



Environment & Society Portal

Suggested citation: Aguamala, Panagioti, Molly, Jane, Elizabeth, and Nettle, eds.,  
*Earth First! Journal* 32, no. 2 (April/May 2012).  
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# Earth First!

The Journal of Ecological Resistance



**\$6.50**

VOL 32 / NO 2



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Beltane 2012

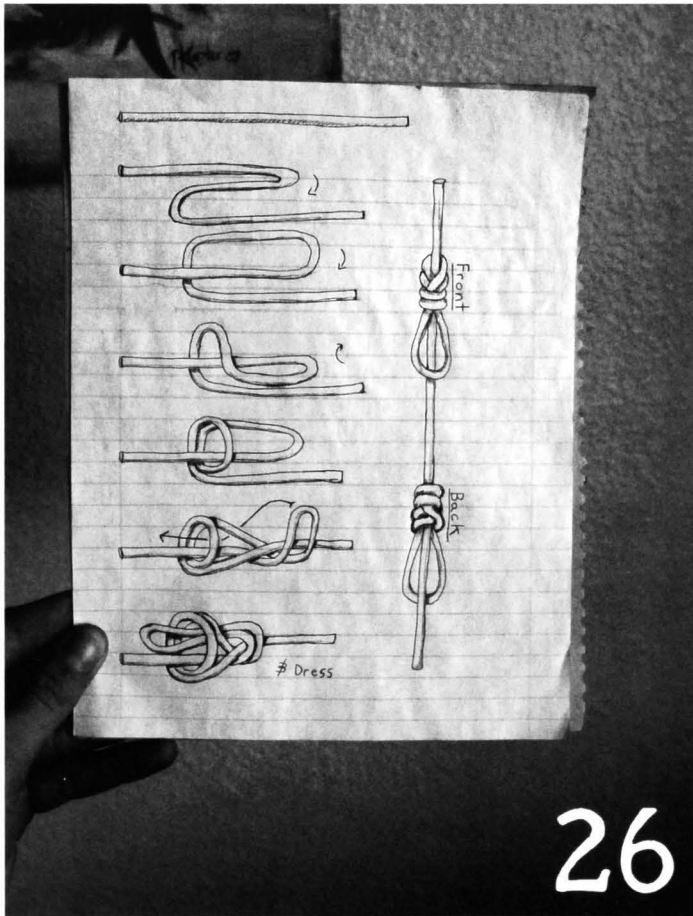
No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth!



## > in this issue:

### CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

- This drawing shows how to tie a knot called the "Directional 8";
- Setting a new traverse to increase the tree village's defensibility in Treetopia;
- Devastation in Domingo Arias, Paicol. Zone used for Magdalena River re-routing. Photo by Entre Aguas;
- Rally against hydrofracking, Pittsburg. Photo from Shadbush Environmental Justice Project



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# Razor Wire Can't Stop The Spring

We've been struggling with this feeling for most of our lives...empty, displaced, disconnected. Feeling angry and sad about the state of the world, but fearful that nothing can be done so far down this path of destruction.

We've been disconnected from our roots, from the land, from our labor.

Even the most sacred process, birth and death, have been sterilized and depersonalized. The modern world has stolen our ancestral right to experience the natural magic of being born and of dying with dignity and connectedness.

Efforts to change these injustices have long been futile or criminalized... our voices have long been silenced. Our wild spirit tamed, our bodies demonized; we've been brainwashed into inaction.

We've caught ourselves consuming different shades of dependency, despair and defeat.

The rich minority who benefit from the insane exploitation of all life on Earth will continue profiting if we let them.

This delusional, privileged group of individuals has such an inflated sense of entitlement that they find it perfectly justifiable to profit from cutting down 2,000-year old trees, from placing more wildlife species on the extinct list, from displacing land-based communities off their ancestral land, from racist mass imprisonment. Just as they found it justifiable in the past to profit from slavery. They try to make us forget about the ongoing rape, torture, and genocide of native people on this continent, just as they currently

continue to kill migrants along the stolen US border.

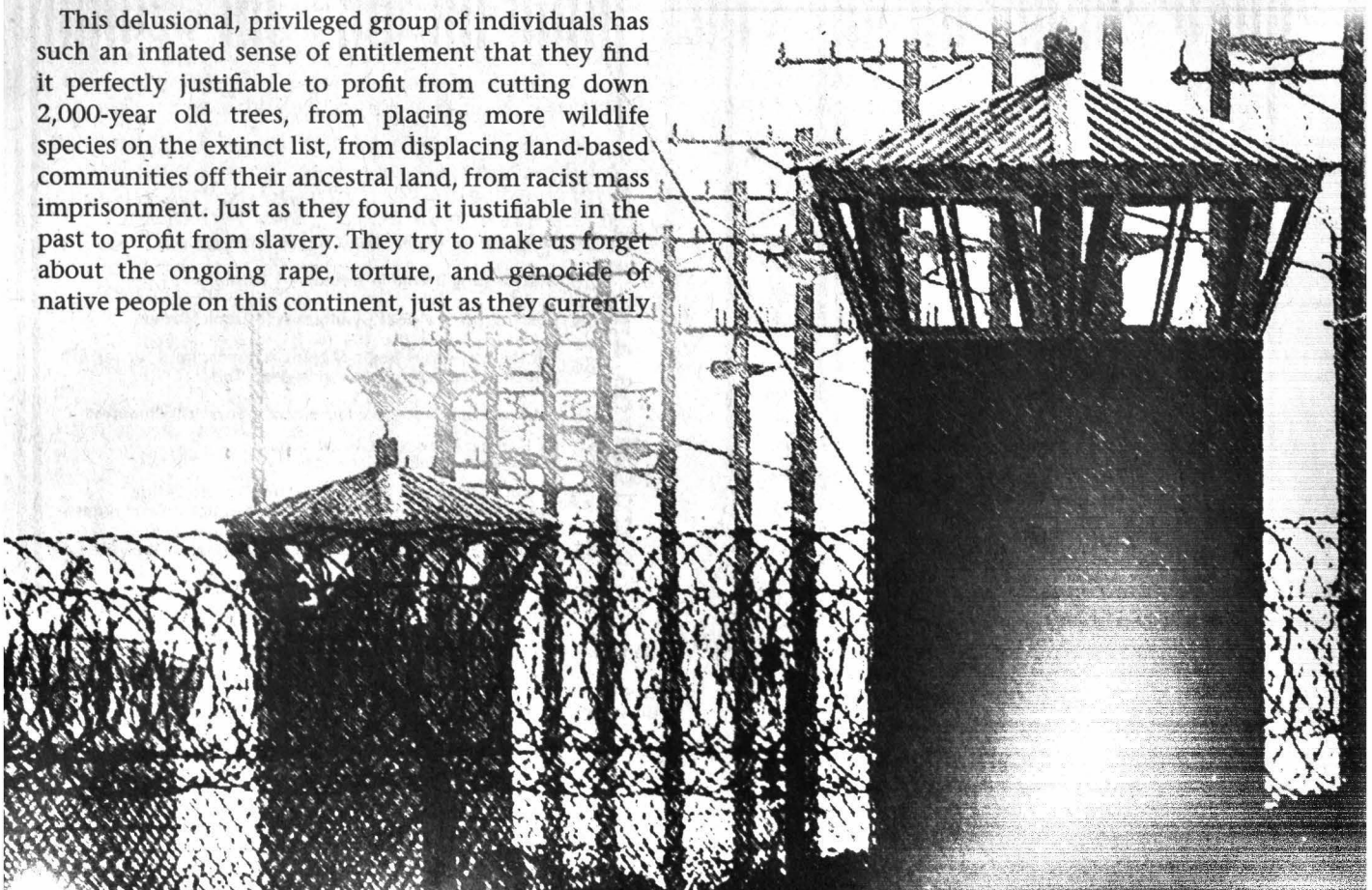
We are at a point of self-defense in an all out war.

If we lose this war, we lose the Florida panther, the grey wolf, the yellowbelly voiceless treefrog, Xinjiang ground-jay, Marianas flying fox, longheaded eagle ray, the Little Inca-finch, Indus River dolphin, Pacific seahorse, bighorn sheep, greater spotted eagle, Mentawai three-striped squirrel, North Atlantic right whale, shorttail nurse shark, the Great Indian rhino and so many more. If we lose this war the future will be more mechanical, material, meaningless.

The time has come for the masses to act. We must bring down the foundations, abolish the prisons, set fire to the banks and liberate the beasts! Occupy everything! Decolonize everywhere! Sabotage the gears which drive this Earth-brutalizing capitalism.

Seize the moment! Seize the night!

—Earth First! Journal Collective





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VOL. 32 NO. 2 • BELTANE

{ SPRING 2012 }

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

Submission 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.

ISSN #1055-8411 Earth First! is indexed in the Alternative Press Index. Earth First! is recorded on microfilm by ProQuest, Inc. April/May 2012, Volume 32, Issue 2, is published quarterly by Daily Planet Publishing, 1307 Central Terrace, Lake Worth, FL 33460. US Subscriptions are \$30. Outside the US, subscriptions are \$50 to Mexico and Canada, and \$60 everywhere else. Periodicals Postage Paid at Lake Worth, Florida. Please direct all subscriptions and correspondence to:

## EARTH FIRST! JOURNAL

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**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Earth First!, PO Box 964, Lake Worth, FL 33460.

Printed on 100% recycled newsprint paper.

## ABOUT THE COVER



The rabbit's reputation as a prolific breeder has historically made it emblematic of fertility, abundance, sexuality, renewal, and the spring season across several cultures. The European spring goddess Eostar (from whom the name Easter was derived) had the head of a rabbit.

Buddhist legend holds that the hare threw itself into a fire to feed the starving Buddha, and therefore it is their symbol of self-sacrifice. As a reward, it was given a new home on the moon. The moon, who dies every morning and is resurrected every evening, represents the rebirth of nature in spring. Check out the

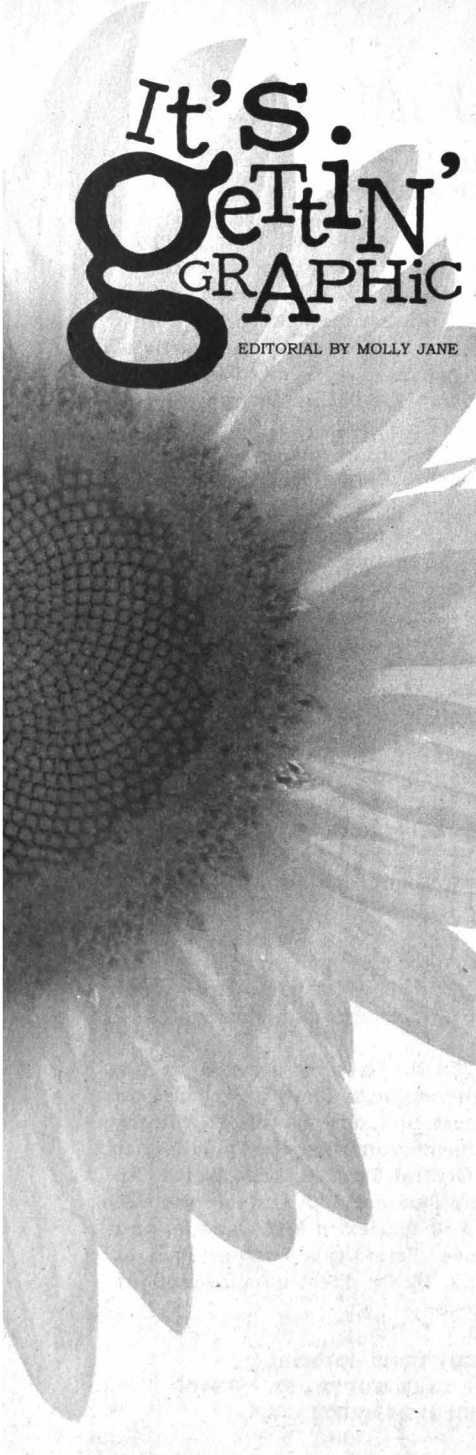
Eostar Earth First! News in this edition of Beltane, the springtime festival date between the spring Equinox and the summer solstice.

Oppression is a systematic phenomenon. Ideological conditioning that devalues an entire group, such as racism, sexism, or speciesism, is socially constructed, shaping the perceived reality of our relationship to other animals and humans. In this way, the caged rabbit and the political prisoner coexist as harbingers of a society detained.

Just as the moon must die each night before it can be reborn, so too must we endure the darkness of oppression and imprisonment of the body before achieving liberation of our ideas.

In central Africa, "Kalulu" the rabbit is known as a swindler, using trickery and dare we say, monkeywrenching, to get the better of its captors.

With any luck—and rabbits are known to be lucky—we may all someday break free from the cages unto a world reborn.



# It's. gettin' GRAPHIC

EDITORIAL BY MOLLY JANE

When I was three years old, I used a crayon to scrawl my name in six-foot letters on my wall, climbing on a chair to get the letters tall enough. When my mom got home, I was excited to reveal my masterpiece, but to my dismay, the work was...not well received. A tough audience, to be sure, but I didn't let that stop me. In second grade, I produced a monthly one page newsletter on a typewriter covering weighty topics such as cool-looking animals. My grandparents were my most devoted subscribers, and my only ones, to boot. I took a hiatus from my burgeoning journalism career shortly after that point to delve into playing in the woods, learning karate, and gettin' a damn job, kid.

While organizing for various anarchist, poverty, environmental and labor campaigns in St. Augustine, Florida, I was putting myself through college by working in restaurants. Over the duration of my attendance, my law school plans got derailed by the general feeling of nausea induced by the course material, and by positive feedback from graphic design professors. My shift to design studies was advantageous to producing the city's radical newspaper and several zines.

Through time, I came to meet the folks from Everglades Earth First! at events and EF! Rondys. Needless to say, I was fuckin blown away, and jumped at any chance to deepen my involvement with the movement. Simultaneously, for design assignments in school involving revamping magazine layouts, I frequently (ok, always) chose material from the *Earth First! Journal*. I quite fully nerded out. So, a few years down the line, when the editorial staff of the *Journal* asked if I could maybe come down and share with them a thing or two about design, I tried not to act as stoked as I really was.

"Yeah, guess I'd be into that," I said casually. Wait, did I just piss myself?

Design is more than decorating a surface; it deals with fundamental principles of perception. Even though words are from the audible language (speech), our visual interpretation of them shapes the way we perceive them. Our brains sort and catalogue images, and we all carry a load of experiences, memory, innate responses, and physiological considerations that interact with what we see. Designers that effectively use this process have the creative strength of sight itself.

The major artistic/political movements of the past two centuries each had a theory of society that provided a structure and direction for their work. The futurists, constructivists, Dadaists, and surrealists actively helped define their society and their role in relationship to it, influencing the science and aesthetics of design. The education system today is focused on the model forged in the Industrial Revolution, wherein all study is concerned with math or language, but we need to look to the natural world to create the principles of design. Biomimicry operates on the principle that in its 3.8 billion year history, nature has already established solutions to visual problems.

For example, the Golden Ratio, 5 divided by 3, or 1 to 1.61, exists in all of nature, from the arc of waves to the flight of birds, from the structure of galaxies to the structure of your fingerprints. It is an aesthetic connection between all living things, the balancing harmony of the universe. The golden ratio is expressed in design applications as the golden rectangle, simplified in the design process and photography by the rule of thirds.

Can you name five famous graphic designers? Can you name one?

Don't trip - most people can't, the point being that designers, even the most esteemed, are behind the scenes, creating the infrastructure through which to communicate information. Graphic design is a very applied, practical discipline. For the most part, we are working in a consumer society, with corporate puppeteers pulling the strings. It is important that we consider the potential impact of imagery, and we all have a responsibility to access and continually shift our role in shaping the aesthetic future.

...So here I am, outing myself as a total fuckin design nerd in the *Earth First! Journal*. At least I still get to report on cool-looking animals.

For the Wild, Molly Jane



# Earth First! News

"On the Frontlines of Ecological Resistance"

Number VII

Eostar

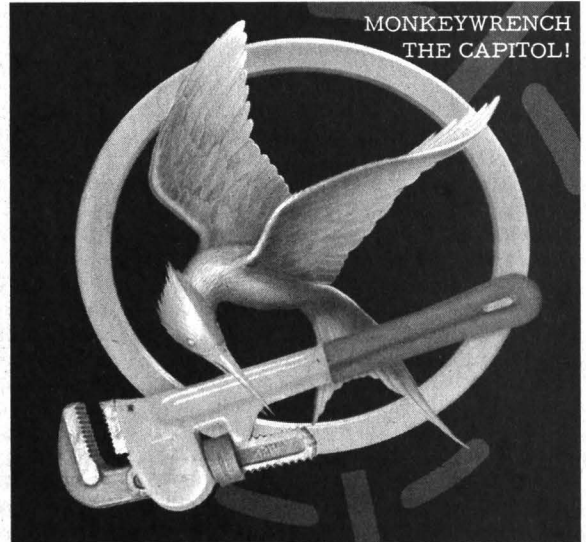
March/April 2012

*This is the time of the Spring's return; the joyful time, the seed time, when life bursts forth from the Earth and the chains of winter are broken... a time of balance, when all the elements within us must be brought into a new harmony... the Dark Maiden, returns from the Land of the Dead, cloaked in fresh rain, with the sweet scent of desire on her breath. Where she steps, the wild flowers appear; as she dances, despair turns to hope, sorrow to joy, want to abundance. May our hearts open with the spring!*

Eostar, Spring Equinox, when day and night are in balance, with the light beginning to overcome darkness, a solar festival. In Mediterranean lands, the death and resurrection theme had strong links with Spring Equinox: Easter, a story of death, descent and uprising, can be seen as what some pagans call *sacrificial mating*. Perhaps it can also be seen as *revolutionary sacrifice*—plunging into the hell of industrial civilization as a necessary prelude to rebirth.

In the North, where spring comes later, aspects of the mating ritual belong to Beltane: Mayday! Thus, Eostar gives up its human-fertility aspect and retains its vegetation-fertility aspect. In some areas, the Equinox is a time for sprouting, in others, a time for sowing. And down in the sub-tropics of south Florida, harvest is well under way.

Point being, don't get too attached to European pagan traditions. The planet is going to see some changes, friends, and there's never been a better time to play your part in the directions they'll take...



MONKEYWRENCH  
THE CAPITOL!

"Make the Odds Be Ever in Our Favor"

## NEWS FROM THE ECO-WARS

COMPILED BY THE EF! JOURNAL

### DEC 15 - ANTI-COAL TREESITTER DENIED WITNESSES

A West Virginian court refused the right to witnesses in trial, based on a prosecuting attorney's objection bringing these witnesses in on the grounds that it would confuse the jury. Denied witnesses included those personally affected by living in a mining region and others with expert knowledge of violations by coal companies.

In Squirrel's words, "The danger is that, if a jury heard these things, they might not want to convict me, whether or not I was technically breaking the law. They might just decide that breaking a law to save the lives of people and the beauty of these mountains was actually right. We should all try to remember the threat that we pose to oppressive governance when we understand the greater, more complex dynamics at play in our world."

### DEC 20 - PROTESTERS IN CHINA STORM BUILDINGS AND BLOCK ROADS AGAINST COAL PLANT

Residents continue revolt against development plans in the Guangdong province of southern China. The newest uprising involved 30,000 people protesting the proposed power plant in the seaside town of Haimen.

Residents stormed local government offices and blocked a busy highway that runs from the manufacturing hub of Shenzhen to the city of Shantou.

### DEC 21 - SHELL ANNOUNCES ANOTHER OIL SPILL

About 40,000 barrels of crude oil leaked into the Atlantic Ocean from the Bonga Deep Offshore Oil Fields. Shell operates the oil field, located about 75 miles southwest of the Niger Delta, on behalf of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation under a production-sharing contract. The oil spill is reported to have occurred while a vessel was being loaded with crude oil.

### DEC 22 - OODHAM SACRED SITE THREATENED BY GOLD MINE

Silver Scott Mines announced that it had initiated a 2000-foot drilling program at a gold mine site in Quitovac, one of the most sacred places to the O'odham People. According to their creation story it is the site where the Elder Brother, I'toi, spirit of goodness, first gave shape to the People. After being saved from a toxic waste dump three years ago, Quitovac is once again threatened. In late September, the US mining company declared that it had acquired an almost 30,000 acre concession near the site in Sonora, Mexico. Traditional O'odham leaders officially responded to the announcement in November with a resolution condemning the company's intentions.

