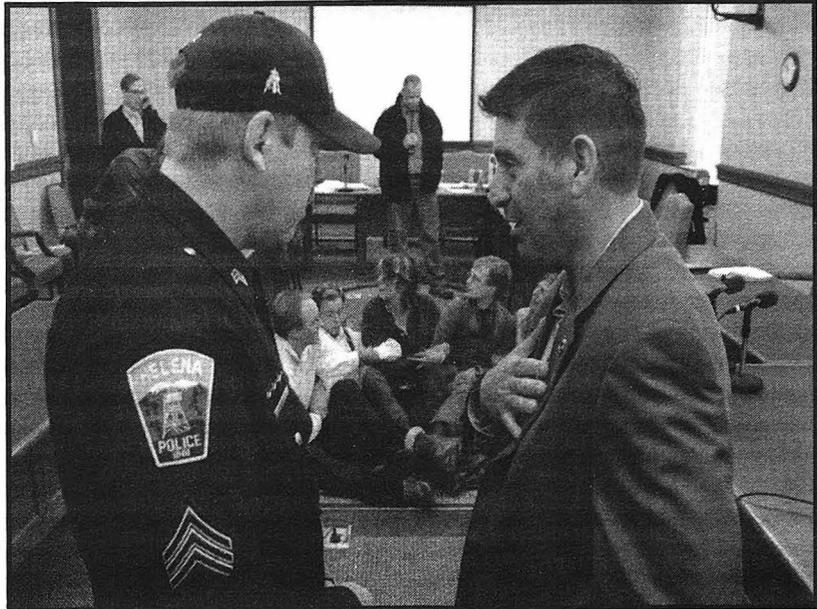
Opponents also argued that the development of the Otter Creek tracts would send Montana down a slippery slope, ultimately leading to a windfall of strip mining operations replete with the usual environmental and social catastrophes. Of particular note, there is very little railroad infrastructure in the northern Powder River Basin. By leasing the Otter Creek tracts, the Montana state government guaranteed the construction of the Tongue River Railroad, which will open up the northern Powder River Basin to massive coal development while ruining the way of life enjoyed by farmers and ranchers in the area. The northern Powder River Basin alone, discluding Wyoming's portion of the Powder River Basin contains approximately nine

**"THIS IS WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD,
IF WE CAN'T STOP IT HERE,
WE WON'T STOP IT AT ALL."**

percent of the entire world's coal reserves.

Developing mines in the Otter Creek valley would not only devastate the communities through which the Tongue River Railroad will pass. Most of the coal from Otter Creek will probably be burned outside of the United States. Faced with the possibility of national climate legislation and carbon caps, Arch officials—who are always on the forefront of innovative corporate solutions—said in November that they will ship their coal to expanding Asian markets where they won't have to worry about such progressive restraints on the free market.

When the coal is burned, it will release a staggering 2.6 billion tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The fact that we must immediately stop burning



Northern Rockies Rising Tide locking arms

Otter Creek High School Students Walk Out

BY STUDENTS FOR ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

There are many injustices in the world. Even with all of the "self-help" books and "go green" commercials telling us how to save the environment, the problems can seem insurmountable. However, something must be done to protest the coal mine to be built in Eastern Montana, on Northern Cheyenne land, where for the first time ever the tribal government is pro-coal. The tribe is being promised hundreds of jobs to boost their economy, but what the mine company is failing to tell them is those jobs are only going to last as long as the coal, or about thirty years. The environmental impacts are devastating and will last much longer than the mine.

With all of these horrible events happening and next to no one trying to stop them, some students at Big Sky High School acted. On February 9, about 30 students walked out of class 10 minutes early to protest and raise awareness of the heart-break happening in our state.

The money from leasing the land is supposed to go towards schools, but as students, we do not want our books to be funded by unjust means. We made wooden signs saying "We Don't Want your Blood Money!" and "Keep the Coal in the GROUND!" and walked down South Avenue, visible to every student leaving school, and every parent picking up their child.

We felt something was much better than the nothing others were doing. We wanted to show that the people of Missoula, even the kids who have always been told they have no power in the world of "adult issues," can stand up for what they believe is right; even we can make a noise that will hopefully be louder than the dynamite used to blow up the landscape for dirty power.

coal and other hydrocarbons if we are to avert a total global disaster is no hearsay. "This is where the rubber meets the road" in terms of climate change, according to Nobel laureate and University of Montana professor Steve Running. "If we can't stop it here, we won't stop it at all."

The land containing the Otter Creek coal reserves belongs to the Montana State School Trust. The State of Montana owns six million acres of such land and leases out this land for various ventures such as resource extraction projects, cattle grazing allotments and even a few wind farms. According to the Montana State Constitution, 95 percent of the money from these leases must directly fund the K-12 school system while the five percent left over goes directly to the permanent trust. But, in a slippery slight of the legislative hand, money garnered from public land leases rarely ever funds public schools. In reality, the legislature simply

decreases the funding available for schools from the general fund by the same amount that goes into the school fund.

On the same day the land board approved the Otter Creek lease, Federal District Judge Malloy ironically suspended 38,000 acres of oil and gas leases in Montana on the grounds of climate change. The ruling is the result of a lawsuit filed by the Montana Environmental Information Center, the Oil and Gas Accountability Project and Wild Earth Guardians.

The fight against the Otter Creek mine continues. We estimate the mine will get rolling in five to seven years, and that should leave plenty of time for environmental assessments, public organizing and, of course, direct action.

Photo courtesy Northern Rockies Rising Tide

DEAR SHIT FER BRAINS

Dear Earth First! Folks,
This is an emergency call. Germany lost it's existing EF! groups and is once again a white dot on the map of radical environmentalism. How could that happen?

When EF! started here in the 90s, they got hated by lots of people from all different directions, mostly because of the misanthropy debate going on at that time (AIDS as a cure for nature, starving people in Africa etc., if you remember) and because of the strong antifacist left considering EF! as a green-facist organisation. After three years or so EF! was gone.

Now, as time goes by, the movement has evolved and is more needed than ever!

We got mainstream environmental groups in Germany fighting within the system, organizing travels to nature, educating people about critical consumerism. We got those groups engaging in civil disobedience, we got Greenpeace, and Friends of the Earth. But I can see the gap where EF! must fit in.

No other group is so fond of the big picture like EF! No other movement is so free from hierarchy and structure like EF! No other group seems to be able to ask the appropriate questions that must be asked in times like these. All these writers and thinkers that gave EF!'s current ethics, like Derrick Jensen, John Zerzan or (enter your favourite author) are barely even published here, especially not in a translated form (don't underestimate the language problem).

EF! must have a forum in Germany, a place where people can share ideas and inspire and connect with each other. A culture of resistance is only able to spread when people start thinking about the interconnectedness of issues. Civilization is a threat so big you can hardly get it on the screen! For further contact, mail to efgermanycontact@googlemail.com

For the Earth,
—SEBASTIAN GOERIG

Dear Friends,
As a long-term subscriber I appreciate the opinions of *EF! Journal* readers, who seem to me a little prejudiced like myself, about any changes of the *EF! Journal* to electronic madness. No, I would not download the

EF! Journal and I'm not interested in subscribing electronically and finally I believe that this is all sick. Despite having said this, I do download a lot for free, useful things like Bonanza or The Avengers.

The war in former Yugoslavia has shown that all this is going to break down within a few days in case of a real crisis. It all depends on electricity.

So keep on printing despite all obstacles. It is hard work. But at least you can read the printed *EF! Journal* any time you wish and everywhere, pass it on to other interested persons and you don't have to be a computer expert to leave no traces about your reading patterns. Printed literature is nowadays the least censored form of mass communication. Fortunately it is also legally well-protected compared to other forms of publishing because of long battles against censorship in the past.

Yours,

—A

Dear Shit Fer Brains,

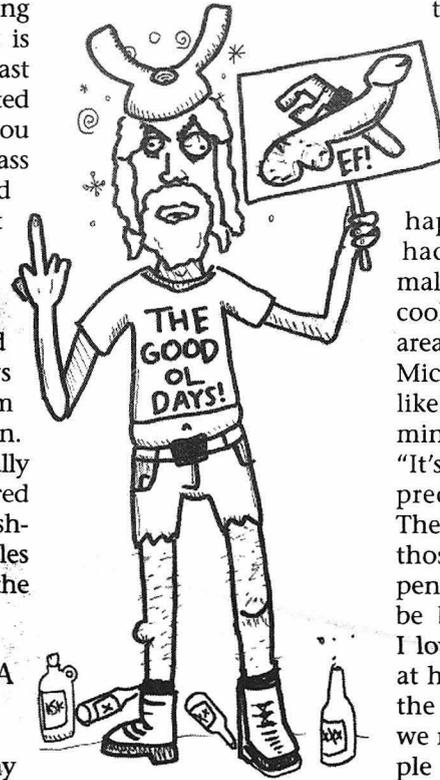
A garbage company owned by Mayor Tom Henry's brother, calling itself "Earth First" (not to be confused with environmental advocacy group Earth First!) is proposing to start dumping trash in the heart of Fort Wayne's southside on Pontiac street. Opponents and residents have called the proposed dump "environmental racism." This is clearly a human rights abuse, and I think everybody in northeast Indiana needs to stand up for the residents of the Southside. Feel free to email Mayor Tom Henry at mayor@cityoffortwayne.org, or better yet give him a call at (260)-427-1111 or Deputy mayor Greg Purcell at greg.purcell@cityoffortwayne.org or give him a call at the same number. Please email city council at citycouncil@cityoffortwayne.org.

cityoffortwayne.org.

—MATTHEW JEHL

Dear Shit Fer Brains,
I read the work of the founding members of the EF! then I read the website of you guys. You really have moved it from a action based-organisa-

tion of free thinkers and independently minded folk who live on the land, to some doctrinaire soft left BS that would seem perfect for high school politicians. From the detail of your anti-oppressive process, the amount of time you spent trying to protect trees would be very small to the amount of time you engage in intense counsel-



ling and attacking white men (like Edward Abbey for instance). Maybe you should change your name to "Counselling and Group Think First, Trees 2nd!" (but maybe third after feminism or anti-racism). Time to move on from the white men are evil trip (so old and so done to death) and realize that the biggest choppers of logs are probably Asians these days. Those original Earth First!ers who loved wild nature must be turning in their graves when they see what a tepid, neurotic organization Earth First! has become—I am sure there is something constructive you can do for the forests, but please do not counsel or

preach antiracism to them as they are probably already

depressed enough without listening to your middle-class guilt. You should start a new organization—you are not representative of the spirit of Earth First! You are representative of a politically correct tyranny that cares more about criticizing people with white skin than it does in protecting forests. Wake up people.

—WILLIAM MATHIESON

Dear Shit Fer Brains,

First of all I just want to say thanks for continuing to provide the information you do. The *EF! Journal* is my only source for the environmental struggle, the only other information I currently have is the lies of the government. I am also writing because I have been sitting in the Michigan Department of Corrections for the past two years, and have been seeing the damage of the environment while others continue on with blinders to what's happening. We have had warmer than normal winters and shorter cooler summers for this area. Many say, "Oh it's Michigan, if you don't like the weather wait ten minutes, it'll change," or, "It's Michigan, you can't predict the weather." These are the excuses of those who see what's happening but pretend to be blind. I'm sick of it. I love the Earth and feel at home in the middle of the woods. It's proof that we need to get more people to realize this or our grandchildren or even our children will live in a barely hospitable world or we won't survive at all because Mother Nature will take control with another ice age or such high temperatures it will burn. If you or anybody else has anything I can do to help please let me know. I can no longer wait and watch. I need to help.

—RYAN A. STEWARD
ACF
38 Fourth St.
Coldwater, MI 49036

Dear Shit Fer Brains,

I wanted to write and give you wonderful EF!ers a quick update on how my trial is going over here in Copenhagen. March 16 and 19 my co-defendant Tash and I had the first two days of our trial, and things are going pretty well so far. (For those not in the know, we were both arrested during the COP15 in Copenhagen last September and imprisoned for 25 days, after which we were charged with supposedly organizing "violent" demonstrations along with five other people who will be tried separately at a later date yet unknown.) Right off the bat our ninja lawyers got one of our serious terrorism charges dropped (planning to destroy public infrastructure), and got all charges reduced to "attempted." The prosecution is pretty inept, and admitted

to not knowing what we were allegedly planning because it never happened as we were arrested (pre-emptive strike!), but they figured we were up to something. The rest of the two days was the prosecution questioning us about random pieces of paper in our pockets, and listening to tapped phone conversations. It's Eerie to hear yourself talk through the secret ears of the police. The trial was then adjourned until August 24th (!) when we will have three more days of trial, and will probably finish. While the five month adjournment gives us a good bit of breathing room, it also leaves the two of us in a legal limbo, but at the least we are free and are trying to get back to our lives. Thanks so much for all your support and letters while I was in jail, it has been really nice to get good solidarity from across the ocean. We wrote a longer letter and posted it on the Climate Justice Action website so check it out if you want to know more, www.CLIMATE-JUSTICE-ACTION.ORG. Solidarity with all political prisoners!

—ROCKSLIDE
Copenhagen, Denmark

Dear EF!J,

I received your letter. I haven't got the *EF! Journal* yet, but I want to thank you for the free subscription. That really means a lot to me. To so many in society, those of us who have screwed up and ended up behind a fence are merely another inmate number, men without faces. Your consideration goes against the norm. Here's a couple of facts you may already know, but, if not, you may be interested in.

One drop of mercury is enough to contaminate 20 acres of water. One pound of mercury will contaminate 500,000 pounds of fish. In South Carolina, a state where eating fish caught in most (if not all) of its waters is advised against, due to a mercury advisory, plans exist to build an electric plant called the Pee Dee coal-fired electric plant, which will emit an estimated 138 pounds of mercury annually. Brilliant!

On the lighter side of things, I was reading an article in *Revolver* magazine about tattoos and they said Eddie Vedder has the Earth First! emblem tattooed on him. Once again, thanks!

Namaste,
—MICHAEL

THANKS TO PRISONER LAWSON STRICKLAND FOR THE BEAUTIFUL BIRD SKETCH!

At the 2009 Round River Rindy, people spoke up about situations in which they felt that offensive language was used. In a personal response, Ben Rosenfeld submitted "Team STUFITT" to the Earth First! Journal. The EF! Journal Collective at the time chose not to print it on the grounds that it was an insensitive approach to a sensitive issue. Rosenfeld responded by submitting an article on censorship, and it was also omitted from the Samhain, November-December, 2009 edition of the EF! Journal.

The current EF! Journal Collective deliberated at length about the benefits and pitfalls of printing these two pieces. It was not a whimsical decision, and our consensus was based on several factors.

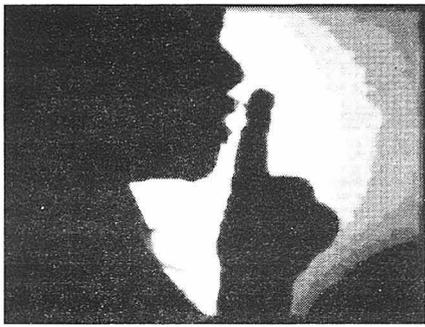
The EF! Journal is a reflection of the movement, and in the movement it's blatantly clear that there are differing opinions on standards of "political correctness." Rosenfeld's pieces exemplify a broader internal conflict that many EF!ers are familiar with. We have little to gain from ignoring our conflicting values and everything to learn by exploring and respectfully discussing them. We feel that the EF! Journal Collective should not decide who or what is a valid part of Earth First!. The EF! Journal needs to be defined by Earth First!ers, it is the voice of our movement!

We included "Team STUFITT" to provide context. We thought it would be a disservice to the former collective to print Rosenfeld's First Amendment piece without the controversial satire that sparked the debate. The EF! Journal Collective is not here to tell you how to feel or assume how you might feel about anything. We know our readership is well capable of thinking for themselves. So now you can do so.

By including articles that encourage dialog and debates, we hope to rebuild the integrity of the EF! Journal—a publication that has weathered controversy in the past, and certainly can, and will, again. Some might remember when, in 1990, serious controversy surrounding the EF! Journal Collective's refusal to print content written by EF! co-founder Mike Roselle led to the resignation of a dedicated long-term staffer and a shift in the EF! Journal's overall trajectory. We're not printing Rosenfeld's pieces to be divisive or change the course of the EF! Journal; we're just bringing this issue to light to promote important—and hopefully constructive—discussion and analysis. So read on, keep writing in, and remind us that we've got Shit Fer Brains.

First Amendment to the Re-Constitution of Earth First!

BY BEN ROSENFELD



In November, the then EF! Journal Collective declined to run an article I wrote about their censorship of an article I wrote about censorship (hyper word-policing at the 2009 RRR, and why I believe it is repelling long-time Earth First!ers and newcomers alike). The collective claimed that space

was the issue, then used the space they denied me to trash me. The new collective has given me this chance to respond. My goal, as it has been all along, is not to win a grudge match, but to spark discussion about an important issue: the line between a healthy non-oppression policy, and attitudes which have become, dare I say it, oppressively anti-oppressive at times.

Language is rich and complex. Its meaning often resides in the subtext and context, not the literal text. Even spoken, it is often still a draft. The First Amendment recognizes that we cannot cure social ills simply by scrubbing our discourse of offensive expressions. To do so deprives us of one another's ideas, and the opportunity to reach deeper and more abiding consensus. As former Supreme Court Justice, William Brandeis, observed: "If there be time to expose through discussion the falsehood and fallacies [of ideas], the remedy to be applied is more speech, not enforced silence."

Censors can always enumerate "good" reasons to censor. Sometimes those reasons are rooted in financial or space constraints, or in even-handed editorial policies. In this case, however, the collective rejected my piece because it was "leading down roads we don't chose [sic] to travel down." They told me: "[I]f you want to send a more tasteful letter that doesn't offend, well, everyone than [sic] we would be glad to run it." And: "When choosing letters and submissions to print, we'll favor writing that can make a point without mocking others..."

These rationales meet the textbook definition of censorship—the blocking of material deemed harmful or offensive. Worse, they reflected only the whims of a sitting collective which seemed to have forgotten its responsibility to a wider movement. If it is now impossible to offend, "well, everyone" in the pages of the EF! Journal—in a section entitled "Dear Shit For Brains," no less—we need a seriously funny attitude adjustment. This movement has survived controversy not by sanitizing it from the EF! Journal, but by letting it range and sometimes rage. Absent the right to offend, we never would have worked out as deep an understanding of social ecology, aired important grievances on both sides of the anti-whaling and native rights debate, or agreed that the movement does not condone violence, among myriad other subjects.

The most radical thing about Earth First! in my view—i.e. what radically sets it apart from other movements—is that it's not a society of true believers but of critical and self-critical people who have an analysis and a confidently open mind (for it takes confidence to remain open-minded), not just a buzzer to press when we don't like a word. Earth First!ers used to sing to stern-faced onlookers at protests, "we have more fun than you do." In November, the answer back from a journalista was: "I persynally will not be part of a collective that tries to pull humor from sensitive issues." Well, humor is a lubricant which works especially well on "sensitive issues."

I believe that the new earnesty gripping Earth First! leads to stagnation in the form of cramped discourse, cramped thinking, an excess of identity politics over deep ecology and the loss of skills shared with the alienated old guard. We can be both sensitive and more resilient—the better to keep evolving and avoid leaving movement parody entirely up to South Park, provocative as "Whale Whores" was. (Lampooning Paul Watson used to be the EF! equivalent of repeatedly killing Kenny on South Park; the good Captain, for his part, always fought back admirably. There is still a poster at the old EF! Journal house in Eugene with cutouts of Paul Watson's face superimposed over various pinnipeds.)

I don't presume to have the monopoly of ideas on this subject. But the discussion begins with re-establishing the forum, which I thank the current collective for doing.

Team STUFITT

By BEN ROSENFELD

This year's otherwise perfect RRR was marred by several vicious verbal attacks. In one incident, an apparently white male used the N word in a poem at the Night to Howl. Fortunately, a person who to this writer's knowledge identifies as a Native American male condemned the slur on the spot, to rousing applause. In another incident, a young white woman overheard a white movement elder privately ask a group of rowdy wrestlers, "what are you, Mongolian?" While no one knows quite what this means, the woman was too triggered to speak up until the morning circle, where she generously complained, also to rousing applause.

Applause won't cut it. So long as any member of this movement oppresses any member of any racial or ethnic minority (i.e. anyone who is not White Chinese), whether publicly or quietly under his/her/their/ziz/zers breath, none of us is safe. This is especially true in light of the US radical environmental movement's longstanding hegemony over the Mongolian people. We should not model our behavior on self-pardoning Catholics who sin at the Saturday fire only to expiate at the Sunday circle (no offense to Catholics).

In response, some have proposed the creation of a new team, STUFITT, or Strikeforce Trained to Understand, Ferret and Interrupt Trash Talk (no offense to ferrets). STUFITT would respond rapidly to gross language violations which afflict (or should afflict) the entire group, while also monitoring for those barely audible insults which might otherwise escape detection. Even this writer has from time to time muttered offensive remarks under his breath which, if unchecked, might mushroom into a full-blown politically incorrect syndrome (no offense to mushrooms).

STUFITT operatives would of course be trained to read lips. Eventually, they would also learn to read our thoughts, based on mere gestures and expressions, enabling them to prevent humiliating slips before they occur. STUFITT could also profile subcultures within the movement and anticipate when and under what circumstances they might erupt.

A word about the Old Guard: they are relics from an era of rank insensitivity who thought they could eradicate oppression without restricting free speech, the right to dissent, or the diabolical pleasure some people take in just being gratuitously crass on occasion. They should be permanently ostracized. One solution is to site future RRRs up steep trails far from parking lots where these doddering Neanderthals fear to tread. But this might unduly burden the barefoot-with-sores anarchist summer campers who come to wait in free food lines, and who currently make up the shock troops of the EF! movement.

If STUFITT posts good results in its first year, we might want to empower it to pursue enhanced training techniques, greater reliance on undercover operations and informant recruitment, and the acquisition of robust listening technologies, like canine-borne eavesdropping platforms. In its annual reports, STUFITT could help bolster the badly needed case for a dry Rendezvous.

For now, I'm sure we can all agree to purge the following words from our usage, in all contexts: (1) paddy wagon: derived from a derogatory term for Irish people, describing the police vans used to haul them away drunk; (2) jerry-rig: from a pejorative term for German soldiers, describing their knack for using scavenged parts to repair vehicles and weapons; (3) fuck: from the Indo-European root fuk, meaning both to strike and to copulate, thus equating sex with violence; (4) biocentrism: an antiquated movement term which subordinates people and their pronouns to flora and fauna which don't even possess pronoun consciousness.

We must all work together to expand this list, and to remind ourselves that only by banning offensive words, regardless of their context or subtext, will we relegate them to the lexical trash heap. Irony, sarcasm, and humor simply are not funny, and have no place in this earnest movement.

Ben Rosenfeld is a civil rights lawyer and Board Member of the Civil Liberties Defense Center. He was a member of the legal team which prevailed against the FBI and Oakland police for framing Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney after the car bomb assassination attempt on them in 1990.



FRONTLINES



Newcastle Harbor Coal Blockade

Land-lubbers, kayaks and DIY ships alike blocked coal shipments in and out of the Newcastle, Australia port for a day in response to the growing coal industry in the country. Already the world's biggest coal port, Newcastle is opening a major new coal export terminal over the course of this year, bringing the export capacity of the Hunter Valley coal chain to an incredible 178 million tons of coal per year. That's the climate change equivalent to 30 of Australia's largest power plants. Within ten years, the coal corporations plan on tripling the amount of coal exports.

Halalt Nation Blockade for Water Rights

In defense of the Chemainus River, the Halalt First Nation held a two week "protective blockade" near the southeastern coast of Vancouver Island in British Columbia. In 2009 the Halalt began seeking a judicial review concerning a water project for the town of Chemainus. The project aims to tap into the Chemainus River Aquifer, on which the Halalt and others depend. "Water is the issue," comments Okanagan Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs. "Across this province, we are seeing Indigenous Peoples defending their territory and the health of their communities." In early March the Halalt lowered the blockade, accepting entry into negotiations with local Cowichan politicians.

ALF Liberates 4,000 Mink

In the early hours of March 14, as many as 4,000 mink were released from cages at a fur farm in Frankenförde (Brandenburg), Germany. In addition, dozens of cages were destroyed, the farm's water supply was damaged, and a lawn mower and other specialized machines were destroyed. Farm owner Alfons Grosser reported damages of about \$27,000. In additionally good news for the mink, a 2009 study done in partnership with Oxford University, tracked the survival of released mink over eight years, finding that none of the released mink died directly due to lack of survival skills.

63-Day Occupation Leads to Accord

In the municipality of Puerto Leguizamo, Columbia, the Puerto Pinuna Police Station, as well as four other police stations were occupied for 63 days by over 6,000 rural and

indigenous families, demanding an end to military and paramilitary harassment, negotiations with the government over coca eradication efforts and a commitment to social development. In many areas, the two pronged attack of eradication and military/paramilitary threats has resulted in the forced removal of inhabitants and deforestation. The government eventually signed a 45-point accord promising more social investment and a gradual and voluntary crop substitution program.

Activists Erect Tripods at EPA HQ

On March 18, activists attempting to further pressure EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to enforce the Clean Water Act and halt mountaintop removal coal mining erected two 20-foot-tall, purple tripod structures in front of the agency's headquarters. A pair of activists perched atop the tripods and strung a 25-foot sign in front of the EPA's door that read "EPA: pledge to end mountaintop removal in 2010." Six people locked to the tripods and all activists remained for two days.

Victory in Titnore Woods!

After UK activists' fought against a 1200-home development and road, which threatened the ancient oaks, ashes, birch and willows of Titnore Woods, Worthing borough councilors unanimously rejected the proposal to develop. The campaign had lasted for years. Letters were written, protest camps sustained, disruptions, tunnels, graffiti, and civil disobedience were all used, exemplifying a great diversity of tactics. "It's been a long fight," said one protester, "but it just shows you it's always worth taking the bastards on." The protest camp will remain, despite the temporary win, because developers can still appeal the decision.

Agenda 21 Strikes in Norway

Agenda 21, a Sea Shepherd spin-off, monkeywrenched another Norwegian whaling ship on April 2. "Two sea valves were opened, fully submerging the engine and electrical systems," the group wrote online. "Norway announced an increased quota of minke whales, so we decided to increase our quota of sunken whalers."

Yes Men Come Out of Their Shell

Prolific pranksters, the Yes Men, publicized a faux-press conference in late March, in which an activist impersonated a Shell

spokesman, and apologized profusely for human and environmental rights violations in the Niger Delta. Shell "officially" committed to rectifying the irresponsible practices. This story first came through the *EF! Journal's* news room in the form of a fake press release, and it had us fooled until one intrepid Journalista reminded us that corporate scum never apologize.

ALF Busy In Utah

In a communique, the ALF claims to have placed an incendiary devices at the homes of four University of Utah vivisectioners, as well as vandalizing their homes and nearby vehicles. These animal-abusing scientists are known to utilize animals from local shelters and non-human primates in their experiments. In addition, in the late hours of April 1 and the early morning of April 2, 72 hens were freed from Shepherds Egg Farm near Spanish Fork, Utah. These actions come less than a month after an FBI raid on a Salt Lake City home of animal liberation activists, including the prolific liberationist Peter Young.

Fossil Fools Day Pranks Polluters

On April 1, climate activists from across the world pranked, tricked and protested corporations and institutions responsible for climate change. Using disruptions, leafleting, banner drops, newspaper wraps, bike blocs, fake websites and more, dozens of local groups pranked giants like Alberta Tar sands funder Royal Bank of Canada and mountaintop removal bank rollers Xcell Energy, Bank of America, OMFfinancial, JP Morgan and Chevron. To see detailed reports visit WWW.FOSSILFOOLSDAYOFACTION.ORG.

Dakota's Fight Fort Snelling Funding

About 20 Dakota activists and supporters interrupted the Minnesota Historical Society's "Rally for History" to challenge proposed funding for the renovation of Historic Fort Snelling, the site of a 19th century concentration camp where hundreds of imprisoned Dakota died of starvation and disease. Moments before the protest, Governor Pawlenty a supplemental budget that would cut \$600 million from social programs and welfare. Protestors said that, by choosing to preserve the fort, Minnesotans are choosing to celebrate a symbol of violence against native people.

MOVEMENT FOR THE EMANCIPATION OF THE NIGER DELTA (MEND)

MEND is a decentralized and loose coalition of militants who are resisting the blatant environmental and social exploitation of the oil-rich Niger Delta by international oil companies and corrupt national leaders. MEND spokesmen have taken credit for kidnappings of expatriate oil workers, oil line sabotage and bombings carried out by armed gangs of young guerillas from various communities across the southern Nigerian region. Their efforts have cost oil companies billions and disrupted an industry that had been the third-largest oil exporter to the US.

Last year MEND announced a truce as the Nigerian government agreed to discuss unilateral concessions and "reintegration," but the sluggish facade of reform prompted MEND spokespeople to end the truce in January 2010 and threaten an "all-out onslaught." Here's a rundown.

March 15: MEND operatives plant two bombs at an amnesty conference sponsored by Vanguard Newspapers. MEND sent out a public statement warning the regional governors and politicians attending the event that they should evacuate, but the warning was ignored and two people were injured by the blasts. "The deceit of endless dialogue and conferences will no longer be tolerated," MEND spokesman Jomo Gbomo said in a release. "The lands of the people of the Niger Delta was stolen by the oil companies and Northern Nigeria with the stroke of a pen."