### DEC 31 - OBAMA SIGNS INDEFINITE DETENTION BILL

Indefinite military detention of Americans became the law of the land as President Barack Obama signed a defense bill

that codified the authority, even as he said he would not use it. The National Defense Authorization Act states how the military is to be funded, but also includes a number of controversial provisions on arresting and holding of suspected terrorists.

### JAN 2 - THOUSANDS IN THE STREETS AGAINST GOLD MINE IN PERU

About 1,000 people marched in the Andean city of Cajamarca against the gold mine proposed by the US miner and its Peruvian partner, Buenaventura.

The government says the largest mining investment ever in Peru would generate thousands of jobs, but opponents of the project say it would hurt water supplies by replacing a string of alpine lakes with reservoirs. Peruvian President, Ollanta Humala, temporarily suspended freedom of assembly in order to break up protests against the mine that drew 5,000 people onto the streets.

### JAN 7 - PROTESTS BLOCK SHELL PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION IN IRELAND

Activists with Shell to Sea and Rossport Solidarity Camp disrupt construction of Shell's natural gas pipeline in County Mayo again, in the 11 year campaign. Protesters jump in front of trucks carrying gravel to stop them. Three are arrested. The following day activists intercept a specialized tree-cutting machine being used to clear the route for the pipeline



"Peacekeepers" come out to suppress F29 protests in Portland, OR; Chevron leaves its mark in the Amazon of Ecuador; Yeah, that's right... Burn it to the ground!

with one person climbing on top of the machine and locking to it, preventing all construction equipment from getting to the site.

#### **JAN 11 - MONKEYS LIBERATE THEMSELVES FROM ZOO IN BRAZIL**

Refusing to wait for the aid of bi-pedal liberators, eight capuchin monkeys took matters into their own hands and broke out of a Brazilian zoo. The monkeys utilized a rock to smash open the lock on their cage and made a break for it under cover of darkness. Unfortunately, four of the monkeys have been recaptured. Three of them were caught using traps baited with fruit. The fourth monkey was captured after it broke into a restaurant.

#### **JAN 12 - CATTLE TRUCKS BURNED TO THE GROUND IN CALIFORNIA**

Activists take credit for destroying 14 cattle trucks at California's largest beef producing, feeding and marketing ranches. The orth American Animal Liberation press office posted an anonymous letter on its website from activists claiming full responsibility for the arson: "We were extremely pleased to see that all 14 trucks 'were a total loss,' with some being 'completely melted to the ground.'"

#### **JAN 14 - THOUSANDS PROTEST CHEVRON PLANS OR FRACKING IN BULGARIA**

Bulgarian people rally in capital Sofia against the exploration for shale gas in the country. Protesters have requested that the Bulgarian Parliament impose a moratorium on the exploration and production of shale gas in the country. Last summer, the Bulgarian government granted a concession to US energy giant Chevron to explore for gas in Dobrudzha, northeastern Bulgaria.

#### **JAN 15 - LOGGING OPERATIONS BLOCKED IN CANADA**

Activists in Alberta block access to the Castle Wilderness Area for over a week, despite below freezing temperatures.

Several dozen people set up tents on the access road where Spray Lakes Sawmills wants to log 300 acres of land in a wilderness area, which serves as wildlife corridor and critical habitat for grizzly bears. In addition to logging, the area is also threatened by oil and gas projects.

#### **JAN 23 - EARTH FIRST! AND OCCUPY DISRUPT BOCA RATON INVESTORS**

Everglades EF! and Occupy activists blockade a bridge, snarling rush hour

traffic during a cocktail party of corporate hedge fund investors at the GAIM USA 2012 conference. Other demonstrations included a canoe flotilla and a sneaky breach of security in which activists circulated information against private prison investments throughout the resort.

#### **JAN 24 - ELF DOCUMENTARY NOMINATED FOR AN OSCAR AWARD**

*If A Tree Falls*, which follows the story of ecoprisoner Daniel McGowan, makes it to the big time!

#### **JAN 26 - ANTI-MINING MOB TORCHES OFFICES, FREES PRISONERS, AND WINS**

The Indonesian government has announced that it will revoke the permit for a gold mine after massive rioting. The crowd, thousands strong, ransacked and burned two government offices. The mob continued on to a nearby detention center and forced the authorities to release 35 of their comrades arrested last year.

In December, two protesters were killed and 10 others injured during a protest over the planned goldmine, co-owned by Australian company Arc Exploration and its Indonesian partner, PT Sumber Mineral Nusantara.

#### **FEB 1 - GASLAND FILMMAKER ARRESTED ON CAPITOL HILL**

Josh Fox, of Academy Award nominated documentary *Gasland* was taken into custody by Capitol Hill police, along with his film crew, after Republican officials objected to their presence filming at the hearing of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Environment.

#### **FEB 3 - FOREST DEFENDERS BLOCKADE OREGON GOVERNORS MANSION**

Using a mound of discarded Christmas trees, activists blocked the entrance and held banners announcing: "Rally at the State Land Board Meeting Feb 14." One person was arrested. The action was in response to Governor John Kitzhaber approving a plan to nearly double logging in the Elliott State Forest.

#### **FEB 6 - AUSTRALIANS OCCUPY DRILL RIG AGAINST COAL**

Two activists with the Quit Coal campaign shut down operations at Bacchus Marsh and staged a "picnic" with local food, to oppose the burning and export of brown coal from Victoria, Australia.

#### **FEB 5 - HIGHWAY BLOCKED, POLICE STATION BURNED IN PROTEST OF PANAMAS MINING LAWS**

Indigenous Ngobe protester shot and killed, with many more injured during confrontations with the police in San Félix over mining. In retaliation, Ngobe protestors set fire to a police station.

Since January 30, demonstrators had been blockading various points along the Pan-American highway using wood, metal and rocks. They are protesting against the Panama government's decision to remove a law that provides environmental protection to their lands.

#### **FEB 8 - OHIO GOVERNOR DISRUPTED BY ANTI-FRACKERS**

State Troopers escorted seven hecklers out of a State address as Governor Kasich talked at a school in Steubenville about drilling for natural gas in eastern Ohio. They shouted "John Kasich is selling out Ohio" during his speech. About 100 demonstrators gathered outside on issues including drilling and union rights.

#### **FEB 11 - HUNGARIANS DESTROY MONSANTO BIOTECH CORN**

Taking a bold stand against biotech giant Monsanto and genetic modification, Hungarians destroyed 1000 acres of maize found to have been grown with genetically modified seeds, according to deputy state secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development. Unlike many European Union countries, Hungary is a nation where genetically modified (GM) seeds are banned.

#### **FEB 12 - ATHENS IN FLAMES, AGAIN**

Fire destroyed the Attikon theater block, torching the first Starbucks in the country, as another wave of protests rage through the Greek capitol. The news tells us that the riots are about national austerity measures, but we all know that the desire to turn cities to ashes goes much deeper than economic reforms.

#### **FEB 13 - GREENPEACE SHUTS DOWN COAL PLANT IN NORTH CAROLINA**

Sixteen activists were arrested after unfurling a banner on the Progress Asheville Power Station smoke stack. Activists also secured themselves to the coal loader and conveyers preventing coal from entering the facility.

The Progress-owned plant, which uses mountain top removal coal, is about to be taken over in a merger with Duke Energy, making Duke the largest utility in the US.



## **FEB 15 - VENEZUELAN BLOCK STREETS WITH FLAMING BARRICADES AFTER OIL SPILL**

Hundreds of protesters in eastern Venezuela blocked streets with burning tires to demand clean water after a recent oil spill polluted rivers and streams that supply local storage tanks.

"We have not had water for a week," said Maria Rodriguez, an angry 26-year-old housewife who joined the protest. "We don't have water to cook and bathe, and we don't have the money needed to buy bottled water everyday." Oil began spilling from a ruptured pipeline on February 4 near the city of Maturin.

## **FEB 16 - JAPANESE WHALERS DENIED PROTECTION FROM SEA SHEPHERD**

Japanese whalers asked a US federal court to make the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society stop harassing them during their whale hunt in the Southern Ocean. The judge refused the whalers' protection request. The ruling came less than a week after a standoff in sub-zero Antarctic waters between Sea Shepherd activists on a jet-ski and three inflatable boats, and the Nishin Maru 2, a Japanese harpoon boat. The spray from a water cannon on the harpoon boat hit the activist on the jet-ski in his chest, causing him to fall into the frigid waters. He was able to make it back onto his jet-ski and return to the Sea Shepherd vessel nine miles away.

## **FEB 17 - ANTI-DEVELOPMENT PROTEST GETS HEATED IN ARMENIA**

Police attacked over a dozen environmental activists who were camped in a public park in downtown Yerevan to protest against the construction of several shops in the capital.

Environmental and other civic groups condemned the choice of a new location for the shops, saying that it would inflict further damage on Yerevan's green areas that have shrunk significantly over the past decade. Riot police pushed a group of protesters, who have staged daily sit-ins in the park, away from the construction site to allow work to resume.

## **FEB 19 - TREESIT IN TASMANIA BREAKS RECORD**

The forest defense group Still Wild Still Threatened who set up a 200-foot high tree sit-in at the TN044B logging coupe near Maydena broke the nation's forest defense record at 52 days in the canopy.

## **FEB 20 - EARTH FIRST! MAKES A MESS OF UTAH TAR SANDS PLANS**

The Earth First! 2012 Organizers Conference and Winter Rendezvous culminated in a rowdy demonstration

outside the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) offices in downtown Salt Lake City. EF! activists staged their protest with local organizers from Utah Tar Sands Resistance and Canyon Country Rising Tide. The offices were closed for Presidents' Day, but a clear (and messy) message was left at the doorstep—a mock oil spill accompanied by a mural reading, "Hey SITLA: Tar Sands Outta Utah!"

## **FEB 24 - XENA WARRIOR PRINCESS OCCUPIES SHIP HEADED TO DRILL IN THE ARCTIC**

Seven people, including actress Lucy Lawless (that's Xena), scaled the tower on a ship commissioned by Shell to drill for oil in the Arctic. They set up camp at the very top of the ship's drilling derrick and barricaded the access ladder for four days to prevent the ship from leaving. With phone, cameras, a laptop and a solar panel, they proceeded to speak to the world via live feed on the web. By the time they did come down, over 135,000 people had emailed Shell demanding an end to its Arctic drilling.

## **FEB 29 - NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST ALEC AND ITS AFFILIATES**

The movement against the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) got a boost as Occupy LA blockaded WalMart Distro Center; Occupy Wall Street marched to Pfizer and blockaded Bank of America; Occupy DC blockaded Monsanto offices; Tucson activists blockaded a G4S security site; Occupy Portland had a mass march to multiple ALEC-related offices in the city with roving blockades; more actions reported in Utah, Connecticut, Mississippi, North Dakota, Florida, and North Carolina.

## **MARCH 5 - LAKOTA ACTIVISTS BLOCKADE TAR SANDS PIPES ON PINE RIDGE RESERVATION**

Five Lakota arrested in Wamblee, South Dakota, at a blockade to halt a convoy of trucks carrying pipes used for tar sands pipeline going through the Indian Reservation. Canadian company Totran Transportation Services apparently wanted to avoid paying the State of South Dakota to use its highways. Instead Totran thought they would use the rez roads. Some 75 Lakota thought otherwise.

## **MARCH 11 - ZOO PROTEST AFTER GIRAFFE DEATH IN INDONESIA**

After a giraffe dies from a beachball sized wad of plastic food wrappers in its belly, protests focused on conditions at Indonesia's largest zoo. The tigers are emaciated, the pelicans packed so

tightly they cannot unfurl their wings without hitting a neighbor, incredibly rare species, including Komodo dragons and critically endangered orangutans, sit in dank, unsanitary cages.

Set up nearly a century ago in one the most biologically diverse corners of the planet, the Surabaya Zoo is a nightmare, plagued by persistent suspicions that members of its staff are involved in illegal wildlife trafficking.

## **MARCH 14 - COURT REJECTS APPEAL OF NORTHERN ROCKIES WOLF HUNT**

A federal appeals court rejected a lawsuit from conservation groups to block wolf hunts that have killed more than 500 of the predators across the Northern Rockies in recent months. The ruling from a three-judge panel of the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals said Congress had the right to intervene when it stripped protections from wolves last spring.

## **MARCH 20 - MAJOR HLS DOCUMENTS LEAKED ON SHAC.NET**

Numerous documents of animal-testing giants Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) have been leaked from inside HLS, putting confidential client documents, experiments, invoices, unpaid bills, staff communications and even their secret alter-ego—LSR Associates—in the public domain. The documents reveal previously unknown suppliers and customers, as well as re-confirming existing ones who can be contacted online at SHAC.NET.

## **MARCH 21 - CRIMINAL CHARGES FILED AGAINST CHEVRON EXECS**

A Brazilian prosecutor filed against Chevron, Transocean and their top executives for an offshore oil spill in November. Energy analysts say the environmental crimes charges are likely to send a chill through an offshore drilling industry unaccustomed to prosecution for what companies view as inevitable accidents. The federal prosecutor is seeking to seize assets from both companies.

This all comes at a delicate time for Chevron CEO John Watson, as Chevron is also facing the liability from what experts consider to be one of the world's worst environmental disasters which occurred in Ecuador last year.

## **MARCH 23 - THE HUNGER GAMES MOVIE IS RELEASED**

Will the sparks of eco-rebellion against the Capitol and its industrial slavery find tinder? But, really though, you're better off reading the books.

Check out a review of the series online at [NEWswire.EarthFirstJournal.org](http://NEWswire.EarthFirstJournal.org)

## **JANUARY 25 - TIBETAN VILLAGERS DUMP MINING EQUIPMENT INTO RIVER AND WIN!**

After efforts to negotiate with the local government failed, villagers pushed \$300,000 of equipment into the Nu River in defense of Mount Kawagebo, one of the most sacred peaks in the Tibetan world, proposed for gold mining. On Jan 20, a village leader who had tried to confront the mining company was ambushed by local police, tazed and arrested. Community members surrounded the police station where an ensuing riot resulted in a villager sent to the hospital with serious injuries. Officials ordered the mine closed and the equipment trucked out of the village in the following week.



# MARCH 22 - OVER 130 ARRESTED IN PROTESTS AGAINST VERMONT YANKEE NUKE PLANT

More than 1,000 people marched in Brattleboro from the town common to Entergy's Vermont Yankee offices, with dozens trespassing on company property. Forty years after the plant opened, it has continued to operate despite its license expiring March 21.

A 93-year-old anti-nuclear activist, Frances Crowe, was among protesters arrested at the corporate headquarters of the plant on the first day of operation after the expiration.

"As I was walking down, all I could think of was Fukushima and the suffering of all the people, and I don't want that to happen to New England," said Crowe, referring to the Japanese nuclear disaster last March. When asked how many times she'd been arrested, her answer: "Not enough."

In a coordinated actions, the headquarters of Vermont Yankee's parent company, Entergy, had another group of seven activists arrested after they went into the building in New Orleans, Louisiana and refused to leave until they got a meeting with CEO J. Wayne Leonard.

Five others also were arrested at Entergy offices in White Plains, New York.



Frances Crowe of Northampton, with another member of her affinity group.

## EARTH FIRST! TOOLBOX:

(Spells To Win a Court Case)



If you are involved in a court case and are in need of a little assistance, perform any of the following magical spells to ensure that the judge will rule in your favor:

Mix a pinch of the herb known as black candle tobacco with a bit of salt, and then burn it along with a black candle prior to going to court. It is said that courtroom victory is awarded to those who bathe in a tub of water into which lovage root has been added.

Brewing a tea from *cascara sagrada* (also known as sacred bark, native to some western states in the US) and then sprinkling it around the courtroom prior to your proceeding will also help you to win your case.

If mojo magick suits you, anoint either a Chewing John root or the root of a snakeroot plant with three drops of Court Room Oil. If you are unable to find this particular oil, you may use High John the Conquerer Oil in its place. Place the root inside of your mojo bag and then carry or wear it when you go to court.

For another highly effective mojo, burn some dried galangal every night during the two weeks preceding your court case and save the ashes in a green flannel bag. Anoint the bag with three drops of Court Room Oil, and then carry it on you when you go in to face the judge.

Source: *Herbal Magick* by Gerina Dunwich

## Summer 2012 Announcements

(For an updated calendar with website links to each event, visit [NEWSWIRE.EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG](http://NEWSWIRE.EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG))

**MAY 20:** [Chicago, IL] **Resist the NATO Summit**

**MAY 13-29:** [Boulder, UT] **Slickrock** - earth skills

**MAY 19-20:** [Canada] **Montreal Anarchist Bookfair**

**JUNE 1-3:** [Baltimore, MD] **MOBCON (Mobilizing & Organizing from Below Conference)**

**JUNE 11:** [everywhere] **Global Day of Solidarity for ecoprisoners M.Mason and E. McDavid**

**JUNE 16-24:** [Southwest Colorado] **Wild Roots, Feral Futures**  
earth skills and activism

**JUNE 21-24:** [Asheville, NC] **Firefly Gathering** - earth skills

**JUNE 20-25:** **Cascadia Regional Earth First! Rendezvous!**

**JULY 1-7:** [Location TBA,] **Earth First! Round River Rendezvous**  
in the Marcellus region, Western PA/Upstate New York [TBA]

**AUG 23-30:** [Tampa, FL] **Crash the Republican National Convention**

**AUG 29-SEPT 3:** [Location TBA] **Cascadia TWAC! \***

**AUG 2-9:** [Northern Cali] **Humboldt Summer Action Camp**

**SEPT 3-6:** [Charlotte, NC] **Protest the Democratic National Convention**

\* **"TWAC = The lovely sound of smashing patriarchy!"**

A message from TWAC organizers: "Calling all Eco-Warriors who are fierce, something amazing is going to happen in the deep forests of Cascadia late this summer. Trans and Womyn's Action Camp (TWAC), amongst other things, is an intentional safe(r) space created by and for radical eco-feminists of all persuasions to share skills and discuss what radical environmentalism within an anti-oppression framework looks like! Save the date, location TBA. TWAC. see you in the woods! For more information about TWAC, visit [TWAC.WORDPRESS.COM](http://TWAC.WORDPRESS.COM)"



## Earth First! Directory

For a complete listing of EF! contacts, venues and affiliated groups, contact the Journal or check our online directory at: [EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG](http://EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG)

### US Groups

#### CALIFORNIA

**Diablo EF! (Bay Area)**

[diabloearthfirst@gmail.com](mailto:diabloearthfirst@gmail.com)

**EF! Humboldt**

[contacteffhum@gmail.com](mailto:contacteffhum@gmail.com)

**Sierra Nevada EF!**

[sierranevadaearthfirst@gmail.com](mailto:sierranevadaearthfirst@gmail.com)

#### COLORADO

**High Country EF!**

[highcountryearthfirst@riseup.net](mailto:highcountryearthfirst@riseup.net)

#### FLORIDA

**Everglades EF!**

[evergladesearthfirst.org](http://evergladesearthfirst.org)

#### IDAHO

**Northern Rockies EF!**

<http://nref.wordpress.com>

#### MAINE

**Maine EF!**

[maine.earth-first.net](http://maine.earth-first.net)

#### NORTH CAROLINA

**Katua Earth First!**

[katuaearthfirst@riseup.net](mailto:katuaearthfirst@riseup.net)

**Croatian Earth First!**

[croatanearthfirst.wordpress.com](http://croatanearthfirst.wordpress.com)

#### NEW YORK

**Genesee Valley EF!**

[gvf.rocus.org](http://gvf.rocus.org)

**Fingerlakes EF!**

[fingerlakesearthfirst.org](mailto:fingerlakesearthfirst.org)

**Hudson Valley EF!**

[hudsonvalleyearthfirst@gmail.com](mailto:hudsonvalleyearthfirst@gmail.com)

#### OHIO

**Oberlin EF!**

[oberlinearthfirst@gmail.com](mailto:oberlinearthfirst@gmail.com)

#### OREGON

**Blue Mountain Biodiversity Project**

27803 Williams Lane, Fossil, OR 97830

**Cascadia EF! - Eugene**

[cascadiaef@gmail.com](mailto:cascadiaef@gmail.com)

**Cascadia EF! - Portland**

[cascadia\\_ef@riseup.net](mailto:cascadia_ef@riseup.net)

#### TENNESSEE

**Three Rivers EF!**

[annebonnylives@yahoo.com](mailto:annebonnylives@yahoo.com)

#### VIRGINIA

**Richmond EF!**

[rvaearthfirst@yahoo.com](mailto:rvaearthfirst@yahoo.com)

### International Groups

#### AUSTRALIA

[efoz@earthfirst.org.au](mailto:efoz@earthfirst.org.au)

#### CANADA

**Elaho EF!** [zoe@wildcoast.ca](mailto:zoe@wildcoast.ca)

#### UK EARTH FIRST! ACTION UPDATE

[earthfirst.org.uk](http://earthfirst.org.uk)

#### GERMANY

[efgermanycontact@googlemail.com](mailto:efgermanycontact@googlemail.com)

#### ITALY

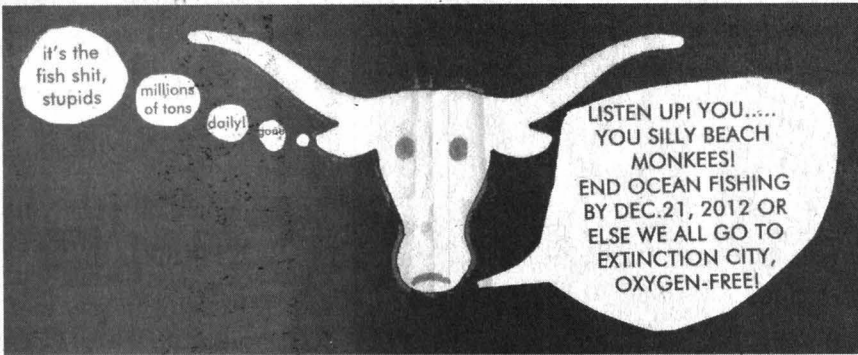
[earthfirstpadova@gmail.com](mailto:earthfirstpadova@gmail.com)



# Dear Shit for Brains...

Send us your letters to the editors...