March 31: Militants kidnap an employee of the French oil group Total. Kidnappings orchestrated by armed gangs and MEND groups are common in the region, where widespread poverty exists alongside vast oil fields that benefit only corrupt politicians

and multi-national corporations. Most captives are usually released unharmed after political concessions or ransom payments are achieved.

March 31: MEND releases statement threatening to renew attacks on oil infrastructure if the government fails to implement the second phase of a stalled amnesty program for militants initiated last year.

April 14: Shell oil shuts down an oil field in the Niger Delta for repair just eight months after the field was re-opened. The field was shut down for three years due to previous MEND attacks.

April 18: Anonymous gunmen abduct two German oil workers. The kidnapping is the second abduction of foreign oil workers in 10 days.

Call To Action

Stop A Highway Project Through the Redwood Curtain

BY JEFFREY "MUSKRAT" MUSGRAVE

Traveling north on Highway 101 from San Francisco, you come to a rare and extraordinary place. The Redwood Curtain is located just north of the Humboldt/Mendocino County line, where Redwood Highway 101 winds through a spectacular grove of ancient-coast redwoods as you pass through Richardson Grove State Park. This area is unique for many reasons, as the redwoods that line the highway form a "curtain," or natural barrier that creates a narrow point of access along the coast.

Millennial redwoods line both sides of the highway as it passes through Richardson Grove State Park. Only 3 percent of our ancient redwood forests remain, and since stands of old growth are seldom found outside state and national parks, these trees have value beyond description. This forest is a part of the rare sizable stands of old-growth redwoods remaining in the southern section of the redwood coast, and is crucial habitat for endangered species such as the Marbled Murrelet and Northern Spotted Owl.

The California State Highway Agency (CalTrans) plans to realign this historic section of narrow highway to allow longer semi-trucks to pass through the Redwood Curtain, a \$7 million project for a two mile section of scenic Redwood Highway 101. Opponents see the project as an unnecessary and costly plan that would damage these irreplaceable ancient trees, and also threaten to hinder the local small businesses and unique community. The area just north of Richardson Grove State Park was damaged by a highway bypass project in the mid-1960s, when CalTrans (back then titled Department of Public Works) created a four-lane bypass around the scenic strip of old-growth coast redwoods known as the Avenue of the Giants. Ground water that fed the trees was diverted into culverts, and the dried out Redwood tops that Judi Bari dubbed the "Avenue of Spiketops" are obvious to travelers on Highway 101.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Richardson Grove "Improvement" Project (RIP) has become a topic of contention within the North Coast community. Aside from tree removal and damage to old-growth roots within a State Park, CalTrans has refused to conduct federally mandated preliminary wildlife surveys. To broadly "mitigate" a myriad of wildlife impacts, CalTrans is simply putting lids on existing trashcans to discourage predator corvids. Even the CalTrans DEIR states that the RIP "may have adverse affects to this unique natural community." CalTrans project manager, Kim Floyd, recently stated on our community radio station that CalTrans will not cut tree roots that are two inches in diameter or greater, a goal probably impossible to achieve.

The coalition to Save Richardson Grove includes the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), the Center for Biological Diversity, Trees Foundation, The Intertribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters, Earth First! and the Humboldt Watershed Council. There's been a barrage of public comments, editorials and other media in support of

the "No Build" alternative to the project, indicative of mass opposition within the community.

Humboldt County has a rich history of non-violent civil disobedience and forest defense, including Redwood Summer, the Headwaters Forest campaign, and many other tree-sits and actions.

What we call the Redwood Curtain is a

bigger trucks.

Project promoters have their selfish motivations to RIP a hole in the curtain. Shell Oil wants to squeeze wind power turbines through the trees. Big beef interests aim to ship grain fed beef here from central California to be "finished" on Humboldt County grass. A few local businesses who have grown too big for their britches and hearts believe in the "big truck hype."

There are three main sections of the project. The southernmost and middle sections are focused primarily on compacting, cutting, filing, and paving the root systems of the giant trees that CalTrans supposedly cannot cut. (In 2005, CalTrans felled three ancient coast redwoods in northern Humboldt County for a similar realignment project.)

The northern section of the RIP includes the bulk of the trees to be removed in a previously logged section. This forest is a recovering section of the State Park, and most trees are less than two feet in diameter. To build the 300' retaining wall, CalTrans would need to clear-cut the steep western embankment of the northern section.

How do you stop a highway project within a State Park? EPIC and other groups have made Richardson Grove a focus with outreach and petitions. The Department of Transportation (DOT) received over 5,000 petition emails opposed to the RIP through the Center for Biological Diversity's web site and called in the state Cyber Crime Task Force. The task force's response was that the DOT was "suffering from an acute case of citizen involvement, to which there is no cure." There may also be lawsuits against CalTrans if they approve the project.

The RIP Final EIR is expected to be released soon, after which CalTrans can begin ripping a hole in the soul of Humboldt. Visit www.SAVERICHARDSONGROVE.ORG for updates, information and affiliate contacts.

Project Description and a Draft Environmental Impact Report are available at the following website. WWW.DOT.CA.GOV/DIST1/D1PROJECTS/RICHARDSON_GROVE/



Photo courtesy Humboldt EPI

The State of California plans to widen the scenic redwood highway 101.

physical (and psychological) barrier that helps protect our area from corporate invasion. Mass development of shopping malls, big box stores and cookie-cutter tract homes have not invaded as they have elsewhere in California. There's no Wal-Marts or Lowe's, Home Depots, Whole Foods or even Trader Joe's. We have a healthy presence of local, diverse and ethical businesses.

Humboldt County is truly a shining example of grass-roots sustainability, as many of our products are locally produced due to our location and road conditions. But the fall of the Redwood Curtain would open our area up to a Big Box invasion, as they need the

in the state Cyber Crime Task Force. The task force's response was that the DOT was "suffering from an acute case of citizen involvement, to which there is no cure." There may also be lawsuits against CalTrans if they approve the project.

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continued from page 1

The latest protest was on Good Friday and did not involve polite conversation, but rather 12 people simultaneously banging on the doors and windows to get everyone's attention. One of the only two Forest Service law enforcement actually had to drive into town to bring in squads of cop cars to maintain order. There has been a little blow-back involving a rural newspaper covering the resistance to this sale and suggesting the sportsmen might want to take matters into their own hands (or shoot EFlers, in other words).

The local conservation groups say that timber companies across the country have their eyes on this sale, expecting it to set a precedent. If we allow them to cut the Globe, it would mean that there would be a free-for-all for remaining old growth in our southern national forests. If negotiations with mainstream groups fail, their next step is a lawsuit. The timber sale is scheduled around June, and that will serve as a marker for when we plan to step up our actions. This Summer we need folks who can learn to climb, live in the woods, or risk arrest. In the meantime we're doing our own fundraisers, climb trains, campouts in the Globe, and plan to have another action camp. Stay updated by going to our wordpress sites, WWW.SAVETHEGLOBE.WORDPRESS.COM and WWW.CROATANEARTHFIRST.WORDPRESS.COM and consider spending your summer in the land of the pines.

Militant Feminism

BY COMRADE BLACK

This is the second half of a two-part interview with Juliet Belmas, an activist with Direct Action and the Wimmin's Fire Brigade, two groups who used explosives or incendiary devices in the early 1980s to further anti-colonial, ecological and feminist struggles. Juliet was arrested in January 1983, at the age of 19, along with the other four members of the Vancouver 5. She was sentenced to 20 years in prison. Today, Juliet makes independent films and does work around issues faced by womyn in prions.

The first half appeared in the March-April 2010 Earth First! Journal. To order a back issue, write collective@earthfirstjournal.org. You can also read the interview at www.earthfirstjournal.org.

Comrade Black: How did you learn the skills needed, and get the guns, TNT and so on that you used in these actions?

Juliet Belmas: I registered for a Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC) soon after meeting Brent Taylor in 1981. Then, I bought and licensed two mini-14 assault rifles about a year later, because I wanted to learn how to shoot for self-protection. Gerry Hannah didn't want his name on any lists, so I registered his gun for him under my FAC ... and that's how Gerry and I got our guns. The rest of the Direct Action (DA) arsenal was expropriated from gun collectors before I officially joined DA on June 30, 1982.

Although, I joined in order to get rid of the video porn shop in my suburban neighborhood, the priority of the group at the time was the Litton action and the expropriation of support material to make that action happen, like getting our hands on two-way short-wave radios and dynamite. It was disappointing for me to have to put off target practicing with my new mini-14 .223 caliber Ruger until we succeeded in finding a Department of Highways TNT cache full of dynamite, and then it was, "Wait until after Litton."

Anyways, we were all really tired and on our way home from another day of uneventful searching around for dynamite between Squamish and Whistler when, suddenly, I started pointing at the vehicle directly in front of us and laughing hysterically. It was a Department of Highways service vehicle tagged with an explosives sign in plain view for us to see! Naturally, we followed it to its destination a mile or so up the road and then followed it back to a highways-compound, where it parked overnight. Then, we returned under the cover of the night to steal the keys that were sitting in plain view on the dashboard and unlocked the gate to the service road, helping ourselves to more than 2,000 pounds of dynamite. It was that simple!

CB: One thing very unique about your group was that you were anarchists, not Marxists like most other guerrilla groups such as the Red Army Faction, the Front de Libération du Québec, the Irish Republican Army, the Black Liberation Army and the Weather Underground. How did it work to be an anarchist using a model generally shaped by Marxists?

JB: Those rigid models caused a vanguard mentality even in our group that eventually produced a lot of tension and ultimately divided us in the same way that media uses black and white (didactic) stories to sell newspapers and dummy everything down for purposes of social control. Seriously, as

soon as the shit hit the fan when people were injured in the Litton bombing, everyone became more rigid in the group fast! Sure, some political idealism is about envisioning utopia and how to get there, but the nuts and bolts behind revolutionary illegal political activity is a different thing altogether. I have to say that I was attracted to being a real life bad girl devoted to drugs, guns and fucking in the streets! That's what made me want to become an urban guerrilla, not some rigid political ideology. No way! And I challenge anyone who tries to say otherwise, or who tries to say that it makes me any less of a revolutionary in the struggle for freedom. In fact, I believe I was ahead of my time in many ways.

CB: So, you were only 18 years old when you got involved with underground radical action. How does someone that young get involved with something so radical? Was it a mistake to get involved at that young of an age?

JB: 'K, so I'm hanging out with my new punk friends that I met on a film set that we were all extras in called, "All Washed Up," a.k.a. "The Fabulous Stains." I had a car and, as soon as I graduated from grade 12, I told my parents I was going to live in this punk house off Commercial Drive. They weren't too happy, but, like I said, I had a lot of freedom growing up. So, life's one big party at the Punk Manor until one of the punk guys gets drunk and boots a neighbor's car in. The next day was Italian Day 1980, and we were suddenly attacked by a group of masked-men wielding baseball bats. I'll never forget the moment as carnival sounds from the parade from [Commercial] Drive meshed with windows smashing and people screaming from the violence in the foreground and then the desensitizing effects that stayed with me for years!

Anyways, after that incident, I went back home and began challenging my family and friends over newspaper accounts of death squads operating with impunity throughout the third world and pointing out that it could happen here too.

That's how I became involved so young—the violent repression I experienced as a punk girl in resistance to mainstream norms was so extreme that it set off a compulsion for guns and militancy that probably attracted other militant cohorts or they attracted me. Whichever way it worked, that's how I became so radical at such a young age, and was it a mistake? As I get older, I think not. I think it was all meant to be.

CB: Did you think you would get caught? Go to prison? What was prison like for you?

JB: Yes and no. It's weird, because I was prepared to do what I had to in order to stand by my word and back up my friends/comrades, but there was no suicide pact—while, at the same time, I am heard on the wiretap several times saying that I'd rather die than go to prison.

CB: Did you receive a fair trial?

JB: No! Immediately, my comrades wanted to



A self-portrait done while in jail in 1983

cancel the wiretap transcripts, and I did not see key pieces of evidence during my prosecution. Two bugs were placed in our underground house: one upstairs in the kitchen and one downstairs in Ann and Brent's room. My comrades, including my boyfriend, didn't think it was good for me to see the downstairs wiretap transcripts and advised against it. This is problematic, because I was convicted of conspiracy with them, and I should have had access to all evidence before and during trial just like everybody else in this country.

Also, when you consider that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms had only been enacted about 30 days before our arrest, I'm sure you can understand that, given the climate we were in, it's unlikely I received a fair trial.

CB: Do you have any advice for activists looking at a long prison term?

JB: My advice is to focus your time on education, because it is the only thing that holds equal value in the semi-free world. Like, a lot of prison activists focus on work programs for prisoners, which I suppose have some merit in the sense that one earns a skilled trade before leaving prison, but who the hell is going to hire someone who got their hairdressing degree from Oakalla or Prison 4 Women? Really, it's a sad joke when you think about it.

It's also important to keep notes and document your experiences as you're doing your time in order to share your ordeal with others. After all, a unique set of experiences put you there.

CB: How can we work to support anarchist and other revolutionary prisoners?

JB: Sure, it helps to write letters of support and visit anarchist and revolutionary prisoners, but it's

An ‘Explosive’ Interview With an Urban Guerilla

even more important to offer moral and/or financial support to the families, who are often left out in the cold wondering what the hell just happened.

CB: What was your connection to punk, and did the punk scene have any affect on your political actions?

JB: Me? I just wanted to look cool. I wasn't trying to do anything like revolution at first. I know people would like to think that I was always about breaking boundaries of politics and gender, but Gerry and I didn't really have time for that; we were really too busy trying to pull enough money together for records, beer and the rent. But, I have to admit that, during the early '80s, there was way more social-political activity going on all around in Vancouver—much more than any time since, that's for sure: peace marches by the thousands, lots of socialism themes in the various political rallies, Rock Against Prisons every August, the Trade Union movement, general strikes, and so on and so on. Amidst all of that, I identified as a punk, because I wanted a safe place where I could express myself in less “feminine” ways than other girls—to be assertive, aggressive, outspoken—and reject that good-girl shit as soon as it was pushed in my face and made me feel uncomfortable.

It's important to note that its very common for adolescent males to reject mainstream norms and expectations by identifying with a sub-cultural identity of some sort, and the Vancouver punk rock scene was no different. It was accepted as a right of passage for men, whereas, for women, it was very different. Sure, I was just as disaffected and rebellious as my male peers in rejecting society's norms and expectations, but, moreover, I was actively resisting both the constructs of feminine norms as well as sexist punk attitudes that valorized adolescent masculinity, toughness, coolness, rebelliousness and even aggressive possessiveness of punk girls. Unlike punk guys, I was constructing my identity from two opposing constructs, which does in fact hold broader implications for thinking about DA and violence as an inherently male trait. I have to think about that for a while.

Anyways, looking back, I believe that when me and my punk friends, especially the guys, were attacked with baseball bats for being punks, it sublimely impacted how I viewed the playing field of politics as one of violence.

CB: What were some of the biggest influences on you?

JB: Violence, love, punk rock music, DIY ethics, episodic '70s television ...you get the progression.

CB: Ann Hansen put out a book entailing her version of your collective

story, *Direct Action, Memoirs of an Urban Guerilla*. What do you think of her book?

JB: It was a shock to read how she depicted me as a romantic rival and both Gerry and I as stupid. And she doesn't talk about her life in prison and her relationships with the rest of us after the trial. In my opinion, the emotional aspects of all of that are important, and that is what I feel was lacking from Ann's book.

CB: So, you grew up near Robert Pickton, right? And I believe you told me before that you knew wimmin in prison who disappeared at his hands? Also, do you think the allegations that the pigs were working with Pickton are accurate? How did this dumb fuck get away with raping and killing wimmin for so many years?

JB: Yeah, I grew up a few blocks over. In February 2002, when he and his crew were arrested and their pictures splattered all over the place, I was like, “Hey, wait a minute. That's the guy who stole my dog and harassed me back in '97!” Yeah, I sensed the danger, and, luckily, I was still a fighter and recorded the license plate number and had the good sense to hold onto it. On the day, I tried reporting it to the local police, who weren't interested at all—they were more interested in me being on parole and not bothering people in my neighborhood!

Sure is creepy though the way all of that DNA from bone fragments of missing women dated back to 1982, the same year I picked up the gun and blamed a video porn shop for bothering my



The members of Direct Action lived and schemed in this house while they were underground.

neighborhood. Then, after so many years and so many women I knew from prison disappearing from the Downtown Eastside and then the police descending on the century-old farmland and the neighbor charged, damn! If you only knew of the integrity of those women ... They'd never turn their backs on you, no matter what! And one thing they all had in common was that they cared more about others than they cared about themselves. I still have a very hard time reconciling what happened to those women there and don't know if I ever will [get over that].

I would tend to agree with those allegations, considering how the trial played out and then more. How 'bout all of those media bans? That

was a huge indication to me that something was going on behind closed doors, at the systemic level. One thing people should realize is that, all of the time, the police and crown collude and omit things that they don't want entered into evidence and made public. Rules of admissibility of evidence are what drive our criminal justice system. Anyways, I attended a few days of Pickton's pre-trial arguments and found it surprising similar to our trial in that it all came down to admis-

sibility of evidence and trial by media. And the most troubling aspect of it all was knowing that, deep in our collective consciousness, he didn't realistically act alone. We know that there's a community of people also who [were so] desensitized that they don't notice or want to notice body parts laying around in garbage cans, cops included. It's a moral conundrum. I think he got away with it by passing himself off as a “hard-working asshole,” and cops and everybody left him alone.

CB: We are gearing up here for the Olympics, and there is a large resistance movement against it. There is also heavy police repression already, with the pigs coming to the homes of activists in both Vancouver and Victoria to harass them and look for

informants. They are also training especially for the Olympic security. Do you think the activists have a chance? What are your general opinions on the Olympics and anti-Olympics movement?

JB: I think that the time is now for a convergence of activism to succeed, as odds are that the Olympic movement does not want images of police brutality and repression following it wherever it goes (next stop, Europe), and, although the anti-Olympic movement is smarting from repression, there is a chance of changing the way people view colonial/capitalist spectacle, like the Olympics, for years to come.

CB: What are your general impressions of the feminist, environmentalist and anarchist movements today?

JB: It's reaffirming to see the movements catalyze around protecting the Earth, queer rights and First Nations empowerment.

CB: What do you think of the bombings of the ENCARA sour-gas pipelines happening in northern British Columbia in the last year?

JB: I think whatever people do to protect their land and local health needs is righteous!

CB: I have a friend in Edmonton who feels that, whenever someone claiming to be an anarchist blows shit up, it harms the movement. What do you think?

JB: I see media buzzwords and images used all of the time to sell stories and hook the viewer into thinking they can actually make a moral judgment or an informed decision about

another community's moral conscience and direct action. In the same way, your friend's “keep 'em separated” and “violence is not me” subtext is moralistic in tone and smacks of censorship, because uncompromising anger is the true force behind all social change.

I think the Gandhian, non-violent, direct-action movement is based on a romanticized Hollywood notion that idealizes a time and culture altogether different than what we're experiencing. Today's post-colonial police state has had a lot of time to perfect techniques that keep people in perpetual submission and within the confines of capitalist norms and institutions. For instance, I've noticed a surge in bank-manager syndrome: It has now become an acceptable and justifiable part of everyday life to say, “Talk to the hand,” and dismiss the first intonation of anger in anyone, no matter the circumstances, political activists included.

I don't think the Movement will go very far if it doesn't address this tendency to want to censor out militancy from its collective psyche. Fear of political violence and imprisonment has effectively neutered the movement. People fear to fight for freedom; activists attempt to convince rather than challenge, and the mere suggestion of violence has become the purple elephant in the living room that no one wants to talk about.

CB: In an interview you gave while you were still in prison, they stated that you renounced the use of violence. Is this true? Do you still feel the same years later?

JB: It is interesting, because, in the beginning of all this, I really didn't understand why I became an urban guerrilla and I definitely didn't understand how it would impact my perspective later on in life. I was very spontaneous and of the moment back then. Now, after many years of reflection, I return to my past with a clearer understanding of events and a firmer belief that action speaks louder than words.

CB: Here is the million-dollar question: If you had a chance to do it all over again, would you? Do you have any regrets?

JB: Yes and no; I truly regret that I injured people, but the ship can't be turned around.

Comrade Black is a genderqueer green-anarchist feminist from Victoria, British Columbia. They are a founder of the Victoria Anarchist Bookfair collective, Victoria anarchist reading circle, and a member of the Camas Collective Infoshop.



Our protagonist

We Cannot Techno-Fix Our Way to a Sustainable Future

BY RACHEL SMOLKER

During March 22-26, the Asilomar International Conference on Climate Intervention Technologies was held at the Asilomar Conference Grounds near Monterey, California. The conference follows hearings from the week prior in the US House of Representatives and a report from the UK Committee on Science and Technology, as well as a recent report from the Government Accounting Office, all following on the heels of earlier reports from the Royal Society. In short, there is a lot of high level interest in the topic. Given the failure of Copenhagen, the sellout of US Congress to special interests and the stalemated international negotiations, the "last resort" of geoengineering is gaining support. This is especially true as many are either in a state of panic or paralysis following recent announcements of methane seeping from the East Siberian Arctic Shelf, on top of the ongoing reports of rising emissions, ice melting, and temperatures reaching all time highs.

There are good reasons to be quite worried. But there may be good reasons to be even more worried by the climate geoengineering proponents and what went on on at the Asilomar conference.

The intent of the conference was to develop "voluntary guidelines" for further research on climate geoengineering technologies. Voluntary guidelines are most often designed to fend off "involuntary" regulation. The conference was organized by Margaret Leinen, who happens to be the mother of Dan Whaley, founder and CEO of Climos, a company with patents currently pending for methods to profit by selling carbon offsets from ocean fertilization. Other major players in geoengineering, some of whom were at Asilomar, similarly have vested interests in ensuring cash flows for funding, experimentation and commercialization of their pet technologies.

We can pretty well guess that whatever "voluntary guidelines" they came up with for themselves will be designed with "don't take no for an answer" as their underlying mantra.

A letter signed by dozens of civil society groups was submitted to the conference organizers, challenging the entire premise of the conference in stating: "The priority at this time is not to sort out the conditions under which this experimentation might take place but, rather, whether or not the community of nations and peoples believes that geoengineering is technically, legally, socially, environmentally and economically acceptable." Asilomar seeks to step right past any process for determination of acceptability, assume it as a given, and carry on with business, as usual. This is deeply troubling on many fronts given the techno-fixes being put on the table, the scale of their impacts, and

the track record so far.

The technologies for "climate intervention" (aka, geoengineering) fall into two broad categories: carbon sequestration and solar radiation management. Ocean fertilization falls into the former. The idea of ocean fertilization is to dump iron particles into ocean waters to stimulate plankton blooms. The plankton absorb CO₂, and when they die, (hopefully) carbon is carried to



the ocean floor to remain sequestered, then extracted as methane. There are many known risk factors, including one newly discovered and described recently in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. This study revealed that the kinds of plankton that are stimulated by iron fertilization include those that produce domoic acid, the cause of shellfish poisoning in humans and lethal to marine animals. Oops. Ocean fertilization has already been tested numerous times. The controversial "Lohafex" test last year failed to illustrate any carbon sequestration after dumping more than six tons of iron into the Southern Ocean. To make matters worse, these tests were undertaken in spite of a moratorium agreed to by nearly 200 nations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, also defying the London Convention on Ocean Dumping. Such treaties and agreements are, apparently, just pieces of paper.

Biochar is another carbon sequestration technology proposed. Advocates claim that by growing hundreds of millions of hectares of tree plantations, burning the trees to make charcoal and then tilling the charcoal into soils, we can sequester carbon under ground. The scale that would be entailed here is monumental, especially given that only 12-40 percent of the carbon from the trees is retained in the charcoal. The impacts on forests, soils, and from small particles (soot) becoming airborne, could very well outweigh any supposed gain.

Another broad category of climate intervention technologies involve "solar radiation management" (SRM), as in blocking or reflecting sunlight. Examples include using jets or rockets to blast small reflective sulphate particles into the stratosphere, "cloud whitening" to increase reflectivity by injecting saltwater mist into clouds, vast plantations of plants engineered to have shiny, reflective leaves, or covering large areas of the desert with a white/reflective coating or deploying huge arrays of mirrors into space.

These technologies are virtually all extremely risky, expensive and/or downright nuts. But, frighteningly, they are gaining mainstream acceptability! Among the advocates are some, like Bjorn Lomborg, the "skeptical environmentalist," who have denied global warming is even real. Some claim that these approaches are preferable to reducing emissions. Julian Morris, of the International Policy Network, for example, stated: "Diverting money into controlling carbon emissions and away from geoengineering is probably morally irresponsible."

The potential for "weaponization" of climate geoengineering technologies adds fuel to the fires for those who find this issue troubling. Who will control and have access to the power to control rainfall or sunlight in a drought, flood, famine and water deprived future world?

Perhaps it is time for a collective pause and some deep reflection? First of all, our faith in science and technology seems to be teetering precariously. On the one hand, we appear shocked when scientists err, as if we somehow expect the scientific method and its practitioners to be god-like in their ability to predict the future of global systems and dynamics. On the other hand, many are prepared to deny the validity of literally thousands of studies, all converging towards the conclusion that global warming is, in fact, a reality. Further, we fail to recognize that science is merely a tool, and it's ability to uncover "truths" depends utterly on the skill and integrity of its users. Scientific rigor demands a lag time between asking a question and offering "proof" for an answer. That time delay is inconveniently long under the current circumstances.

How do we reconcile? The decision to resort to techno-fixes to geoengineer our only planet is not up to the handful of profit-seeking businesspeople donning lab coats at places like the Asilomar International Conference on Climate Intervention Technologies, and all the conferences on false solutions to come.

The planet is our collective responsibility. The world views held by many Earth inhabitants, including most, if not all indigenous peoples is that we are not Mother Earth's "mechanics," but rather integral parts of her. This view is part of the consciousness of *Pachamama* (the spirit of mother nature), visibly present at the "negotiat-

ing tables" at the World Peoples Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, held in Bolivia in April. I, for one, will feel far more hopeful about my children's future if decisions about climate geoengineering come not from Asilomar and the "profitable techno-fix" mindset, but rather out of Bolivia, with the Rights of Mother Earth as their basis.

Rachel Smolker is co-director of Biofuelwatch, and an organizer with Climate SOS. She has a Ph.D. in behavioral ecology from the University of Michigan and worked as a field biologist before turning to activism. She is the daughter of Environmental Defense Fund cofounder, Robert Smolker, and she engaged in direct action at EDF offices to oppose their advocacy for carbon trade. For more info see BIOFUELWATCH.ORG.UK.

GE Eucalyptus Trees Threaten US South

BY ANNE PETERMANN

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is expected to issue their decision this year on a proposal by ArborGen to release 260,000 genetically engineered (GE) cold-tolerant eucalyptus trees across seven states in the US South, from Texas to South Carolina. ArborGen is a joint initiative of International Paper, MeadWestvaco and New Zealand-based Rubicon timber company. The original partnership also included Monsanto, which dropped out early, presumably because of their terrible reputation. Barbara Wells, the CEO of ArborGen, is the former head of Monsanto's Latin American operations.

ArborGen is touting their deadly GE trees as the solution to sustainable energy, insisting GE eucalyptus can be used to manufacture liquid "agrofuels" as an alternative to fossil fuels. The truth, however, is that eucalyptus plantations will cause massive ecological devastation, lead to widespread destruction of native forests and exacerbate climate change.

The USDA's draft environmental assessment recommended approval of ArborGen's request. Eucalyptus is rampantly invasive and explosively flammable. It is also very greedy for water, and eucalyptus plantations have caused or exacerbated droughts. In Chile, for example, Mapuche communities in the region of eucalyptus plantations must truck in water in the Springtime, because their water sources dry up.

GE eucalyptus trees also pose a potentially serious health threat. In Tasmania, Australia, the genetic "improvement" of these trees has inadvertently caused them to be extremely toxic. Runoff from these plantations has contaminated nearby Georges Bay, causing massive oyster bed die-offs and rising rates of sickness among the local residents.

ArborGen has also requested commercial release of GE eucalyptus trees in vast plantations containing millions of these non-native and destructive trees. People in the southern U.S. are already familiar with the disastrous impact of kudzu, the invasive ornamental vine that has covered vast expanses of land. Eucalyptus would be far worse.

ArborGen intends to export GE eucalyptus globally. Adding the cold-tolerance trait to eucalyptus trees expands the global range for eucalyptus plantations, and will lead to widespread destruction of native forests and displacement of forest dependent and Indigenous communities around the world.

We can stop the global ecological disaster of genetically engineered eucalyptus trees by stopping them here in the US. But we will need a grassroots movement to do it. For more information and to get involved, go to [HTTP://WWW.NOGETREES.ORG](http://WWW.NOGETREES.ORG).

Anne Petermann is the Executive Director of the Global Justice Ecology Project.

UNDERSEA METHANE TRIGGERS FEAR, OPPORTUNISTS

BY KENTON

Amidst a drunken, hedonistic feel-good party, there's nothing more abrupt than a fart that clears the room. Everyone snaps out of their haze and looks around, wondering if the person that they're dancing with thinks it was them. How embarrassing.

University of Alaska, Fairbanks, researchers Natalia Shakhova and Igor Semiletov released a report in *Science* magazine detailing just such an unanticipated methane release in the little-studied East Siberian Arctic Shelf (ESAS). Research results suggest that the layer of permafrost underneath the ESAS, a 2 million square kilometer area of the Arctic Ocean, has become perforated. Considered by scientists to be impermeable and constantly frozen, the permafrost is releasing stores of methane gas well beyond the comparable amounts for the region. The amount of methane given off around the ESAS, 7.7 million tons yearly, is currently larger than that given off by the rest of the world's oceans combined.