Keep 'em to 300 words or less.



"Dear Fish Shit for Brains" image above and on following page sent by Bob Schroeder

Dear Manure for Brains

We have no farmland left. I am a 74-year-old great grandmother. When I was a kid we'd get on the school bus and the kids would smell like manure.

Here are two dollars. Send me stickers that I can put on the "earth movers" early Sunday mornings—I guess "No Deal, Assholes."

I always liked "Save Farmland, You Can't Eat Townhouses"

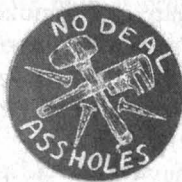
—G.L.

PENNSYLVANIA

Dear SFB,

I appreciate the personally addressed thank you note for my contribution. That, plus another spirited argument (not debate) with my pro-big-oil/development dad encouraged me to make another small donation. Please use it for expenses or to provide a subscription to somebody who's incarcerated. They are more brave and dedicated than I am in supporting environmental issues, although I show strong support in other ways. My dad really dislikes environmental greenies and "our" efforts to protect the wilderness and other undeveloped lands, so I'm sure he'll piss me off again and out of spite I'll make another donation.

Thank you for all your efforts to keep the Earth First! Journal alive.



I sure appreciate it! I first read *The Monkey Wrench Gang* many, many years ago, in my early teens, and I still re-read that novel and *Desert Solitaire* every two or three years. It's amazing how many things Abbey predicted have come true and sadly our environment continues to be raped. I'm glad Hayduke's spirit is alive and well, even if he isn't!

—AMY

ALASKA

Dear Baptist for Brains,

Thanks for publishing the *EF! Journal*. I love everything you do, and it encourages me to remain involved, and find ways to be more effectively involved, though I have to keep my job for 2 more years (I'm 68). Then I'm free to devote 100% attention to what matters.

I think you have to look seriously at attempting to undermine the strength of religion in this country. The corporations are funding the southern baptists big time, because then they get free "pulpit time" every Sunday to a captive audience. Check out "The Cornwall Alliance" online. Really investigate them. They're funded by Koch Brothers Oil.

Thanks again for all you're doing,

—P.T.

CALIFORNIA

Dear SFB,

Now that I'm a bonafide, fancy-pants paying subscriber to your rag, I thought I'd drop a line with some feedback on the last two issues. It's been a minute since I wrote, so forgive the length of this note. The good stuff first, then....

Mabon 2011 issue had some outstanding articles (Kristian Williams' "Profiles of Provocateurs" piece and the review of *Designed to Kill*) as well as a well-written review of *Deep Green Resistance* (keep having prisoners review books) and a clean, crisp design and layout. The cover art and photos were especially tight. Please continue to publish "Where are They Now?" and "Mad Libs"—these were great. And you *have* to bring "Wolves and Poodles" back!

The prisoner bio is really needed considering the lack of ample space on the prisoner page to background and updates. It would be great if you did one every issue and focused on prisoners who aren't as well known or supported.

The prisoner page, while complete, is sadly buried in the last ten percent of each issue. There is a subtle message in that choice and I hope it can be rectified and bumped up a bit. While the printing of birthdays is a nice gesture, the quarterly printing schedule of the *Journal* makes it so some will invariably be left out or late. Instead, why not just list the websites with that info (NYC-ABC has a complete birthday list for political prisoners at NYCABC.WORDPRESS.COM). As a side benefit that will free up more column space to print more addresses—such as a revolving list of different movements' prisoners we are in solidarity with.

Finally, I have to say, the fundraising/subscription letter I got from y'all surprised me. Given that most pris-

*Dear Shit for Brains...*  
Letters-to-the-Editors continued

oners make about ten cents an hour (a fact I assumed you were aware of), I took it as a sign that y'all were broke. Hopefully, things have improved and many *Journal* readers have stepped up since then to sponsor prisoner subs. It may not seem like a big deal but it means a lot to those of us behind bars to get a reliably solid magazine like the *Journal*.

As for me, life is good and time is flying by. I should be going to a halfway house before year's end. My lawsuit against the Bureau of Prisons about the Communication Management Unit I am held in is moving forward. Updates can be acquired at [WWW.CCRJUSTICE.ORG/CMU](http://WWW.CCRJUSTICE.ORG/CMU)

The new issues out of Florida look great and I hope the move has helped rejuvenate your efforts. Not bad for a bunch of swamp-dwelling, tree-hugging hippies!

Until next time, Love,

—DANIEL MCGOWAN #63794-053  
FCI TERRE HAUTE-CMU  
PO Box 33  
TERRE HAUTE, IN 47808

#### Dear EarthFirst! Journal.org,

You promised to publish *Montezumazine* if I subscribed. You speak with forked tongue. You disenfranchise the Elders. You disrespect 7 billion pre-internet (it) historical humanity and the PaperNet which emerged from them.

Your anti-tech message is muted inside the nose cone of advancing technological national security agency, media/military intelli-



END OCEAN.FISHING BY 12/21/12 OR GO  
OXYGEN-FREE! OCEANS UNABLE TO RECOVER  
CARBON-SINK AND O<sub>2</sub> PRODUCTION FUNCTIONS  
BEFORE REGIME OF ANAEROBIC BACTERIA TAKES  
OVER INCREASINGLY ANOXIC SEAWATERS.

gence (i.e. [it]) which is an Ecocidal, counterrevolutionary, leviathan juggernaut, a crime against humanity, unconstitutional and the universal death of *liberty*, our most precious life-form.

You'll never be able to kick the Left bio-cultural, Darwinian/Marxian evolutionary progress paradigm Orthodoxy as long as you continue to suppress critical ecological Truths such as: (1) 9/11 was an inside job; (2) state and civilization (S and C)(and hence [it]) are extraterrestrial (ET) in origin, unnatural, inefficient for human consociation, and were the "wrong turn" in the first place; and hence, the high unlikelihood that (3) renewable energy (re) alone can not sustain [it] which is virtually identical to the World Wide Electric Grid (wwe-grid), according to an electric grid expert, PBS Newshour (8-11-10).

[It] equals wwe-grid because [it] operates the fossil fuel and nuclear power plants which power [it]. [It] generates postmodern urban sprawl (ie, cybernetic S and C). Hence, [it] is an all consuming black hole and

is the singular underlying cause of global warming, nuclear and electromagnetic radiation and heavy metals poisoning worldwide ([http:// www Eat, Sleep, Click, Earth First! Journal, Brigid 2012](http://www.EatSleepClick.com), has not added and factored in [it]'s annual production of electricity to [it]'s annual consumption of electricity when calculating [it]'s carbon footprint). Said

article did not mention high tech trash or electromagnetic radiation (emr) ecocide from WiMAX and emr (e.g. microwave) emitting towers for mobile/wireless technology.

EarthFirst!Journal.org propagandizes for the Official, global warming, nuke and emr inducing, false, US Imperialist versions of (1) thru (3) above.

Long live Anarchy!

—DAVID PEARSON

#### Dear Weak Sauce for Brains,

You Morons forgot Uncle Ted on your birthday list. WTF. You can have DGR and decisive ecological warfare but not the only political prisoner to actually attempt it. ~~Total party foul!~~ Weaksaucel!

What are you, a bunch of pacifists with no analysis of power?

Free the land!

—CEF!

[Editors' note: This letter was only signed with the above acronym. Although we have not been able to confirm its origin, we have deduced that it could be from either the Croatan or Cascadia EF! groups.]



# LIFE AFTER PRISONS WHAT'S THE ENVIRONMENT GOT TO DO WITH IT?

This article was originally printed in *The Abolitionist*, publication of the Critical Resistance organization, dedicated to ending the prison industrial complex. It is produced as a forum on the issues that affect prisoners and state-targeted communities. Free subscriptions are available to prisoners by writing to 1904 Franklin Street, Ste. 504, Oakland, CA 94612 or via their website: [ABOLITIONISTPAPER.WORDPRESS.COM](http://ABOLITIONISTPAPER.WORDPRESS.COM)

BY ROSE BRAZ AND CRAIG GILMORE

To imagine the environment in a world without the prison industrial complex (PIC), we have to first understand its impact on the current environment. While environmental concerns are widely discussed today, many have not identified prisons as a toxic industry. We can't truly have a society based in values of community and sustainability while the PIC exists.

Prisons are often sold to poor communities as "clean industries" with a promise of hundreds of jobs and tax benefits. In reality, the effects of prisons on a community are almost entirely negative. Prisons suck up local natural resources and overwhelm city infrastructure, which can lead to toxic spills. Prisons also generate tens of thousands of miles of commuting pollution, take irreplaceable land out of any productive use or natural setting, and waste valuable public funds that could go toward cleaning up our air, water and land, but rather are spent on locking people in cages.

Water is a key example of the vital resources squandered by the PIC. Aging infrastructure and overcrowding have resulted in prisons and jails leaking environmentally dangerous effluents both inside prisons and into local rivers and community water supplies.

In 2000, Folsom State Prison was fined \$700,000 for a massive 700,000 gallon sewage spill into the adjacent American River. Five years later, Folsom was implicated in water pollution again when 17,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed from the prison property from an area that had formerly housed scrap metal storage, industrial manufacturing, and a firing range. Despite removal of this toxic waste, nearby wells still show excessive levels of contaminants and are unsuitable for drinking water.

A report from *Prison Legal News* shows environmental degradation from prisons nationwide. Raw sewage from pipes underneath the Miami-Dade County Jail in Florida had been sickening prisoners and guards for years. A 2007 report from the Indiana Department of Corrections noted sewage inside the building being diverted into open gutters at Marion County Community Corrections Center.

Prisons follow the template of other toxic industries, not just in their literal contamination, but also in their exploitation of the communities in which they are located. Communities of color and poor communities are

burdened with an unequal number of environmentally destructive land uses that take from the community but don't give back. Environmental racism, broadly defined as racial discrimination in environmental policy making, selective enforcement of environmental laws, and the targeting of communities of color for environmentally disastrous land uses, such as waste disposal sites, oil refineries, or power plants, also includes prisons.

Fighting against environmental degradation is linked to fighting against prisons—both are about addressing root social problems and the forces that cause them. We know what we need to slow climate change: stop burning so much fossil fuel. We also know what we need to make our communities truly safe: invest in health, food, clean air, employment and housing, rather than locking people up. Unfortunately, many reforms related to both the environment and the PIC never address the root causes of the problems.

Land currently taken up by the PIC (over 20,000 acres in California alone) could be transformed based on the needs of surrounding communities into wildlife habitats, farm land, recycling centers, fields where renewable energy is collected, or a great number of other possibilities. This could completely change the landscape of California's Central Valley, often referred to as "prison alley" due to the ever expanding number of prisons, jails, and immigrant detention centers that line the main thoroughfare through the valley, Highway 5.

There are clear concrete and immediate environmental benefits to getting rid of prisons. The burdens that prisons currently place on our land, air, water, and communities will be alleviated. The key benefit, however, will come from the fundamental shift in our society that must occur to both abolish the PIC and reverse course away from environmental catastrophe. This shift will enable us to live in a world lush in diversity of species, where we have clean air to breathe and water to drink; a world where people have a say in what is built in their communities, and for what purpose, where those industries provide real jobs or meet real economic needs of the people who actually live there.

Our struggle to abolish the prison industrial complex is not just about "education not incarceration." It's about freedom, not imprisonment; self-determination, not police control. It is about a society that values the earth and its resources and creatures, rather than the prison industrial complex.

# FREE THE



Chuck



Debbie



Merle



Mike



Phil

2/2/12

LONG LIVE MAMA NATURE FOREVER!

On The Move Earth First! Journal.

Got your letter and good to hear from yall and that everyone is going strong. Family & myself are hanging in strong ourselves as always. Glad the painting got to you and that it is enjoyed. I just wanted to show some appreciation for the work yall do.

It does us all good to see people out there with the courage to stand up for what's Right against this rotten system.

It is really good, motivating to see people starting to take stands against this rotten system on all levels. People need to realize that when they take a stand for what's Right it is for Themselves they are fighting for. People must realize that there is Nothing more important than LIFE/NATURE.

I'll close for now. Please give my revolutionary best to all. Take care & stay strong and you can be surer that we in MOVE will do the same.

Ona Move!

your Red n Revolution

Phil Africa

To quote JOHN AFRICA - "THE EARTH IS FOOD, WITHOUT EARTH THE SEED IS DEAD, WITHOUT THE SEED THE EARTH IS DEAD, WITHOUT FOOD ALL LIFE IS DEAD FOR IT AINT THE CABBAGE THAT IS THE FOOD, IT IS THE LIFE IN THE CABBAGE THAT KEEP YOU ALIVE, EARTH IS LIFE, THE CABBAGE IS EARTH, WHEN YOU EAT THE CABBAGE YOU ARE EATIN' THE SOIL JUST A SURELY AS YOU ARE DRINKIN' YOUR BREATH WITH EVERY SWALLOW OF WATER WHEN THIRSTY"... end quote LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA!

Photo of Phil Africa and MOVE 9 defendants provided by MOVE organization



# MOVE 9



Delbert



Eddie



Janet



Janine

On The Move To All Supporters, Brothers and Sisters united in the cause,

The example of support that you have shown to Political Prisoners through the years is received with ongoing motivation to stop the exploitative policies of this reform world system. THE MOVE ORGANIZATION is generating a united revolutionary vibration to you and all supporters around the world through our uncompromising fight for justice and freedom for all of life. We are linked together as one to confront and expose the intimidation tactics the oppressor uses to beat down and kill off the fighting spirit in all freedom fighters. Divide and conquer is what this system uses to keep people apart and going in separate directions. They try to drive a wedge between us to get people to go against each other, that way it keeps the focus off of them, the real adversary. We are obligated to show others the need for change and help guide people in the direction of revolution. We must never let ourselves be divided despite any so-called differences, because finally, we have the most important thing in common, our fight against the enemy, the enslaver, this system. any difference among us is secondary to that. What this system fears most is organization, unity. In the eyes of the government, organization, unity means the lost of control over people. The power of the people is the key to freedom.

MOVE men, women and babies were murdered by this government May 13, 1985. Not one government official, one politician, or one police officer who dropped the bomb on our family that day spent one day in jail. We know many of you have lost family, loved ones and comrades in this fight too. **WE ARE INNOCENT.** Despite our innocence we've been in prison for almost 34 years, we've been beaten, had our family members murdered, not because we are guilty but because we have the courage to stand up and fight back against this corrupt, rotten government and confront these officials, politicians, judges and brutal police for the diabolical monsters they are. It is inevitable that you will or have suffered injustice of one form or another because when the system that is dictating and controlling the arrangement of things aint right, aint organized, everybody living under that influence suffers injustice.

Stay strong. Know that MOVE will not let the lives of our family, your family, Freedom Fighters, Political Prisoners be in vain. We will never stop fighting. The seed of revolution has been planted, if our paths never cross, at least we know that our roots are planted in the same soil.

LONG LIVE ALL FREEDOM FIGHTERS  
LONG LIVE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS  
LONG LIVE REVOLUTION  
**LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA FOREVER !!!**

Solidarity  
ON THE MOVE  
Janet Africa  
THE MOVE ORGANIZATION

Contact the MOVE 9 through any of the following:  
The MOVE Organization, PO Box 19709 Philadelphia, PA 19143  
ONAMOVELJA@AOL.COM, Phone (215) 386-1165, ONAMOVE.COM

# SEND A LETTER IN SOLIDARITY WITH MOVE

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PA. Board Of Probation And Parole/ Central Office, (717) 787-5699  
Riverfront Office Center, 1101 South Front Street, Harrisburg, PA. 17104

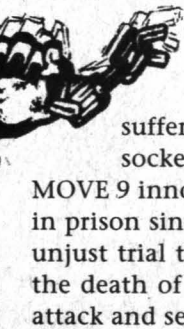
It is on behalf of the incarcerated members of MOVE—Charles Sims Africa, Delbert Orr Africa, Eddie Goodman Africa, Janine Phillips Africa, Mike Davis Africa, William Phillips Africa, Janet Holloway Africa, Debbie Sims Africa (and 'Merle Auston Africa' who passed away on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1998 after 20 years of unjust imprisonment)—that I write this letter. These men and women have served over 33 years of a 30-100 years sentence. They have been in prison three years beyond the minimum sentencing and have been denied parole three times despite meeting all the requirements requested of them for parole. All of the MOVE members have maintained their innocence and the evidence presented during their trial points to the same. Judge Edward Malmed, who convicted all nine of the MOVE members of third degree murder, on just verbal testimony from some of the police, admitted after their trial that he didn't have "the faintest idea" who killed James Ramp, which means the same applies for all those who claimed to have been shot that day of August 8, 1978.

I write to urge the Board of probation and parole members to correct this great injustice and approve the release of the remaining members of MOVE.

Sincerely,

On behalf of: Janine Phillips Africa #006309, Debbie Sims Africa #006307, Janet Holloway Africa #006308, Merle Auston Africa #006306, Edward Goodman Africa #AM4974, Charles Sims Africa #AM4975, William Phillips Africa #AM 4984, Delbert Orr Africa #AM 4985

## MOVE 9 BIRTHDAYS COMING UP!!



**JUNE 21: Delbert Orr Africa**—A member of the Chicago chapter of the Black Panther Party as a young man, Delbert was later inspired by MOVE's uplifting approach to revolution and stayed on with them, becoming Minister of Confrontation and Security for this black liberation and radical environmental organization. When the police first raided the MOVE house in 1978, Delbert was the one videotaped being beaten brutally by police. He suffered a broken jaw and fractured eye socket from the attack. Delbert is one of the MOVE 9 innocent men and women who have been in prison since that massive police attack. After an unjust trial they were all charged with murder for the death of a cop killed by police fire during the attack and sentenced to 30-100 years in prison.

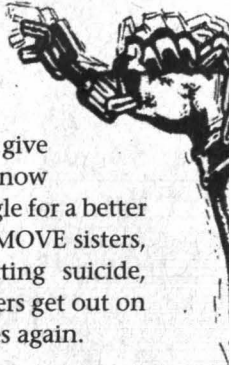
Send a card to:

Delbert Orr Africa #AM 4985  
1000 Follies Rd.  
Dallas, PA. 18612

**AUGUST 4: Debbie Sims Africa**—Debbie Sims Africa is a member of the black liberation group MOVE, mother of two and political prisoner who has served over 33 years in prison after the house she was living in was attacked by Philadelphia police. Debbie, like Delbert, is also one of the MOVE 9. On September 15, 1978 Debbie had her son, Mike Jr., in her prison cell naturally without the aid of doctors, nurses, or prison staff. For several hours afterward, Debbie held her son, anguished over the inevitable time she would have to give him up. Both her son and daughter are now parents themselves. She continues to struggle for a better world inside her cell. She, along with her MOVE sisters, have prevented prisoners from committing suicide, resolved racial disputes, and helped prisoners get out on good behavior to reunite with their families again.