The undersea methane is created when organic material in permafrost thaws, decomposes and releases gas. It can also be stored as a hydrate, as in the ESAS, meaning that the methane is encapsulated within frozen water molecules of the permafrost. The releases of the latter can be much larger and more sudden. "Warming temperatures, and the ingress of the ocean as sea-level rises, are causing the methane release to accelerate, possibly precipitously," Shakhova explains.

Unanswered in the study, which spanned from 2003 to 2008, is whether the methane levels in the Arctic are historically normal or rising. Methane hydrates in the ESAS are relatively close to the surface, leaving them more susceptible to climatic change than its counterparts, which are in part stabilized by the high pressure of the deep-sea and its consistent temperatures.

The researchers found that more than 80 percent of the deep water and 50 percent of surface water had methane levels eight times that of normal seawater, according to a National Science Foundation press release. Particular areas were saturated at levels reaching more than 250 times that of earlier Summer lev-

els and 1,400 times higher in the Winter. Findings also showed high concentrations in the air directly above the ocean surface.

Shakhova states that typical methane levels vary anywhere from .3 to .7 parts per million (ppm) depending on the season and temperature. The current average in the Arctic is 1.85 ppm, the highest in 400,000 years, with concentrations even higher in the air above the ESAS.

Why it stinks

Methane is a carbon-based greenhouse gas that is 30 times more powerful at trapping heat than carbon dioxide. A massive methane release is correlated with the Permian-Triassic extinction, the largest loss of species ever (96 percent marine and 70 percent terrestrial). Shakhova estimates over 1,400 gigatons of

carbon stored as methane and methane hydrates in the Arctic permafrost, and that 5-10 percent of that is liable to release at any time, in amounts up to 50 gigatons. That would be equivalent to doubling the current amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

A hypothesis called "the Clathrate Gun" may give an alarmist, albeit accurate idea of how it all goes down. Simply put, as sea and seabed temperatures increase, methane hydrates (clathrates) are released, contributing to a quick rise in global temperatures—more at the poles to be sure—which in turn contributes to more released methane. It's called a runaway process; once you fire a gun, there's no running to retrieve the bullet before it's impact. Currently, scientists aren't sure at what point the gun fires or when the tipping point is.

The ESAS seems to be the number-one candidate for such a show. It's located at a higher latitude, where climate change is exacerbated. It's in relatively shallow waters (164 feet deep) where methane cannot oxidize into carbon dioxide before surfacing, and has the climate-sensitive Lena river pouring out into the Arctic waters.

But the ESAS is only a fraction of the total hydrates worldwide. It's unlikely that we've reached a tipping point of atmospheric greenhouse gases, and methane loses its greenhouse potency over time. Luckily, the deeper stores around the world are more resilient to temperature change, and changes precipitated by a mass release would take tens of thousands of years to affect the deeper seabeds. So we'd have to see a massive release to trigger a catastrophe. Guess who's got an itchy trigger finger?

Did You Say Methane Stores?

The age of gas is upon us. Increasing external pressure on energy corporations to clean-up their operations and find solutions to climate change has led to internal motivations to greenwash everything and secure

profitability in a post oil and coal world. The energy barons call natural gases like shale gas and coalbed methane "bridge fuel" between oil, coal and renewables. Of course, they're looking to exploit every last

bit of cheap energy as possible, and the past decade has revealed an increasing interest in methane as such a source, both by corporations and governments. In the early 2000s, conferences on hydrates began the upswing of interest and have since provided a forum encouraging the advancement of hydrate extraction, as well as industry partnerships to bankroll the experiments.

Current Industry Developments

In 2007, BP drilled research wells in Alaska with the assistance of the US Department of Energy (DOE) and the US Geological Survey (USGS). A meeting was held on November 3, 2009 and included participation from BP, ConocoPhillips, Exxon-Mobil, Chevron, DOE and USGS. According to the DOE, the meeting discussions focused on synergies between planned field testing under both the BP (and separately funded) Conoco projects which are both pursuing field sites near the Prudhoe Bay L-106 pad. The result of the

meeting was an agreement by all groups to pursue necessary interaction and planning required to facilitate hydrate field activity in Prudhoe for the winter 2011 drilling season.

China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the US all have ongoing programs to scout hydrate reserves and develop functional methods to harvest it. On the Qinghai-Tibet plateau, China has estimated there is the equivalent of 35 billion tons of oil, enough to supply Chinese energy for 90 years. They want to start using it within 10 to 15 years.

Korea plans to invest \$37 million dollars to drill for hydrates along its eastern coast, beginning in April.

The DOE is collaborating with the Gulf of Mexico Hydrate Joint Industry Program (JIP), an amalgam of some of our favorite unaccountables—Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Total, Halliburton, Schlumberger, Reliance Industries Ltd (India), JOGMEC (Japan), Korean National Oil Company to figure out a way to drill the Gulf for hydrates.

The concerns are obvious, but the energy barons remain undeterred. The most troubling of possibilities, that giant methane stores will be broached and suddenly released is absolutely chilling. In addition to atmospheric release, a large methane plume could oxidize in the ocean, resulting in anoxia, an absence of oxygen in the water, killing countless species. Drilling and excavation could disturb the ecological systems. The mining of huge tracts of ice could cause "slumping" of the earth-mass, resulting in geological shifts and destabilization of layers of mass that have contained the methane for millions of years.

This industry is truly beginning. Now is the crucial time to intervene, because the technology is not yet sufficient to make hydrate extraction viable on a large scale. The physical and technological barriers are the only current protection against hydrate harvesting. We can expect federal agencies to repeatedly fail in assessing the dangers involved. We can expect the corporations and government to proceed greedily and recklessly. We have watched oil tankers spill, coal sludge impoundments fail, and nuclear reactors melt. We cannot let disaster be the collateral of another worldwide energy industry.

It's called a runaway process; once you fire a gun, there's no running to retrieve the bullet before it's impact.

- University of Iowa researchers examining mineral deposits on the Spanish island of Mallorca discovered evidence of rapid rises and declines in sea level as the planet warmed and cooled over thousands of years.
- The population of Great Lakes prey fish, which sustain larger predator fish, is reported to have dropped to 10 percent of the population that existed before invasive species like zebra mussels and Asian carp were introduced via ballast water from shipping vessels two decades ago.
- The Pentagon now accounts for 50 percent of the world's total military spending, and Obama's military budget is nearly \$1 trillion—a figure that matches the total cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since the initial invasions.
- The EPA announced in March that the infamous Gowanus Canal in northwest

- Brooklyn has been added to the federal government's growing list of "superfund" sites slated for heavy restoration.
- Swedish politicians, celebrities and 170 scientists appealed on March 10 to their government demanding that, as one of the wealthiest countries in the world, Sweden should protect its old-growth and other forests "before its too late."
- The American Bird Conservancy is calling Hawaii the "bird extinction capital of the world" as native birds the 'Akikiki and 'Akeke'e join 33 other Hawaiian species on the federal Endangered Species List.
- The Centre for Research on Globalization recently reported that 33 percent of the world's population carry "smart" ID cards, and 900 million of these cards have biometrical facial and fingerprint systems.
- *The New York Times* recently reported that the Tucson, Arizona-based Center

- for Biological Diversity (CBD) has won 93 percent of the lawsuits it has filed in defense of wildlife. The lawsuits forced the federal government to list 350 species as endangered and protect 120 million acres of habitat.
- The CBD proposed in March that 27 million acres in Arizona and 26 million acres in New Mexico be designated as critical habitat for endangered Jaguars, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service will consider the proposal before issuing a proposed rule on jaguar habitats in 2011.
- Lawmakers in Sierra Leone and other West African countries are appealing environmentalists and fishing villages by joining a seven-nation charter to protect the regions mangrove forests from destructive extraction practices employed the salt industry.

Shorts

THE SPECTER OF SLUDGE

FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE IN THE WAKE OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY DISASTER

BY MIKE LUDWIG

The face of the anti-coal movement changed forever on December 22, 2008 when a Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) impound burst and spilled more than 1 billion gallons of coal ash—a toxic sludge comprised of water and fly ash from a power plant—into the delicate ecosystems and waterways of Harriman, Tennessee. The flood released more toxins than any disaster in environmental history, destroyed three homes, filled the Emory River with toxic waste and covered 300 acres in sludge.

Before the disaster, many environmentalists and activists did not know that the coal ash, boiler slag and other toxic residues produced by cleaning and burning coal is stored in giant, above-ground impoundments as well as injected into old mines across Appalachia and the US.

Matt Landon, a Mountain Justice activist and Three Rivers Earth Firster, was one such activist, but he sprung into action as soon as the disaster occurred.

Landon and other environmentalists involved in United Mountain Defense (UMD) grabbed video cameras and sample jars and rushed to the scene to find acres of private property and watersheds devastated by toxic sludge. It was the beginning of a two-pronged campaign to organize local residents affected and poisoned by the spill and hold TVA accountable through on-site documenta-

tion and independent water quality testing. "We took the skills we gained through the mountain justice movement and directly applied [them]," Landon said in an interview with the *EF! Journal*.

Independent testing by activists like Landon has challenged TVA as the government-run utility company attempts to save face and cut corners in its cleanup efforts. Their findings proved that TVA repeatedly underreported the levels of toxins in the sludge that covered the land and neighborhood. The effort did not go unnoticed by TVA and the police, and Landon was arrested twice in the last year for trespassing on TVA property while monitoring cleanup and taking samples.

Neighborhood Justice

From the beginning, Landon and other UMD activists brought aid, water and medical information to Harriman residents affected by the spill. A campaign modeled from past "listening projects" empowered locals to run and facilitate meetings and actions to demand justice and begin to put their communities back together via the Tennessee Coal Ash Survivors Network (TCASN).

"Now you go down there and some of the locals still call themselves activists; they self-identify as activists," Landon said.

The spill destroyed people's properties and local waterways, and heavy metals and airborne particulates from the coal sludge caused serious health problems. TVA initially refused to pay for medical testing for local residents, and the TCASN expects health problems to continue as the government's cleanup effort stirs up the mess and releases more pollutants into the air.

Community members in Harriman organized to bring justice to their neighborhood and recently won a crucial legal victory over

TVA. More than 560 plaintiffs are represented in 57 lawsuits against TVA for resulting property damage and medical problems caused by the flood of toxic waste, according to the *Appalachian Voice*.

Last spring TVA asked a federal judge to dismiss the cases, citing TVA's status as a federal agency and therefore its immunity from civil suits from citizens, but on March 26 a US District Court denied this request and slammed the public utility company for failing to follow policies and procedures that could have prevented the disaster.

The nightmare is far from over. TVA continues to dredge ash and heavy metals from the Emory River and estimates the cleanup effort will take several years and an estimated \$1.2 billion.

ACTIVIST TOOLBOX

Listening Project: Build bonds with local people affected by heavy industry by listening to their stories. Listening projects often go door-to-door or organize public meetings where neighbors can discuss how industry has impacted their lives and what to do about it. Talking with locals helps build friendly bonds between neighbors and outsider activists and lets victims of environmental degradation know that they are important and deserve to be heard. Listening projects have proven to be effective tools in areas like Appalachia where outsider activists and coal companies compete for local support.

Paperwrenching: Turn paper work into direct action. By going public with the results of field tests and legal research, activists can use the fine print to jam up the development machine in the media and court system. Paperwrenching does not seem glamorous or brazen, but years of environmental victories resulting from lawsuits and public opinion guarantees its place in the activist toolbox.

tems and watersheds. The EIP recently followed-up and identified 31 more sites causing contamination. That's 101 cases of lead, arsenic and other heavy metals poisoning precious waterways from the Ohio River valley to the New Mexican deserts.

After the TVA disaster, regulators said they would address the coal waste issue. That was more than a year ago. The EPA eventually attempted to classify coal waste as toxic waste and require coal waste storage sites to use liners and collection systems to prevent pollutants and heavy metals like lead, mercury, and arsenic from leaking impounds. The proposal has since been stalled in the White House as coal industry lobbyists attempt to keep the Obama administration on their side. EPA chief Lisa Jackson has said she hopes to have a proposal approved as this issue of the *EF! Journal* goes to print in April.

Call to Action

Coal waste storage sites—ranging from the sludge injection sites poisoning wells in West Virginia to the massive impounds adjacent to almost every coal-burning power plant in the US—pose a national threat to human and non-human health and safety. Government and industry greed and inaction has left the environmental movement no choice but to take immediate and direct action to end the destructive practice of mining and burning coal.

"Coal ash definitely has the potential to turn into a huge issue to mobilize over," said Landon, who is currently working with United Mountain Defense to fight the coal industry in Tennessee. "The more groups we have that wake up to it, the better."

Landon is a big fan of science when it comes to holding industry accountable for coal waste. He suggests researching coal waste pits and impounds in local areas by



Sludge by the Numbers

An Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) report has identified 31 coal waste sites that have contaminated streams, wetlands, ecosystems and aquifers in 14 states. Nearly half of these sites contaminated off-site areas. EIP's findings are in addition to 70 sites already identified by the EPA. EIP reports that coal-burning power plants produce 140 million tons of coal waste containing deadly pollutants, and much of this waste is stored in unlined and largely unregulated impounds and open pits.

Deadly Pollutants

Arsenic: Human carcinogen known to cause cancer of bladder, lungs, skin and kidneys. EIP identified 21 sites with arsenic contamination up to 145 times the federal drinking water standard.

Lead: Powerful neurotoxin that damages the nervous system, especially in children. EIP identified 9 sites with up to 10 times the federal safety limit.

Selenium: Can cause liver cirrhosis, pulmonary edema and death. Present in excess at seven sites.

Coal wastes also contain the pollutants and poisons mercury, nickel, thallium, copper, chromium, selenium, barium.

US Fish: 100 Percent Contaminated

The US Geological Survey in March reported that every single fish tested from nearly 300 freshwater streams across the country was contaminated with mercury. About a quarter of the fish was too contaminated for human consumption, and two-thirds exceeded the EPA level of concern for consumption by predatory mammals. The USGS reported coal-burning power plants are the largest source of mercury in the US.

Highest Hazards

Last year, the EPA identified 49 coal waste sites with a "high hazard potential" based on the proximity to residential areas and potential to obliterate human and non-human life in the event of a TVA-style disaster. Here's a list of the biggest culprits.

American Electric Power

Sites: 11

Locations: Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana

Duke Energy

Sites: 10

Location: North Carolina

Arizona Electric Power Cooperative

Sites: 7

Location: Arizona

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

Sites: 5

Locations: Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina

Kentucky Utilities

Sites: 5

Location: Kentucky

taking samples from waterways and areas near coal storage sites and sending them to EPA certified laboratories for testing.

A plethora of grassroots resistance is taking direct action to fight the coal industry in Tennessee and across Appalachia. Those interested in interning or volunteering with United Mountain Defense can send an email to UMCVOLUNTEERHOUSE@YAHOO.COM.

Mike Ludwig is a nomadic journalist. He has covered the coal issues for *The Athens News and Southeast Ohio Magazine*. He has also written for *inthe fray.org*. Email: ML431@aol.com

CARBON CRACKPOTS

A New Green Scheme to Trap CO₂ Links Coal, Oil and Gas

BY MIKE LUDWIG

Energy giant American Electric Power (AEP) made environmental disaster history in 2002 when it bought out and relocated the village of Cheshire, Ohio after a federal study confirmed “blue plumes” of sulfuric acid mist produced by its Gavin coal-burning power plant were poisoning Cheshire’s 221 residents.

AEP operates four coal-burning power plants within ten miles of Cheshire, including the 1,300 megawatt Mountaineer located on the West Virginia side of the Ohio River. Despite AEP’s infamous reputation in the area, the US Department of Energy (DOE) has handed the plant more than \$334 million to operate an experimental “carbon sequestration” system that liquefies carbon dioxide from Mountaineer’s stacks and pumps it into geological formations under the Ohio River.

Carbon sequestration technology, also known as carbon capture, is just one of the crackpot schemes the Obama administration and its green capitalist allies have conjured up to ensure that they can continue burning coal while building their “clean energy” market portfolios. The idea is simple: separate the greenhouse gas from other pollutants in the smoke stack, liquefy it, and then pump it into underground geological formations. Out of sight, out of mind.

This experiment might sound eerily familiar to the former residents of Cheshire, who first noticed the clouds of sulfuric acid aerosol after AEP installed the “selective catalytic reduction units” to reduce pollution emitted by the Gavin plant. Now, less than ten years later, the DOE has given AEP full license to conduct a dangerous experiment just ten miles away from the site of the historic buyout.

Last fall, AEP began pumping liquefied ammonium bicarbonate—the liquid created by the Alstom company’s patented chilled ammonia capture process—into saline formations 1.5 miles below Earth’s surface. With the government funding for a 10-year scale-up, AEP will eventually be pumping 15 million metric tons of chemicals under the Ohio River each year.

The DOE didn’t stop with AEP. It grabbed \$2.4 billion of Obama’s stimulating package to fund carbon sequestration development projects across the country.

One such project is a brand new, 60-megawatt power plant slated for Thompsons, Texas. In March, the DOE gave \$154 million to NRG Energy to build the facility, which is US Energy Secretary Steven Chu’s new flagship double-whammy for fossil fuel production. The plant will be a “demonstration facility” designed to capture the carbon from the coal-burning plant and inject it into a nearby oil field. Another simple idea: liquefied carbon captured from power plant stacks is pumped into a nearby oil field, forc-

ing tons of oil right into the greedy hands of private industry.

Private industry is already on board. Peabody Energy, the largest private coal company in the world, announced in February its partnership with GreatPoint Energy (another name to know) to develop “catalytic hydromethanation” technology that will turn coal into gas and hydrogen fuels for new carbon capture coal plants that—you guessed it—will “enhance oil recovery,” according to a release.

“Advancing our carbon capture and storage technology will create new jobs in America and reduce our carbon pollution output,” Chu said at a press conference in March. “It’s another example of our country’s innovation at work.”

Yes, Chu is correct, the plan has all the marks of American innovation: burning and mining lots of fossil fuels. Chu’s doublethink has the coal and oil industry laughing all the way to the bank.

Pipelines and Infrastructure

Every carbon capture power plant isn’t lucky enough to operate near an oilfield ripe for carbon injection. That’s where interstate pipelines come in.

Denbury Resources Inc., a company that specializes in enhanced oil recovery, announced in February its plan to build 320 miles of pipeline from Donaldsonville, Louisiana to Houston, Texas. The \$825 million project will be capable of transporting 800 million cubic feet of carbon dioxide daily from natural reserves and carbon capture industry in Louisiana and Mississippi to the oil fields of Texas. One of Denbury’s sources of captured industrial carbon diox-

will then be piped across five states and the Mississippi River basin to Louisiana, where it will be pumped to Texas and injected into oil wells to coax out stubborn reserves to be manufactured into petroleum products. This is the infrastructure our leaders are planning for a “clean energy future.”

Risky Business, Dirty Coal

Even mainstream analysts are calling the investments in carbon capture and other “clean coal” technologies a high stakes gamble. Only time will tell if these expensive technologies will prove to be efficient and cost effective, let alone safe. Carbon capture systems cost millions of dollars and will consume 10 to 40 percent of the energy created by a power plant, according to a Greenpeace report. Storing liquefied carbon chemicals into subterranean geological formations is unprecedented, and Greenpeace researchers and other analysts warn that stored carbon dioxide could corrode geological formations and leak back into the atmosphere. Some critics fear that the practice could cause earthquakes or even massive carbon dioxide leaks that would decimate human life. So why is the Obama administration and its greenwashing industry buddies so hell bent on rolling the dice?

Look no further than the coal mining industry itself, which refers to the US as the “Saudi Arabia of Coal.”

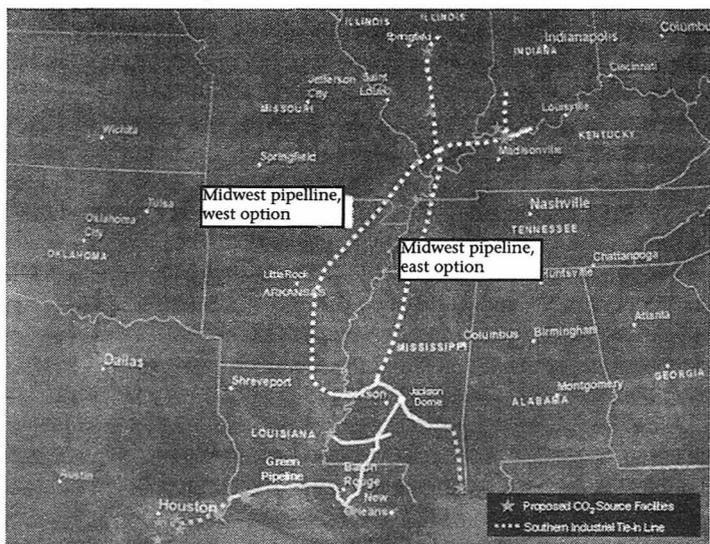
“Technology is constantly improving, and even modest price increases open up vast expanses of coal all over the nation—especially in the Powder River Basin,” writes Dr. Frank Clement in an article on www.coalcandothat.com. “America

has 28 percent of the world’s coal reserves, more coal than any other nation, and coal is in the ground in over half the states, our energy ace in the hole.”

Coal is one of the world’s dirtiest sources of energy and is losing favor among American consumers. Upcoming climate legislation and new rules proposed by the EPA could put caps on carbon emissions and make burning coal less convenient for utility companies. But the coal industry is not going to give up on the estimated 200 billion tons of coal that waits to be extracted from US soil. Clement, a professor at Penn State University and co-author of the National Coal Council’s “The Urgency of Sustainable Coal,” claims that untapped coal reserves could meet US energy needs for over 100 years.

That’s 100 years of mountaintop removal mining, acid mine runoff, dead zones, coal sludge pits, carbon capture, smoke stacks, mercury and lead poisoning, global warming and unfettered industrial expansion at the expense of mother Earth.

This is the future our leaders are preparing for. This future begins where it must end: in the mines. Without mining, the coal power industry—and all the other industries wrapped up in it—will choke on blackened lungs. Who can lend a hand and help tighten the noose?



Map from Denbury's Midwest Pipeline Feasibility Study

ide will be the Faustina Hydrogen Products LLC, a Louisiana gasification plant that in 2012 will begin producing anhydrous ammonia, sulfur and carbon dioxide from high-sulfur coal and petroleum coke.

Coal-gasification projects, which would turn coal into synthetic natural gas to fuel new carbon capture power plants, are proposed in Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky. This is no secret to Denbury. Last year the company began a feasibility study on the proposed Midwest Pipeline, an estimated \$1 billion project that would pump carbon dioxide from the new facilities 700 miles to Denbury’s southern grid.

So let’s recap. Coal mined in Ohio, West Virginia and Illinois will be turned into synthetic natural gases and burned in carbon capture power plants across the Midwest. The carbon dioxide byproduct

BARE BONES

Wolf Kill

Environmental and wildlife advocacy groups reported that more than 500 wolves have been killed, mostly by government agents, in Idaho and Montana since the Department of the Interior’s April 2009 delisting of the gray wolf population from the Endangered Species List. Among the victims are an alpha female and a five-month-old pup in Yellowstone National Park’s well-known Cottonwood Pack. Advocacy group Earthjustice is representing 13 groups in a legal challenge of the delisting.

Obama Proposes Vast Undersea Drilling

The Obama administration is proposing to open vast expanses of ocean for oil and natural gas drilling. The proposal would end a moratorium on exploratory drilling from the northern tip of Delaware to the central coast of Florida, and would also open waters in the Gulf of Mexico and along the north Alaskan coast.

Trans-National Wind Energy Threatens National Forest

San Diego Light & Power has proposed to construct a wind farm in Mexico to provide energy to San Diego via 150 miles of transmission lines running across the border and through the Cleveland National Forest in southwestern California. The Bureau of Land management has approved the destructive path of transmission lines, but legal challenges have tied up permits in state courts.

Buffalo Defenders File Suit

The Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) and other buffalo advocates in March filed a lawsuit against Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for its decision to house quarantined Yellowstone buffalo on a private ranch where the public cannot monitor the animals. The buffalo advocates claim the act violates a public trust and hinders the BFC’s effort to monitor the buffalo’s welfare.

Shrimp Ban to Protect Sea Turtles

The US State Department announced in March a formal ban on shrimp caught by Mexican fisheries until the industry updates its trawl nets to include devices that protect against the inadvertent capture of sea turtles. The ban was instated after the end of the formal Mexican commercial shrimp season and will be dropped if the fisheries update their nets before the season begins next fall. The ban trumps a World Trade Organization rule that prevented the US from pressuring Mexico to protect sea turtles (see *EF!* December, 1993).

Two Fossil Fuels Disasters in April

An explosion claimed the lives of 29 people in a West Virginia coal mine on April 2. Run by Massey Energy, the mine had 57 safety violations in March, alone. On April 22, a deep oil well off the coast of Louisiana exploded, killing at least 2 (11 were declared missing as of print time). Experts are calling this the worst offshore explosion in Gulf of Mexico in 30 years. The *Journal* sends its condolences to the the families of the latest victims of the energy industry.

Obama’s Whale Compromise

Obama is making overtures to whaling nations, proposing that the international whaling ban be lifted.

UPDATES

I-69 Legal Victory

Supporters of Hugh and Tiga of the Indiana-based Roadblock Earth First! Anti-I-69 campaign announced in late March that both activists had their felony racketeering charges dropped on the basis that, under Indiana law, conspiracy charges cannot stem from misdemeanor charges. Both activists were also granted permission to leave the state of Indiana.

Catalonia Forest Occupation Evicted

A forest occupation camp in Catalonia, Spain was evicted on March 24. Various police squads and a "special climbing eviction unit" were deployed to oust the occupiers, who are defending the forest from high voltage power lines that would connect from France, Spain and potentially Africa. The occupation began on October 17, 2009, and several structures and treesits had been established.

Murphy Sentenced to 5 Years in Prison

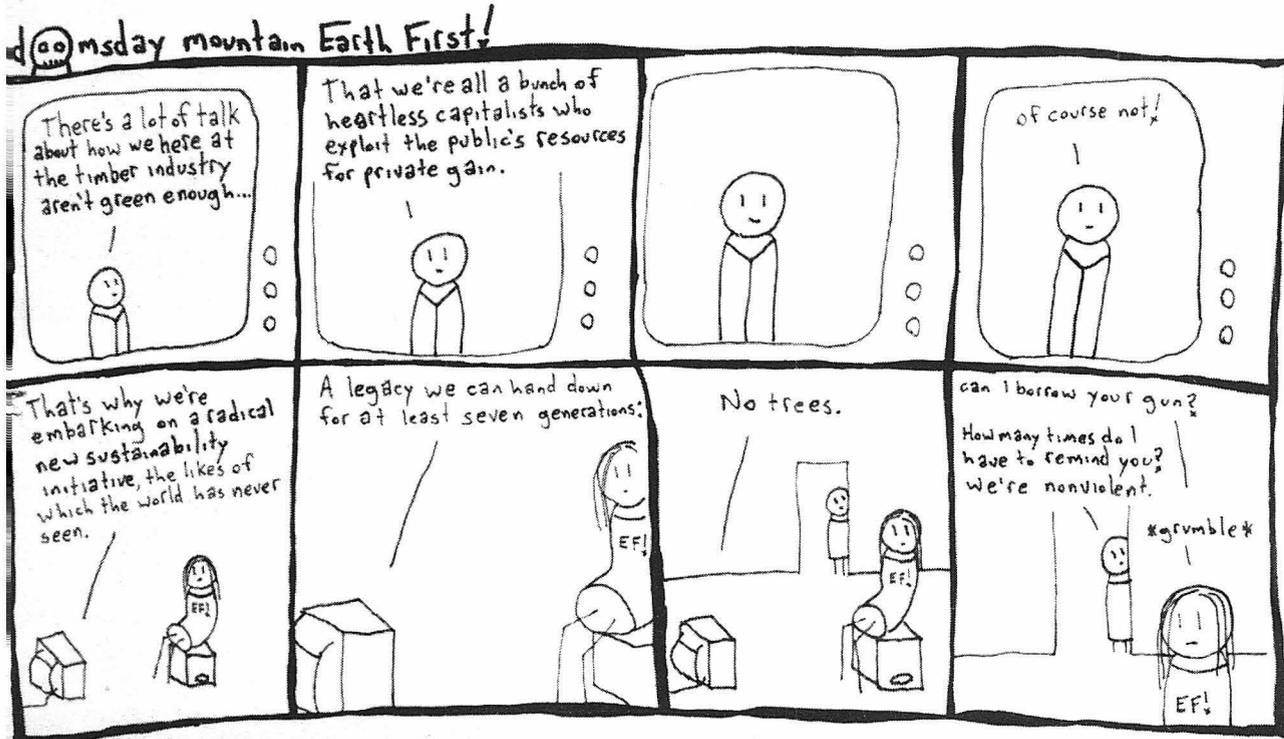
Steven James Murphy, 44, admitted to his role in a failed attempt to firebomb a Pasadena, California condominium development in 2006. Murphy plead guilty to the ELF-affiliated action on April 5. His 5-year sentence carries a Terrorism Enhancement from the original charge. Investigators claim Murphy planted a crude firebomb that would have destroyed two condos had it ignited.

Carrie is Free! Scott Faces New Charges

Activist Carrie Feldman, 20, was released from jail on March 19 after a US attorney unexpectedly filed a motion stating that her testimony on a 2004 animal rights action was no longer needed. Carrie and another Minneapolis, Minnesota-based activist, Scott DeMuth, 22, were held in contempt of court and jailed in November after refusing to cooperate and testify before a grand jury. Scott was re-indicted on April 14 under charges of an ALF raid on labs in the University of Iowa in 2004 "and other animal enterprises elsewhere" with "persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury."

Crow Creek Tribe Strikes Deal with IRS

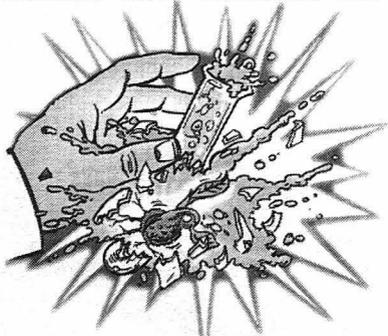
The Crow Creek Sioux Tribe has settled its tax debt with the IRS and secured a loan to buy back 11 square miles of land stolen by the government and sold at an auction in December. The tribe responded to the initial seizure with a lawsuit. The IRS has forgiven additional "debt" on the grounds the suit be dropped.



ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Meat From a Petri Dish

Test tube meat has taken another step toward transforming from an eerie joke around the kitchen table to reality. Dutch scientists have conducted suc-



cessful experiments in growing animal protein in labs. The government-funded program recently succeeded in growing "meat" by combing cells extracted from a living pig and mixing in a broth made of animal fetuses. Mark Post, a professor of physiology at Eindhoven University, said that with improvements, lab-made meat products will be good for the environment and will reduce animal suffering. "If it tastes like meat, people will buy it," Post said.

Source: *Earth Island Journal*

More Freaky Flesh

A team of researchers at the University of Rhode Island injected thousands of Rainbow Trout eggs with DNA from other species in hopes of creating mutant seafood. Their experiment worked in about 300 cases and resulted in mutant fish with "bulging" muscles and a "six pack of abs." In reality, the trout look like they've simply gained

a bunch of extra lumps. The researchers are hoping their discovery could add value to commercial fish farming, but critics fear that native species could be out-competed by the mutant trout if they invaded wild habitats.

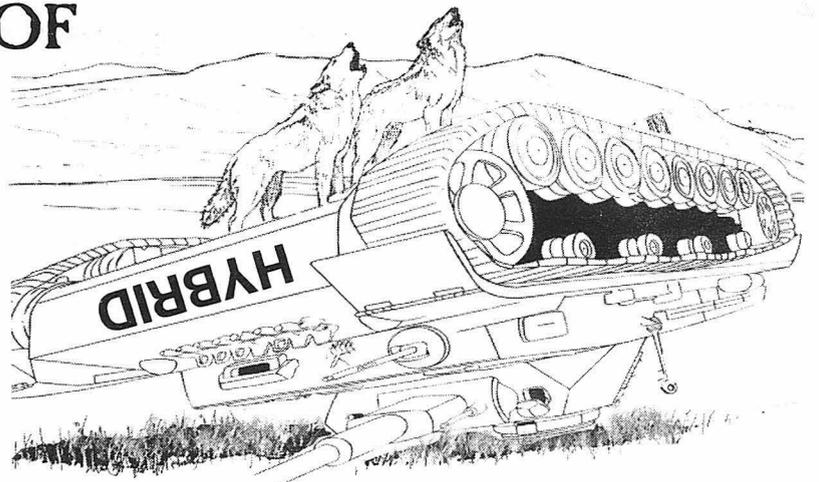
Source: *National Geographic Daily News*

Airport Mind Scanners

The Associated Press reported in January that the future of airport security could include mind scanners. WeCU, as in "we see you," is an Isreal-based technology company that has received US funding to experiment with "mind scanners" that would monitor suspects' mental and physical reactions to images played on screens in airports. For example, a potential "terrorist's" brain and heart rate may react to symbols of radical groups or militancy.

Obama Buys Hybrid Cars for Federal Yuppies

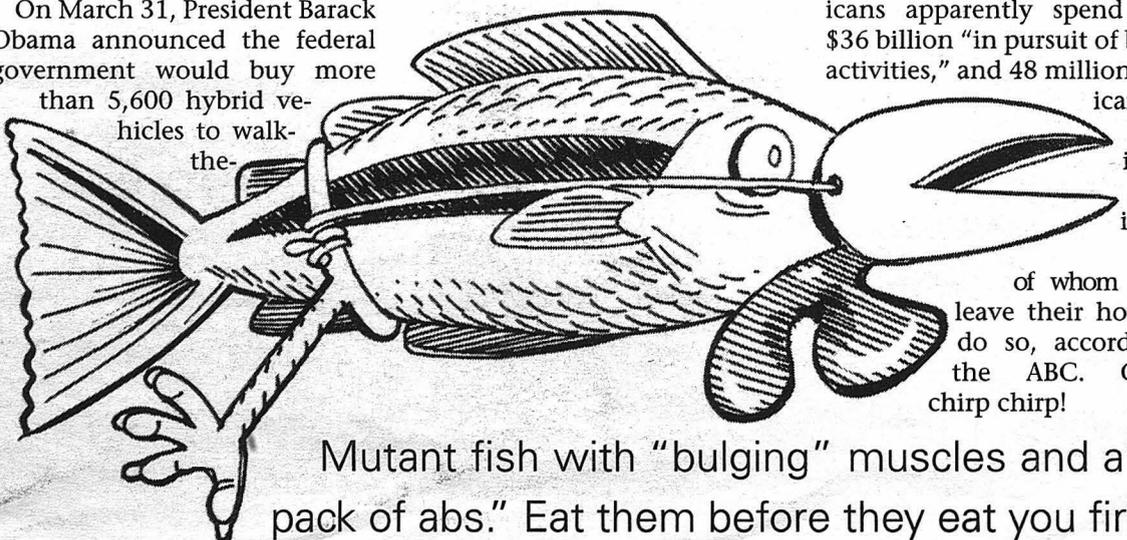
On March 31, President Barack Obama announced the federal government would buy more than 5,600 hybrid vehicles to walk-



walk as American auto manufacturers begin making cars according to new emission limits recently set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Yes, federal employees will be joining the ranks of yuppies everywhere as they rev up their brand-new cars that burn oil and use electricity. Do not expect Obama to be texting from his Blackberry while driving a Prius, however. When asked about the presidential motorcade, Obama said the Secret Service shot down the idea due to security reasons.

Do Americans Love Birds?

The hearts and minds of millions of Americans could soon rest easy knowing less birds may crash into our government's windows. In March, the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) applauded Illinois Congressman Mike Quigley's introduction of HR 4797 in Congress. The bill will require the federal government to incorporate "bird-safe building materials and design practices" when constructing new buildings. The ABC is celebrating this key effort to reinvigorate the US economy. Americans apparently spend about \$36 billion "in pursuit of birding activities," and 48 million Americans en-



Mutant fish with "bulging" muscles and a "six pack of abs." Eat them before they eat you first!

MULTINATIONALS ENTER CHIAPAS RAINFOREST INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES VIOLENTLY EVICTED

BY JOHN "AHNIWANIK" SCHERTOW

Stop the evictions and massacres!

Multinational corporations are coveting strategic natural resources in the Lacandon Jungle in the Mexican state of Chiapas. At the same time, the state government is pursuing ambitious plans to surround the Lacandon Forest with oil palm plantations, while disguising the forest around the plantations as 'eco'-tourism areas. The corporations are preparing for those projects by attacking and evicting indigenous communities.

On January 21, the indigenous Tselales communities of Laguna El Suspiro and Laguna San Pedro Guanil, both inside the Biosphere Reserve of Montes Azules in the Lacandon Forest, were evicted. Montes Azules is home to one third of Mexico's biodiversity.

The eviction began on January 19, when the head of the Federal Agency for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) visited Chiapas. A few hours later, hundreds of policemen and soldiers evicted around 20 indigenous families (120 individuals) from their homes in the region.

Government sources state that the operation was carried out in coordination with the federal police, members of the Mexican Army and of PROFEPA, ironically in the presence of "representatives of the state's human rights." No details have been given as to who those human rights representatives were. Our understanding is that the Mexican government used fake "human rights representatives" in order to commit human rights violations against indigenous peoples.

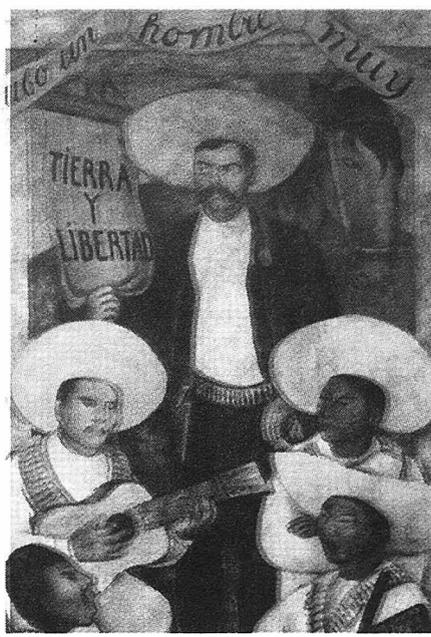
The police forces were heavily armed and used several helicopters during the two operations. Without any official documentation or court order, and by means of violence and threats against elderly people, women and children, they forced the indigenous people to leave their houses without being allowed to take any of their personal belongings, and took them to the city of Palenque. From there, twelve villagers from Laguna San Pedro Guanil were taken to the government ministry and interrogated without a lawyer or interpreter. Before being

released, the villagers were made to sign a document without understanding the content. They later reported that intimidation was used to get them to respond to questions about the location of alleged drug fields, which indicates how the government intends to justify the evictions. The villagers report their belongings, as well as their houses, clothes and work tools destroyed, their fruit trees, maize and beans uprooted and their communal shops ransacked. Local witnesses report that the houses and belongings of the villagers were burnt after the evictions. So far, no opportunity for resettlement has been offered.

Violent evictions and forced relocations have been carried out in approximately 40 communities by both the current and previous administrations. These are part of a policy to create a "new order" and clear the Lacandon Forest of people, particularly in the Montes Azules region. The Mexican state is thus promoting social dislocation and ongoing legal uncertainties as well as the appropriation of communal property in favor of private ownership. This results in the irreversible loss of the concept of land as a source of communal wealth.

Both the federal government of Mexico and the state government of Chiapas justify their actions by labeling the entire indigenous population in the Lacandon area as "irregular people," "invaders" and "predators." The evictions are expected to continue. Several of the villages which were evicted were Zapatista supporters. Friends of the Earth has accused the governor of Chiapas of selling "the land and the territories of Chiapas to the highest bidder."

The evictions can be understood through a strategic global project of "territorial evictions and control," which is disguised as a "conservationist spirit for the benefit of humanity" or, as a government spokesperson said, "...for the good of Chiapas, for the good of Mexico and for the good of the world's environment." In reality, it serves the interests of multinational corporations and private investors in strategic natural resources in this and other indigenous and campesin@ territories in Mexico



and Central America; biodiversity, forest cover, clean drinking water, natural scenery and minerals are all coveted as resources by biotech and agribusiness companies (Monsanto, Pioneer, Norvartis, Bimbo), pharmaceutical companies (Pharmacia, Bayer, Pfizer, Sanofi Aventis), car and oil firms (Ford, General Motors, Shell, the International Automobile Association), drinks manufacturers (Coca Cola, Nestle, Pepsi), hotel chains and false 'eco-tourism' firms (Mexican Association for Adventure and Eco-Tourism, AMTAVE), as well as mining companies (CEMEX, owned by PEMEX). Several of them have had a direct or indirect presence in the Lacandon Forest for years. At the same time, the governor of Chiapas, Juan Sabinas, has imposed an ambitious program of economic reform which includes the expansion of oil palm plantations and aims to turn Chiapas into one of the main centers of production for agrofuels, with all the impacts that go along with it.

Editor's note: In the ongoing news of evictions happening in Chiapas, a member of the so-called Organization for the Defense of Campesino and Indigenous Rights (OPDIC), a right-wing paramilitary organization, was killed by friendly fire as his organization attempted to violently evict the community of Bolon Ajaw on February 6. The Fray Bartolome de Las Casas Human Rights Center believes that the OPDIC attack is tied to the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in an attempt to supplant the local campesin@s with palm oil plantations for eventual consumption as biofuels in the developed world.

BARE BONES

Dam to Flood Rainforest, Chavez Loses Power

Brazil's government in early February approved a giant and environmentally controversial hydroelectric dam that will flood 310 square miles of the Amazon rainforest. Activists fighting the project claim it will destroy precious habitats and relocate indigenous peoples, and they insist pervasive droughts have already damaged the Amazon and would compromise future hydroelectric projects.

Meanwhile, a drought exacerbated energy shortages in Venezuela, which produces 70 percent of its electricity with hydroelectric dams. Opposition members criticized the socialist government for failing to invest in infrastructure, prompting President Hugo Chavez to blame the crisis on saboteurs. Chavez was unable to provide any evidence of sabotage until early April when Venezuelan authorities arrested eight Colombians for allegedly plotting hits on the country's ailing grid.

Monsanto Completes Plant Expansion

Monsanto announced in March the completion of a glyphosate plant expansion in Luling, Louisiana near New Orleans. The expanded plant will produce the company's Roundup agricultural herbicide. Roundup herbicide is exclusively manufactured at Monsanto's glyphosate plants in Luling and Muscatine, Iowa.

Mass Extinction

The Species Survival Commission for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)—the international group of scientists that officially declares a species extinct—released a report in March claiming that humans are driving animal and plant species extinct faster than new species can evolve. Extinction is a part of life on Earth, but humans have accelerated extinction far beyond the natural cycles of evolution.

New Nukes Funding

While the US National Nuclear Security Administration's 2011 budget request includes a significant increase in non-proliferation programs, which make up 24 percent of the total budget, the NNSA also received a \$624 million, or 9.8 percent, increase in Nuclear Weapons Activities funding. Non-proliferation activists claim the requested budget could increase funding up to 14 percent for development of new nuclear weapon science, technology and infrastructure via the weapons and comparable programs.

Tenuous Tuna Talks

The debate over a ban on bluefin tuna fishing raged in March at the 175-nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. European and American countries, backed by conservation groups, cited dwindling global stocks and supported the ban. North African and Asian nations—especially the seafood-crazed Japan, which consumes 80 percent of the world's Atlantic bluefin—opposed the ban and vowed to ignore it. The ban was rejected to the disappointment of conservation-minded western nations.



Lacandon Jungle



photo courtesy Larne Coley

photo courtesy M33.sphit.com

Two-thirds of the Lacandon Jungle has been cut

Riot 2010 Hits the Streets of Vancouver

No Olympics on Stolen Land!

BY SABOO

The Winter Olympics of 2010 has come and gone, but the resistance movement continues to live on. The stage was set for massive resistance when the Olympics committee decided in 2008 that the notoriously tourist-oriented event would take place on un-ceded Coast Salish indigenous lands (also known as British Columbia). Encouraging commercial development in a region that, according to Canadian law, still belongs to indigenous peoples, the Olympics took its corporate sponsors into places they didn't belong. For two years, they were met with intense resistance, culminating from the moment the site was chosen up to the closing ceremonies.

The principle grounds for resistance lay in the governments' expenditure of millions of dollars in preparation for the games in spite of the deplorable living standards of Canada's indigenous peoples. Indigenous reservations in Canada are similar to those in the United States: motifs run from unpaved roads and streets to undrinkable tap-water to dilapidated housing and other tell tale signs of environmental racism. In violation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which the Canadian government rigidly opposes, the repression of indigenous communities includes the systematic arrest and imprisonment of activists who organize peaceful protests against clear-cuts, mining and land grabbing.

Environmentalists quickly rallied alongside indigenous organizers against the Olympics due to the destruction of the environment that the Olympics precipitated. Corporate preparation for the Olympics included chopping down tens of thousands of trees, and blasting mountainsides in the Callaghan Valley for tourist venues.

Canada also used the games as an excuse to extend the Sea-to-Sky Highway, a highway responsible for the death of at least 11 black bears due to loss of habitat as well as the death of millions of salmon due to gravel mines around the Fraser River. The same "streamlined" application processes that facilitated this development included new incentives for ski resorts, mining, oil and gas development, and led to large increases in infrastructure as well. To top it off, billions of dollars were allotted for the Olympics budget from infamous opponents of people and the Earth such as Coca-Cola, General Electric and McDonalds.

With the rallying cry of "Riot 2010," organizers of Olympics Resistance embarked on an effort to shut down the Olympics with strategies similar to those used in campaigns to stop the WTO, G8, Conference of Parties (COP) and other symbols of

the ruling elites. Organized by diverse groups of activists that use differing tactics, these campaigns are often measured by different yardsticks of success. Although most protesters share the desire to hamper, distract from, and/or completely stop the injustices against which they demonstrate their dissent, some judge direct actions of vandalism, property destruction and violent altercations with police to be detrimental to overall goals involving sophisticated theories of non-violence and civil disobedience. Others deem successful individual actions of resistance, violent ones included, as individual successes. Often, major liberal organizers (labor unions, environmental NGOs, etc.) who aim to amass large numbers of protesters for their cause decry confrontational tactics like the black bloc (i.e., forming an unidentifiable

the indignity of typical activist infighting—a unity that the Olympics could only attempt to co-opt in ceremony. Lead by indigenous peoples determined to reclaim their ancestral heritage, the Take Back Our Country demonstration saw the tactical utilization of the black bloc as a protective force. Although mainstream media jumped on the opportunity to delegitimize the protestors for their tactical cooperation, the history of denunciation and marginalization of demonstrators by the corporate press suggests that solidarity has nothing to do with their opportunistic decrials.

The next day saw more protests, which heated up with some soft blockades and property damage. Called "Heart Attack!", the main march implemented the black bloc as a more aggressive force. 200-300 hundred protesters marched togeth-

RBC bank, an arson at a Chevy dealership and other incidences of sabotage and vandalism.

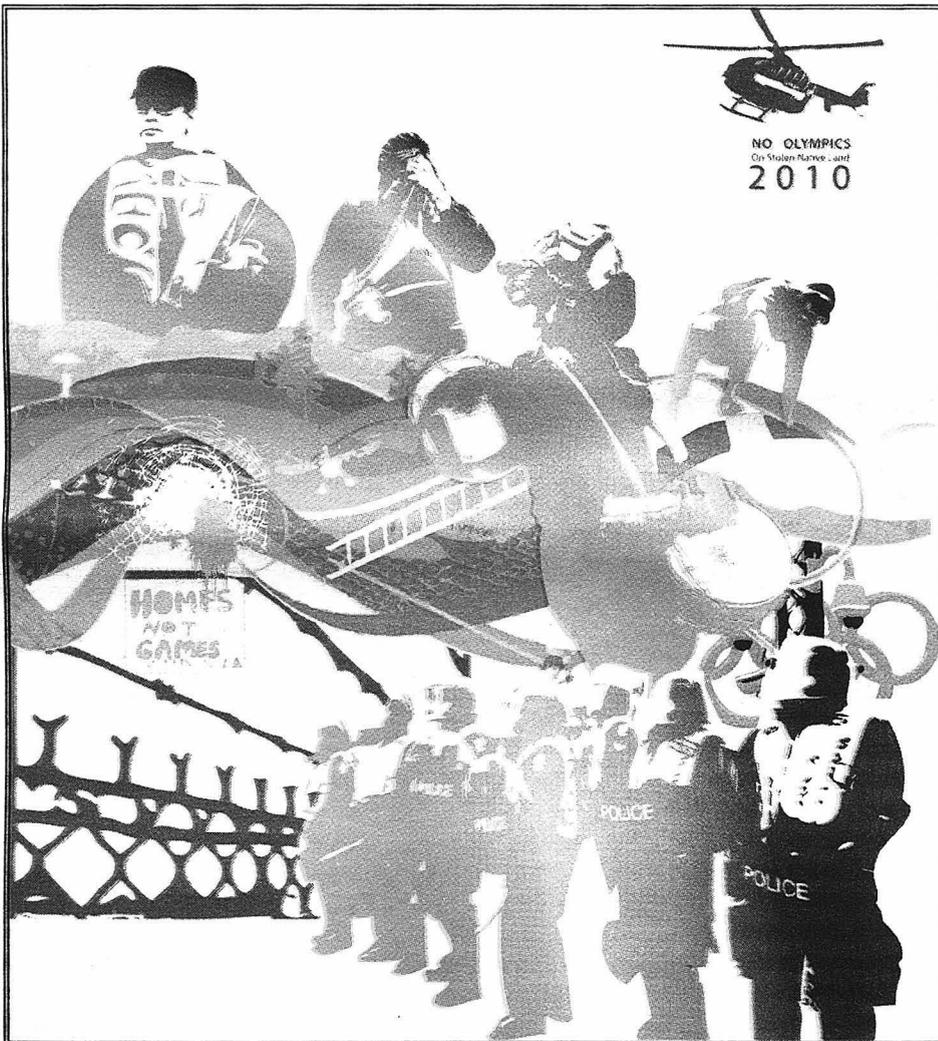
Meanwhile, the Canadian police used the escalation of violence brought on by drunken sports fans as an excuse to deploy particularly violent methods of repression, including rubber bullets and batons, against protesters. Amidst this kind of brutality, the protesters gained increasing validation. Stella August, a prominent homeless activist with the Vancouver-based Power of Women Group, expressed staunch solidarity with the black bloc, insisting "They're angry because of the rich people bringing the Olympics into our country when it wasn't needed. It wasn't needed here. Those kids were not bad. They were only angry because of what they bring to our country—big time poverty." Underlying the words of Stella August,

a proud native person of Nuuchahnulth descent, is a greater feeling of unity that grew through joint participation in and organization of rallies and protests as they continued into the final day of the Olympics. On that day, February 28, 200 protesters took to the streets in a demonstration called "Games Over! Resistance Lives" that blocked the major Olympics outlet road for 12 hours, and ended the night in a big Tent Village party.

Tent Village was dismantled shortly after the final fiesta, but as a result more than 30 people received expedited housing.

The momentum from the Olympics resistance movement spilled over into March for an Anti-Police Brutality March (preceded by the smashing and vandalizing of 11 police cars on the previous night), and an Anti-Fascist Rally, which squashed a Nazi rally in Vancouver. As Vancouver radicals build on the lessons and victories of the local Anti-Olympics movement,

people are already looking to confront the next Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, as well as the Vancouver police force's now-increased resources and capabilities. Though controversial tactics were used, as a whole, the diversity of tactics and interests represented within the overall strategy of the Anti-Olympics movement poses an interesting template from which to organize future event-based resistance. Unfortunately, several people have been arrested and still need support, including Charlotte Hannah and Willow Riley for allegedly assaulting a police officer, Sumayya Kassamall and Alexander Hundert for alleged vandalism, and Joseph-Marc Beaulieu for mischief on account of allegedly "leading the Black Bloc." For more information on the 2010 Olympics Resistance and updates on the court cases, go to no2010.com.



2010 Commemorative Poster

graphic courtesy Tamika Willard, Sovereign Nation

group of people dressed in black and masked up to contravene police surveillance in the event of potentially illegal actions).

The difference between tactics appeared immediately, as multifarious nocturnal arson and sabotage strikes hit strategic targets throughout Canada in anticipation of the Olympic torch. As the Olympic torch made its way across Canada, it also met non-violent civil disobedience in 30 cities, including lock downs, blockades and interventions staged by hundreds of Canadian citizens moving into its path. When the torch finally arrived in Vancouver, the diversity of tactics came together amidst 2,000-3,500 marching protesters who outshined the Opening Ceremonies on February 12. Known as "Take Back Our Country", this march manifested an outstanding solidarity between people of all walks of life that transcended

er, breaking into smaller groups and spreading out throughout downtown Vancouver, pulling newspaper stands into the streets to ward off vehicles and providing cover for dissidents to spray-paint and smash the windows of corporations responsible for investing in the economic and ecological exploitation of stolen lands and displaced peoples.

The largest march took the streets on the following day, manifesting 3,000-4,000 people in a Women's Memorial March, while other activists squatted an Olympics Tent Village on Vancouver Organizing Committee property in another part of town. Other direct actions conducted against the Olympics in the wildness of these days included strikes against three McDonalds, the sabotage of a construction company vehicle, the redesigning of a giant Canadian flag, the attacking of a

Maine Earth First!

North Woods

Round River Rendezvous

June 29 - July 6



In 2004, after the Down East Round River Rendezvous on Donnell Pond, about a hundred Earth First!ers greeted Governor Baldacci at his house to protest plans to build a liquified natural gas (LNG) facility. After a long campaign, those plans were defeated, for now. Since then, Maine EF! has been fighting the largest development proposal in Maine's history by the notorious timber/real estate giant, Plum Creek. However, the corporate plunder of our unique bioregion and culture, does not stop with Plum Creek. Maine EF! has also networked with community groups that are defending their land and communities from private water extraction, toxic waste incineration, and industrial wind-energy development. Now we're inviting y'all back up to the North Woods for some more fun around the campfire, exploring the bioregion, and movement building. This year's Round River Rendezvous (RRR) will be held in the heart of the Maine North Woods!

By hosting the 2010 RRR, we hope to have the opportunity to show people what our forests have become, but also to create a vision of what we will have if the Earth-destroying corporations are evicted and the land is allowed to heal. We hope to use our four primary campaigns, which are focused on wind, water, waste, and woods (the 4Ws), to make broader connections and coalitions with folks working throughout the North Woods Bioregion and the continent. These connections will hopefully jump-start discussions around wilderness movement-building, re-wilding damaged lands, and effective strategies for eco-defense. These themes are deeply connected to the struggle to maintain the traditional, rural culture of Maine. The 2010 RRR will feature a corporate-ass kicking action, lots of hootin' and hollerin' around the campfire, and plenty of opportunities to explore the flora, fauna, and the beauty and the devastation of the North Woods! In fact, this just might be the place to spend the rest of the Summer... We hope to have a wide variety of campaigns that folks can plug into throughout Maine.



The Earth First! Round River Rendezvous is a week-long gathering for anyone interested in or involved in the Earth First! movement (except for cops or informants). Annually, this week-long gathering is held in a bioregion that is threatened with ecological devastation. And this year, the Maine North Woods is hosting the gathering. During the week folks set up a primitive camp and attend or give workshops on a wide variety of topics (see below), get to know one another, listen to music and other performances or share their own, brainstorm, network, organize on wilderness defense and relax and get to know why we love this place.

But don't think that we're a bunch of boring fanatics that just like to sit around and theorize about "movement strategy." We also like to have a lot of fun! including, but not limited to, rowdy games, contra dancing, music, bonfires, etc. There will be lots of great opportunities for anyone to share music, poetry, circus acts, theatre, whatever you got with the group. There will be scheduled performances by movement musicians, as well as a reviving of the Warrior Poet's Society. There will be a contra dance night as well. There will be loads of great music, performances (of all kinds, and I do mean ALL KINDS!) and poetry — so don't miss out! Make sure to bring something to share or just come with an open mind. It is sure to be some rowdy good fun. We also hope to have some local home brew for sampling, and want to encourage anybody to bring some homebrew of their own. Maine EF! has connections with a lot of local, organic farmers, and we will be providing some food from the region and hope other people can bring some of theirs (Hey Everglades EF!, bring some mangoes!).

We encourage anyone coming to engage in primitive camping, treading as lightly as possible on the ecosystems that we will be inhabiting. We also ask that people come as self-sufficient as possible. Town and amenities are typically a distance away — so come with everything you will need for the week. The week will end with a direct action that is most strategic and relevant to our ongoing campaigns at the time. You can learn more about this action at the Rendezvous. For security reasons, the specific details will be figured out by the local organizers, and others will be plugged in accordingly.

Why Earth First!? And What the Hell is the "Round River Rendezvous?"

Are you sick of the other environmental organizations selling out? Sick of environmentalists who don't follow through with their words? Well, then Earth First! is the movement for you! Earth First! is a movement based around the idea that there is a need for non-compromising action in defense of Mother Earth! The Earth First! movement is centered around biocentrism and deep ecology, the beliefs that all of life has intrinsic value and all living systems are interconnected. Earth First! isn't your typical environmental organization. For starters, it's not even an organization; it's an international movement. Unlike other large environmental groups we put our beliefs into action and we don't get bogged down with bureaucracy!

Some Things to Consider

Given the situation of Maine's forests, there is a good chance that the Rendezvous will be held on privately owned land. We have several sites picked out, and are waiting to decide the specific location based on the most strategic place to be this Summer. If it is on private land, we will utilize state-managed campsites which are open to the public. The large, corporate land-owners have kept their foot-hold in Maine by allowing "public access" on "their" land. Therefore, camping is legal, as long as fires are contained in the existing fire rings.

Other things to keep in mind when planning your trip to the great North Woods are: Weather: June in Northern Maine can

continued inside

Contact Us!

For more information about the RRR, including directions and workshop schedule, visit our website at maine.earth-first.net. You can email us at maine@earth-first.net. You can also call 207-469-2552 for directions.

Wind, Water, Waste, Wood

The corporate colonization of the North Woods Bioregion

The mountains, the water, the forests, and the energy of our state are under siege by corporate interests. Maine Earth First! is working in solidarity with community organizations on four distinct campaigns, known as the "4 Ws." Wind: the fight against industrial, grid-scale wind power placed in remote, sensitive ecosystems; water: the fight against the privatization of water; waste: the fight against biomass and waste incineration; and woods: the fight against the development of wild places and the decimation of Maine's forest lands. These four deeply interwoven campaigns are united in their fight against large corporations' colonization of the North Woods and in their effort to build support for the restoration and protection of the North Woods Bioregion. They also share a strong ethic of ecosystems rights and the rights of life over the rights of the government and corporations.