Send a card to:

Debbie Sims Africa #006307  
451 Fullerton Ave.  
Cambridge Springs, PA. 16403-1238





# Armed with Visions

{ Clear As Cut Glass  
& Just as Dangerous }

## The Sundowning

BY BENJAMIN MORRIS

An hour before the shrieks within the wood—  
song of the sundowning, day tuning itself  
for night—the tiny cave was quiet, stood  
a hole in the trees. Then fell some inner shelf  
and out they poured—in ones and twos,  
then hundreds, thousands, more—in search  
of prey: mosquitoes, moths, the blood that cruised  
the dusk. So too came from their perch  
the birds of prey to pluck them from the air,  
plunging into the long stream now wending  
its way over the far hills—so had, there,  
our own blind spirals come to face their ending,  
could we have blamed the night, its buzz and thrum  
of wind and wing, for what with it must come?

A native of Mississippi, Benjamin Morris is the author of *Coronary*, a poetry collection, and *The Bella*, a novella about the United Nations climate negotiations in Copenhagen. The recipient of numerous awards for his work, he lives in New Orleans. More information about his work is available at [benjaminalanmorris.com](http://benjaminalanmorris.com)

## Trilobite

BY ANTHONY LIOI

Anthony Lioi lives in the Raritan watershed in the swampy part of New Jersey. His poetry has been published in *Watershed, Inlet, the Dark Mountain Project* and *Environmental Philosophy*. When greyhounds aren't taking him for a walk, he works at the Juilliard School in New York.

n. Any of the numerous extinct marine arthropods of the class Trilobita, of the Paleozoic era, having a segmented exoskeleton divided by grooves or furrows into three longitudinal lobes.

—The American Heritage Dictionary

You had no cell phones—the sea was sweet without satellite communication or the latest coffeehouse in Prague. In fact, given fossil photographs—shovel-headed centipedish spider-mite—you make the horseshoe crab who lately spawned at Brigantine appear the sleek Manhattanite.

If, as I recall, you perished at the Permian frontier, could you clear something up: what's death-by-asteroid feel like? My species is conducting little tests.

No asteroids—we're not Zeus yet, but cowfart, Oldsmobiles, and the mysteries of Wal-Mart pull a whack-job on the kingdoms of the living.

Anyway, annihilation:

Does it hurt? Is it a hoot?

Do extinction-angels giggle as the last of you bite it?

Is it being sealed in glass,

Sleeping Beauty with no prince to kiss'er?

Or driving Jersey's Turnpike when everyone has EZ-Pass and you've got a quarter.

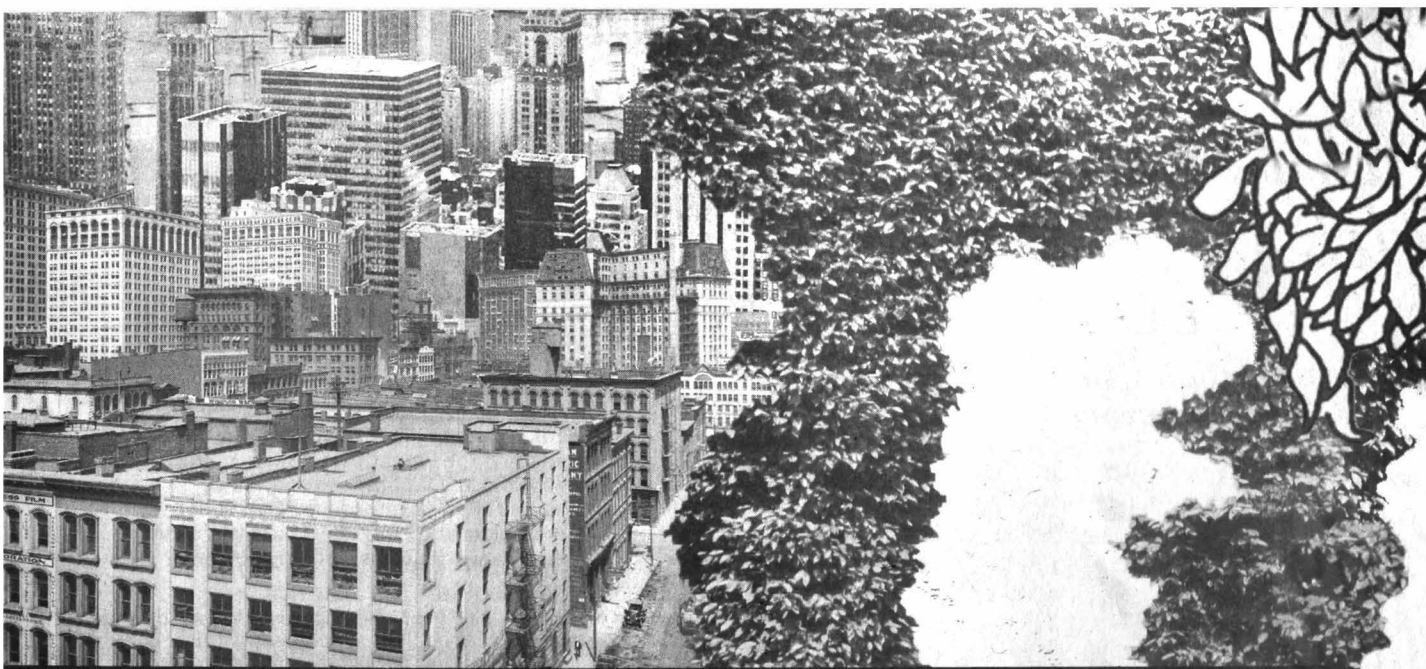
Maybe you should save your breath.

Just answer this: Did you pardon the bullet that ended your age, or sit at eternity's HDTV longing for mammals to die in a blur of scorched milk and burnt fur?

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Art by Walton Ford, taken from *Tigers of Wrath, Horses of Instruction*

Beltane 2012 Earth First! Journal



# We Still Need

BY ATTILA

Behind the rusty fence lay dense foliage embracing a creek. Our backyard was mostly open grass so it was just a matter of time before I started exploring the creek. There was no sign that forbade me from crossing the fence; the fence itself should have been enough of an indication, but it never stopped me. Over time, I would break off rusty pieces of it, prying a hole large enough for frequent passage. I had no idea where the creek led, but I would often follow it as far as I could. The brush along it was thick and dark and my parents never once came back that way. To me this space was my private wilderness and even though it was in the suburbs of Cincinnati, it later led to a larger world of ecodefense.

Over the years I gravitated to such spaces, a path behind a behemoth mall led to a forest filled with beech trees and a 30 foot bluff over a creek. I was in high school by now and probably too old to play in the woods, but I was captivated. I had different reasons for going: I could smoke cigarettes and escape the social pressure of high school. I was unaware of the names of the trees or the birds that would inhabit their branches at different times of the years, but this was irrelevant. To me "the woods" was just a private place away from humans.

When I am frustrated by the lack of participation in Earth First! or other forms of ecodefense, I try to think about what brought me to this place. If I can find the path that brought me here, I can help guide others. Was it the time I watched a video about rainforest destruction or blood spilling from cattle in a slaughterhouse? Was it the times that someone made

me feel guilty about eating meat or using polyethylene cups? My connection to the rest of life on the planet started much earlier than that. I had a bug collection in middle school and could identify bugs as early as kindergarten. My grandfather had a small farm where he grew a chunk of his own food and I spent some summers there. Every city my family ever traveled to, it was given that we would visit the zoo.

The connection grew over the years. It was not one hike. It was a constant stream of multi-sensory exposure of all kinds. Eating berries my grandfather grew. Getting lost in my grandmother's garden or seeing her chickens. Learning how to gut fish. A two week adventure with my father to Yellowstone, Grand Tetons and Rocky Mountain national parks after graduation high school. It was not always about wilderness. When we lived in downtown Cincinnati, my brother and I created tunnels throughout the hedges behind our apartment building where we would take our toys to play. These were the only plants we could find amidst the parking lots and apartment buildings.

None of my desire to save the wild came from the internet or getting goaded into it by activists with pictures of clearcuts or strip mines. If neither my path nor the paths of others I have swapped stories with came to Earth First! through reading an email, how can I expect that to work now to bring others into the movement?

One of the things we need to change is our target audience. While children are less likely to monkey wrench a bulldozer or lock themselves to the doors of





# The Wild

an office building, we must look far enough into the future to spend some of our time taking them outside. There are plenty of children that could be snatched from their technodromes and allowed to play in the mud, and decorate palmetto huts.

Wild spaces are the perfect classroom for children. They give them a place to be away from parents and learn about rules and consequences. If they try jumping across a creek that is too wide, they will get wet. If they touch poison ivy, they itch for a week. These are not arbitrary rules imposed on them from the civilized world; here they have the freedom to make mistakes and learn the consequences.

In nature there are fewer boundaries and they are usually marked by water, thorns, or steep slopes, otherwise children can go as far as they want. Children and adults can also test the boundaries of their fear by climbing trees or going further and further out, past the lights of civilization. Wild spaces encourage kids to be more independent, more brave, and have a better sense of morality, all characteristics that are necessary to be an ecodefender.

Many of us do not have children and might not think we have opportunities to hang-out with them. I have spent time with kids through camps of all sorts, after-school programs, and even in my neighborhood. You can find programs that cater to rich or poor kids. If there is nothing around, set something up. Single parents with multiple children, for example, would be thrilled if you spent the afternoon with their kids. The parents will trust you to take their kids on more adventurous outings if you stick around longer. The kids do not need you to know everything, they just need someone to play with or watch them while they pick flowers.

The kids who have these moments with the wild will cherish them. These experiences stand counter to the majority of their interactions. Mainstream culture and its believers are moving from the organic to the digital. It has incorporated green sentiments, but these are very carefully cut off from any real connection to the natural world. Today, we no longer need to deal with the natural world to "go green."

We see this disconnection in the environmental movement. Discussion of whales and wild rivers is sidelined to discussion about climate change and its techno-fixes. The discussion goes from whooping cranes to windmills, from heirloom tomatoes to hybrid cars. We give up the organic for the digital.

*Illustration from The Giving Tree,  
by Shel Silverstein*



The types of people coming into the ecodefense movement today are very different than those of the previous generation. They relate to each other and nature through the internet. The separation from farm life and hunting has led them to think that any interaction between people and animals is inherently violent. The post-modern sarcastic attitude makes them wary of ritual or tradition. They are more focused on social issues than on wilderness. Within ecodefense groups such as Rising Tide and Earth First! these trends have meant greater focus on infrastructure, less movement songs or celebrations, and more focus on internal anti-oppression.

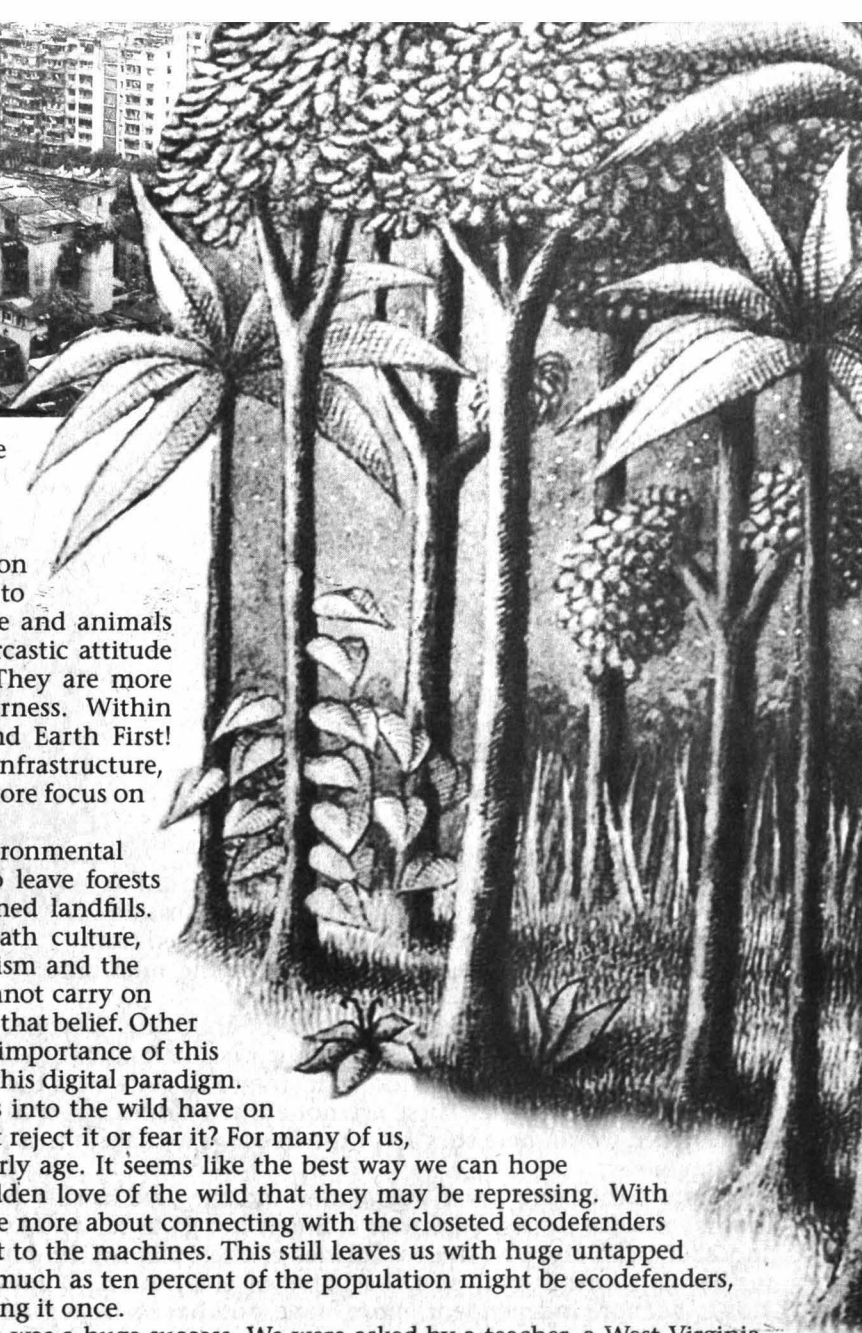
Earth First! was formed as a break from environmental rights groups that were already starting to leave forests and deserts for clean smoke stacks and lined landfills. The mainstream groups believe in the death culture, the digital future. Our belief is in biocentrism and the practice of that belief is ecodefense. We cannot carry on our work unless people are first instilled with that belief. Other movements, such as slow food, realize the importance of this connection and offer hope for a way out of this digital paradigm.

I am skeptical of the impact that outings into the wild have on folks who grew up without it. Will they just reject it or fear it? For many of us, our path to ecodefense started at a very early age. It seems like the best way we can hope for with adults is that we can unlock a hidden love of the wild that they may be repressing. With that in mind, any outreach we do should be more about connecting with the closeted ecodefenders and not trying to convert those already lost to the machines. This still leaves us with huge untapped populations. Some people estimate that as much as ten percent of the population might be ecodefenders, and a third of college students admit to trying it once.

Our first effort at reaching out to children was a huge success. We were asked by a teacher, a West Virginia native, to put on a presentation to her third grade class about mountain top removal coal mining (MTR). We built an interactive model of an MTR site and sang songs. Afterwards the teacher instructed all of the students to write papers on how they feel about MTR. She had balanced our presentation with information from Massey Energy, the coal mining giant. Out of fifteen kids, only one was in favor of MTR. During a discussion at the end we spotted one child who would be ready to join us in the coal fields now. The racially and economically mixed class when home humming John Prine's "Paradise." [See page 35 for an example of the kids responses.]

This was just one time and we did it inside a classroom. Rarely have I seen an outing into the wild not go well, be it with small children or young adults. It inspires people almost as much as a successful direct action, which are harder to come by and not really possible for small children. I have seen similar successes when I have taken people swimming in rivers or challenged kids to eat grubs.

If we want to grow as a movement, or even just to be effective, we need to think about what motivated us to get involved. We can do trainings or show all the movies we want, but the natural world is a much better teacher. What worked for us will probably work to get others involved. There are trees to climb, bird calls to learn, plants to eat, crayfish to catch, dead carcasses to pick through, swimming holes to discover, stars to sleep under, and lightning storms to watch. We need to make sure that the Earth and a culture that sustains and celebrates it are always a part of our movement.



Illustrations from  
*Where the Wild Things*  
Are by Maurice Sendak

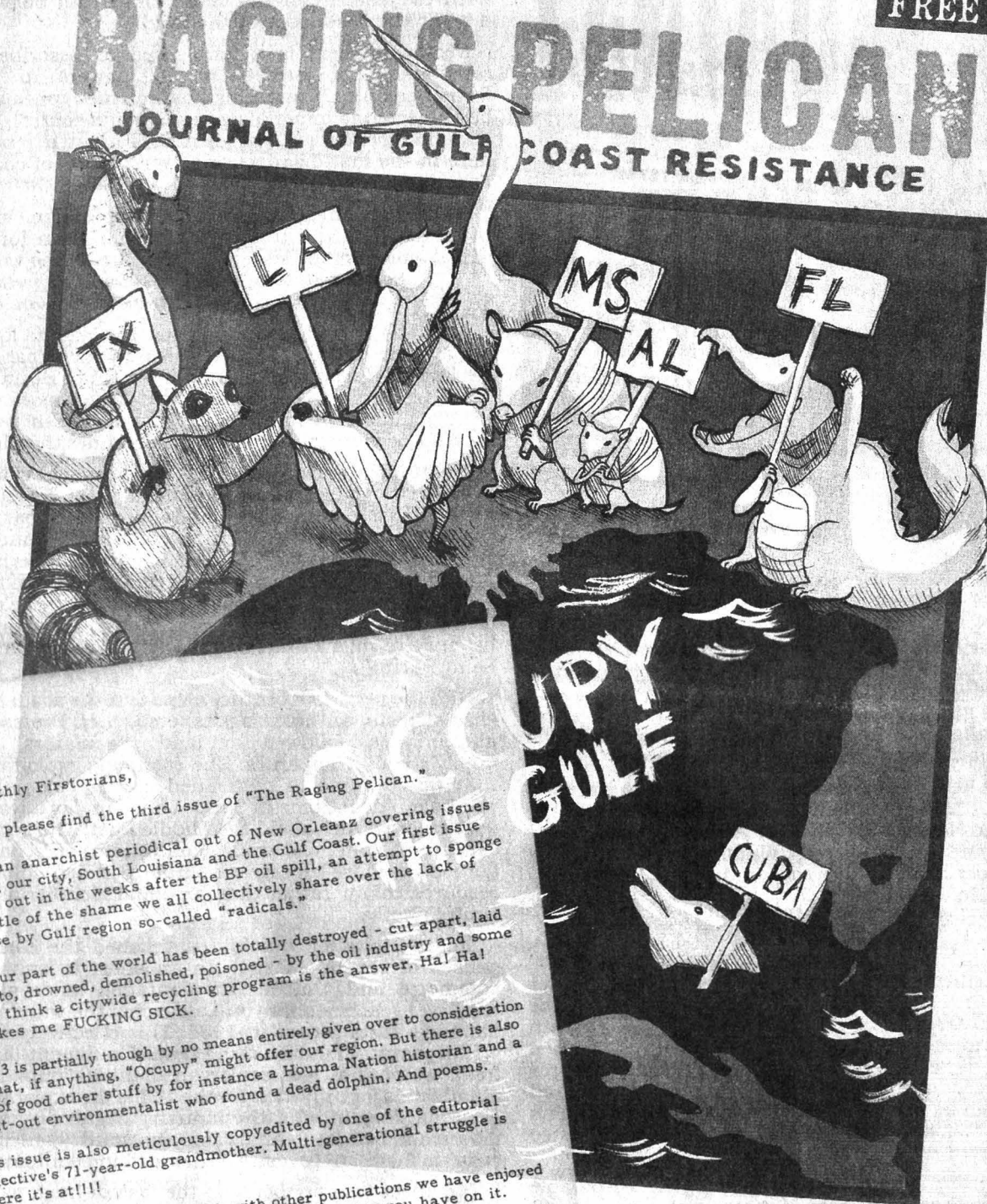




# THE RAGING PELICAN

JOURNAL OF GULF COAST RESISTANCE

FREE



Dear Earthly Firstorians,

Enclosed please find the third issue of "The Raging Pelican."

We are an anarchist periodical out of New Orleans covering issues affecting our city, South Louisiana and the Gulf Coast. Our first issue was put out in the weeks after the BP oil spill, an attempt to sponge up a little of the shame we all collectively share over the lack of response by Gulf region so-called "radicals."

Srsly our part of the world has been totally destroyed - cut apart, laid waste to, drowned, demolished, poisoned - by the oil industry and some people think a citywide recycling program is the answer. Ha! Ha! It makes me FUCKING SICK.

Issue 3 is partially though by no means entirely given over to consideration of what, if anything, "Occupy" might offer our region. But there is also lots of good other stuff by for instance a Houma Nation historian and a burnt-out environmentalist who found a dead dolphin. And poems.

This issue is also meticulously copyedited by one of the editorial collective's 71-year-old grandmother. Multi-generational struggle is where it's at!!!!

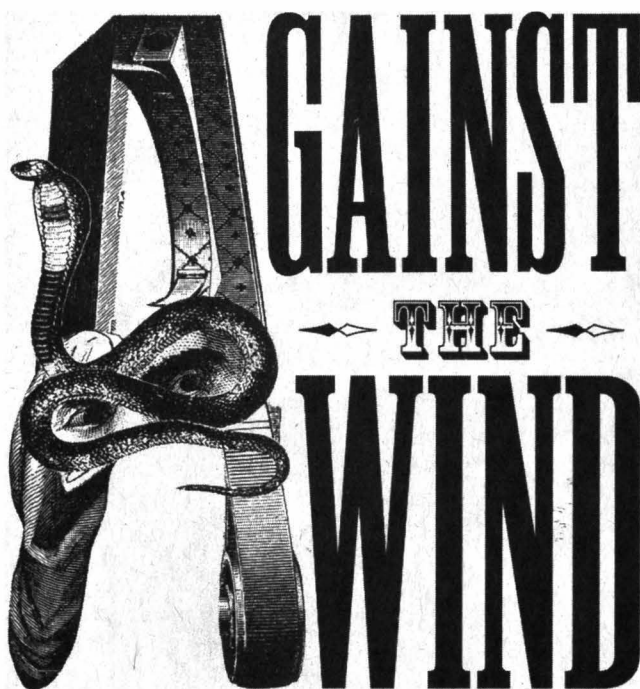
We are eager to share our work with other publications we have enjoyed over the years and look forward to any thoughts you have on it.

Hope you enjoy. Thanks for your time and all you do!

Morbidly furious,

A. Raging Pelican  
 ragingpelican@gmail.com  
 http://ragingpelican.com

ÉCOULEMENT NO.3



## COLONIAL LOUISIANA IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

BY T. MAYHEART DARDAR

~Excerpt of the article which originally ran in Raging Pelican No. 3.

On April 30th, 2012 there is a party in Louisiana, a celebration marking the state's bicentennial: two hundred years of US statehood. As the signs and banners go up and the commemorative license plates are installed, the preparations build towards the kind of party only people in Louisiana can throw.

I can't help but contemplate what all of this should mean to the original people of Louisiana and to my tribe, the Houma, specifically. What should our view be of American statehood? What can we learn from the history behind this event, and how is that history relevant to us today?

### THE COST OF COLONIALISM

In 2005 the Houma community was impacted by two major hurricanes, Katrina and Rita. Over half of the tribe's 17,000 citizens were affected by one or both of the storms. As the tribal government struggled without direct federal assistance to aid their people in recovery, one question was asked of us over and over again by people unfamiliar with the tribe and its history: "Why do your people live in communities so at risk from the forces of nature?"

The answer is both simple and complex. The simple answer is that the effects of coastal erosion have left the Houma communities along the south Louisiana coast at risk from any storm that enters the Gulf of Mexico. Louisiana, as a whole, has lost nearly 2000 square miles of coast since 1930, and a large part of that has come from the lands of the Houma.

The complex answer goes to the root causes of this dilemma and examines the motivating forces that perpetuate the problem. Much of this has been debated for years, and the blame has been categorized

and fractionalized, but for the Houma the answer is quite clear. Our homeland has been subjected to a century of unchecked "economic development." The pursuit of profit that motivated the American traders at the end of the eighteenth century energized itself with twentieth century technology and began to devour the resources of the land.

Neo-colonialism is a term used to describe the relationship of former colonial powers to their former colonies, examining how colonies continue to be subjected to imperial aggression and control, even after independence. The term has great resonance here in the fast-disappearing marshlands of coastal Louisiana.

"The result of neo-colonialism is that foreign capital is used for the exploitation rather than for the development of the less developed parts of the world."

*Neo-Colonialism, the Last Stage of Imperialism*  
Kwame Nkrumah, 1965

The early years of statehood saw the Houma forced out of their village at Pointe Ouiski by the expanding settlement that would become the town of Houma in 1834. Ironically the settlers named the town after the band of Indians living at Pointe Ouiski while they were in the process of forcing them to surrender their land.

The Houma moved south to their seasonal villages in the lower bayous and found a degree of security in the swamps and marshlands along the coast. In relative isolation the tribal population rebounded and grew strong as hunters, trappers and fishermen. The twentieth century dawned on a Houma tribe occupying settlements from Mauvais Bois in the west to lower Bayou Lafourche in the east, all within a twenty-five mile radius of the central settlement at Point Barre.

With the twentieth century came first the academics (ethnologists, anthropologists, etc.), then Protestant missionaries, followed by land speculators, and finally the oil companies. The economic exploitation that would come to be defined as neo-colonialism was as much at home in South Louisiana as it was in post-colonial Africa and the Middle East. The second century of statehood would continue to see coastal Louisiana more closely resemble the neo-colonial resource colony rather than an equal member of the United States.

This exploitation quickly established the earliest causes of coastal erosion. In an effort to enhance commerce and protect rich plantation lands along the lower reaches of Bayou Lafourche, the water was dammed at its source in 1904. This effectively shut off the natural land-building flow of sediment-laden fresh water that had replenished the swamps and marshlands for centuries. By the 1930s the exploration of oil had begun, and the industry began digging a massive network of canals into the south Louisiana coast to facilitate access for their drilling equipment.

The effect was predictable: the loss of fresh water and sediment along with the introduction of marsh-killing salt water which poured in from the Gulf through the access canals and began to eat away at the fragile estuaries. Added to this toxic combination was the industry pulling billions of barrels of oil and trillions of cubic feet of gas from beneath those same estuaries. This caused a level of subsidence that scientists have only recently begun to acknowledge. For the Houma, the result is the land beneath our feet literally washing away as the days go by.



We've lived in our coastal settlements for generations; most of our people still make their living as commercial fishermen. When the land speculators and oil drillers came to our lands, they found an indigenous population that was illiterate in English and uneducated in the ways of American society. Indeed, local governments had made a concerted effort to maintain that imbalance by refusing to allow Indian children to attend public school in the parishes of LaFourche and Terrebonne (home to the majority of the Houma people). A lawsuit and the Civil Rights movement finally opened the door to public education for the tribe, but it was not until 1964 that the first Houma student breached those barriers.

College educated leaders were generations away; with few rights and little resources, the effects of oil-fueled neo-colonialism were beyond the ability of the tribe to stop. It continues into the present and can be easily seen – if anyone cares to look.

Coastal Louisiana provides nearly 30% of US energy production and transports nearly 40% with its network of pipelines, transfer stations and refineries. A large portion of this infrastructure sits atop the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary, the estuarine system between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya River basins that has been the homeland of the Houma for centuries.

To begin calculating the price paid for this resource extraction, consider the nearly 500 square miles of land lost in this estuary alone in the last eighty years, an area of land comparable to New York City. With the loss of land comes increased vulnerability to the effects of tropical storms and hurricanes. Healthy marshlands that had once protected Houma settlements from storm surges are now gone and our people now exist on the edge of the Gulf of Mexico. Storm centers that pass a hundred miles away can still bring catastrophic flooding. Since 2005 the Houma have been impacted by four major storms: Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike.

This situation also leaves portions of the oil industry exposed as well. In 2005, hurricanes Katrina and Rita damaged pipelines and platforms and caused numerous spills totaling millions of gallons of oil. The industry claims the loss, collects their profits and rarely pays any compensation to the people of the land. This was amply illustrated on April 20th, 2010, when the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig off the Louisiana coast initiated the largest oil spill in US history.

### AMERICAN INDIANS?

The original colonial claim on Louisiana was made by France in 1682 when Rene-Robert Cavalier Sieur de La Salle, standing on the banks of the Mississippi near its mouth, expressed ownership in the name of his king. When the United States wrote a fifteen million dollar check for the same piece of real estate one hundred and twenty-one years later, there was one common denominator between the two events: nowhere in the process were the people of the land, the indigenous people of Louisiana, consulted, nor their opinions or concerns considered.

For the Houma the early territorial period brought a new colonial reality and new challenges. In 1806 and 1811 Houma chiefs met with W.C.C. Claiborne, the US Territorial governor. Gifts and pleasantries were exchanged, but the Americans would make no guarantees of Houma sovereignty or land rights. Attempting to navigate the new colonial system,

the Houma sought to secure their survival through a variety of efforts. While Houma warriors were fighting with the privateer Jean Lafitte to defend New Orleans against a British invasion force in 1815, the tribe was also fighting its way through the U.S. territorial bureaucracy.

Houma leaders understood that the Louisiana Purchase Agreement obligated the United States to respect the preceding relationship between the tribe and the colonial governments. So, in hopes of securing the land base that had been respected by both the French and Spanish, the Houma filed a claim for twelve sections of land adjacent to the village at Pointe Ouiski (located near the modern-day city of Houma, Louisiana). In response, the federal land office refused to recognize the tribe's rights to the land, a status of non-recognition that continues to the present day.

Louisiana statehood did little or nothing to secure the rights of the Indigenous Peoples of Louisiana; for the Houma those ghosts of colonialism would haunt the present and the future.

### TRADE, COMMERCE, AND PROFIT

At the end of the eighteenth century the infant U.S. American empire set itself on a path that would come to be articulated as Manifest Destiny. As it sought to expand its economic base and political influence, the newly United States quickly set their sights on the economic jewel of the continent, New Orleans. The geographic location of the "Isle of Orleans" gave New Orleans control of the commerce of the lower Mississippi River and access to the vast markets of the Caribbean.

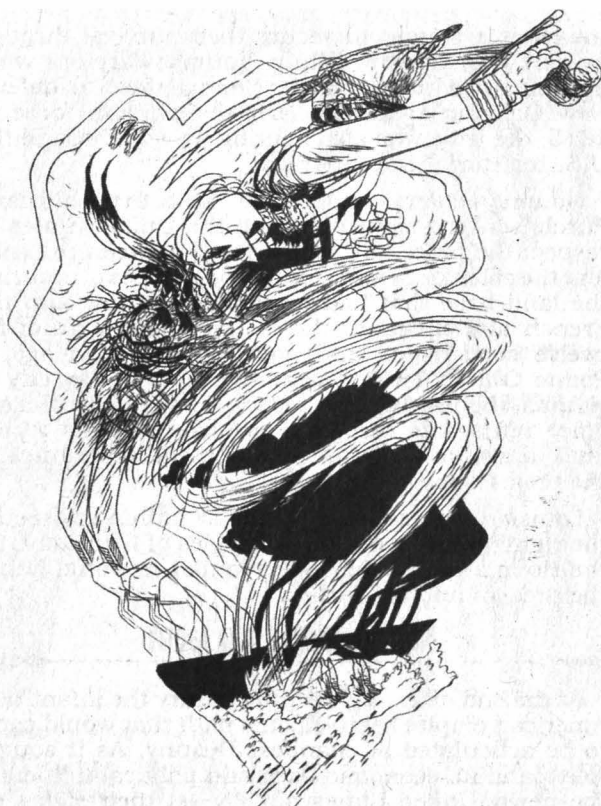
In 1795 the United States and Spain (who had controlled Louisiana since 1763) signed the Pinckney Treaty which gave American merchants the "right of deposit" in the city, allowing them to store their goods there for export. The treaty also gave them the right to navigate the Mississippi. With these rights in place, the fledgling American economy expanded and the wealthy business class began to consolidate its base.

For almost three years this merchant class saw their fortunes rise to new heights, 'til 1798, when new Spanish officials suddenly slammed the door by revoking the Pinckney Treaty. Though Spain would restore the treaty in 1801, the US would not soon forget the economic price paid for its inability to control New Orleans and the trade that flowed through its port.

Thomas Jefferson saw an opportunity when he learned that Spain had transferred Louisiana back to France with the Third Treaty of San Ildefonso in 1801. He quickly sent a representative to Paris to begin negotiations with Napoleon's government for the purchase of New Orleans. To the surprise of many, after months of talks, Napoleon offered to sell not just New Orleans but rather the entire Louisiana Territory. The process came to a close on April 30th, 1803, when the Louisiana Purchase Agreement was signed in Paris.

For fifteen million dollars the United States acquired over eight hundred thousand square miles, effectively doubling the physical size of the American empire.

For the population of Louisiana the visible reality came in December when the French tri-color was lowered for the last time in the Place d'Armes, and in its place was raised the stars and stripes.



## BP'S WORLD

For those who take the time to look and examine carefully the words and actions of the US Government and the oil industry during the heated days of the summer of 2010, the reality of "Colonial Louisiana" in the 21st century is easily seen and understood.

Louisiana politicians were in quite a dilemma in those days. With the effects of the BP spill multiplying by the minute and the population of the Gulf Coast becoming more desperate, state and local leaders were caught between opposing camps: they had to face up to the real needs of their constituency without alienating the largest source of campaign funding available to them.

If you lived outside of the region you may have had some difficulty understanding the scope of their problem. Most people in this country have a basic understanding of elected officials' responsibility to those they're tasked with representing. What's hidden from sight is the other side of the equation, the level of influence and control that big oil exerts on Louisiana's political structure.

If we lived in an open and honest society, Louisiana politicians would be forced to decorate their clothing to the level of their corporate sponsorships. They'd look a lot like NASCAR drivers.

In the real world they go out of their way to disguise their financial motivators, which in turn gives us some interesting mental exercises and verbal acrobatics. Watching politicians who both opposed and defended big oil simultaneously was quite a show.

Consider the rhetoric of Michel Claudet, President of Terrebonne Parish. As the tentacles of oil slowly crept into the bayous below Houma, threatening the fishing grounds and settlements of the Houma People, his major focus seemed to be on the economic

impact of the drilling ban proposed by the Obama administration. According to Claudet, commercial fishing accounted for only 20% of the parish economy, while oil and gas brought in 60%. In the press he was adamant about the economic benefits brought to the parish by big oil.

This of course was an interesting point of view expressed by an administration that filed suit against 29 oil companies in August of 2009. The suit alleged that the companies failed to report the ownership of tens of millions of dollars of property resulting in a loss of tax revenue to the parish. The parish is seeking the payment of delinquent taxes as well as penalties and interest accrued. The parish had also filed suit against BP for projected damages from the Deepwater Horizon spill. Any awards from the suit were slated to be split between the State Conservation Fund and the Terrebonne District Attorney's Office.

Despite the expressed appreciation of the oil economy, there seemed to exist a great degree of mistrust and animosity between the industry and local government.

On the state level, we were subjected to an unending string of photo ops and press conferences by Governor Bobby Jindal. He had been from Venice to Grand Isle and back extolling his own ability to understand the severity of the problem and the Obama administration's ineptitude. From helping to deploy oil boom to operating an oil suction truck he endeavored to prove he was a "hands-on" guy. Walking that same political tightrope, his sound bites were full of condemnation for Democratic opponents and light on real criticisms of big oil. Most of his venom was reserved for the proposed ban on offshore drilling.

On the federal level, we witnessed a United States administration providing an amazing amount of cover to a British company, to the extent that Homeland security personnel were physically restricting press access to contaminated areas, not in the interest of US security but because BP wanted to protect its public relations front.

As to the drilling moratorium, there was some truth to all of their economic arguments concerning the ban. It had a detrimental effect on employment in the local oil industry, but the story is not as simple as it was portrayed. The American Petroleum Institute (API) estimates that nearly 50,000 people are directly or indirectly employed by the offshore drilling industry on the Gulf Coast. US Government figures were estimating that as many as 150,000 people nationwide could be affected in some form by the proposed moratorium on offshore drilling. The other side of the argument was that the federal government wanted a six month moratorium to determine if the industry was in compliance with current safety regulations in hopes of preventing another Deepwater Horizon-type accident.

Under the surface of this supposed conflict between government and industry lies the reality of neo-colonialism in the heart of Houma Indian Territory for almost a century.

As in all poor and indigenous communities dealing with economic exploitation, the magic cure for everything is money and jobs. Living amidst a depleted ecosystem, we are cautioned to value the employment the oil industry brings. Politicians like Claudet, Jindal and others, both Democrat and Republican, extol the economic benefits the state enjoys from big oil.



We must understand that to the neo-colonial politics of big oil we are pawns, a tool in their efforts to control government influence of corporate finance. Every attempt made by government to control the industry is met by the same response: it will cost jobs and raise fuel costs. The moratorium was a perfect example of this principle; though it affected only a fraction of the activity in the Gulf, there was disproportionate layoff of personnel and raising of gas prices. The layoffs, of course, were not of people employed directly by Exxon, BP, Shell, etc. but primarily of support industries – lower paying jobs, for the most part. This is not to say that there was no real economic downside to the moratorium, but rather that the industry did its best to magnify the effect for political gain and cover its real neo-colonial relationship to coastal Louisiana. So, for the families dependent on a job at the fuel dock or in a fabrication yard, their financial stability could fail because of an ongoing power struggle between Washington, Wall Street and the Energy Corporation boardrooms.

A year after the spill corporate profits were in the stratosphere and the propaganda machine was telling the world that the oil is gone: a capitalist's happy ending. For the Gulf Coast and the Houma communities the reality is, of course, not so neat and tidy.

### THE ENDGAME

For the Houma People this is more than just an academic exercise or a political critique: this is a sober assessment on where we are as a people and what this century has in store for us.

We have survived three centuries of colonization and we still exist as an indigenous community despite all that we have endured. I have the greatest confidence in the strength and tenacity of Houma People, which fuels my hope for the future. But to face that future we have to acknowledge the harsh realities of the present so that we may clearly see the path ahead. We must face the consequences of neo-colonialism and understand what it has done to our homes, our families, our communities, our homeland, our tribe.

After decades of oil exploration and production, the 3rd Congressional District, in which all of the major Houma settlements reside, ranked 403rd out of 436 US Congressional districts according to the Human Development Index. This is not the American dream, but the colonial reality. It would seem that for all of the billions of dollars extracted from the land, there is not much trickling back down to the people of the land.

As the resources continue to be consumed, the land is leaving with them, washing away at an ever-increasing rate. A couple of years ago a coastal scientist drew a horizontal red line across South Louisiana and proclaimed that if the economic and political will could not be summoned to tackle the problem of coastal erosion, everything south of that line was in danger of disappearing in the coming decade. This statement drove deep into the heart of the Houma People; every major Houma community is below that red line.

What about the industry at the center of the coastal erosion controversy? Has the BP spill and the drilling moratorium it inspired shown it in a more critical

light or highlighted its responsibility to the land and people? If we look to the recent past there is little to inspire hope. Less than four percent of the oil and gas permits issued require the companies to perform any mitigation to offset the damages caused by their activities. Between 2005 and 2009, some 4,500 permits were applied for and not a single one was declined – indeed over one hundred were issued after the fact. Resource extraction continues unabated.

For the Houma who continue to live in the traditional communities, existence becomes more and more difficult. The penalties for coastal erosion are not allocated to the industries that bear most of the responsibility, but rather to the people of the coast who can little afford to pay them. They come in the form of skyrocketing insurance rates and the inability to get financing for a new home or the cost of elevating an existing home, all of which continue to rise above the means of a Houma fishing family. Though the Houma have done nothing to cause the ecological devastation that surrounds them, and have not profited from it, they must continually absorb its costs.

Houma communities are edging towards extinction as businesses leave and local governments transfer resources north, effectively abandoning the Houma communities. Between 2000 and 2010 the town of Dulac, which has the largest concentration of Houma people, lost 40% of its population. Houma fishermen contend with ever-decreasing prices for their catch and ever-increasing cost for fuel and supplies. Added to this are the lingering effects of the BP spill and the unknown long-term damage the five million barrels of oil released into the Gulf has had and will have on the already fragile coastal estuaries that are the foundation of the Houma life-ways.

The parameters of the Houma situation have a closer resemblance to the predicaments faced by the Indigenous Peoples of the Nigerian delta or the Ecuadorean Amazon than to those on the list of tribes seeking federal recognition from the US Government.

The answers for the Houma will be found when they begin to acknowledge this common ground with international indigenous struggles and stop looking for salvation from the potential largesse of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

After two centuries of living within the borders of the American state of Louisiana, we are still on the outside looking in. The Houma exist today in the same state of federal non-recognition that we were assigned in the early years of the nineteenth century.