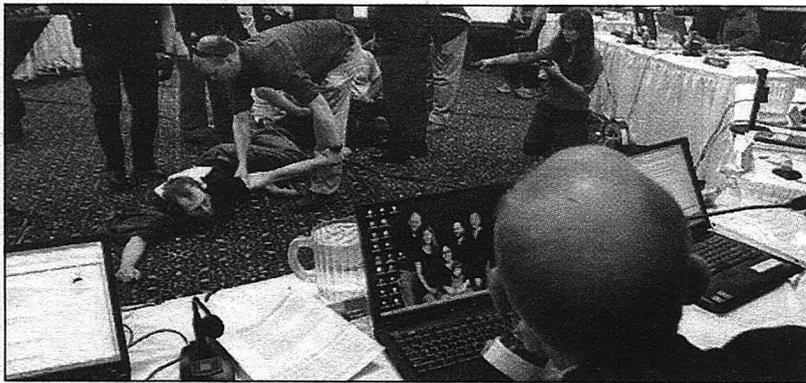
WOODS

In 2005, Plum Creek, the country's largest private land-owner, announced its plans to re-zone over 20,000 acres for resort and high-end housing development in the treasured Moosehead Lake region of Maine (see past *EF!J* issues). Since then, Maine Earth First! has been fighting the proposal, which threatens to further fragment the largest area of undeveloped land east of the Mississippi River. Maine EF! has utilized a wide variety of tactics from paperwrenching, to office actions, to media stunts. Maine Earth First! has been fighting this development plan since the beginning and we will be there every step of the way until we kick Plum Creek out of the North Woods and preferably off the planet!

Recently, Earth First!ers engaged in another action against Plum Creek and the governmental decision makers of the state. On the first day of Fall, 2009, Maine Earth First! occupied the Land Use Regulatory Commission's meeting at the Ramada Inn in Bangor, Maine in anticipation of a re-zoning approval. Six people were arrested for disrupting the planned vote that gave a green light to the largest development proposal in Maine's history. We have since learned that Plum Creek has been paying their supporters to participate in the public process arranged by Land Use Regulatory Commission (LURC) — while the rest of us did our work in that process on a purely volunteer basis.

Although LURC voted in favor of the development plan, it is not over yet! There are a lot of Mainers and folks around the country pissed off at Plum Creek and LURC who are willing to put up a fight. All six later plead not guilty and are seeking a jury trial.

Maine Earth First! will not back down from the fight to make sure the eco-yuppie resorts are not built and that the Moosehead Lake region will one day outlive Plum Creek's irresponsible ownership. Join us this summer at the Round River Rendezvous, 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! We also hope to join up with other campaigns throughout the country that are fighting the greedy interests of Plum Creek.



"Maine Earth First!ers were arrested after disrupting the state approval of the Plum Creek development Plan."

WIND

Industrial, grid-scale wind power is on the fast track to devastate the wild, remote mountain ridges of Maine. In 2008 the state legislature voted in favor of a law that created an "expedited wind area." The expedited area includes almost two-thirds of the state and requires only one permit for wind power development, by-passing normal environmental regulations and giving LURC and the Bureau of Environmental Protection the authority to add parcels to the area at will. This unconstitutional law was drafted by a "task force" which was hand-picked by governor Baldacci and includes many industry representatives that stand to profit immensely from the law. The efforts to make Maine a

wind-energy producing state ignore the fact that industrial-scale wind power does nothing to wean our culture off of our fossil fuel addiction. No coal-burning facilities have been taken off-line with the creation of wind-turbines, and the electricity is not being used to power local communities. It is just adding more energy to the grid to be consumed by southern New England.

Currently, TransCanada has submitted an application to LURC to build 15 turbines within the expedited wind area on Sisk Mountain. TransCanada, a \$35 billion oil company from Alberta, Canada, responsible for the environmental devastation associated with tar sands oil (the most resource-intensive form of fossil fuel extraction), has also submitted a separate proposal to add another 631 acres of Sisk Mountain to the expedited area for an undisclosed turbine development plan. Nearby Kibby Mountain has already been devastated by the construction of 44 turbines over 400 feet tall.

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 for the Canada Lynx (listed threatened species), historic nesting grounds for the Golden Eagle, home to the Bicknell's Thrush, Yellow-nosed Vole, Rock Shrew and Northern Bog Lemming and thousands of migratory birds that pass through the range annually.

Allowing these sensitive mountain ecosystems to remain intact as wilderness corridors and carbon sinks provides an opportunity for these forests to regenerate. Further deforestation and ecosystem destruction is totally counterproductive in the struggle to mitigate global climate change. We can re-wild the North Woods to its natural forested state, stretching from Maine to Minnesota, adding to this planet's overall stability. That is why Maine Earth First! is working to restore, re-wild, and regenerate the shattered ecosystems that exist here and to create long-lasting means of protection for the North Woods ecosystems through the support of the people who live in them. The government and oil companies are capitalizing on the current climate crisis by creating these greenwashing schemes in order to get carbon credits and stimulus money and to dupe the general public into thinking that they actually give a shit about stopping climate change.

Maine has been coined "the Saudi Arabia of wind." The Round River Rendezvous will provide industrial windpower's opponents in the state with a chance to collaborate on the challenges of fighting industrial wind power. The Round River Rendezvous will also bring together other folks fighting against TransCanada's tar sands projects throughout Canada — providing an opportunity to network on how to bring down this corporate energy giant!

One of the local organizations that has been fighting TransCanada and working to defend the mountains of Maine is the Friends of the Boundary Mountains, www.boundarymtns.org.

WATER

Water is Maine's natural heritage. Unlike many other regions, Maine still has intact hydrological systems including pristine lakes, rivers, streams and ponds. Hundreds of springs bubble to the surface throughout the state from ancient sand and gravel aquifers, a legacy of the last ice age.

In Maine, surface water is governed by "reasonable use," but ground water is not protected. Therefore, Maine treats groundwater as the personal property of the landowner and allows unlimited quantities to be pumped out. Nestle's Poland Spring is now the top-selling water brand in the whole country and they have been subverting local democratic processes and exploiting rural communities throughout southern and western Maine. However, communities throughout Maine have been rising up against the corporate control of our life-sustaining resource. Towns like Shapleigh and Newfield have successfully passed local ordinances that stop Poland Spring from stealing their groundwater and selling it out of state.

With clean drinking water becoming increasingly rare throughout the world, it is important for the Earth First! movement to address this serious threat. At this year's Round River Rendezvous water privatization and the effects of commercial water extraction on the environment will be a common theme of workshops and presentations. We are inviting several members of the water movement to come and speak.

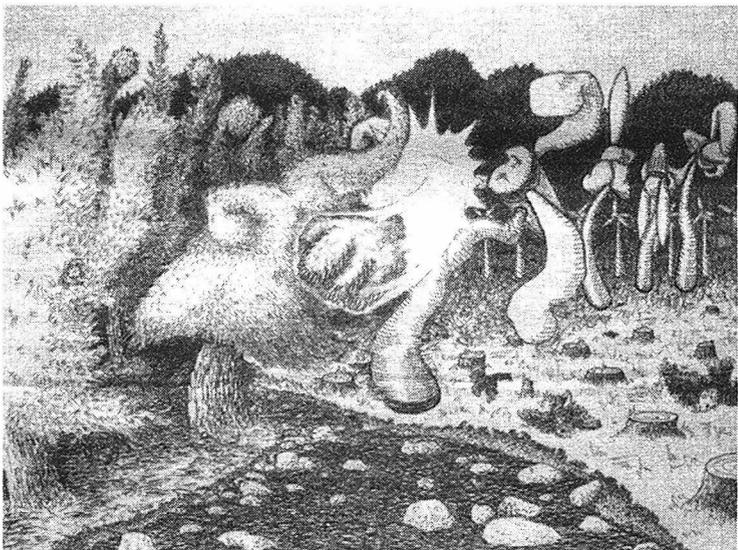
There is a growing movement in Maine dedicated to protecting our water resource and fighting corporate control of the water. Defending Water for Life is a local organization that has been fighting Poland Spring wherever they pop up. For more information about this issue and contact information for groups fighting against water privatization, go to www.defendingwaterinmaine.org.

WASTE

Maine has historically been referenced as a “Paper Plantation,” but in the past decades it has become a “waste plantation” as it has become less profitable to make paper. Industry investors have turned their focus away from paper production and toward selling electricity created from burning wood and waste, calling it green biomass energy. Massive quantities of waste are being imported into Maine, which has some of the weakest rules on dumping and burning in the country, large stretches of land with few people, generous subsidies for anything biomass, and many paper mills with dumps and incinerators already in place. Burning waste ensures the continued employment of these incineration facilities, but provides little in the way of employment for the people of Maine, who have been abandoned by the very companies that have destroyed our resources. Ironically, more responsible methods of composting and recycling waste would employ a lot more people, but would not employ the machines in which those earth-raping companies are truly invested.

Some of the largest dumps in the Northeast are in Maine, threatening diverse wildlife habitat and wetlands bordering these dumps. Community groups are forming to work on fighting these monstrosities, and are increasingly working together with still others who are opposing destructive infrastructure developments. In the past five years, this organizing has successfully stopped the construction of a waste incinerator, two dump expansions, and a new commercial dump that would have been located on the Androscoggin River.

With Maine’s dumps looking towards biomass, Maine is now in the position to fight this growing “green” energy giant. Biomass is becoming the next “hot thing” in green energy; posing huge risks to ecosystems wherever it is proposed while lining corporations’ pockets with dirty money. Maine is just one of the places where biomass incineration is threatening to wreak havoc on our forested landscapes. During the Round River Rendezvous we hope to bring together other organizations and folks working to stop biomass in their communities

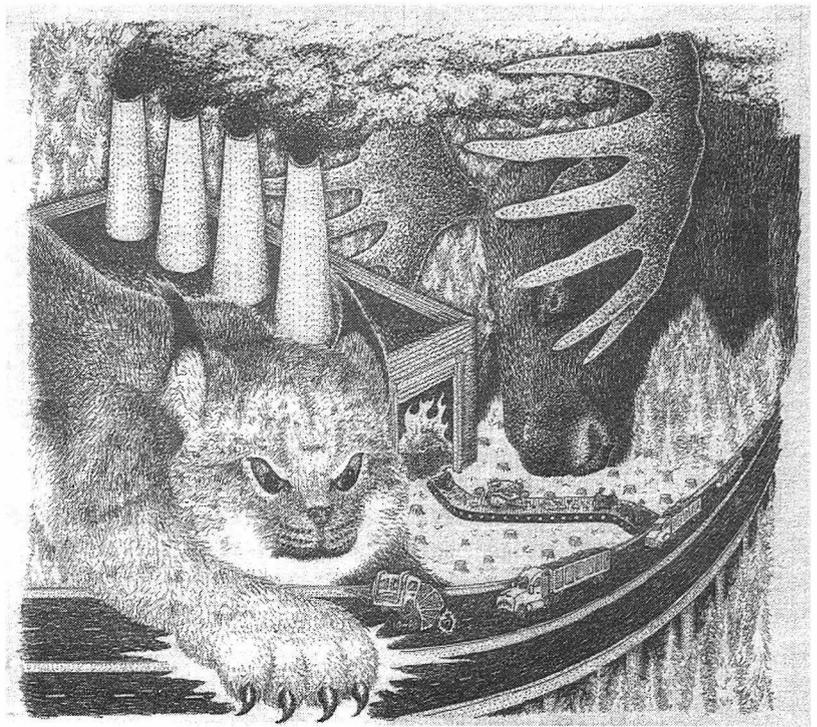


WORLD TRADE

As Maine continues its unfortunate history as a resource colony, the corporations only become more and more greedy. All of these campaigns are connected to larger, even more insidious plans, collectively known as “Atlantica,” including the development of a large east-west highway across New Brunswick, the entire state of Maine and the rest of northern New England. This highway plan would facilitate the trade and sale of water, wood, and energy from fossil fuels, wind, and waste to the cities of the United States. The highway would allow for a large corridor for pipelines, power-line expansion and rail traffic exporting these resources throughout this country and Canada. With growing concern surrounding climate change, more and more false solutions disguised as “green energy” are popping up around the world. Maine has become a regional epicenter for “green energy” creation, and the powers that be just have to figure out how to distribute the power. Maine Earth First! has been working to illuminate these larger connections, and hopefully we can call their cards and stop the east-west highway before its starts!

Maine Earth First! is striving towards an alternative vision for the protection and re-wilding of the North Woods Bioregion. All of the Ws pose distinct challenges, but the organizing that has emerged from each fight has brought about new ideas and energy for what we want the North Woods to be. The Round River Rendezvous will be a chance to present these ideas and visions while exchanging ideas and information with others from across the continent.

With so much at stake here, we are hoping to launch sustained, long-term direct action campaigns to stop these corporate debacles, and we hope that as many of you as possible will stay on after the Rendezvous to help us protect the North Woods.



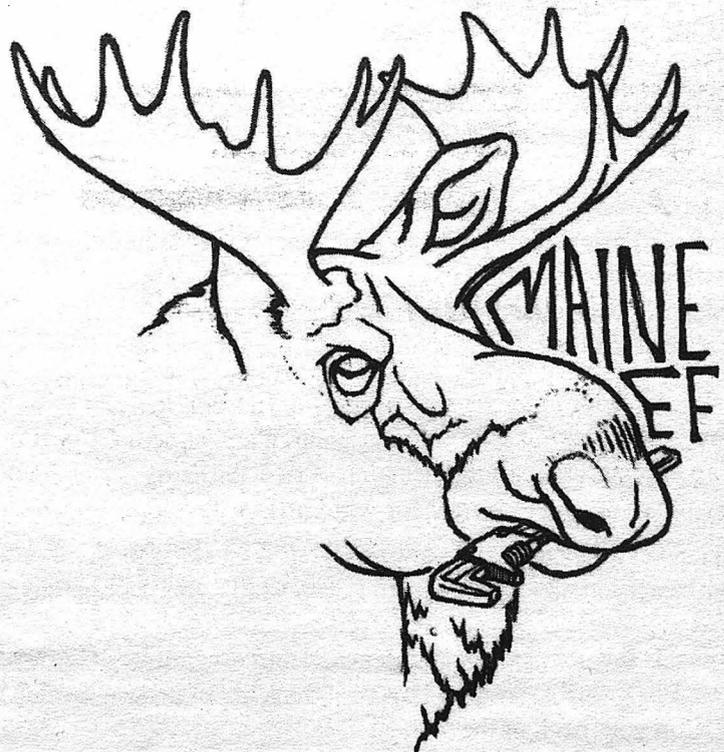
Some Things to Consider *continued...*

be either hot and sunny, raining, or snowing (less likely due to the whole climate change thing). Come prepared for cold nights and rainy weather. Also, it is a common saying around here that our state bird should be the Black Fly. June-July is the nice time of year when black flies and mosquitoes are both thriving, along with deer ticks which can carry Lyme disease. We also have poison ivy, so if you are allergic come prepared! Long sleeves, long pants, tall socks, and closed shoes are the best protection from bugs or poison ivy.

We are inviting a wide variety of folks from a wide variety of backgrounds to this year’s RRR, so we ask people to leave oppressive and elitist attitudes at home. We are attempting to make this space open and welcoming to all types of Earth activists... so talk to someone you don’t know — let’s help our movement grow! We will not tolerate oppressive or elitist behavior! There will be spaces for alcohol and partying, and there will be spaces conducive to sobriety and quietude. It is expected that these spaces and policies will be respected. In short, don’t be an asshole!

There will also be safe spaces for child-care, and we could use help creating and maintaining that space. There will be on-site medics with herbal medicine knowledge and training, as well as spaces to go for health and healing. If you have any particular skills that would help with any of these things, contact us.

Police or other law enforcement agencies sometimes like to stop in and see what we are up to or try to shut down the whole camp all together. It is usually not a big deal, but please be aware of these possibilities. There will be delegated members of the camp responsible for dealing with law enforcement interactions. There will also be folks working security throughout the gathering to keep any unwelcome people out of the gathering. As is usual at the RRR, we will be constantly signing up volunteers to help with camp security, childcare, conflict mediation, and other tasks to keep the camp functioning.



Re-Wild Or Die!

Reclaiming a Corporate Resource Colony

Maine's forested lands have historically been owned by multi-national corporations, who have always pulled the strings in the state government. Maine's economy is based upon its history as a resource colony supporting the larger, more developed and more affluent communities of southern New England and on. This long history as a resource colony still shapes the land ownership in the state today. Maine has the largest concentration of industrial ownership and one of the lowest proportions of public land (under 6%) of any state in the country. This history, current economic changes, and the fact that most of the forests have been overly harvested, has led to a trend of massive land swaps engineered by real estate companies masquerading as "sustainable" timber companies. These companies realize that they've exhausted the timber and paper resource, and are looking for other resources to exploit, such as clean water, private getaways for rich out-of-staters, biomass, landfills, highway corridors, and energy production. These current trends make Maine one of the unfortunate best examples of environmental colonialism and corporate take over of our times.

Despite the private ownership and the past degradation of the forests, northern Maine is still the largest undeveloped, though not totally wild, area in the U.S., east of the Mississippi River. It is this gray area that makes land in Maine challenging to defend. It remains undeveloped and remote with a high potential for regeneration, yet the forests are carved with a large matrix of roads and have been raped extensively since Europeans first arrived on this continent. It is also an incredibly unique and biodiverse place. The North Woods bioregion stretches from Maine to Minnesota, including northern Wisconsin and Michigan, and the forested lands of southern New England. Elements of boreal forests to the north and the big woods to the south create a large diversity of ecosystems and habitats that define the North Woods.

This diversity and relative lack of development makes Maine an excellent opportunity for regeneration, restoration and a powerful case example against resource colonialism. As a response to the oppression of the land, a wealth of resistance movements have formed. However, our fight is very different from those fought in areas with large tracts of wilderness, or acres of untouched old-growth forests. Here in Maine we are not working to protect already public lands, instead we are faced with the battle of shifting land ownership out of corporate hands. The uniqueness of the fight here in Maine and other areas with relatively low percentages of public lands, presents not only challenges but also amazing opportunities to fight corporate power while providing excellent grounds for innovative models of land ownership and regeneration.

While having the highest percentage of forested lands in the country, Maine could set a precedence for creating large areas as "carbon sinks" to aid in the mitigation of climate change and allow for the forests to re-

grow and ecosystems to heal. These efforts could be far more effective than the false solutions that corporate interests have been pushing.

This is where Earth First! comes in to play. Earth First! is a movement that defines itself from other environmental organizations and movements with its strong uncompromising philosophies of deep ecology and biocentrism. Deep ecology is a philosophy that places humans within the web of life, recognizing that our actions have ramifications upon all living creatures on this planet and vice versa. Biocentrism is a philosophy that recognizes the intrinsic value in all living things, regardless of their use to humanity. Earth First's recognition of the interconnectedness of all life forms is crucial in the struggle to end the corporate rule of our state and recreate wilderness. Every action towards ecological protection, every success in reversing the footprint of humanity on the face of this planet and its inhabitants is an important step forward in the fight to protect this planet and its non-human inhabitants. As a movement, we must seek out these unique opportunities and threats wherever they may exist and work towards the re-wilding and restoration of damaged lands.

With the impending chaos of climate change and anthropogenic mass extinction, Earth First! could be the movement that works to expand wilderness, working towards the future health and stability of this planet even once humans are gone. Too much of this planet has been consumed by corporate greed. We must work to turn back the hands of time and find ways to re-wild what is not completely lost.

Earth First!'s uncompromising messaging and holistic analysis of ecological problems also provide the opportunity to confront corporate power and colonialism. Here in Maine, it is corporations that have pillaged the lands giving us an opportunity to confront the greed of corporations like Plum Creek, TransCanada, Nestle, Casela, and Irving. While confronting these corporate giants we are working towards creative new approaches to land ownership and moving away from corporate resource extraction of the North Woods as a way of life.

Earth First!, as a movement, offers a unique approach to existing efforts to challenge corporate resource extraction in Maine. There are many issues being addressed and many multi-national companies being fought because of their assault on rural communities and the environment. What is lacking is a unified campaign against all threats to the wild and our way of life. Maine EF! is working towards the preservation of an entire bioregion, not just trying to protect small, isolated pieces of land. Our actions and messaging can challenge this system that does not recognize the rights of ecosystems and gives more rights to corporations than to citizens.

The RRR is an excellent opportunity to further brainstorm and enact these visions, potentially creating a model that can be duplicated throughout the country!

What to Bring & What NOT to Bring

- **Donation:** \$25 (or whatever you can afford). No one will be turned away, but there are costs associated with organizing these events. The money we raise will go on to next years OC and RRR committees. Please donate more if you can afford it. \$25 isn't much for a week-long conference.
- **Warm clothing and rain gear**
- **Camping gear:** tent, sleeping bag, ground pad (if you don't have a tent, you should at least bring a mosquito net and a tarp)
- **Food and water:** It always helps take weight off of the camp infrastructure if people come as self-sufficient as possible, especially if you have any special dietary needs
- **Cooking & eating gear**
- **Water purification device**
- **No dogs:** we understand that some people can't leave home without them, if you come with a dog, take responsibility for them or they will be on the menu. Dogs in the wilderness risk injury, and can be very disruptive to the local ecosystem
- **Sun protection**
- **Bug resistant clothing and bug repellent** (if you need to), but remember, any toxic chemicals you bring in will remain in our ecosystem.
- **A spirit of resistance** to ecosystem destruction and a Willingness to participate in the event. We hope to have a lot of people from local communities at this event and we want to foster a respectful environment for people to network with new people.
- **Musical instruments, poetry to read, or whatever** other outrageous performance art you would like to share
- **Hiking gear** (shoes, water bottle, etc.)
- **Games:** the rowdier, the better
- **Workshop ideas & supplies:** bring your own skills to share or let others know about your bioregion and the threats to it, especially your campaigns around Woods, Waste, Wind and Water
- **Proposals for next year's Rendezvous and Organizers Conference:** If you have an active EF! group or want to start one, think about making a pitch to host the 2011 RRR or OC in your neck of the woods.

Workshops & Trainings

We are organizing a plethora of workshops, discussions, trainings, and presentations revolving around all of the local campaigns we are working on. Some of the workshop themes will include the fight against water privatization and community control of water, industrial wind power, biomass and waste issues, and Plum Creek. We are trying to connect with groups who are working on these issues in other places as well. We will also have a series of direct-action and skills trainings. Other planned workshops include permaculture for EF!ers, war tax resistance, survival skills, being a full-time activist for the long haul, overpopulation, climate change, preparing road-kill, and self-defense. This is just an idea of what will be available at this year's RRR, but a schedule will be posted to the website as we figure it out. Please contact us to sign up to give a workshop.

Contact Us!

maine.earth-first.net
[maine\(a\)earth-first.net](mailto:maine(a)earth-first.net)
207-469-2552

RESISTING MINING: BRUTAL REPRESSION AND UPRISING IN ARGENTINA

BY MARIE TRIGONA

World-wide, mining operations have been associated with exploitation, corruption, violence, environmental devastation, human rights abuses and impunity. However, despite threats and violent attacks, local movements resist mining operations and associated devastating effects. In one such instance, residents in Northern Argentina are protesting the opening of an open pit mining site in the town of Andalgalá in the province of Catamarca. A recent police crackdown on the protest has sparked a popular uprising of citizens saying, "no to the mine." Following massive protests in response to police repression in February, a judge temporarily halted further mine works planned to open in 2012.

Andalgalá, Man of the High Mountains

The word Andalgalá, in the ancient indigenous language of the Andean region, means "man of the high mountains." The river Andalgalá that flows between the high Andes Mountains of Catamarca has spawned an oasis. The pristine mountain water and rich valley has given life to a land of olive groves, peach orchards, sheep herds and mineral deposits. Transnational mining companies now threaten this Andean ecosystem, the social network in Andalgalá and the entire water basin. If the company finds gold from drilling expeditions and decides to build the open pit mining site, the entire population of 20,000 inhabitants could be displaced, leaving transnational mining interests as the only man of the high mountains.

The mine is owned by Agua Rica, a subsidiary of Yamana Gold Inc., a Canadian-based gold producer which plans to begin mining operations in the town of Andalgalá in 2012. Yamana Gold has mining sites in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Honduras. Yamana failed to comply with the law in conducting a study on the environmental impact required by the provincial Mining Secretary, making exploration illegal. The Agua Rica site in Andalgalá would be three times the size of another mining operation in Catamarca, La Alumbreira, which has caused environmental and health risks for residents since it opened in 1998. La Alumbreira is currently the largest open pit mining site in Argentina.

Police repression

Activists from the Citizen's Assembly of Andalgalá have been blockading the mine site for four months. The Assembly, made up of a wide array of residents, has called for a local plebiscite on mining operations. Their request was met with police force.

More than 60 people were injured on February 12 when police escorted excavating equipment

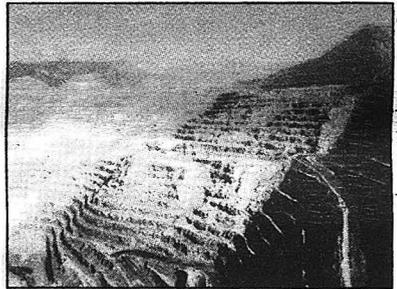
through a protest blockade to the controversial open pit mine site. Police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters—women and children are among the injured. Nearly 50 demonstrators were arrested, of which twelve are still being detained. The arrests, crackdown and police attack against anti-mining activists sparked an uprising, with protes-



Nevados del Aconquija, outside Catamarca

tors breaking windows, attacking mining offices and trucks owned by Agua Rica. Less than 20 hours after the police attack, more than 4,000 gathered in Andalgalá's center to protest the mine.

Leading up to the February 12 repression, Mayor Jose Perea of Andalgalá said in an interview with local radio station, FM Z, "if it is necessary we would kill the people maintaining the blockade against Agua Rica." The mayor also led a pro-mining march with nearly 100 public



La Alumbreira Pit Mine

employees participating, which prompted a march of over 4,000 residents resisting the Agua Rica mine.

Empty promises

Andalgalá resists the mining site having seen the negative effects of the La Alumbreira mine, which contaminated watersheds province-wide. "After 12 years since the La Alumbreira, the largest open mining operation, the promises of wellbeing and distribution of wealth from mining has not been fulfilled in the province of Catamarca," says the Union of Assemblies of Catamarca. The Alumbreira site uses between 600 million to 1 billion liters of water a day. It strains

"If it is necessary, we would kill the people maintaining the blockade"

already depleted water tables to process the ore, which involves exploding mountains, removing ore, crushing the ore and mixing it with chemicals such as cyanide to make a metal rich slurry. The slurry is processed and deliquesced. The contaminated water is pumped back into aquifers and rivers. The site at Andalgalá would be three times the size of Alumbreira and estimated to use 3 billion liters of water a day. The pristine waters from the moun-

tain springs will be mixed into the pools that contain cyanide and heavy metals.

"Not only has mining generated pollution and health problems, in addition it hasn't created jobs or resources. Catamarca continues to be or is more poor than before. Andalgalá has the highest unemployment in the province," said Urbano Cardo-

zo in an interview with Lavaca, an alternative media collective in Argentina. No more than 40 local residents from Andalgalá, out of a population of 20,000 are employed by the mine, which Mayor Perea has admitted.

"We share the air and soil, work with local suppliers, hire local employees and build relationships in the same regions in which we operate," says Yamana Gold, Inc. on its website. Public relations for the Canadian company adds, "We listen



Catamarcan Protestors

to and value input from communities, embrace the rich local cultural and economic opportunities, and as a result, our community relations are incredibly strong." The citizens' demands against mining operations and the threat of displacement have fallen on deaf ears.

Threats and abuses

In a report conducted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Chair of Higher Education Management from the Technical University of Catalonia in Spain, serious human rights violations and environmental pollution are linked to mining activities in Argentina.

Titled "Human Rights in North-eastern Argentina 2008-2009", the report describes "pressures and threats against the populations that protest against damage caused" from mining activity. Raul Martinez, Diola de Martinez, Ruth Vega, Carmen Chaile and Teresita Nieto, all participants in the Andalgalá Citizen's Assembly have received threats on separate occasions. The activists were called into the police station and were warned by the police chief,

"if you don't change their attitude about the blockade, next week the Border Guard and police will evict them by force, and we will beat you." The citizen's assembly says that one long-time activist, Aldo Flores, has been the target of death threats and police harassment in the days leading up to the crackdown.

The UNESCO report defined the social responsibility of the mining companies as "an example of private assistance, that seeks to manipulate and condition freedom of thinking and consciousness of the residents in the affected areas that receive minute benefits from mining firms with the only objective of gaining a 'social license' to extract natural resources." Among the companies mentioned in the report include Barrick Gold, Meridian Gold, Xstrata, Wheaton River Minerals and Northern Orion Resources. Currently in Argentina, there are more than 200 mining sites operating. In many of the communities, companies construct libraries, schools and public health clinics that resemble cheap warehouses and will likely collapse shortly after the mining companies operations dry up.

Mining companies only have to pay three percent in royalties on minerals extracted from Argentine territory. Three percent is a small price to pay for the billions of dollars extracted in mineral ores from Argentina's soil. Minerals have become Argentina's largest export, valued at nearly \$80 billion over the past decade. In places like Catamarca, royalties represent nearly 80 percent of fiscal income, "which is why the government does not investigate or control studies conducted by the companies," according to the UNESCO Study.