My people would do well to heed the admonition of the great anti-colonial theorist Frantz Fanon:

"He who is reluctant to recognize me is against me."

*T. Mayheart Dardar was born in the Houma Indian settlement below Golden Meadow, Louisiana and served for sixteen years on the United Houma Nation Tribal Council, retiring in Oct. 2009.*

*Dardar currently works with Bayou Healers, a community-based group advocating for the needs of coastal indigenous communities in south Louisiana. For more information, visit bayouhealers.org*

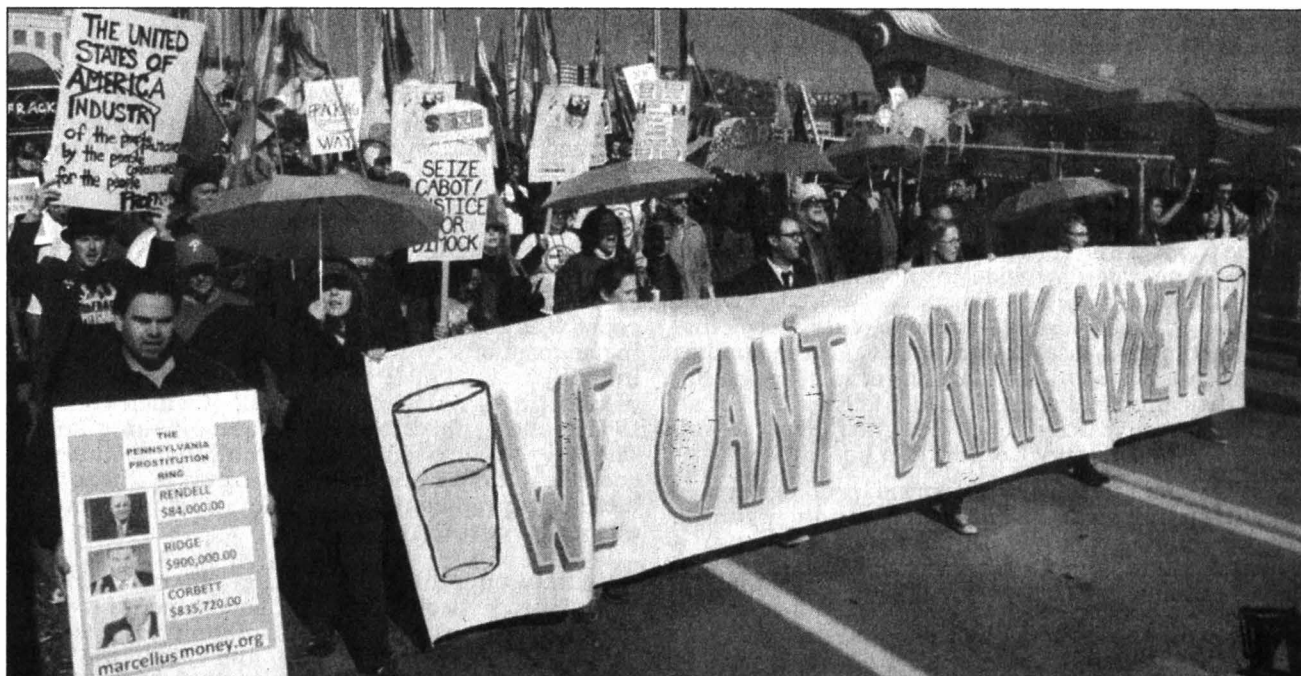


Photo from the Shalebush Environmental Justice Project: SHALEBUSHCOLLECTIVE.ORG

People from all over the country converged in Pittsburgh last year to oppose the hydrofracking industry.

BY TONY REED

The Marcellus Shale is a rock layer in the Mid-Atlantic States of New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and Maryland. It holds the second largest natural gas deposit in the world. Estimates have put the amount of gas somewhere between 168 and 516 trillion cubic feet—an amount which could actually meet current “needs” for only two decades. Extracting the gas requires an incredibly toxic process known as hydrofracking.

The process of hydrofracking is destructive in every stage of development. It has, and continues to have, irreversible affects on the people and ecosystems that are exposed to it. Right now the Marcellus Shale region is under extreme pressure, as the gas companies have full rein to pump thousands of deadly chemicals into the ground and millions of gallons of fresh water out of the streams. Lack of regulations has created a pro-industry and anti-environmental stance within the states of the region. Furthermore forests are becoming fragmented as roads and drill sites are cropping up all over Pennsylvania and New York.

### How It Starts

In the beginning stage of gas exploration geological maps are consulted to search for large sedimentary basins. Survey teams are then brought in to use seismographic equipment, which assess the availability of gas. The next step is to create roads and raze the forest to house drilling equipment. Only after the exploratory well has been drilled, up to ten thousand feet vertically and several thousand feet horizontally, will they know if the well will produce. If it is determined to produce, they begin hydro-

fracking. If the well doesn't have enough gas to be profitable it's plugged and they move on to a new area to repeat the process. To hydrofrack a well the drilling team cements in a hollow steel tube that is perforated at the end. They send in explosives and when detonated they send channels out several feet from the main drill line. The chemical laden slurry of water and sand is then pumped under extreme pressure into the well and through the channels to crack and fracture the rock. As more chemical slurry is pumped in, it forces the gas out, which is then stored in large containers on site for pick up. The chemical slurry is constantly flowing into the well, being forced out and dumped into open pits thinly lined with plastic.

There are numerous problems with this process, beginning with forest fragmentation. This is a problem that affects everything from invasive species proliferation to the soil chemistry of the duff layer. The *edge effect* is seen where roads, agricultural fields, oil pads, or any other sort of development occurs. The forest edge is susceptible to invasive species that choke out native plants and can have very detrimental affects on ecosystems. This sort of biological pollution is almost impossible to mitigate and is exponentially worse when you consider this will be and is happening in core forest. Core forest is typically considered an area which is at least 100 meters from any edge—the most undisturbed, intact and important part of a forest. When forests become fragmented, as Marcellus Shale drilling requires, sunlight begins to reach areas previously shaded by the canopy, changing the chemical make up of the forest floor. The hardwood forest floor of the Marcellus region requires a fungal base for the breakdown and regeneration of fallen leaves, sticks, trees, and



Photo from MARCELLUS-WV.COM

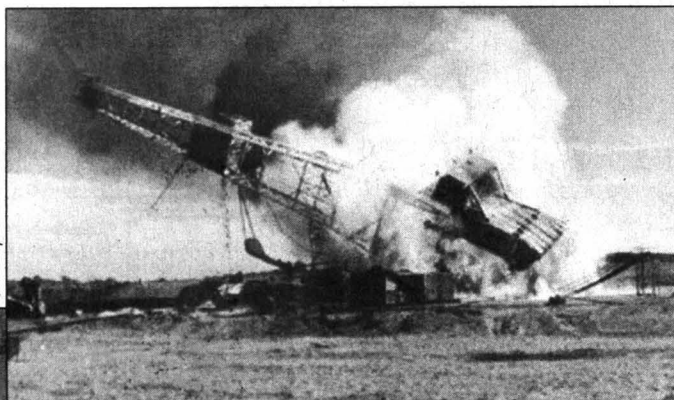
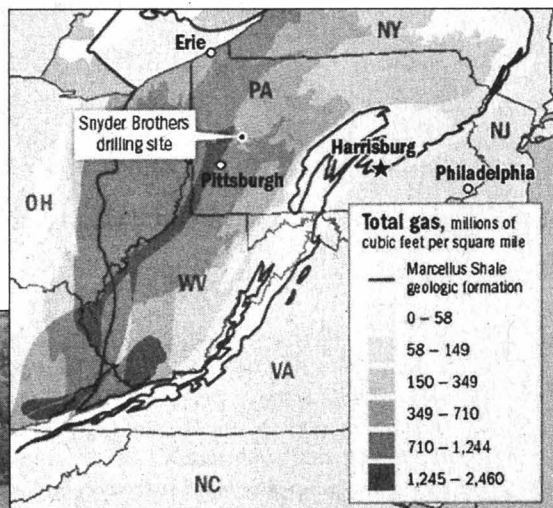
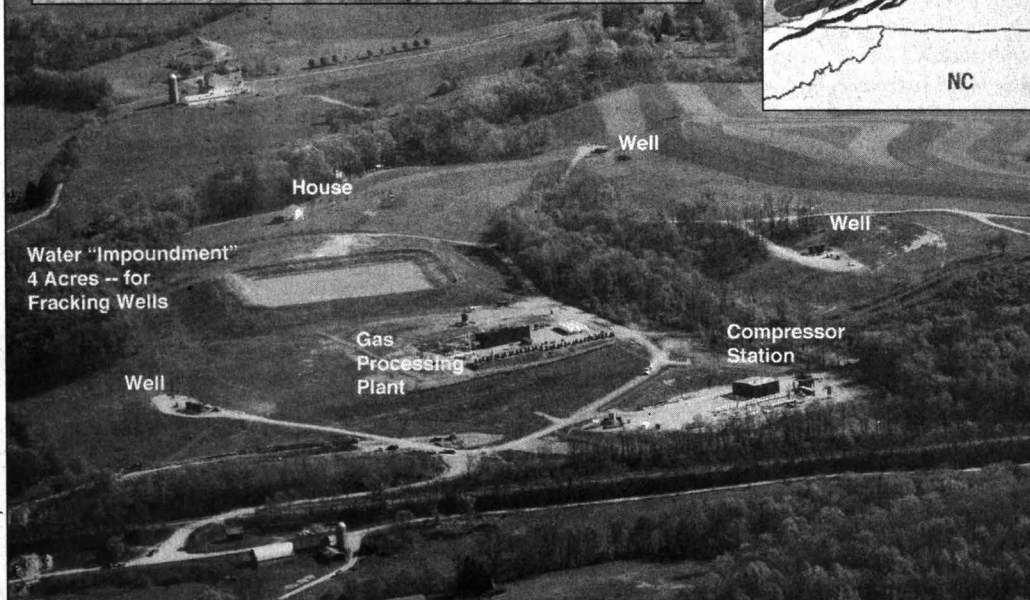


Photo from SPECTRAENERGYWATCH.COM



From top left, clockwise:  
Well in West Virginia  
exploding.

Map of Marcellus Shale region  
and active gas well points, image  
taken from pro-gas industry site.

Photo of a house surrounded  
by fracking operations,  
Washington County,  
southwestern PA. Nearest  
gas well is 930 ft, water  
impoundment is less than  
150 yards, cryogenic gas plant  
less than 300 yards, and the  
compressor station is less than  
600 yards.

whatever organic material happens to land there. The sun dries out this layer and the forest switches from a fungal base to a bacterial base, slowing decomposition of the duff and vastly reducing the forest's productivity. The entire east has been logged at least once already and we have been seeing these forests grow and become a glimmer of what they once were. This can all be lost forever in a few months with fragmentation which would open the forest up to irreversible destruction.

### What Remains

After the forest is desecrated and gas is in production, there are the thousands of chemicals mixed with insane amounts of water (up to six million gallons) to deal with. Somewhere between 20 to 40 percent of the chemical laden water comes back up out of the well and is stored in holding ponds lined with plastic no thicker than a nickel. The remaining 60 to 80 percent is sealed off in the ground, continuing to erode and undermine the rock bed. These chemicals, which have not all been identified due to secrecy allowed by the government, consist of known cancer-causing and highly toxic chemicals. This includes benzene, known to cause leukemia, damage to the liver and central nervous system, and birth defects. There are heavy metals such as arsenic, barium and chromium, all with their own laundry list of incredibly harmful side effects.

Many of these chemicals are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency, yet these companies are allowed to dump them in the ground and in leaky holding ponds all across the country because these slurries are considered patented secrets of the trade. Chemicals leak into groundwater and are consumed by people through their well water, where all of the listed side effects can be observed.

This whole process is an attack on the forests, an attack on the people and an attack on the whole ecology of this region. With so much to lose and so little to gain, outside of windfall profits for a few gas company bigwigs, we must stop this assault on some of the last great eastern forest left. We are reaching a point of no return. If gas drilling is permitted, we will lose these great places so many of us call home. Let's get together and use every tool in the toolbox to stop this horrific mistreatment of nature! It must all be saved, No Compromise!

*Tony is a former volunteer at the EF! Journal collective, currently working with Buffalo Field Campaign. He's looking forward to kicking ass back east with Marcellus Earth First!ers this Summer. For more on fracking, he suggests checking out the videos at [SHALESHOCKMEDIA.ORG](http://SHALESHOCKMEDIA.ORG) and loaded calendar of community events to be found at: [MARCELLUSPROTEST.ORG/Event\\_Calendar](http://MARCELLUSPROTEST.ORG/Event_Calendar)*

# STiLL KEEPiNG iT WILD iN TREETOPIA

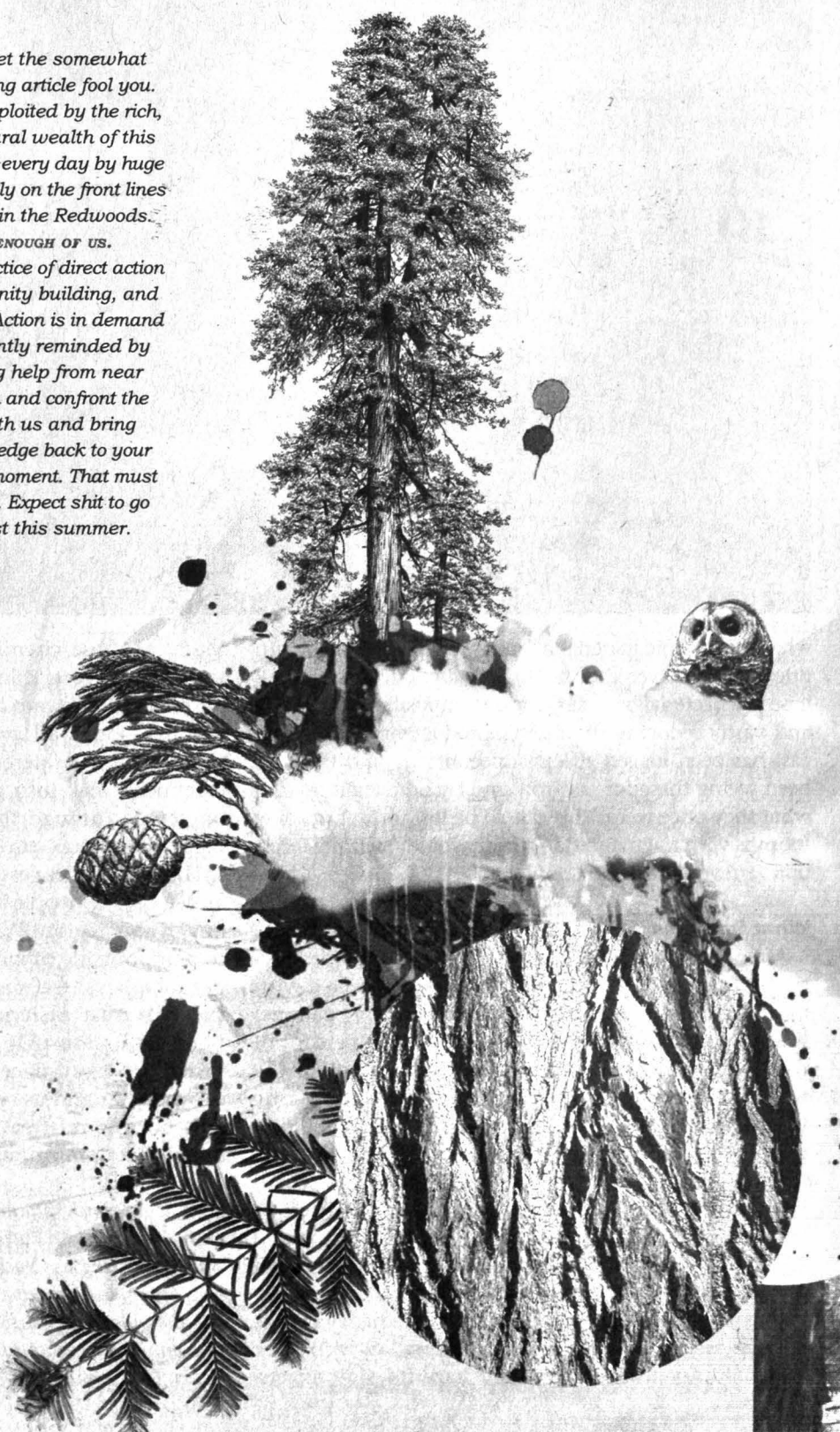
BY FARMER | EARTH FIRST! HUMBOLDT

*AUTHORS FORWARD: Do not let the somewhat relaxed tone of the following article fool you. Just as the masses are exploited by the rich, the forests and other natural wealth of this world are being plundered every day by huge corporations. We are literally on the front lines of this struggle 24/7 here in the Redwoods.*

*BUT THERE ARE NOT NEARLY ENOUGH OF US.*

*We seek to spread the practice of direct action through trainings, community building, and effective, inspiring action. Action is in demand everywhere as I'm frequently reminded by people urgently requesting help from near and far. Come here to train and confront the voracious corporations with us and bring that experience and knowledge back to your region. We are few at the moment. That must change. It's already begun. Expect shit to go off in the Pacific Northwest this summer.*

*BE HERE IF YOU CAN.*





The winter has been strangely sunny, punctuated by the occasional tempest. During these rare deluges, staying dry can be a challenge requiring rapid problem solving and quick action. It takes innovation and sheer stubbornness to prevent the books, clothing, sleeping bags, climbing gear and countless other items in our small dry niches from becoming a sopping mass of near useless detritus as the storm outside the canopy rages on.

We work as we can during the dry weather, working on new tree-sits and tying new traverse lines from tree to tree. We now have over 50 trees tied in to the defensive rope network! One sitter has been building a sit with two rectangular platforms. In another tree, a boat-like platform is taking shape around the trunk. There is a wood burning stove (no chimney yet) and wall-like structures are being added to hold in the warm.

Our tree-village is not just a sedentary defense, but a place of learning and a hub of activity. We are innovating new techniques for climbing and building as we work. Skill-sharing ranges from climbing techniques to stealth and backwoods survival, from nutritious eating in trees to eco-political strategizing and plant and animal identification.

Our campaign also has a roving aspect when conditions and participation allows. This summer we took many high quality photos of Green Diamonds liquidation clear-cutting in the Maple Creek watershed above Big Lagoon. We put these online

and they are visible on the photo layer of Google Earth. We intend to create an art show to put up in local venues as a means of exposing the devastation that is hidden from public view.

Green Diamond has kept up their pattern of infrequently checking up on us from the ground. There has been no communication and rare face to face encounters have been avoided with the help of dense roadside brush.

I recently trekked down to Ryan Creek again to look for spawning Salmon. I was not disappointed this time. Big red Cohos with hooked jaws splashed as they struggled upstream through shallow water, their fins beaten up from swimming through debris and digging redds (nests) in the narrow stream bed. I saw about ten live fish. Some were nearer to death, simply staying in place, or lodged in a stick jam in the creek. There were carcasses here and there, some submerged, one pulled up onto the bank where its eye had been eaten by an unknown scavenger. The smell of fish occasionally drifted by.

The spawning area consists of only a few hundred feet of creek in the entire watershed. It's gravels being the only suitable substrate for the eggs, the rest of the creek channels being layered in what many say is simply naturally occurring silt. I suspect there was more spawning habitat before the watershed was decimated by clear cutting a little over a century ago.

They say this is the best Coho run in Humboldt bay. Sad, considering that in the past, innumerable hordes used to spawn all over the Pacific Northwest. This was before clearcut logging, dams and other industrial exploitation ravaged the land and water.

Though the Spotted Owls are more well known, the Pileated Woodpeckers are a more frequent part of our daily experience in the canopy. These red crested giants of the bird realm often call out in the morning and evening and their excavation of insects from huge trees rings out almost every day. Home builders of the canopy, they dig out caves in large trees and when they move to a new location, their old home becomes available for squirrels, owls, martins and other tree dwelling animals that rely on the woodpeckers skill.

This summer we braced for impact when Green Diamond gave notice that they were going to 'start up' the logging plan. Without doing any work on the plan, their permit would have expired in August. They did minor road work on the access route and stayed well away from the treesits, but this act allowed them to extend the permit for another year.