Disappearing communities

Community groups throughout Argentina have tried to shut down open pit mining sites. The struggle against mining in Andalgalá has led to a court order temporarily suspending Agua Mina from conducting further explorations. Now residents want a permanent sanction against the mining site, which could literally displace the entire population, since one proposed site is located directly under residents' homes. According to a study conducted by environmental group Redaf, Red Agroforestal Chaco Argentina, nearly 600,000 people have been displaced due to mining operations and the expansion of agro-industry such as soy since 2000. Throughout Argentina, social movements are resisting mining, which they say is turning the nation's natural resources into a cheap commodity for foreign transnational companies to exploit.

Marie Trigona is a writer based in Argentina. She can be reached through her blog www.muJERESLIBRES.BLOGSPOT.COM. This article originally



Blast From The Past

Featuring Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney

Triple Victory in Three Day Revolution

BY DARRYL CHERNEY

December 21, 1998 Vol. IX, No. II

The California Department of Forestry is one of those agencies that makes you question the purposefulness of your non-violence training. In the battle by Northcoast Earth Firsters to save the remnants of old-growth forest in northern California, CDF has consistently misled us in its attempt to expedite the process through which timber firms must go before commencing logging operations on private lands. In this case, we were trying to save a grove "owned" by Eel River Saw Mills, and we were being told mistruths about when the logging would begin. First, CDF told us that they would approve Timber Harvest Plan (THP) 520 on Friday, October 21. Then they said the 24th, then the 25th.... Normally such bureaucratic piss-poo simply makes me wonder how these guys can even tie their shoes. But on this occasion, there were 250 local citizens determined to defend this grove, known to them as Goshawk Grove in Sanctuary Forest. It was my job to tell them when the sale was approved. And I was getting my information from banana brains in green suits...

Only two months before, the Cahto had been unknown to most environmentalists. But Earth First's new Ukiah organizer, Judi "Bulldozer" Bari, linked with the small Cahto Wilderness Coalition and began sending out fact sheets. Then she organized a 30-person reconnaissance in the guise of a "wilderness walk." We were surprised by the news of the road being punched in, but we weren't unprepared. BLM's new Resource Management Plan, entailing liquidation of half of California's BLM old-growth forest in the next ten years, would not go unchallenged. However, urgent questions arose: would we divide our forces into two actions, Cahto and Sanctuary? Would the Goshawk Grove plan even be approved? And where was the beer? Oh, I needed some Sierra Nevada and fast.

Editor's note: After a three day blockade of the Cahto wilderness, the coalition of West Coast EFers stopped Maxxam's operations in the area. Current Humboldt EFers have informed us that the land being protected in this article stood protected from logging until the early 2000s. This article is the first mention of Judi Bari in the Earth First! Journal.

Californians Start a New Fad: Tree-Sitting Becomes a Pastime

BY JUDI BARI

September 22, 1989, Vol. IX, No. VII

The Earth First! National Tree-Sit Week was a huge success, with 12 tree-sits taking place in 7 states. In California, we had three tree-sits and 10 actions that week.

Two of the tree-sits were in Mendocino County, one on a Georgia Pacific Clearcut near Fort Bragg and one on Hwy 128, the main tourist road to the coast. The other tree-sit was in Assemblyman Don Hauser's front yard, where 20 people occupied a large tree to protest Hauser's blatant toadyism for the timber industry.

California EFers also went on a virtual rampage of actions. On Monday, August 14, people took over the Pacific Lumber sales office in Martin County to protest Maxxam's liquidation of the ancient redwoods. Wednesday we picketed a destructive gyppo logging company in Whitethorne, and ended up in a brawl with the loggers, who threatened to kill us. Additionally, Los Angeles EF! harassed Maxxam at Maxxam headquarters in Los Angeles.

Thursday morning Sonoma County EF! hung a banner over the freeway reading "Clearcutting is Eco-Terrorism." Friday morning the new Albion EF! Group sponsored its first blockade of a Louisiana Pacific logging road. We built a slash barricade and leafleted people

driving by, and turned back our first LP log truck by pushing an old car in front of it. A human-sized Spotted Owl danced on the car while EF! musicians played "You Can't Clearcut Your Way to Heaven."

We concluded tree-sit week in Mendocino County with a blockade at the Fort Bragg Georgia Pacific mill. GP closed the mill two hours before the demo, handing us another victory, and we marched on Fort Bragg's main street.

On the way to that final demo in Fort Bragg, a car carrying Earth First! Organizers Darryl Cherney, Judy Bari, and Pam Davis was rear-ended by a logging truck on Hwy 128, ramming the car into a pick-up driven by a Fish & Game employee out on a Spotted Owl survey. The impact totally destroyed Judi's car, but miraculously the EFers and their four children sustained only minor injuries. We don't think this accident was intentional, but certainly many coincidences were involved. The truck that hit us belonged to the same gyppo hauling company (Redwood Coast Trucking) that we blockaded on the LP logging road in Albion the day before. If nothing else, the accident brought out the issues of logging employees working weekends, barreling down our public roads trying to keep up with the timber industry's accelerated cutting as they strip the last of our forests before we can get regulations passed to slow them down.

National Tree-Sit week was a tribute to Earth First!'s decentralization coming from the grassroots of Earth First!. With no direction from the supposed national leaders. Locally it also came from the grassroots, and involved many people beside EFers. It raised people's awareness and helped prepare the way for the upcoming statewide initiative to ban clearcutting and preserve old-growth.



Judi speaks out at Headwaters Rally, March 26, 1996

Ukiah Burning

BY JUDI BARI AND DARRYL CHERNEY

May 1, 1990, Vol. X, No. V

On March 17, Ukiah Earth First! Braved the crowds at the Redwood Region Logging Conference to climb a giant automated logging machine, called a feller-buncher, and hang a banner on it that read "This Thing Kills Jobs and Forests." One of EF!'s climbers, Brett Waggle, a logger from Springville, CA, said, "The feller-buncher will put my family out of work. We can't afford \$700,000 machines, and my family is set up for saw logs, not pecker poles."

The feller-buncher can handle trees up to only 28 inches in diameter, and it is common for it to grab several 8" or less trees at a time and uproot them. It was previously used only on plantations growing trees for pulp and wood fiber products. But the trees being cut in the decimated third-growth redwood forests of Mendocino County are now so small that feller-bunchers are being used here.

The logging conference organizers knew EF! was coming, and they knew we had our eyes on that particular machine. They had tightened security around it, but the two climbers managed to get up anyway while a bunch of more hippie-looking EFers created a distraction singing songs like "Where Are We Gonna Work When The Trees Are Gone" and "Tonka Toys." The two climbers were eventually arrested and charged with trespassing.

Happy Ending: A few weeks after the logging conference, this same feller-buncher—the pride of Okerstrom Logging Co.—burned in the woods. This is the second feller-buncher that Okerstrom has lost to mysterious equipment fires in Mendocino Co. this year. "Either this thing is a \$700,000 lemon, or there are some heroic people out there in the woods," said Judi Bari of Ukiah Earth First! When asked by local news media if she was responsible for the feller-buncher fire, Judi replied, "It wasn't me. I was home in bed with five witnesses."

Editor's note: "Ukiah Burning" was published just weeks before the bombing that hospitalized both authors. While recovering just months after the

continued on next page



Reflect on the Past

continued from page 1

conversation, however, quickly began to stink like a 4-day-old dead rat when they started asking me personal questions; I yelled at the officers that my friend was critically injured upstairs, and stated that I was leaving and not answering any of their questions: I was then taken to the Oakland Police Department (OPD) where I was held incommunicado for hours. An attorney tried to get into my holding pen, being barred from seeing me, while the crowd at both the hospital and the OPD (where Darryl was held, somewhere else in the department bowels) grew to over a hundred people in just a couple hours. This was all before "instant messaging," texts and all that.)

Well, it was more than fishy—it was downright conspiratorial, and what unfolded over the next few days boggled the mind, since we hadn't known we were being tracked so closely by the FBI, despite the fact that it had been a year since they dragged Dave Foreman out of bed in his ivvies and arrested Peg Millett, Mark Davis and Mark Baker for monkeywrenching in Arizona. Both Judi and Darryl were arrested for transporting the bomb, and the FBI and OPD held a press conference to proclaim Judi, Darryl and Earth First! terrorists as they tried mightily to erode any support EF! might have. It didn't work. Eight weeks later, they were forced to withdraw the charges, but the attempts by the FBI to try to frame the two—particularly Judi—continued as they destroyed evidence, manufactured evidence, fed false information to the press, harassed every activist they could find and used their iron fist to try to crush the movement. Sound familiar? Precursor of the Green New Deal? But there were no fires, much less any kind of violence perpetrated by anyone associated with EF! As Judi deserved wryly at one point, the FBI would have people believe that "not only are Earth First!ers terrorists who carry bombs around in our cars, but we are stupid, violent terrorists who hide our anti-personnel bombs under our own car seats."

Fast-forward to 2002 when the lawsuit put together by Judi finally first into a federal courtroom—twelve years after the incident, and tragically, five years after Judi died from breast cancer. Judi worked on the case until her dying day, literally, and made her friends and colleagues promise that we would carry on the case. We did, and thanks to heroic efforts of a scrappy team of radical lawyers, we won! The jury found that the FBI and OPD violated Judi and Darryl's First and Fourth Amendment rights: free speech and protection against illegal search and seizure. The jury's decision was unanimous and

80 percent of the award was for violations of the First Amendment, recognizing the FBI's deliberate smear campaign against Earth First! and against Judi and Darryl.

Judi's victory against the FBI is an important and unprecedented mile marker to remember, as is the bombing itself. We commemorate it 20 years later because it is important that we never forget, and that we remember to never give up and to keep a bold resistance to strong arm tactics as well as to assaults on Mama Earth. Equally important is recognizing what Judi brought to Earth First!, which goes beyond her challenge to the FBI. She

brought us lessons from her background as a labor organizer and analysis that helped evolve our radical thinking both philosophically and strategically. We are reprinting her zine, *Revolutionary Ecology*, where she discusses biocentrism in the context of radical thought: e.g., *Biocentrism Contradicts Capitalism*, *Biocentrism Contradicts Communism*, and *Biocentrism Contradicts Patriarchy*. Check it out.

Judi is an icon, but she would bristle at being canonized. She is symbolic of a revolutionary, irreverent and bold approach to biocentrism, and she had her share of shouting matches with other movement icons; in fact, she reveled in it.

Recognizing the roots of biocentrism not only in ancient native wisdom but "in context of today's industrial society, biocentrism is profoundly revolutionary, challenging the system to its core," as Judi puts forward in *Revolutionary Ecology*. While it's easy to see that "biocentrism contradicts capitalism," and that "modern day corporations are the very worst manifestations of this sickness," her essay purports that biocentrism contradicts communism even though her background in revolutionary thought was rooted in Marxism. This is because, really, all leftist ideologies call for the redistribution of spoils from the rape of the Earth. She saw the possibility of ecological socialism that would organize human societies in a manner that is compatible with the way nature is organized.

The world around us changes, sometimes at breakneck speed. The context of movement building is always in flux and demands that we always evolve our thinking and strategic organizing. At the same time, it is

valuable (and smart) to weave in institutional memory and not lose the wisdom embodied in the revolutionary thinking of our companions that are no longer around getting in our face, reminding us of their views. Viva Judi!

Celebrate Judi Bari!

An event marking the 20th anniversary of the pipe bomb attack on Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney will take place in the San Francisco Bay Area, California, over the course of two days. On Sunday, May 23, an event dubbed "Revolutionary Ecology" will take place at La Pena Cultural Center in Berkeley, (3105 Shattuck, across from the Long Haul Infoshop), with a panel of speakers including Ramona Afrika, music by Darryl Cherney and others, film and an exciting historical exhibit. On the actual anniversary, May 24, people from near and far will gather at the moment of the bomb explosion at the site it blasted through Judi's car, nearly killing her and forever changing the Earth First! movement. The site is on Park Boulevard in Oakland, CA. Details for both events will be posted on the JUDIBARI.ORG. Info number: (510)-548-3113.



Judi and Darryl wailin' for the woods, 1990

photo courtesy: Evan Johnson

bomb that almost killed her, the indomitable Judi Bari wrote the following in response to Dave Foreman and Nancy Morton's article "Good luck, darlin'. It's been great," which begins, "We feel like we should be sitting at the bar of a seedy honkey-tonk, drinking Lone Star, thumbing quarters in the country-western jukebox, and writing this letter on a bar napkin."

Expand Earth First!

December 21, 1985

Dear EF!ers,

I feel like I should be sitting around base camp listening to Bob Marley, smoking a hooter, and writing this on the back of a rolling paper. But if Dave Foreman wants a divorce from all the hippie leftist anarchist humanists in Earth First!, I've got a few things to say.

First of all, I'm not out to trash Dave Foreman...But in spite of the fact that many of us think putting the Earth first involves profound social change, it is wrong for Dave to characterize us as "leftists" or "a class struggle group." For one thing, we are too irreverent and we have too much of a sense of humor to be considered leftists. Besides, we are not trying to overthrow capitalism for the benefit of the proletariat. In fact, the society we envision is not spoken to in any leftist theory I've ever heard of. Those theories deal only with how to redistribute the spoils of exploiting the earth to benefit a different class of humans. We need to build a

society that is not based on the exploitation of the Earth at all—a society whose goal is to achieve a stable state with nature for the benefit of all species....

Nobody has all the answers, and one of the strengths of Earth First! has always been our diversity. Rednecks for Wilderness and Hippy Wu-Wu's can co-exist in Earth First!, as long as we are all fighting to save this planet. Our decentralized non-structure leaves room for many strategies to be followed at once. But if Dave or anyone else starts insisting on conventionality, we will lose our spark.

I don't see Dave's leaving as a split in Earth First! but rather as an evolution. We are not moving away from his ideas, we are expanding them. The activities he proposes are not in competition with ours, and there is no reason for anyone to have to choose sides. Things are not the same as they were ten years ago and Earth First! is changing too. But we will continue, and a year from now we'll still be out there kicking corporate butt.

—Judi Bari

This special edition of the EF! Journal commemorates Judi and Darryl's commitment to the Earth First! movement. Back issues of the Journal are available for \$5 each. Order our near-complete, 29-year set for \$500.

Visualize the Future



Armed with Visions

clear as cut glass and just as dangerous

FOREST! WHAT FOREST?

I HEARD THE TRUCKS

Chain saws next

People need lumber, bio-fuels, paper, houses, shipping pallets,
WHATEVER, who cares?

I heard the trucks

Chain saws next

Another golf course, another shopping mall,
another development of mega-mansions

Another clear-cut

Another wasteland

I use to be a forest.

It was total stress.

I HEARD THE CARS

Campers next

People cooking, playing, fishing, sleeping, appreciating my
shade

Birds, bees and flying creatures in my limbs

Squirrels scurry up and down my trunk.

Roots deep, holding soil

I use to be a forest. Total harmony.

I HEARD THE TRUCKS

Chain saws next

FELL THOSE TREES

Houses needed

Industrial parks needed

Shopping malls needed

Highways needed

Theme parks needed

I WAS STRESSED.....NOW I'M DEAD

NO MORE TRUCKS

No more chain saws

No more birds

No more bees

No more wildlife

No more humans

No more shade

No more soil

NO MORE HARMONY.....I AM DEAD

Does anyone remember Easter Island, Henderson Island?

Firewood needed

Houses needed

Timber needed for rolling huge god rocks uphill

Monuments to the gods....no more trees needed

No one noticed, no one counted, no more trees, no more wildlife, no
more food, no more shade, no more life

Stone monuments actually do speak

—Jeanne O'Brien

Crusade

This
our WAR
the enduring struggle
for our specie's very survival

The struggle
of our generation
lift up its emerald banner
and lay waste to those who would despoil our home

Spread our rallying cry across the globe:
LONG LIVE THE EARTH WAR!

We know who we are
a thin green line
holding back the apocalypse

—Johannes Pedersen

Flood and Fire

Iron-gray clouds hang heavy across the sky

Cold rain pours, patters, pours again

Creeks become raging brown torrents

Cascading in white falls of roaring mist

The swollen lake is beige for days

Elsewhere...

Relentless drought withers plants and people alike

Fires race insatiable, unstoppable, turning all to lifeless ruin

Rivers trickle, streams and ponds are but cracked earth

Water is priceless yet pricey, a treasure to kill for

This rain cannot quench that fire

Flood here won't water crops across mountain or sea

Here too much

There too little

Balance is gone

—Sasha Paris

COYOTE & THE DOGS

One day the dogs

were going into the sweat lodge

Coyote wanted to come too

but the dogs wouldn't let him in

"We have delicate noses

& you don't smell too good

Let's face it

We're refined & sophisticated

You're dirty & disgusting"

The dogs took off their fine fur coats

& went naked into the lodge

leaving coyote alone

outside with nothing better to do

than rearrange & soil those coats completely

set fire to the roof of the lodge

& call out

"Stop stealing those coats

or the dogs will have to go naked"

Then he chose a shadow to hide in

where he could watch

the dogs come running out

each putting on

the first coat they could

before they were all gone

Even now when dogs meet

at the ends of their leashes

you'll see them sniffing each other thoroughly

delicate nose to butt

looking for the scent of their own coats

Meanwhile coyote throws back his head

wild & free

No one to feed him

No porch to lie on

No dish of water waiting

No one to teach him tricks

No one to teach him

not to howl

—Steve Toth

TO A CLOUD

Even a small cloud is enormous

Draped gray on a craggy spruce mountainside

Admonishing eagles to keep the hush in their flight

You keep the water from being blue

I see you settled against the rock

And know you're a part of the land

Just a breath of the trees

Broken free to drift above the gray water,

Her red fish and brown bears,

Then you disappear back to the ground

To think about drifting again.

—Jenny McBride

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

We Rally for Tristan Anderson

One Year After Shooting at the Separation Wall

BY KP

On March 15, friends and supporters of Tristan Anderson held a rally at the Israeli Consulate in San Francisco to demand the Israeli government take full responsibility for shooting and critically injuring Bay Area activist Tristan Anderson on March 13, 2009.

Tristan remains in a hospital in Tel Aviv one year later, speaking to the gravity of his injuries. He was shot in the head by a high velocity tear gas canister, which was fired at him—rather than lobbed onto the ground in order to release its gas. The demonstration at the separation wall, a regular event in the West Bank village of Ni'lin, a non-violent demonstration that was wrapping up. Tristan was taking photos, as he had at demonstrations and political events everywhere from Oaxaca, Mexico to Palestine and Berkeley, California.

The Israeli government recently released its official report on the shooting, which is inconsistent with the injuries Tristan sustained and has been called a cover-up of crimes by Israeli forces by those who witnessed the shooting that nearly took his life. Friends and family are outraged at the report, which brings no charges of any kind against anyone involved in the shooting. Michel Sfard, Tristan's Israeli attorney, called the report "gravely negligent."

"If a Jewish man had been shot and wounded, there is no doubt that the entire village would be under curfew and Israel would do everything possible to investigate," Sfard said. "I am embarrassed to say that the investigation team did not even go to Ni'lin, the scene of the shooting."

Seven Palestinian and international eyewitnesses to the shooting conclusively demonstrated that Tristan was neither masked nor throwing rocks, as Israeli police have claimed. At a press conference held by Anderson's attorney at the Alternative Information Center in Jerusalem, photographs were displayed showing the impossibility of what the Israeli police claim. The report also reveals that the police never collected physical evidence of any kind.

Tristan's family is preparing an appeal to a higher prosecuting attorney to reopen the case and conduct a real investigation. The Anderson family has said that Israel should take responsibility for the shooting, provide care for Tristan as long as he needs it and bring the people involved to justice. For additional background about Tristan's case, see JUSTICEFORTRISTAN.ORG.

Meanwhile, Tristan's partner Gabby is with him, and has been since the beginning of his hospitalization. She was a fellow treesitter with Tristan at the nearly two-year long treesit in the oaks at University of California, Berkeley campus from 2006 to 2008. Gabby was with him when he was shot, and continues to be by his side, sending reports to his friends that he is showing good

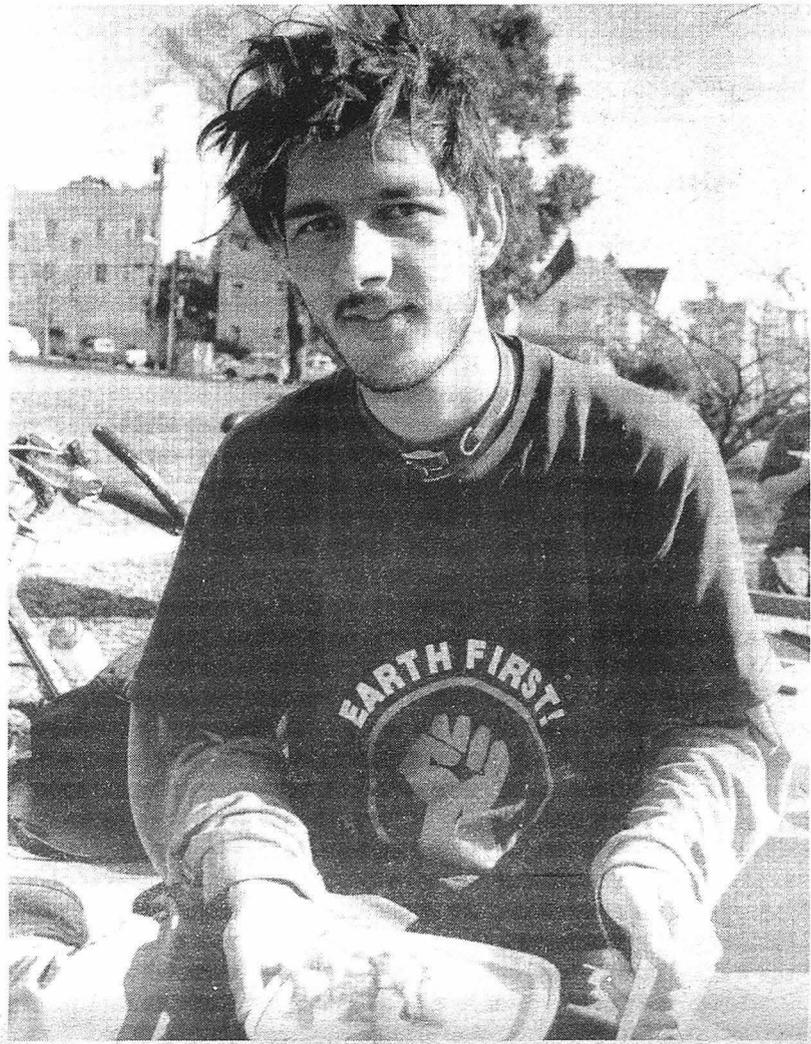


photo courtesy: East Bay Food Not Bombs

Tristan serving Food Not Bombs at People's Park in Oakland, California.

progress—though his recovery has been very slow and incremental and his future still uncertain. His friends recently were very happy to get a couple of short emails directly from Tristan, the first ones, with help from Gabby, assures us that he is getting better. You can send well wishes to Tristan via Trismegatus71@gmail.com.

Issue Explanation—Beltane

BY SEAN DONAHUE

The smooth, muscular curves of the supple boughs of a young Aspen. The pulsing rise of Birch sap. Rushing water. Lush moss.

Or maybe its the scent of Chapparal hanging heavy in the air after a desert rain.

Or the wind blowing in from the sea on the first warm day of spring.

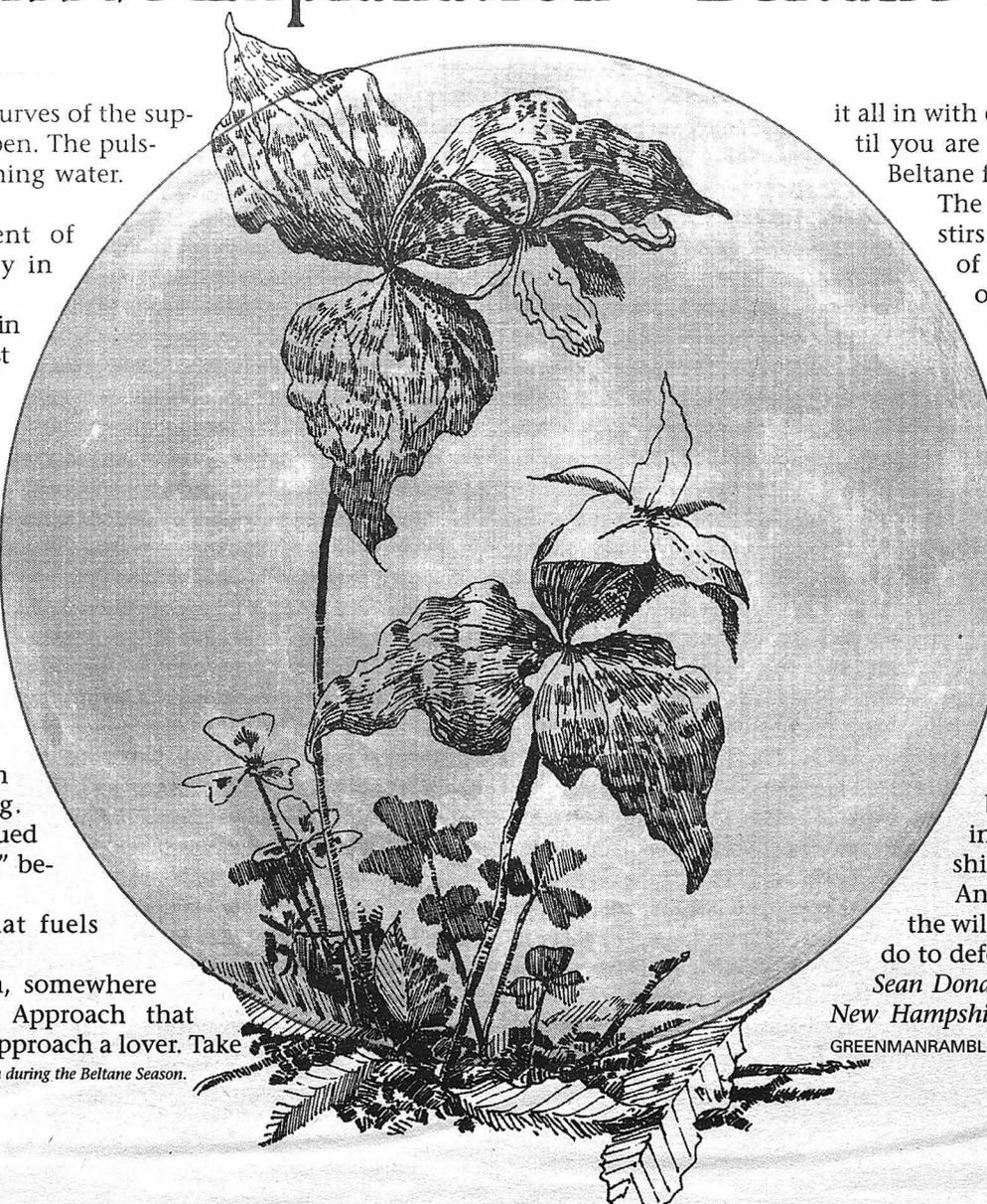
The living world seduces us, bringing us into our bodies, calling us to taste, smell, see and feel.

Beltane is a festival of fertility and lust. The Celts marked it with wild excess bon fires and sweaty ecstatic dancing and heady Heather mead, and lovers sneaking off into the forest at night, bringing back green boughs in the morning. The festivities continued until May's "Honey Moon" began to wane.

What's the passion that fuels your fire?

Get outside this month, somewhere breathtakingly beautiful. Approach that place the way you would approach a lover. Take

Red Trillium, in bloom during the Beltane Season.



it all in with every one of your senses until you are trembling. Let this be your Beltane fire.

The hunger for wildness that stirs the blood, the fierce love of the living Earth are fed by our sensual experience of the wild world around us that the delight in seeing a Dandelion cracking through the concrete of a Manhattan sidewalk or the sharp intake of breath when you wade into a snowmelt stream in the high Rockies. Terry Tempest Williams describes it perfectly, "No longer numb, we feel the magnetic pull of our bodies toward something stronger, more than simply ourselves. Arousal becomes a dance with longing. We form a secret partnership with possibility."

And aroused by the beauty of the wild, there is nothing we won't do to defend it.

Sean Donahue is an herbalist in Keene, New Hampshire, check out his writings at GREENMANRAMBLINGS.BLOGSPOT.COM.

Renewable Conflicts...

BY SASHA

Hundreds of people gathered on March 10 and marched through the town of Nungba in the Tamenglong district of Eastern India to protest against the Tipaimukh Dam—the latest page in a saga of popular resistance that has stretched out over the last 15 years. The Tipaimukh enflames political tensions between India and neighbor Bangladesh, which has undergone desertification, siltation and water contamination since a previous dam, the Farakka Barrage, blocked its access to the Ganges River in the 1970s. Other dams, like the Mapithel and Khuga, have scarred the ecology of the Indian subcontinent, and indigenous peoples have learned that the environment will be ruined for the reward of marginal amounts of electricity. Yet the Tipaimukh is a symbol of much more: ongoing attacks against nature and people in the name of the Green Revolution.

Slated to stand almost 500 feet high, the Tipaimukh threatens to submerge over 106 square miles of land, and would be positioned over one of the most seismically active faults on Earth. Especially endangered by this huge ecological alteration are 3,523 square miles of

diverse terrain where populous indigenous communities of the Zeliangrong and Hmar peoples dwell among bison, sambhar, hog deer, the rare hog and ferret badgers, and spotted linsangs. Arguing that over 30,000 workers will be brought into the region, the dam's directors have put forth a plan to relocate the indigenous communities, moving them from their subsistence rice farms to more commercial farming areas.