Last winter, roughly two years after the tree-sits began, Green Diamond announced that they were seeking to sell conservation easements on the 7,200 acre McKay Tract, which covers most of the Ryan Creek watershed. They also plan to eventually sell about 2,000 acres of the land, including the tree-sitting area. The conservation easement would be a legally binding agreement on their part to stop clear-cutting in this particular area and open it up to public use as a community forest. For this they would be paid an unknown amount of money, probably several millions of dollars. The agreement would transfer to any new owner. However, their stated intention is still to clearcut this last patch of old forest in the tract. As long as this threat persists, so will the occupation. If you would like to join us in the forest for a week, a month, or longer, or help out from another region, please get in touch.



*Left: one of the newer building projects, "the boat" is still a work in progress. It functions as guest quarters and kitchen.*

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# REVENGE OF THE NERDS

## ECO-DEFENSE GOES DIGITAL

BY SKYLAR SIMMONS

"Using every tool in the toolbox" is a long held mantra of the radical environmental movement. While our traditional tools have served us well over the years, utilizing everything from letter writing to nocturnal dozer maintenance, the radical environmental movement has been a little slow to catch up with the potential resistance on the digital front. In the past year several groups, in particular Wikileaks and Anonymous, have shown the potency with which digital technologies can be used to launch extremely effective attacks against our adversaries.

Wikileaks made global headlines in 2010 when it released a leaked military video showing a US helicopter gunning down civilians and journalists in Iraq. The release of the video along with other documents exposing war atrocities, sparked international outcry and resulted in the Iraqi government ultimately refusing to continue its policy of immunity for US soldiers. This video was just the tip of the iceberg, Wikileaks proceeded to release tens of thousands of diplomatic cables leaked by now imprisoned Army Private Bradley Manning. The cables, the largest leak of classified documents in history, exposed innumerable shady dealings on part of the US government, and are credited by many as a catalyst for the Arab Spring.

The hacker group Anonymous came to prominence when it claimed responsibility for a series of internet attacks in defense of Wikileaks. After Paypal, Mastercard, and Visa stopped allowing payments to Wikileaks, Anonymous unleashed a wave of online attacks which crippled the three companies' websites and earned themselves a reputation as a force to be reckoned with.

While Wikileaks and Anonymous are best known for taking on military, governments, and financial institutions they have both played important roles in leaking information and attacking institutions, in support of environmental issues, including explicit support for Earth First!

In a communique released July 2010 Anonymous announced: *"Free-thinking citizens of the world: Anonymous' Operation Green Rights calls your attention to an urgent situation in North America perpetuated by the boundless greed of the usual suspects: Exxon Mobil, ConocoPhillips, Canadian Oil Sands Ltd., Imperial Oil, the Royal Bank of Scotland, and many others.*

*"This week, activists are gathering along U.S. Highway 12 in Montana to protest the transformation of a serene wilderness into an industrial shipping route, bringing 'megaloads' of refinery equipment to the Alberta Tar Sands in Canada. Anonymous now joins the struggle against 'Big Oil' in the heartland of the US. We stand in solidarity with any citizen willing to protest corporate abuse. Anonymous will not stand by idly and let these environmental atrocities continue..."*

*"...We will, over the course of the next few days, use the powers we possess to spread news about this scenario and the corporations involved. We are actively seeking leaks to expose the corruption that we all KNOW is beneath this. Anonymous will support the activists on July 13-14 when they initiate civil disobedience and direct action to confront*

*this dire issue. "The continued development of the tar sands is a major step backward in the effort to curb global warming. Anonymous will not suffer this without a fight, and Operation Green Rights will always support the rights of the people to live in an unpolluted world, and aim to help safeguard it for the future. One way or another."*

You may recognize the "activists" referred to in this communique. Anonymous is referring to the Earth First! Rendezvous in Montana and the impending post-rally action (which took place at the Capitol, not on highway 12. Thanks Anonymous for throwing them off the trail though!).

On the heels of this act of solidarity with Earth First! Anonymous announced the completion of a successful attack against agribusiness giant Monsanto:

*"Over the last 2 months we have pushed the exposure of hundreds of pages of articles detailing Monsanto's corrupt, unethical, and downright evil business practices. We blasted their web infrastructure to shit for 2 days straight, crippling all 3 of their mail servers as well as taking down their main websites worldwide. We [released documents] on 2500+ employees and associates, including full names, addresses, phone numbers, and exactly where they work. We are also in the process of setting up a wiki, to try and get all collected information in a more centralized and stable environment. Not bad for 2 months, I'd say."*

A video accompanying the announcement proclaimed: *"Anonymous stands with the farmers and food organizations denouncing the practices of Monsanto. We applaud the bravery of the organizations and citizens who are standing up to Monsanto, and we stand united with you against this oppressive corporate abuse. Monsanto is contaminating the world with chemicals and genetically modified food crops for profit while claiming to feed the hungry and protect the environment...."*

*"... Monsanto, these crimes will not go unpunished. Anonymous will not spare you nor anyone in support of your oppressive illegal business practices.... Anonymous urges all concerned citizens to stand up for these farmers, stand up for the future of your own food. Protest, organize, spread info to your friends!"*

At the end of December 2011 Anonymous announced that it had hacked the website of the security think tank Stratfor. Stratfor provides political, economic and military analysis to high profile clients such as Apple, the US Air Force, and the Miami Police Department. Along with taking down their website Anonymous stole 200 gigabytes of information from Stratfor including emails, passwords, and credit card information of its clients. Anonymous went so far as to use the stolen credit card information to donate money to charities! And of course there is the added embarrassment for a security company not securely storing its clients sensitive data.

Among the data that Anonymous recovered were emails revealing that Stratfor has been spying on Deep Green Resistance and the Occupy movement in Austin. While some of the emails in regards to DGR are quite humorous, containing lines like, "Jesus I spent a couple of hours researching these guys—weird is an understatement" and "When my Occupy



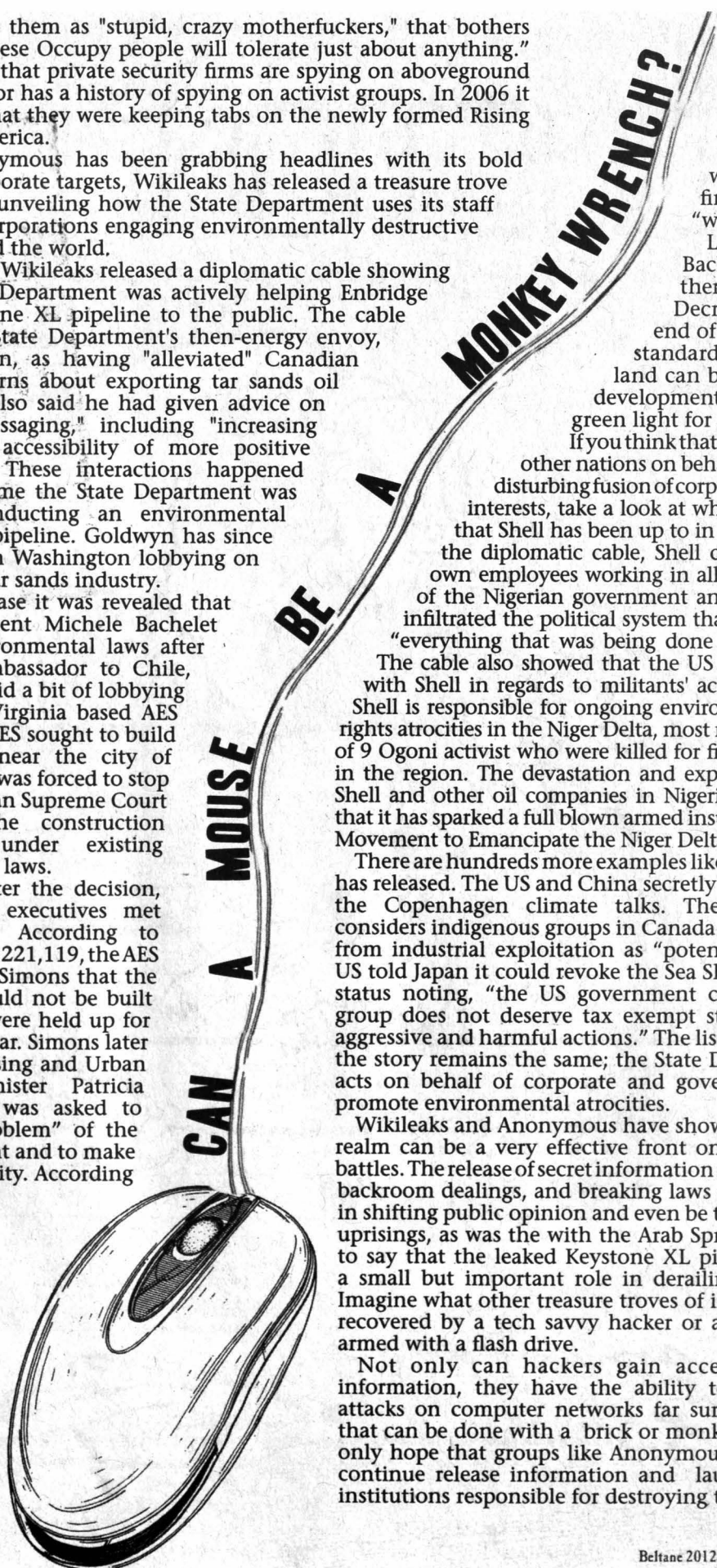
people refer to them as "stupid, crazy motherfuckers," that bothers me, because these Occupy people will tolerate just about anything." It is unsettling that private security firms are spying on aboveground activists. Stratfor has a history of spying on activist groups. In 2006 it was revealed that they were keeping tabs on the newly formed Rising Tide North America.

While Anonymous has been grabbing headlines with its bold attacks on corporate targets, Wikileaks has released a treasure trove of documents unveiling how the State Department uses its staff to lobby for corporations engaging environmentally destructive projects around the world.

In July, 2011 Wikileaks released a diplomatic cable showing that the State Department was actively helping Enbridge sell the Keystone XL pipeline to the public. The cable describes the State Department's then-energy envoy, David Goldwyn, as having "alleviated" Canadian officials' concerns about exporting tar sands oil to the US. It also said he had given advice on "oil sands messaging," including "increasing visibility and accessibility of more positive news stories." These interactions happened at the same time the State Department was ostensibly conducting an environmental review of the pipeline. Goldwyn has since landed a job in Washington lobbying on behalf of the tar sands industry.

In another case it was revealed that Chilean President Michele Bachelet loosened environmental laws after former US Ambassador to Chile, Paul Simons, did a bit of lobbying on behalf of Virginia based AES Corporation. AES sought to build a coal plant near the city of Valparaiso but was forced to stop after the Chilean Supreme Court ruled that the construction was illegal under existing environmental laws.

A month after the decision, two top AES executives met with Simons. According to Wikileaks cable 221,119, the AES president told Simons that the coal plant would not be built if operations were held up for more than a year. Simons later met with Housing and Urban Planning minister Patricia Poblete, who was asked to "solve the problem" of the Campiche plant and to make it her top priority. According



to a Wikileaks cable, Poblete told Simons that the government was "committed to finding a solution" and "will fix the situation."

Like clockwork the Bachelet government then issued Supreme Decree Number 68 at the end of 2009, changing the standards for what types of land can be used for industrial development and giving the green light for AES' power plant.

If you think that US officials pressuring other nations on behalf of corporations is a disturbing fusion of corporate and government interests, take a look at what Wikileaks revealed that Shell has been up to in Nigeria. According to the diplomatic cable, Shell claimed to have their own employees working in all the main ministries of the Nigerian government and had so thoroughly infiltrated the political system that the company knew "everything that was being done in those ministries."

The cable also showed that the US swapped intelligence with Shell in regards to militants' activity in the country. Shell is responsible for ongoing environmental and human rights atrocities in the Niger Delta, most notably the execution of 9 Ogoni activist who were killed for fighting oil companies in the region. The devastation and exploitation wrought by Shell and other oil companies in Nigeria has been so severe that it has sparked a full blown armed insurgency known as the Movement to Emancipate the Niger Delta.

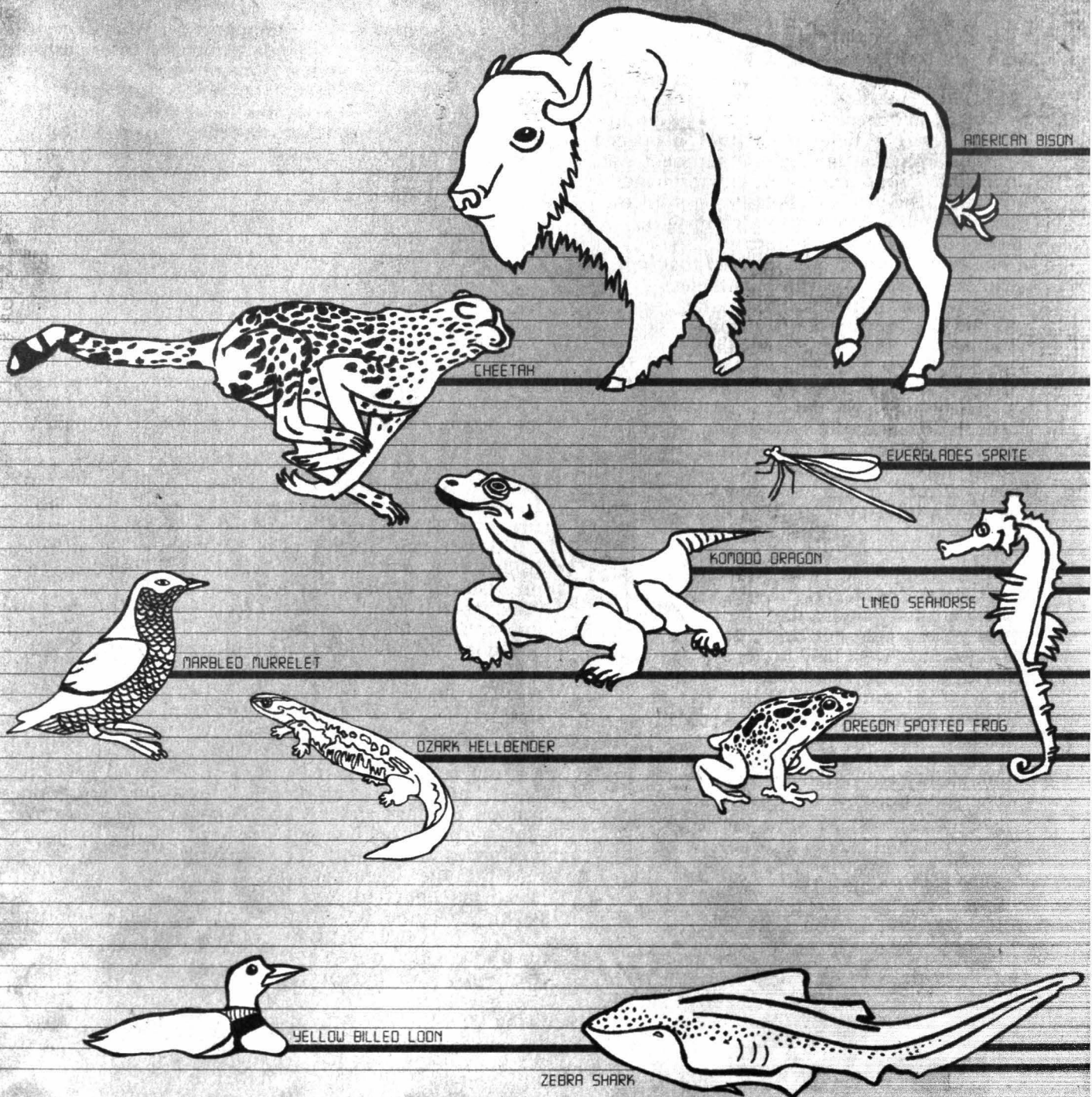
There are hundreds more examples like these that Wikileaks has released. The US and China secretly colluded to sabotage the Copenhagen climate talks. The State Department considers indigenous groups in Canada defending their land from industrial exploitation as "potential terrorists." The US told Japan it could revoke the Sea Shephards tax exempt status noting, "the US government can demonstrate the group does not deserve tax exempt status based on their aggressive and harmful actions." The list goes on and on, but the story remains the same; the State Department regularly acts on behalf of corporate and government interests to promote environmental atrocities.

Wikileaks and Anonymous have shown us that the digital realm can be a very effective front on which to fight our battles. The release of secret information revealing corruption, backroom dealings, and breaking laws can be very effective in shifting public opinion and even be the catalyst for major uprisings, as was the with the Arab Spring. It would be fair to say that the leaked Keystone XL pipeline cables played a small but important role in derailing Enbridge's plans. Imagine what other treasure troves of information could be recovered by a tech savvy hacker or a well placed janitor armed with a flash drive.

Not only can hackers gain access to confidential information, they have the ability to unleash crippling attacks on computer networks far surpassing the damage that can be done with a brick or monkey wrench. One can only hope that groups like Anonymous and Wikileaks will continue release information and launch attacks on the institutions responsible for destroying the Earth.

# EXTINCTION: a timeline

The amount of time for any given species can be calculated by using the Species-Area Relationship (Williams, C.B.) as a reference. Within a specified geography, the population density and range of species can determine a timeframe. For more information on this calculation, please visit: [http://www.ecosystems.ws/species\\_area\\_relationship\\_arrhenius.htm](http://www.ecosystems.ws/species_area_relationship_arrhenius.htm)



51-100+ YEARS LEFT {threatened}

Species likely to become endangered and will face extinction if no action is taken.



The data represented here is in no way all-inclusive. A minimum of

16,928

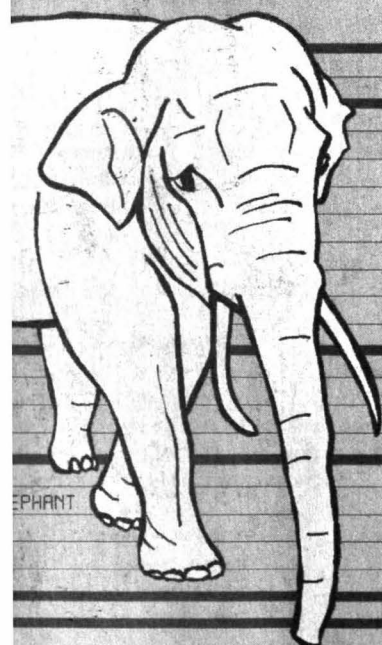
species are currently being threatened with extinction.

1/6 of all birds, and

1/4 of all mammals



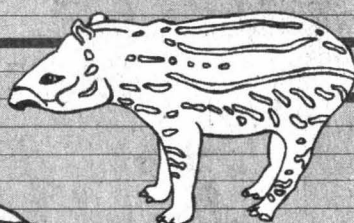
are at risk of extinction within the next 100 years.



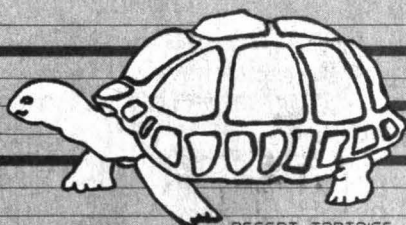
ELEPHANT



BELUGA STURGEON



BRAZILIAN TAPIR



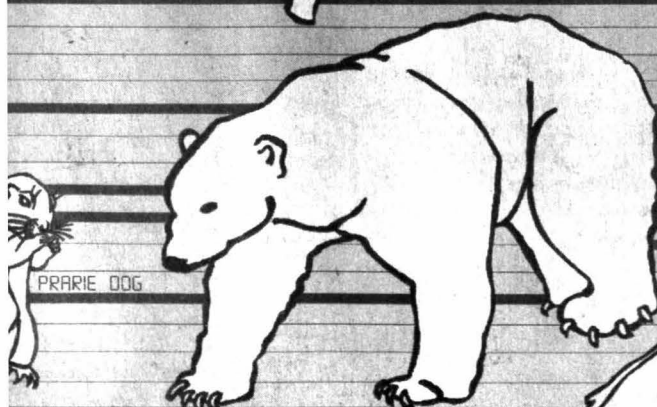
DESERT TORTOISE



DARK GUEST ANT



KOKAKO



POLAR BEAR



PRAIRIE DOG



ROSEATE SPOONBILL



SCRUB JAY

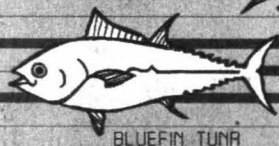


SOUTHERN SEA OTTER

YEARS LEFT { endangered }

ighly susceptible to becoming extinct, and face 20% probability of extinction within the next 5 generations.