"Memorandums and letters by the score, rallies, sit-in protests, blockades, strikes, press releases, meetings, leaflets and email campaigns have all been used..." said Dr. R.K. Ranjan Singh, the chairman of Citizens Concerned for Dams and Development, in a statement to World Rivers Review. "One wonders what it would take for the government to listen to the people, and stop the dam."

The day after the demonstration in Nungba a one-day summit to confront deforestation took place in Paris, and the most heavily forested nations in the world insisted that a plan to save the world's forests is in the works. Meanwhile, the developed nations of the world are moving their political focus from "dirty" energy like fossil fuels, coal and oil, to so-called "clean" energy

such as biomass, nuclear, hydroelectric power and wind power, not to mention liquid natural gas, carbon sequestration, coal gasification and so on. As major energy corporations gather to invest more into "renewable energy" projects, the less developed nations around the world are

misinformation and repression. From Mozambique to Ethiopia, green imperislists are preparing to sink their teeth into "renewable resources" of biomass, wind, water and solar, and are given cover by many nations' suppression of information. One of the most egregious "renewable"



Omo River Valley: Site of Gibe 3

commissioned by international finance to embrace the new and often untested technologies. The hypocrisy is intense.

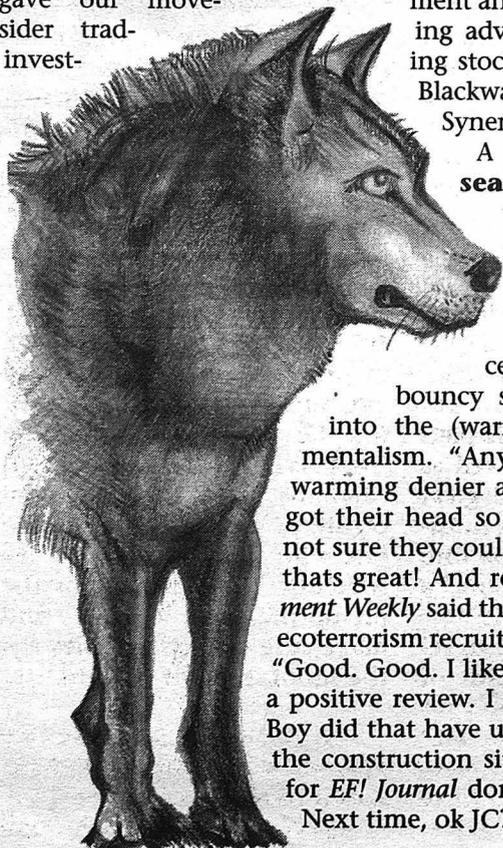
Some of the most vulnerable sites of exploitation lie in Africa. Plans to increase the energy infrastructure of Africa are supported with immense campaigns of

projects is the proposed Gibe 3 Dam, which is being constructed on Ethiopia's Omo River. Gibe 3 is designed to be 720 feet high, and would be the tallest dam in all of Africa. The dam would disrupt the entire bioregion of the lower Omo Valley up to Kenya's

continued on next page

A **bureaucracy-loving, creekwater-drinking, finally breathing-enough-fresh-air-to-think-clearly wolf** goes to the **ever-dubious EPA**, who on March 26 cited their veto authority under the Clean Water Act (CWA) in a proposal to "significantly restrict or prohibit" mountaintop mining at the Spruce No. 1 mine in Logan County, West Virginia. The Spruce No. 1 mine, which has been tied up in litigation since 2007, is one of the largest mining projects ever proposed in central Appalachia. It's impact would bury seven miles of streams, destroy over 2000 acres of forest and ruin local water quality for both aquatic species and humans. The EPA has only used this power under the CWA 12 times since 1972, claiming, "Dude, like, the CWA was totally in our files like 40 years ago, but like, I think it got soaked in some coal sludge at this Massey stockholder party or something and then, uh, Ted tried to run it through the wash and probably forgot about it."

A **comfortable-armchair-sitting, money-counting, thirty-years-late wolf** goes to former *Wall Street Journal* editor **Paul Craig Roberts** for his recent article "US Justice: Welcome to the Modern American Gulag," in which he reprimands the State for its treatment of "radical activists in the environmental, (anti)-globalization, anti-nuclear, sustainable agriculture and anarchist movements," claiming that they are being unjustly routed into special detention facilities, given bogus terrorism charges and scandalously silenced. Mr. Roberts gave our move-



ment another hand with some in-

ing advice, and the **EF!** is now ing stock in Wackenhut Security, Blackwater, Smith & Wesson, and Synergy Kombucha.

A **popcorn-throwing, seat-kicking, monkey-wrenching-the-movie-projector wolf** to the increasingly antagonistic **James Cameron**, who has used his recent movie "Avatar" as a bouncy springboard for jumping into the (warming) pool of environmentalism. "Anybody that is a global-warming denier at this point in time has got their head so deeply up their ass I'm not sure they could hear me." Dang James, that's great! And remember when *Entertainment Weekly* said that "Avatar" is "the perfect ecoterrorism recruiting tool" and you replied, "Good. Good. I like that one. I consider that a positive review. I believe in ecoterrorism." Boy did that have us laughing all the way to the construction site. But why no PR pitch for *EF!* Journal donations or subscriptions? Next time, ok JC?

A **sludge-drinking, viagra-saturated, prozac-wired, lead-poisoned poodle** to the oh-so-progressive **City of San Francisco**, who, according to *Compendium Newsletter*, recently held "compost giveaway" events, where sewage sludge, touted as organic fertilizer, has been lovingly supplied to the city's organic farmers and gardeners. Some of the EPA's scientists have pointed out that the treated sludge can contain trace amounts of almost anything that gets poured down the drain, from heavy metals to endocrine disruptors. In this time of economic downturn, perhaps Americans should look to sewage fertilizer to supplement those high perscription bills? Xanax Eggplant. Think about it.

A **hiding-deep-in-a-winter-hole, reliving-regrettable-decisions-every-day-for-the-rest-of-eternity poodle** to **PETA**, for overlooking the abolition of every manifestation of the ecocidal totality under which billions of sentient animals suffer daily, to instead call for the replacement of Pennsylvania's lovable Punxatawnee Phil with a robot version of the nationally recognized superstar groundhog. In respect for the inherent rights of all beings, PETA has conceded that if RoboPhil, or "the Philinator," recognizes its shadow then it is indeed sentient, and should also be immediately replaced with a rock carving of scantily-clad robot PETA activists in cages, or Bill Murray.

A **gnarled and vengeful, black-lung-wheezing, mercury-poisoned, coal-soot-blackened, union-busting, mountain-hating poodle** to Massey Energy CEO **Don Blankenship** who, in a pathetic and obvious PR move, pledged a relatively minuscule \$1 million towards the relocation of Marsh Fork Elementary School, which sits 400 yards downslope from a 2.8 billion gallon Massey coal sludge impoundment. Not only has Massey been unresponsive to years of protest as hundreds of asthmatic children have continued learning in coal-dust filled classrooms, but the company has fought tooth and nail to build an **additional** coal silo next to the school. In 2009, Massey reported coal revenue of \$2.3 billion. In a recent attempt to diversify the Massey portfolio, Blankenship offered a bid of \$30 million to purchase mining and mineral rights to underground brimstone in the "Red Rock" cliffs along the Southern boundary of the Seventh Layer of Hell. The bid was personally denied by Lucifer, who in a press release stated, "This is all we have left. How do you think it stays so hot down here? Magic? If Massey moves in, that's it. No brimstone means no fire and, hell, I wouldn't be surprised if he's after my job too, that asshole."



Wolves and Poodles

Green Capitalism and the Next World Disorder

continued from page 22

Lake Turkana—the largest desert lake in the world. This area is home to large populations of Nile crocodiles, hippopotamus, and over 40 different species of fish. An estimated 200,000-500,000 people in Ethiopia and Kenya would be adversely affected by the Gibe 3 dam due to the interruption of natural flood cycles, but only 93 people from the area have “officially” been consulted, and USAID workers have suggested that most locals are completely unaware of the project’s existence. The Ethiopian government, bolstered by racist policies of leading financiers, the US and International Monetary Fund, has withheld information about the dam by attacking activists and suppressing close to 50 activist organizations.

With other governments undertaking similar projects, like Korea’s 4-rivers dam, China’s Mekong mainstream dam, and the Tigris and Euphrates dam, the global geo-politics of water teeters on the brink of tumultuous conflict. There is a growing force of resistance against the energy industry’s influence. This resistance is charged with the energy of people who have experienced centuries of “public works” projects only to find constant theft of resources and land.

Betina Cruz Velásquez, co-founder of the People’s Front in Defense of the Land and Territory (FPDTT) in Oaxaca, Mexico, explained the situation of 80,000 people who live in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in an interview with the Transnational Institute: “With the pretext of advancing renewable energy, big corporations are occupying our land with windmills,” she said. “Agriculture, particularly corn plantations, is the essence of our region, and will be completely displaced by the wind farm projects....Also, the development of wind power does not mean that other polluting sources of energy will be closed, such as hydroelectric plants. In fact, just the opposite, there are discussions about the installation of a new nuclear plant in Mexico.”

To halt the development of unwanted wind farms, the FPDTT united with La Otra Campaña and the Zapatista National Liberation Force to occupy land slated for development while making legal demands to nullify the land lease contracts. Through intense resistance, the peoples of Oaxaca regained 400 hectares of land from the Spanish corporation PRENAL and stopped the production of the wind park La Venta IV. Since the fifteenth annual Conference of

Parties (COP15) in Copenhagen last year, the Inter-American Development Bank has offered \$101 million in credits for wind energy in Oaxaca as part of the so-called Climate Change Special Program, and the corporation, ACCIONA, has already been awarded a contract to build three new wind farms. After traveling to Copenhagen on the Trade to Climate Caravan during COP15 to resist false solutions, Cruz Velásquez insists, “I do not place my hopes in Copenhagen, but in the international movement that fights for real solutions.”

A big chunk of that international movement converged on Cochabamba, Bolivia, for the People’s World Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth Rights from April 19-22. Inviting activists from all over the world (including your very own collective of *EF!* journalists), Bolivia brought together a collection of international grassroots organizations in the name of indigenous rights and environmental conservation. The current government of Bolivia came to power in 2004 through revolution led by anarchic assemblages of indigenous community councils against corporate control of natural resources (see Pablo Mamani Ramírez’s, *Microgobiernos de los*

Barrios). It is calling for a “climate court of justice” spurred by a global revolt against “the system of capitalist consumerism.” However, the resistance movement is not proceeding unhindered by the West. On April 18, the day before the summit, the US slashed millions of dollars in climate change funds to both Bolivia and Ecuador for their opposition to the COP.

The US’s actions only prove its reactionary stance towards environmental change, while the gathering in Bolivia demonstrates a concerted defense against the dispossession of millions and the degradation of vast ecosystems. It is obvious that planetary unrest due to climate change and false solutions is already setting the tone of our current historical epoch. The question is when and where the most propitious sites of conflict are situated. The next Conference of Parties (COP16) will be held in one of the biggest hubs of international eco-exploitation, Cancun, Mexico, from November 29 to December 10. Mexico’s egregious human rights and environmental record provides no hope for COP16. Resolution of Earth’s ecological crises can only occur from the outside, from collective acts of resistance.

Pieing 101

BY ANY CREAMS NECESSARY

You are the Hoi Polloi, the master of the world. Perhaps you are strolling from your limousine to that shmansy hotel in Europe for a classic international conference. Perhaps you are sitting on a panel, behind a sturdy oak table with the most respected professionals in your industry. We know who you are, and we’re waiting with our pies on the prize.

From Wile E. Coyote and the Marx Brothers to olde time Court Jesters and around to modern-day activists, piers take the cake when it comes to delivering sweet, sweet shame. The first recorded pieing happened in the 17th Century, when the Spanish politician, Gaspar de Guzman Conde de Olivares, took one in the face from a Portugese nationalist screaming, “Give Portugal back to the people!” Since that time, the terrible scent of lemon marang and other flavorful confections has lingered around every turn in the corridors of power.

Pieing first emerged onto the Earth First! scene in 1988, when the Biotic Baking Brigade made its first, brazen appearance on the pages of the *EF!* Journal (along with then spokesman, Simon “Chico” Zapotes), announcing their regret of not “delivering a lovely refried-bean pie unto the venerated visage of the late lamented author [Ed Abbey].” After a sour response from Earth First! co-founder, Howie Wolke, the pieing proletariat suffered a split, with the Biotic Baking Brigade and its creamy antics enduring a purge at the

hands of the Revolutionary Eco-terrorist Pie Brigade. In a flaming critique sent to the *EF!* Journal via a Dear Shit for Brains letter, REPG’s Chairman Mikal declared “they engage in petty boulangeirie hooliganism for the furtherance of their hidden agenda and are usurpers!”

For years, the BBB laid down its pies until the baddest brigadiers, Judi Bari, threw down the proverbial oven mitt. In 1994, Bari and an accomplice pied Mark “Golddigger” Goldowitz for claiming to be a SLAPP specialist, taking money from activists and then failing to get them out of trouble. Three years later, the corrupt CEO of clearcuttin’, junk bonds dealin’ Maxxam, David Horowitz, received the vengeance of the BBB by way of a peach pie to his shiny cranium. Thus began a pastry bonanza of high profile pieings, flanings and tartings that would lay to waste the suits and ties of the CEOs of Monsanto, Novartis, Enron and Chevron as well as representatives of the WTO, IMF, World Bank and more.

Which brings us to our first important lesson: aim high! No, that doesn’t mean everyone should get pied ontop of their head like Horowitz; in fact, different people have different needs. It means you’d be surprised at the banquets you can get into with a good suit and hair cut—when pieing, stick to the crème de la crème.

Which brings us to the second point: when going for that tender moment of giddy humiliation, the BBB prefers vegan whipped cream on paper plates (unspiced, of course). This will help

maximize the sloosh effect with paper plates that will conform to the contours of the victim’s face. Paper plates also perform valuable safety roles. To quote Jude Abbot, “a pie is clearly an ineffective weapon compared to, say, a brick or a bar stool, and we should use appropriate tools at appropriate times...While it may be tempting for enterprising first-time pie-slingers to wallop a deserving crook smack in the kisser with the cream of righteousness (in other words, to smash the pie in the target’s face), we would urge caution given that the act of throwing the pie is significant in and of itself, regardless of where or whether it hits the mark or how hard.”

While throwing your pie, you are going to want a nifty slogan (the preferred “it’s a good day to pie!” has always worked well), but planning is more than slogans. Think about multiple piers from different angles as well as diversion tactics and the great escape. Remember as your hoisting that big apple crumble into the dazed face of civilization, “a rolling pin gathers no moss.”

It is absolutely essential to remember that, in the words of Agent Creamy Genes, who gave geneticist Dr. Neil First a face full of flan, pieing is a means by which “Humor must replace fear.” In its book, *Pie Any Means Necessary*, the BBB insists, “One



aspect of the BBB’s campaign that distinguishes us from other freedom fighters is that our weapons of choice hurt nothing more than the image and ego of our targets. Although we don’t claim to be “nonviolent” in the proactive Gandhian sense, we do claim to be “not violent.” The principle is simple: If the people pie, the leaders will swallow.” When indulging in a delicious pieing plot, you will have to consider the victim: is she a little old lady? Does she have a debilitating spinal disease? Are you thinking about approaching her from behind while she’s trying to reach out to an Anarchist Book Fa... what I’m trying to say is, pick on someone your own size (maybe try someone who’s bigger for the pie-up-the-nose effect), and make sure that, when pies fly, the proof is in the custard.

This dossier was assembled from information provided by the Biotic Baking Brigade’s book, Pie Any Means Necessary. For a copy, check out AK Press, AKPRESS.ORG

2010 Earth First! Organizers Conference and Winter Rendezvous Report-Back

BY MICROBE

"Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world, the blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere the ceremony of innocence is drowned; the best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity," wrote William Butler Yeats in his 1919 release, "A Second Coming," during the apocalyptic aftermath of World War I. The various plagues of civilization are quickening, and the "ceremony of innocence" does seem drowned. But the counterpoint to disaster exists, and it's especially felt when some of the best gather, many of whom are anarchists filled with powerful convictions and the passionate intensity. That is the feeling I had in Santa Barbara during the Earth First! Organizers' Conference and Winter Rendezvous.

The OC and Winter Rondo was held in the mountains north of Santa Barbara, February 11-15, at Spirit Pines, an ecovillage on the edge of the Los Padres National Forest. The sun shone brightly each day, and though afternoon and evening winds turned the main gathering space/tarp shelter into a runaway pirate ship and played dice with a few tents, the weather was golden. Holding EF! gatherings on private rather than so-called public lands has some definite advantages, especially in terms of security. There was only one road into the place that was easily monitored, and the po-po needed a warrant to enter. Obviously we can assume that informants were on hand, but knowing the freddies and leo's couldn't simply roll right in took some of the edge off.

Thursday through Saturday consisted of a series of discussions and presentations concerning ongoing movement issues. Among the important topics discussed were "isms" in the radical environmental movement, dealing with informers, prisoner support and relocating the *Earth First! Journal*. On "isms," those present were unanimous in holding that discrimination based on ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation has no place in Earth First!, and that instances of discrimination within the movement must continue to be vigorously opposed. Concerns were raised about an anti-oppression policy that does

fense to traditional leftist issues.

Regarding informants, organizers consented on a basic statement expressing our condemnation of informants and a serious subsidiary, clarifying statement. See *graybox*.

Regarding prisoner support, there was agreement that we need to step-up letter writing to those in the cage. If you are reading this and you are not corresponding with a prisoner, we ask, why not? Letters are part of the lifeline prisoners have, and they need us to remind them that we continue fighting and we have definitely not forgotten them. If you're not writing to a prisoner now, stop reading this article, go to the back pages, find a prisoner to correspond with, and send them a letter. (Make sure to follow letter-writing guidelines so that the letter reaches them and does not contain any content that might make matters worse for them.) The *Journal* will still be here when you finish, and reading this and other articles will have that much more meaning now that you have reached out and supported someone. It's easy to forget but important to remember that Earth and animal liberation prisoners have sacrificed their liberty for the Earth and animals.

The 2010 Earth First! Organizers' Conference consented on this position statement:

Earth First! will not associate with, and will ostracize, informants.

Examples include:

—Informants not being welcomed at Earth First! gatherings, events, meetings, campaigns and actions;

—Informants not using the *Earth First! Journal* of Earth First! related online communication to do campaign work.

If informants attempt to re-integrate into other activist groups, we will identify them and expose their history as informants.

We recognize that people associating with informants compromises our solidarity with non-cooperating individuals, and jeopardizes our collective security.

The other main issue that came up with prisoners is that supporting them does not end with the completion of their sentence. People coming out of prison need help on everything from dealing with parole issues, including employment and a permanent residence, to having a quiet place to chill out and try to deal with the psychological aftermath of incarceration. Finally, as discussed on the next page, we discussed a plan to de-centralize aspects of the EF!

mad wicked humor exists within EF!. Love songs featured strap-ons and mullets; a crazed, naked swamp monkey from the Everglades leaped into the circle and nearly carried off one of the Dennises (the one whose warrior society poetry crackled through the night); more awesome



EF!ers get rowdy for the Earth at the Gaviota Oil Heating Facility.

poetry from Karen, Nettle and others deepened connections we all feel with the land and our relations. There were incorrigible bears cracking up at the writing of Florida Power and Light CEO's editorial condemning Everglades Earth First! reaffirmed exactly why we continue fighting. But above all were the fierce howls for Marie, Sadie, Exile, Eric, Jonathan, Daniel and

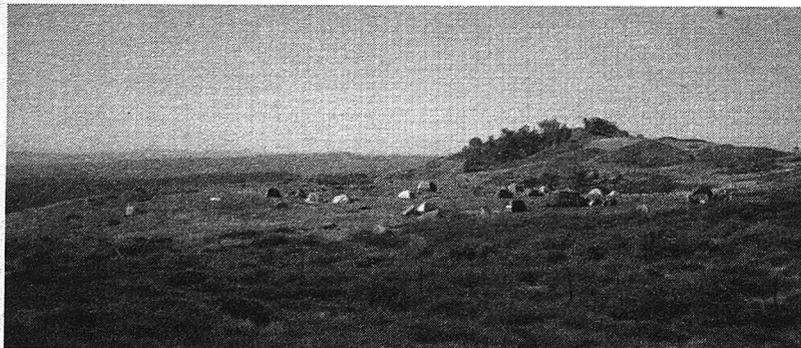
going to Babylon fulfilled lyrics from a song by a new EFler named Yellow Bird: "death reggae on the freeway, in the marketplace and where the children play, death reggae, let us waste away and celebrate death, 'cause every day is doomsday." WTF? Well, we jumped into vehicles to leave the spirit pines

behind and reconnoitered at Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch (I shit you not). Then we visited the Gaviota facility where offshore oil is refined. After that we visited the Santa Barbara Environmental Defense Center (EDC) and left a calling card. EDC is accepting money from the Texas oil development firm, Plains Exploration and Production (PXP), in exchange for its blessing to slant drill into state waters in the Tranquillon Ridge north of Santa Barbara. After the Rondo action some dumbass accused Earth First! of pouring oil on EDC's earth flag. That was molasses, as confirmed by some sugar deprived EF!ers who licked some "oil" off EDC's wall.

After EDC we took our message to the pier and to a local outdoor mall, where locals and tourists were briefly awakened from their ignorant slumbers to the fact that more oil drilling would further pollute their coast. If one can perceive for a moment the world beyond their own addled ego, it is easy to see that in the endgame of civilization, every day is doomsday.

If you're thinking I have forgotten something in this article, then you're right on two fronts. Most importantly, I have not yet acknowledged the EF! crew in Santa Barbara. Y'all are fucking awesome! The location was magic, the food was excellent, anything that anyone needed was at hand, and any time you asked, a welcoming, friendly SB EF!er was there to help. We should never forget that this uncompromising type of mutual aid and good will is also what helps make Earth First! unique. To Alex, Emily, Mike, Carleigh, Steve, and all the SB EF!ers whose name my sleep-challenged brain is forgetting right now, a million thanks and hugs. Also, I am sure I have forgotten to include numerous workshops and other folks who made the OC/Winter Rondo a great success. Jelly rolls and atomic slugs to everybody!

Microbe likes how the sun plays on the surfaces of dilapidated buildings and crumbling freeway off-ramps.



A view of the camp-out from a far

not include speciesism. Also, some organizers were excessively concerned that socio-economic issues and the war threatened to shift the focus of EF! away from wilderness de-

Journal, as well as the proposal to move the *Journal* office from Tucson to the Everglades.

Saturday night was the night to howl. It proved again what incredible talent, creativity, and

our other friends who the corporate-state has imprisoned for their dedication to stopping the war against the natural world.

Sunday consisted of workshops ranging from radical mycology to basic blockades to pirate radio to EF! and the student movement. As usual, presenters were spitting radical facts and figures and rallying newer folks to a cause greater than themselves.

Santa Barbara is occupied Chumash land, and I want to send a personal and collective thanks to Monique Sonoquie, a Chumash woman leading the struggle to preserve the Husahkiw-Chumash wind caves, a sacred site of the Chumash people. Monique took time out to come to the gathering and talk about this issue and how it affects the Chumash and their connection to the land and their ancestors.

After the Rondo, a series of actions took place focusing on the proposal to expand oil drilling off the Santa Barbara coast. EF! Rondo actions always have that weird mix of celebratory joy and a funeral dirge, since they often involve leaving the mountains and heading to Babylon. In this case, leaving Spirit Pines and

When Talks Turn into Action

BY NETTLE

During the 2010 Earth First! Organizers Conference the *EF! Journal* Collective arrived with a proposal to decentralize aspects of the whole operation. The proposal was well-received by those who hold a long-term investment in the *EF! Journal*, our movement and the future of both as we approach our 30th anniversary.

Decentralizing discussions began in the *Journal* office after the Summer 2010 Round River Rendezvous, flourishing from dialog about how simple restructuring could switch-up the workload of the *EF! Journal* Collective, giving us more time to focus on the main components of the publication. Some aspects of the proposal we presented have been incorporated into a larger timeline to relocate the *EF! Journal* office to the Florida Everglades. Here is the breakdown from our end.

The main aspects we have been looking to outsource are the distribution of merchandise, re-designing and maintaining the website, housing and fundraising.

In August 2009 we outsourced the distribution of Earth First! merchandise to The Gloo Factory; WWW.PEACESUPPLIES.ORG, a local, radical print shop in Tucson that has printed *EF!* trinkets and t-shirts for

20 years. Be sure to check out the WWW.EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG store for new additions.

Here's a question: how do a bunch of psydo-Luddites figure out what is best when it comes to creating a decent website? The *EF! Journal* website has been a heavily debated topic for years. Ideas of ditching the printed *EF! Journal* for a web-only news source have been discussed and (luckily) squashed, but the need for the *EF! Journal* website to evolve is a difficult one to crush. The re-designed *EF! Journal* website will be a more regularly updated, open-source publishing site for news and actions worldwide. Currently, a group of folks are in dialog about these plans, which also include the introduction of regional newsletters. A new site is on the horizon and will launch in time to celebrate 30 years of the *EF! Journal* and the *EF!* movement this Winter. Thanks to all who have their hands on this awesome project!

This may come as a surprise to some, but the information contained in back issues of the *EF! Journal* are sought after by academics, writers, historians and documentarians all over the world. However, the *EF! Journal* archive currently lives in cold, hard boxes. The archive is a amazing stockpile of information, but it should be in the hands of other *EF!*ers who have more time to make the archive an active resource for the world. Luckily, a couple dedicated *EF!*ers are excited to take on this project. With a full digital archive, the ground-breaking campaign work, close coverage on biodiversity and all actions putting the Earth first (as well as the hilarious sections, intimate poetry and beloved songs) will be accessible to anyone.

With these projects underway, the *EF! Journal* Collective is reassured that we will have more time to devote to the publication and finances.

Earth First! is as unique as every endangered species whose

life has become a record on a sheet of paper. The *Earth First! Journal* is here to present information without the bullshit and watered-down-green-washed-hooplah that most of the worlds media choose to present. As Earth First!ers we are here to defend the living rights of all things wild!

The *EF! Journal* Collective of recent years has been thinking that it's time to put this old beast on wheels and roll it outta town. Traditionally, the *EF! Journal* has some sense of transient roots, and to be honest, the *Journal* is itching to get out of the desert (though, has cherished its time here, sweating it out).

The following article is a proposal from Everglades *EF!* to be the new care-givers. So far, we have had a lot of dialog about the move, and it feels good to know that talks are turning into action.

The big kicker: a lot of support is needed in the coming year—from *EF!* groups all over, as well as from our readers and those who feel that the *EF! Journal* is among the most important sources of independent and radical media available. A special thanks to everyone who has been able to make a donation recently! Without you we are flappin' our fins on dry sands, gasping for a drop of water. With your support we are able to work hard, doing what we love, confident that the *EF! Journal* continues to be utilized by this ever-evolving movement of direct action and deep ecology.



photo courtesy Everglades Earth First!

Everglade troglodytes prepare to take over the *EF! Journal*.

The Skunk Ape Proxy: A Proposal To Move the Earth First! Journal

BY EVERGLADES *EF!*

Here it is in brief: Move the office of the *Earth First! Journal* from Tuscon, Arizona to Lake Worth, Florida; change it from six publications to a quarterly, bound journal; reorganize the scope and focus of the content from news and updates to more movement strategy and analysis, with a stronger focus on ecology. News and direct action reports get shifted to a printable PDF published eight times a year—which is bottom-lined, along with the website and archive—by other Earth First! Collectives.

Background on Lake Worth, Florida

Somewhere between a full scale rebellion in the swamps and your grandfather's hospice care by the sea, you'll find the cozy little beach town called Lake Worth. If the surrounding sprawl numbs your wild spirit, the panthers, gators, crocs and bears, blood-sucking mosquitoes, millions of acres of inhospitable swamp and sweltering heat will call it back. It's also the stomping ground of Everglades Earth First!, and hosts endless supplies of mangoes, coconuts, and starfruit. Lake Worth is 70 miles north of Miami, 60 miles west of the Bahamas, 30 miles south of the wild Loxahatchee River, 18 miles east of the Everglades, and 132 miles from the Skunk

Ape Research Headquarters in Ochopee. The town boasts an anarchist radical cheerleader elected as city commissioner and a mayor infamous for working in the wild dolphin trafficking industry.

Changing the Publication Cycle and the Format of the Earth First! Journal

The idea is to take the *EF! Journal* to a true quarterly publication, printing a bound copy; something that sits on a shelf, in a pack or a cargo pocket more like a soft bound book. Cutting the *EF! Journal* from six to four publications a year will potentially free up money to cover the extra costs of printing in this manner and free up the collective to spend more time on a single issue, which will also benefit content. The four issues of the *Earth First! Journal* will come out on cross-quarter days (approximately the beginning of February, May, August and November). News and updates will be posted to the Earth First! website and formatted by a different *EF!* collective into a PDF newsletter to come out eight times a year on the Pagan calendar.

Our List of Demands

We will fund raise the money necessary to transport the *EF!*

Journal to Lake Worth. Our current estimate is \$3,000. However, we want the Earth First! movement to significantly help come up with the money sufficient to print and mail the first Florida edition and fund the collective that works on it through that period. Our estimate is \$15,000 for production costs. That's a lot of fucking money, y'all—fifteen grand! Where will it all come from? Did you subscribe for this thing your holding in your hands? If not, it's time to start! As it stands, the *EF! Journal* Collective often goes unpaid. Our proposal demands a concerted effort to change this. We do not want to take on a movement publication that is not actively supported financially by the movement.

We also want to be able to focus more time on bringing money in and have ideas for new fund-raising efforts, such as the formation of an Earth First! Speakers' Bureau operating out of the new *EF! Journal* office, for coordinating roadshows, paid presentations and increased tabling opportunities. We intend to bust our asses here in Florida and ask you to do your part to renew the public face of Earth First! anyone interested in stepping up their involvement has many options for projects that need your support. Get in

touch with the *EF! Journal* Collective or Everglades *EF!* for more information.

Yes, the *Earth First! Journal* is getting older—30 years—and moving to Florida. But we are not inviting it down to the subtropics for an early retirement. We realize the paper is on its way out of a long, hard Saturn Return (according to *Seventeen* magazine) and we want to see the publication come into its prime here in this global hot-spot of biodiversity, deep in the belly of global capitalism, nurturing a budding resistance to industrial civilization from here in the swamps.

About the Future *EF! Journal* Collective

In case you ain't already heard, the lawless troglodytes of South Florida's Earth First! community are the rootinist, tootinist swamp anarchists this side of the Brazilian Pantanal. We are currently working to make "In Solidarity with the Swamp" the new rallying call stenciled on banners around the world. We ask folks to remember that while we all descend from those who crawled out of the primordial muck so long ago, it still ain't too late to come on down to Florida and crawl back in.

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 42¢ stamps to POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. Individuals who want to sponsor a prisoner's subscription should send \$20 to the same address.

Prisoner and Legal Updates

•Carolyn Feldman released from jail. Was being held for resisting a Grand Jury investigation.

•Four activists have been arrested in Mexico on charges related to animal liberation and property destruction. Their names and e-mail addresses are: Diego Alonzo (RABIAYACCION@MAC.HUSH.COM), Adrian Magdaleno-Gonzalez (LIBERTADPARAADRIAN@HUSHMAIL.ME), Abraham López Martínez (CNA.MEX@GMAIL.COM), Emmanuel Hernández Hernández (CNA.MEX@GMAIL.COM).

•Kevin Oliff, #1300931, TTCF 161 D-Pod, 450 Bauchet St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, USA. Pleaded no contest to charges of stalking for protesting vivisection. His plea agreement is for a three year sentence, but he may get out in mid-October with good behavior and time served.

•Lauren Gazzola released to a halfway house. Write to her c/o CCM Philidelphia Community Corrections Office, 2nd & Chestnut St. — 7th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19106. Serving 4.5 years for conspiracy charges stemming from her work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.SUPPORTLAUREN.COM.

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.

•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, Via Cäsale 50/a, 15040 San Michele (AL). 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.

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

Animal Liberation

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

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

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

•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.

•Dean Caine WJ 4309 HMP Preston, 2 Ribbleson Lane, Lancashire, PR1 5AB, England. Jailed for breaching parole conditions whilst on parole for three charges related to interfering with animal research on a rabbit farm.

•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.

•Alex Hall, Inmate #2009-06304, 800 West State St. Davis County Jail, 800 West State St., Farmington, UT 84025, USA. Recently plead guilty to charges related to being accused of raiding a mink farm.

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

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

•PI Noordsingle, Peter Jansen 5102880, Potbus 37066, 3005 LB Rotterdam. Accused of freeing mink from a fur farm.

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

•Lewis Pogson A6454AK, HMP Lincoln, 106 Greetwell Road, Lincoln, LN2 4BD, England. Serving 3 years for rescuing 129 rabbits from Highgate Farm.

•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.

•William James Viehl, Inmate #2009-05735, Davis County Jail, 800 West State St., Farmington, UT 84025, USA. Sentenced to two years, having pleaded guilty to raiding a mink farm.

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

•Sarah Whitehead, VM7684,

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

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

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.

•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.

Mountain Justice Summer Training Camp 2010

May 27-June 6

Letcher County, Kentucky

Mountain Justice Summer is both a call to action and a request for help from the people of the Appalachian Mountains. Join 300-500 people at this year's camp for a week of activities focused on fighting mountaintop removal mining with well-known speakers and coalfield residents. We will offer workshops and skill trainings led by experienced activists, tours of mountaintop removal mines, live music, tree-climbing, bonfires and fun! WWW.MOUNTAINJUSTICESUMMER.ORG

2010 Bash Back! Convergence

May 27-30

Denver, Colorado

This year's Bash Back Convergence will focus on building connections between struggles. Workshops and discussions with queer radicals from all over will help develop better movement dynamics and ideas for the future. WWW.BASHBACK2010.ORG

Montreal Anarchist Bookfair

May 29-30

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

No gods, no masters, no bosses, no borders. Curious about anarchism? Check us out! Participants from all over Quebec and North America, booksellers and vendors, workshops, films, discussions, kids activities, art exhibits and more! The Bookfair is a space for people to meet, network, learn and share in a spirit of respect and solidarity. WWW.ANARCHISTBOOKFAIR.CA

Call Out for Experienced BFC Volunteers Summer 2010

Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

Hey all you buffalovers, BFC volunteers are currently in the field before sun up and until well after dark monitoring the highways and landscape. We are spreading the few experienced volunteers very thin. This is a call to any and all experienced volunteers to return to the land of the last wild bison and join us again in our efforts to stop the harassment and slaughter. volunteer@buffalofieldcampaign.org

Call for Advocacy Delegations to Sacred Lands

Summer 2010

California, US Southwest, Navajo Nation

Calling all women advocates with a passion for environmental justice! Women attorneys, advocates, law students and members of the legal profession are invited to join a Women's Earth Alliance Advocacy Delegation in 2010. An unparalleled opportunity to meet and collaborate with indigenous women on the frontlines of environmental justice campaigns in North America. WWW.WOMENSEARTHALLIANCE.ORG

Anti-Authoritarian Gathering

June 3-6,

Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia

This is an opportunity for the anarchist and anti-authoritarian movement in Indonesia to meet up. There has not been an archipelago-wide meeting for three years and never outside Java island. People who encounter anti-authoritarian ideas in different ways can meet each other and see what connections might arise from these encounters. antiotoritarian2010@gmail.com

The Outdoor Skillshare

June 18-21

Rural Scotland

An exciting weekend of workshops and skillsharing in rural Scotland. Come and learn: climbing and rope access, building tree houses, tunnelling, cooking for the masses, knot-tying, fire-lighting, wild foods and more! We want to focus on the skills needed to occupy and defend land with a weekend-long event. OUTDOORSKILLSHARE.NOFLAG.ORG.UK

Wild Roots Feral Futures/ High Country EF! Gathering

June 19-26

Southwest Colorado

We will be focusing on many things, including, but by no means limited to: anarchist theory and praxis, unpacking privilege, decolonization, re-wilding, ancestral skills, indigenous solidarity, direct action, forest defense, security culture, civil disobedience, hand to hand combat, survival skills, evasion tactics, green anarchism, anti-civ, post-civ, star watching and navigation, maps and orienteering, shelter building and whatever you care to bring and provide. WWW.FERALFUTURES.BLOGSPOT.COM. Join us for the High Country EF! discussions from June 24-25 to discuss direction and strategy as a state-wide and bioregional eco-defense network.

Animal Rights 2010

July 15-19

Alexandria, Virginia

Animal Rights 2010 reflects America's continuing concern with terror. Indeed, it is dedicated to exposing and challenging the terror perpetrated every day against billions of innocent, sentient nonhuman animals. The four-day program features nearly 100 presenters from more than 60 organizations and several countries, representing virtually all sectors of our movement. WWW.ARCONFERENCE.ORG

G20 Protests

June 25-27

Toronto, Ontario

You didn't think Riot 2010 was over yet, did you? The G20 will be descending upon the part of Turtle Island now known as Toronto. The secretive meetings will be attended by the heads of state and financial ministers of the twenty most powerful economies and the managers of global financial institutions. Join us in Toronto for an anti-capitalist, anti-authoritarian, anti-colonial, anti-racist, anti-patriarchy, anti-ableist and queer positive convergence! ATTACKTHEROOTS.NET email: shutdowntheG20@resist.ca

Resistance for a Nuclear Free Future

July 3-5

Maryville College, Tennessee

The Nuclear Resister, Nukewatch and the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance invite you to join us for a national gathering, culminating with nonviolent anti-nuclear direct action, and declare our independence from nuclear weapons and nuclear power. Join as we educate and energize ourselves throughout a weekend of networking, music, speakers, celebration, workshops, community, nonviolence training and non-violent action. NUKEWATCH.COM

Trans & Womyn's Action Camp!

July 7-12

Cascadia bio-region

TWAC is a gathering of eco-activists who are also working to bring down patriarchy. The gathering aims to create and empowering environment where gender-minority folk will be able to share skills, stories and experiences. We are putting a call out for workshop presenters and trainers. twac@riseup.net

•Steve James Murphy, 0910300841, Central Detention Center, 630 East Rialto Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92408. Accused of involvement in an attempted arson on a town house construction site in 2006. For more information visit WWW.SUPPORTSTEVE.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, Michigan Reformatory, 1342 West Main Street, 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 popular farm.

Indigenous Resistance

•Leonard Peltier, #89637-132, USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837, USA. Serving life in prison after being framed for the deaths of two FBI agents killed during the 1975 Pine Ridge siege. For more information, visit WWW.FREEPELTIER.ORG.

•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.

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, SCIMahanoy, 301 Morea Rd, Frackville, PA 17932, USA.

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

Other Political Prisoners

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

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

•Helen Woodson, #03231-045, FMC Carswell, Admin Max Unit, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX

76127, USA. Serving nearly nine years for violating her parole by dumping a cup of red paint over the security apparatus of a federal court and making warnings ("threats") of weapons of mass destruction. In 2004, Woodson completed 20 years for disarming a Minuteman II missile silo with a jackhammer, mailing warning letters with bullets inside to officials, and robbing a bank and burning the money.

Prisoner Support Groups

•Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, elp4321@hotmail.com; WWW.SPIRITOFFREEDOM.ORG.UK.

•National Jericho Movement, POB 1272, New York, NY 10013, USA; WWW.THEJERICHOMOVEMENT.COM.

•North American Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, NAELPSN@MUTUALAID.ORG; WWW.ECOPRISONERS.ORG.

It is the aim of the *Earth First! Journal* Collective to provide accurate information about the prisoners included in this directory. Contact the us about inaccuracies, updated information or other requests to: collective@earthfirstjournal.org.

A LOOK AT MTR

Dragline, photo essay by Anterim Caskey, 2009.

Action is an emotional response, a gut reaction to anger and inspiration. Sometimes a song or story shared around the campfire creates desire for action. In the case of *Dragline*, a photo essay on the battle over mountaintop removal (MTR) in West Virginia, it's raw images of environmental devastation—and the resistance against it—that calls us to the frontlines.

Released in January in collaboration with the Climate Ground Zero (CGZ) direct action campaign, *Dragline* is a devastating visual journey into southern West Virginia, where activists battle Massey Energy and other mining giants that blow up mountains to extract coal.

Each turn of the oversized pages reveals the world of MTR: lush mountains slated for destruction, enraged locals forced to drink contaminated water, swaths and valleys of gray carved stone where mountains once stood. The images leach like mercury into the heart.

Such imagery—and the stories behind it—inspired author Anterim Caskey to take action. She embedded herself with CGZ in 2008 after taking 20 trips to West Virginia to report on MTR. From CGZ lockdowns on mining equipment to locals confronting politicians, Caskey covers a broad range of action. Well-known activists like Judy Bonds, Maria Gunnoe and Larry Gibson each make dramatic appearances.

Context could have strengthened the impact of *Dragline*. For example, Caskey depicts the miners confronting “treehuggers” at anti-MTR rallies as simple adversaries, but it's a bit more complicated: impoverished workers seeking a decent paycheck are misled and forced to destroy their land and then reside amongst the deadly consequences. Barons divide and conquer by pitting unions and miners against citizens and environmentalists.

Caskey's title is her saving grace here. “Machines like the dragline,” Caskey writes, “starting cost at \$50 million, have helped eliminate the need for coal miners.”

CGZ campaign director and long-time Earth First!er Mike Roselle is promoting *Dragline*. CGZ has temporarily halted coal mining and blast zones across the valley. Since February 2009, more than one hundred activists have been arrested at actions against Massey Energy.

Caskey, who has said she was “radicalized” in West Virginia, was held in contempt of court on May 1, 2009 for reporting on anti-MTR actions and when her reporting efforts allegedly violated a temporary restraining order issued to protect Massey Energy from anti-coal activists. Her case is pending appeal.

Dragline is available for a \$25 suggested donation at www.climategroundzero.com, or by calling (304) 854 7372.

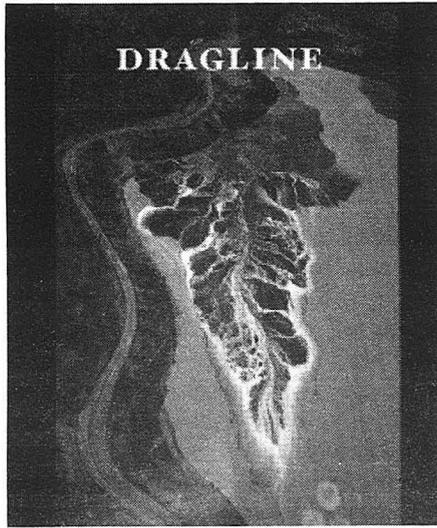
—Ludwig

ON RESILIENCE

The most recent release of *Alternatives Journal* (Volume 36 Issue 2, 2010) is almost entirely dedicated to the latest liberal environmentalist fad. Called Resilience Theory, this movement is comprised of the re-hashed theories of ecological economics advanced by Buzz Holling. Basically, *Alternatives Journal* attempts to put a new, trendy

face on the old notion that economic and ecological structures are tied together within cycles of decay and rebirth. Accordingly, Resilience Theory claims capitalism can rescue us from crisis through a dynamic interplay with ecology.

Alternatives Journal has the articles it needs to make its point. They definitely did their homework—that's not the problem. The issue is that their entire thesis is wrong. The interview with Buzz Holling exposes the fallacy from the beginning. Holling demands of humanity “(an) integrative understanding and approach to the way that humans relate to the world, and the way the world relates back to humans.” Easy enough, Buzz: the market economy is based on the extraction of resources and the destruction of the environment. Capitalism is a veil for the desert of social relations, and Green Capitalism is a



mirage.

George Francis's article, painfully titled “The Hardcore Guide to Resilience,” continues to dog-paddle through a quagmire of theory. It is clear that he is drowning in his naiveté when he exclaims hopefully that crisis, “releases” the people and capital that can be recombined into new businesses.” Here we return to the stereotypical image of “the moral capitalist”—the small businesses that redeem our otherwise corrupt system of titans and leviathans.

Instead of a deep, ecological analysis of interlocked systems of oppression competing against the symbiotic interconnectedness of life, we are faced with the promotion of a more efficient capitalism. Resilience is now a marketable fashion disguised as conservative social ecology, and is as obnoxious as the full-page photograph of well-dressed yuppies jumping on a bed featured within the glossy pages of *Alternatives Journal*.

I'm sure that guilt-free yuppies are exactly what Green Capitalists have in mind, Resilience just reads like an annoyingly optimistic New Age theory guide. While there are some good articles, including the unfortunately titled, “Don't Bogart that Tree” about Canadian biomass, our ecology should reach far deeper, taking Resistance over Resilience any day.

—Saboo

REVOLUTIONARY ESSAYS

This Country Must Change: Essays on the Necessity of Revolution in the USA, edited by Craig Rosebraugh, 2009. 231 pages.

This Country Must Change is a collection of twelve essays, mostly written by current and former political prisoners. Editor Craig Rosebraugh, a former Earth Liberation Front spokesperson, is well known for his statement to Congress that “the US government by far has been the most extreme terrorist organization in planetary history.” This Country contextualizes the struggle for environmental liberation with struggles opposing racism, militarism, corporate tyranny, police terrorism and the prison industrial complex.

Not all contributors are explicitly eco-ac-

tivists, but this is the most important contribution of the book, because it challenges all varieties of “single-issue” activists to build alliances with radicals working on other issues. Unity is strength, and a broad coalition is needed for entire socio-political and economic systems to be fundamentally changed.

The book's dearth of female writers is disappointing, but the sole female voice is powerful: former eco-prisoner Ramona Africa, of the MOVE Organization, a mostly-black, religious and family-based political group that links environmental destruction to the overall system. Africa was imprisoned for seven years after surviving the 1985 police assault on MOVE's home, where police murdered six adults and five children. Police fired over 10,000 rounds of gunfire, dropped a C-4 bomb on the roof that started a fire, and shot at those trying to escape the fire. The cops never faced criminal charges, affirming Africa's argument that “legal is not the same as right. Apartheid, The Holocaust, Slavery were all legal and all wrong.”

Exemplifying *This Country's* central message, Africa writes that resistance to these horrors was “illegal,” but certainly “not wrong.” She writes, “it is our duty, our obligation to revolt against anything that wrongs us, our babies, our family in any way, and nobody can prove this position wrong.”

Hans Bennett is an anarchist and independent multi-media journalist: www.insubordination.blogspot.com.

CHANGE COMES FROM WITHIN...THE POCKETBOOK

Recipes for Disaster, directed by John Webster, Millennium Film, JW Documentaries, 2009. 60 minutes.

When the *EF! Journal* first caught wind of *Recipes*, I was giddy with thoughts that CrimethInc. had released a new DVD of their anarchist cookbook with the same title. They didn't, and far from an anarchist cookbook, John Webster's first-person documentary could have been titled “Liberal Reformist Epicurean Cookery for Beginners.”

Director, protagonist and eco-curious Webster has goaded his wife and two children into a year-long experiment in which they “fast” on an “oil-diet.” No new things made or packaged with plastic, no gasoline, no plane flights, etc.

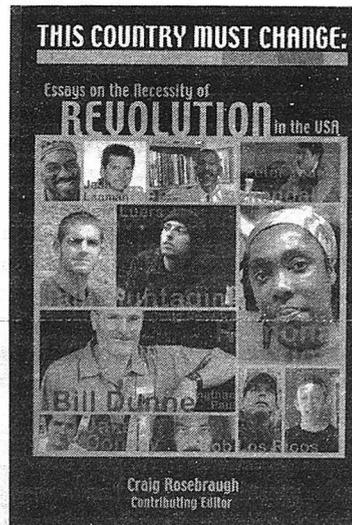
Webster philosophizes that the world is like a sinking ship, but people are unwilling to get off because the ship is comfortable and familiar. No shit, John. Comfort is the lynchpin of inaction, which is why the “I'm-doing-my-part, feel-good green consumerist” mentality must be debunked, or at least return-scammed. Keep this film out of the hands of the guilt-ridden lest they become

inspired like John to reduce their carbon footprint with tasty bourgeoisie recipes like:

1. Buying a brand new biodiesel Audi, fueled by industrially farmed, monocropped oils.
2. Buying solar panels so you can watch TV at night, instead of smashing the fucking thing.
3. Buying intercontinental rail tickets for your getaway in Italy instead of guiltily flying.
4. Buying a biodiesel boat to replace your now-unconscionable gas powered one. Paddles?
5. Excessively patting your

back to make a subtle wind that helps cool the atmosphere!

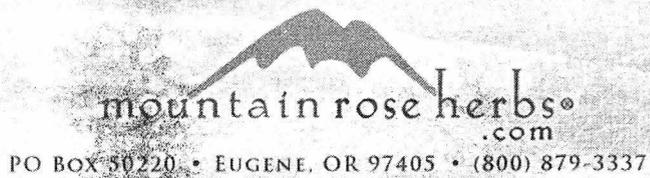
—Kenton



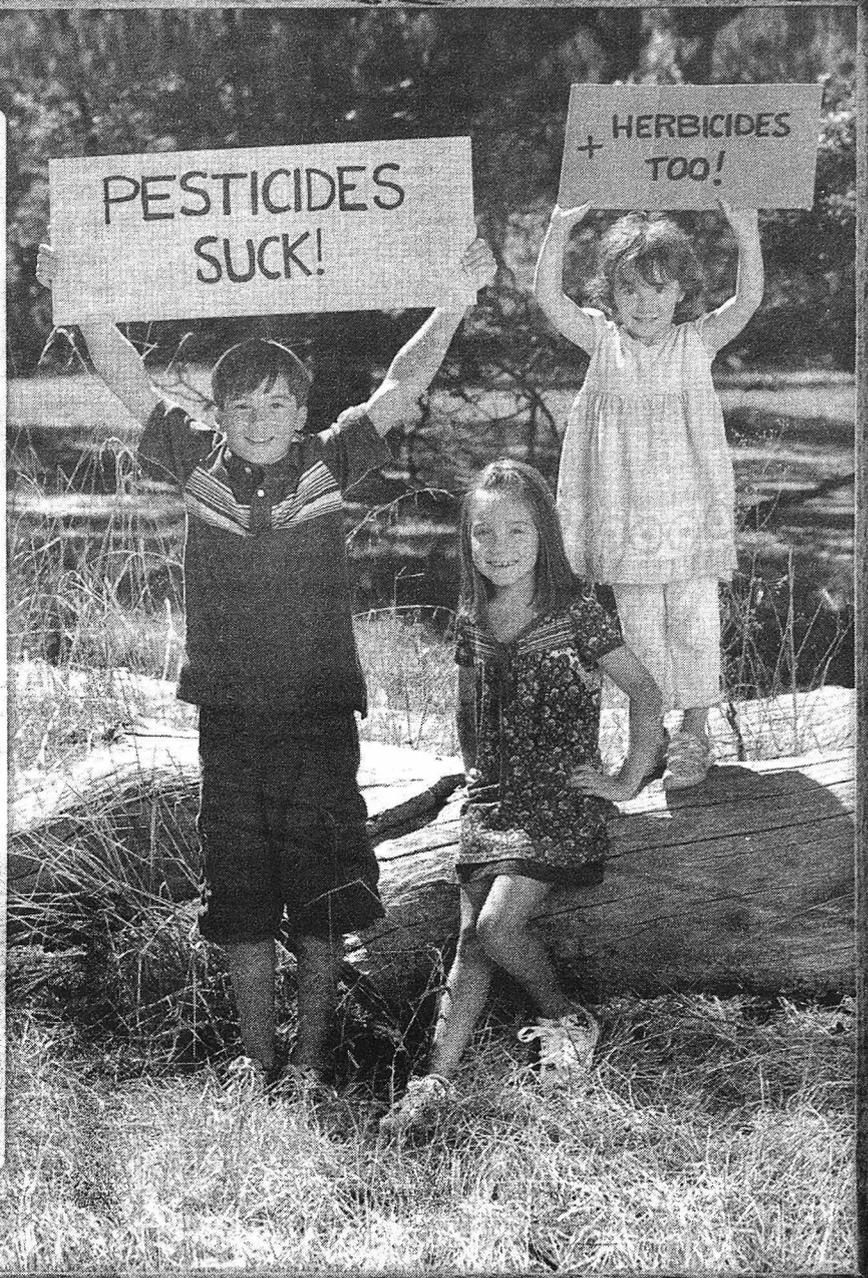
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Pictured here are the children of Mountain Rose Herbs' employee, Felicia Colden (from left to right: Ariel, Talia, and Ayianna)



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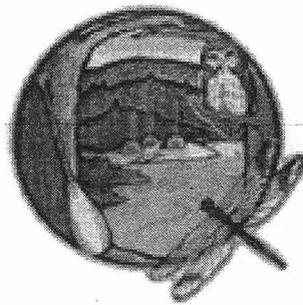
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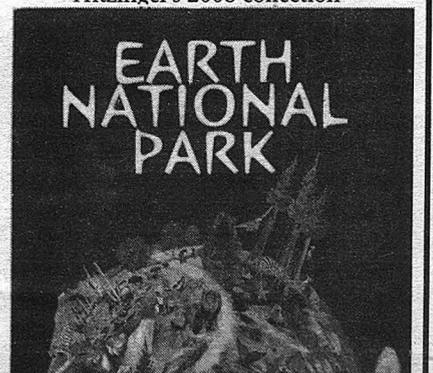
"I spent a year in the Northwoods of Wisconsin at an outdoor school. It was not a survival school, because I died. I died to my old way of thinking. I died to being egocentric. I died to the pursuit of the civilized lifeway. I became alive to many other things—became alive to the Circle. I became alive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

—Coyote Three Feathers a.k.a. John Herron (Wilderness Guide Program 2004-2005)

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THE WARRIOR POET'S SOCIETY PRESENTS
A howlin' round-up from Karen Coulter
and Dennis Fritzingler
EF! Journal poetry editor Dennis Fritzingler's 2008 collection





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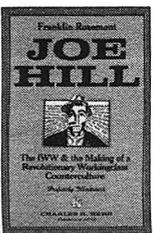
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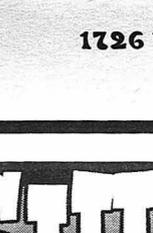
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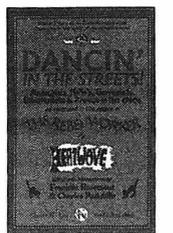
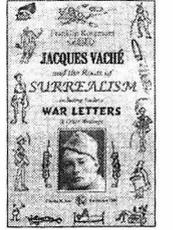
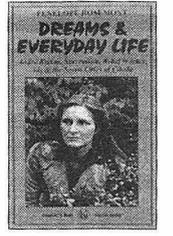
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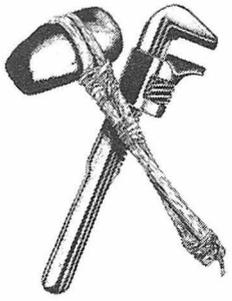
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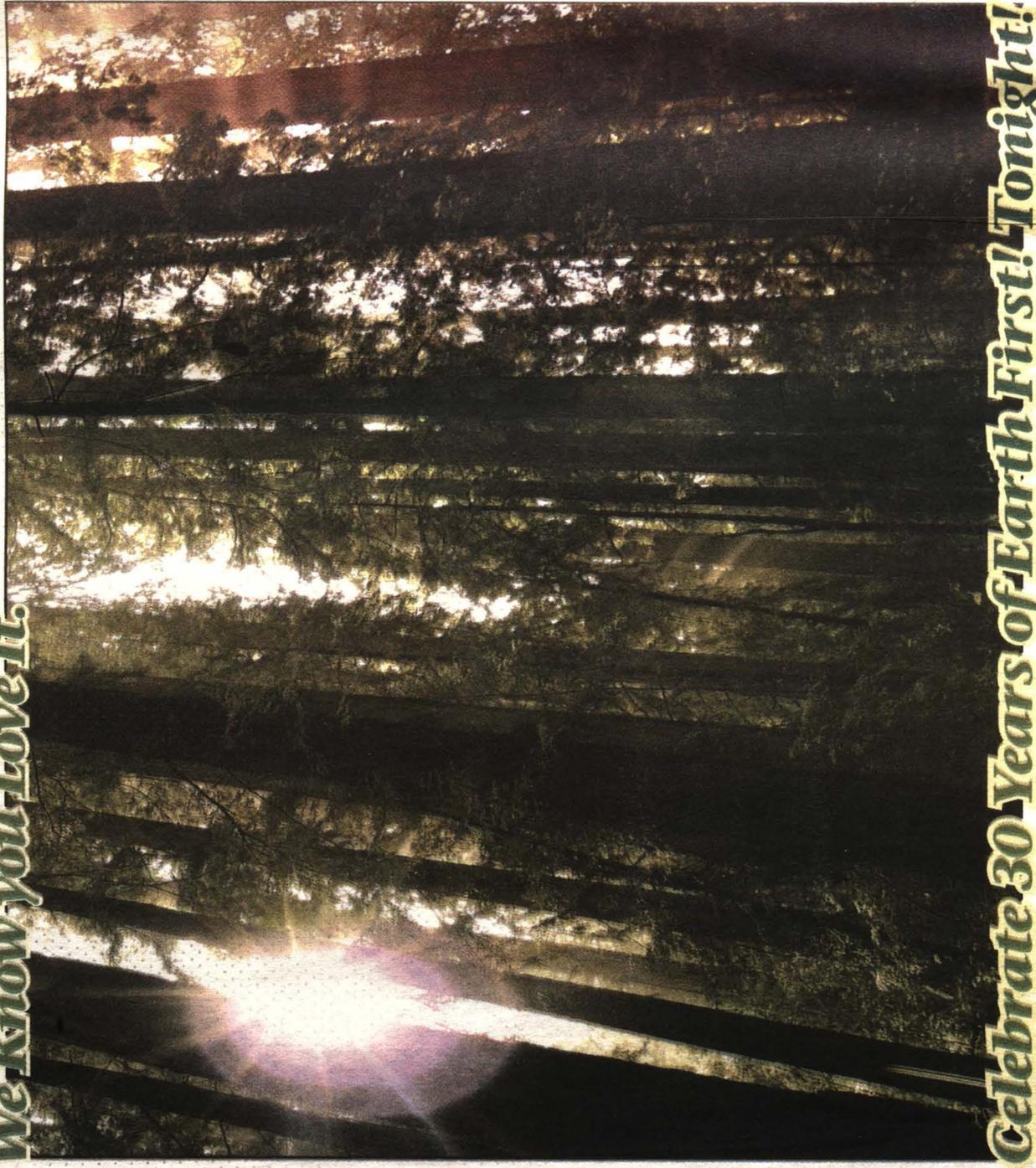


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