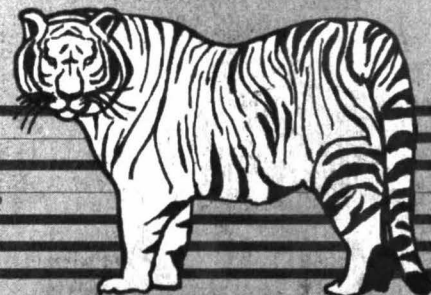
# EXTINCTION: a timeline



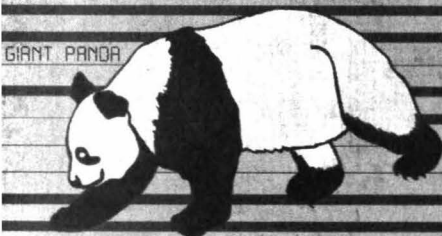
BLUEFIN TUNA



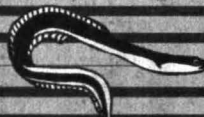
CALIFORNIA CONDOR



AMUR TIGER



GIANT PANDA



EUROPEAN EEL



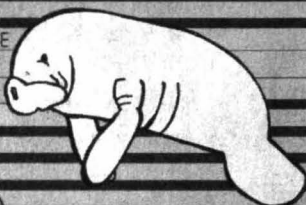
GRAY WOLF



MARIANA FLYING FOX



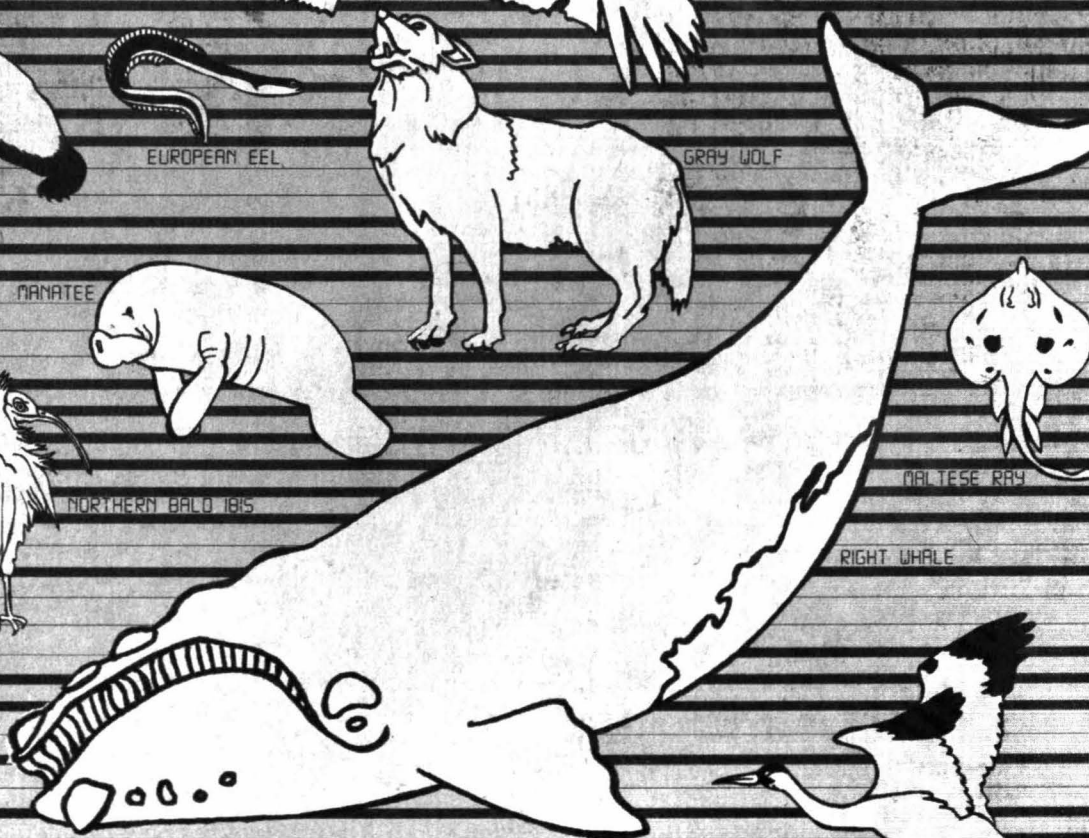
NORTHERN BALD IBIS



MANATEE



MALTESE RAY



RIGHT WHALE



UTIA IGUANA



WHOOPIING CRANE

1-20 YEARS LEFT { critical }

Species extremely susceptible to becoming extinct in the wild and face imminent extinction within 3 generations.



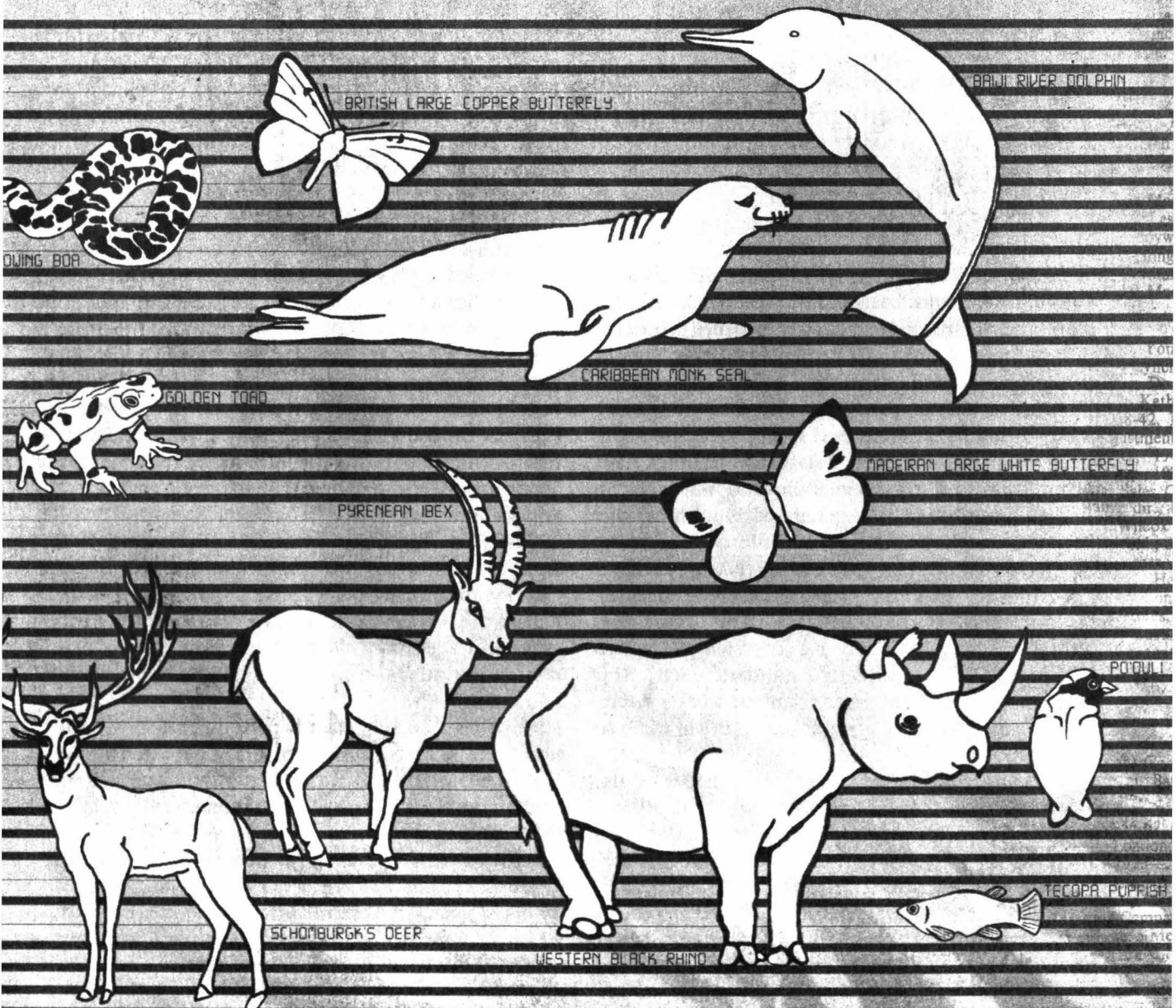
2% natural causes / evolution

23% hunting and poaching

36% non-native species  
introductions

## CAUSES OF EXTINCTION

39% habitat destruction  
(pollution, deforestation, climate change)



0 YEARS LEFT { extinct }

Every member of the species has died in the wild and is no longer present on Earth.

# BUSTING UP THE COAL SYNDICATE



Coal River Mountain—Brushy Fork Slurry impoundment  
2011. Photo copyright of Paul Corbit Brown

BY AARON B. MAYNOR

Since the late 1800s, West Virginia's southern coal-field region and its inhabitants have been undermined and exploited by out-of-state elitist coal interests. Today these interests are more ingrained in our global and national economy than ever before. According to the *Sierra Club Report Card*: Bank of America, Citi Bank, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, GE Capitol, JP Morgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, PNC, UBS, and Wells Fargo—the world's ten largest banks—have secured several billion dollars in loans and bonds to companies practicing mountaintop removal (MTR); namely Massey Energy, Alpha Natural Resources and their subsidiaries.

MTR companies exaggerate the number of good paying jobs they bring to the state, and spew propaganda concerning the need for reclaimed flat land after they have utterly exhausted it to achieve their economic goals. In reality, the number of jobs generated is minimal due to increased mechanization of the industry. According to the "National Mining Association" (NMA), practical uses for reclaimed mining properties include shooting ranges, airports, FBI complexes, prisons and cemeteries to replace once fragile and diverse ecosystems. It is hard to believe that this is considered "standard practice" for the Army Corps of Engineers. Reclamation contractors, hired to restore the land, are granted approval to do so by government-sponsored agencies.

Another thing that we ought to consider is the thousands of acres that are in lieu of being reclaimed by our friends in the Department of the Interior. Most sites are utterly abandoned due to lack of federal funding. Even the oldest MTR site in the state, Bull Push Mountain in Fayette County, West Virginia, has yet to benefit from its corporate flattening. All this unreclaimed land also causes myriad problems for taxpayers (state and federal), to the tune of hundreds of millions in order to fix infrastructure after consequent flooding and erosion. At the same time, most taxpayers in the region end up unemployed, thanks to coal interests. Still, many vote

for legislation and politicians favoring Big Coal because of the socio-economical framework introduced by the power elite over a hundred years ago. The cycle only ensures more destructive acts to be carried out by what has become a *Coal Syndicate*.

The power elite had set things up this way from early on. Around 1890, West Virginia began being used as a *peripheral region* with the American and global market system. Peripheral regions are generally larger populations with comparatively less populated cities and smaller amounts of power in the larger economic and political systems. A core system, as opposed to a peripheral region, has small land areas that the periphery supplies raw materials cheaply, so that the core can benefit from the production of goods and services for the national and global market. Any attempt to alter this relationship leads to the mobilization of the core to take action against the periphery (i.e. Battle of Blair Mountain and Matewan Massacre).

Currently, Senator Joe Mancin, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin and other local politicians tied in with the Coal Syndicate have been exercising their power on behalf of the owners of all large income producing properties and exploiting the local working class by maintaining an undiversified economy that is dependent on their existence.

The use of propaganda programs such as Coal Education, Development and Resources of Southern West Virginia (CEDAR), funded by the Coal Syndicate, is aimed at students K-12. Their mission statement: "*to facilitate the increase of knowledge and understanding of benefits that the coal industry can provide in the daily lives of the public by providing financial resources and coal education materials to implement its study in the school curriculum.*" Meanwhile, counterpart programs are non-existent for curricula focused on the environment or diversified economy. Therefore, it is upon the local residents themselves to push for local awareness and reform.

Politicians must support and enact reform policies while replacing strip mines with some form of



renewable energy, encouraging diversity and putting an end to the destruction of forest habitat, the decimation of streams covered by valley fills and the flattened barren moonscapes of unreclaimed land scoring the countryside.

Until significant changes are made in the way of responsible stewardship and ecological practices, it is my and your responsibility, as protectors of the Earth, brave and able comrades, to keep hammering away at Big Coal by participating in all sorts of civil disobedience, monkeywrenching, defacing and exposing the filthy corporations and institutions that poison our earth and our communities with their greed and lust for power.

*Aaron is currently doing time in West Virginia, and interested in pursuing further environmental journalistic endeavors. You can write to him at: Aaron Maynor #46376, Huttonsville Correctional Center, PO Box 1, Huttonsville, WV 26273. His closing comments: "Long live freedom, long live the Earth!"*

*The following is one selection from the papers written by a 3rd grade class in Raleigh, North Carolina, after listening to a presentation by Croatan Earth First! and seeing through Massey propaganda. Here's what A.J. wrote:*

### **Mountain Top Removal Mining**

These are the negative aspects of Mtrm. Here is the horrid process of mining. First, loggers come and chop down the trees. Next, they fill the valley with the trees. Then, they blow up the mountain and get the coal. Last, they restore the land.

This is how they restore the land. They are not doing a good job. They just throw down seed and say, "Its fixed!" I think the governor or president should make them elevate the land to the height of the mountain.

This is the paragraph about jobs. It provides jobs but not more jobs. It takes jobs too. To prove it, in 2000, there were 2,000 jobs. Now, there are 100 something. People drop out of college to mine and get no scholarship. They have a dangerous job.

This is my opinion. I hate it. It kills birds, goats, people, foxes, and other animals. They seem to forget about the people in the valley. We need to stop this. STOP MTRM! JEEZ!

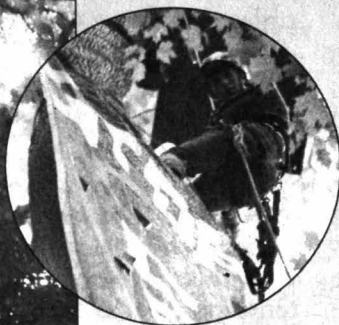
## *Excerpts from statements made by RAMPS defendants facing legal challenges for actions in 2011 (RAMPS stands for "Radical Action for Mountain Peoples' Survival")*

### **From a post-arrest statement made by Becks Kolins:**

"The coal industry for so long has dominated not just the land, but the legal system as well. It is a legal system that consistently allows coal companies to get away with flagrant violations of the law, with damaging the land and destroying the health of the people, and that condoned the theft of this land in the first place. That control and power needs to be challenged and needs to end. How is it that the coal industry kills innocent people and faces no legal repercussions?"

### **From "A Bucket Was Better: A short piece on the crap system!"** *Written by Squirrel Bracken while serving 7 days in jail following a 30-day treesit on Coal River Mountain:*

"I want everyone to know that I'm quite well and have been enjoying my "activist vacation" in some ways – but that's only because I am in here for a very short while. I urge everyone to remember (as I will better from now on, I promise) those whose freedom has been taken for months and even years because of their part in the fight for justice and liberation."



*Left/top, Becks Kolins from RAMPS sat in this tree, which stopped blasting for 15 days on Coal River Mountain.*

*Right, anti-MTR activist, Hillary, amongst those arrested at the WV state capital in 2007.*

*Photo by Paul Corbit Brown*





# Let the Bad-Assity Begin (Again)

a report from the "Giving EF! a Kick in the Ass" workshop series

BY TOBY V. POTTER

This year's Earth First! Organizer Conference (OC) marked the third in our series of six workshops designed to "give EF! a kick in the ass." It's been a bit of a rocky go trying to have a continuous strategy discussion over the course of three years worth of national EF! gatherings—for example, while each discussion had between 40-50 people, the overlap from one to the next has been minimal. Still there are several useful things to be drawn out of the workshops that have happened, including a solid plan for moving forward.

## Take One: Florida 2011

The first workshop took place at the OC at Fisheating Creek. We addressed three main questions: Are we using tactics or strategies over and over even though they aren't working? Why has Earth First! been losing people? Why have EF! campaigns been fizzling out?

The discussion resulted in a to-do list including six primary things: (1) getting off the internet and doing more face-to-face organizing; (2) being more open, friendly and welcoming; (3) increasing the strength and popularity of the Earth First! Speakers Bureau; (4) creating more time for community building with our fellow organizers; (5) checking our image politics (usually translated into wearing less black); and (6) giving props to all the hard work happening that isn't sexy direct actions.

The last bit of time was spent with folks getting into pairs and exchanging contact info and some specific commitments they were making to Earth First! The expectation was that partners would communicate during the months leading up to the Rondo to provide some accountability on those commitments.

## Take Two: Montana 2011

We brought that to-do list to the Summer Rondo in Montana, and worked on tightening it up a bit.

We started by re-assessing the list we made in Florida and added four new items to the list: focusing on development and assessment of new strategies and tactics; integrating anti-oppression analysis with biocentrism; maintaining cross-generational relations; and inspiring people by winning goals. We took a straw poll with everyone picking their top three most important to focus on. This ended in coming up with the goal of *new strategies and tactics for our campaigns* getting the substantial majority, as a priority for three quarters of the 45 people present.

The other goal for the Summer workshop was to take a look at who EF! is allied with, come up with a list of groups or people that we'd like to be allied with, then figure out how to get there.

The discussion about allies was pretty broad and wide-ranging, leaving us with a lot of new ideas. This time we did the commitments a bit differently. A sign-up sheet went around with space for name, contact info, and specific commitments. The plan was take that list and contact everyone a couple of times before the OC in 2012 to see how they were coming along. Most commitments were things like going to other groups' meetings to reach out for EF! and hosting workshops about EF! locally or at other gatherings.

## Take Three: Utah 2012

In the original trajectory of the workshop series, we would have revisited the allies conversation, gotten report backs from the commitments that were followed up on and perhaps explored the stated priority goal in Montana of "developing new strategies and tactics." As it turned out, responses on commitment follow-through was very low (despite multiple emails and phone calls by the workshop facilitators). And of the 40 people present at the OC in Utah's finest hot springs-trailer park complex, only five had been to a previous workshop in the series.



# If we want EF! to get bigger again we need both sides of this year's discussion to be acknowledged—new strategies for dealing with oppression, and people organizing some crazy, bold, inspiring actions and campaigns.

So, this year's Winter workshop involved us taking a step back, and instead focusing on catching people up on what had been discussed in the previous two discussions. We shared stories on what inspired folks to be part of Earth First!, and what might be keeping others away. Another new segment for the workshop included talking about anti-oppression in the movement, as suggested by present participants. It quickly became apparent, that there is no way we could keep talking about how to re-energize EF! without addressing some of the institutional elements that keep many folks away from us.

The discussion started with asking everyone to take a step back from their ideas around anti-oppression discussions. We asked folks that are often annoyed by this subject to think about why it's talked about (i.e. because it's an ongoing problem), and to recognize that rolling your eyes and acting rude about it isn't helping anything. Folks that do talk about anti-oppression more were asked to think about the approach towards this dialogue, and to recognize that talking longer and louder about its importance wasn't necessarily moving the cause forward, either.

For the bulk of the time, we asked people to get into small groups and talk about three main questions—What inspired you to get involved with EF!? What do you think is keeping people away from EF!? What is the relationship between social justice work and environmental work?

The main things that people said brought them to EF!: how bad ass it is (summed up as our new favorite word—*bad-assity*); the *EF! Journal* looking great; wild times at Rendezvous and bonding through sweet actions.

The other two questions ended up being tied closely together. Much of the discussion was about oppressive tendencies within the movement, and the attitude that social issues don't matter within an environmental organization. The discussion was pretty intense at moments with people revealing how difficult it is for them to keep working with EF! at all, and many people have seen friends leave to

work with other more inclusive groups.

That said, it was a discussion that seems to have happened over and over again with little to no change coming from it. Using the same model for commitment making as last time, we passed around a sign-up sheet. Though we prefaced the workshop with an agreement that we aren't trying to build an "anti-oppression movement" out of Earth First!, and are instead just trying to make sure that EF! isn't oppressive, most of the com-

mitments were about dealing with oppression.

It's great to see folks stepping up and committing to making EF! more inclusive, and specifically to trying to make sure we don't just have that same conversation again next time it comes up. But it does feel unfortunate that the original small group topic on what was inspiring about EF! was overshadowed and largely forgotten. If most people identified the bad-assity, the cool actions, and some awesome gatherings as reasons they got involved, it would have been great to see some commitments to getting that culture back. If we want EF! to get bigger again we need both sides of this year's discussion to be acknowledged—new strategies for dealing with oppression, and people organizing some crazy, bold, inspiring actions and campaigns.

We're halfway through the six workshops now. Although the goal has been to have a continuous conversation for three years, the same folks haven't been at most of the workshops. Hopefully, with the idea of keeping each other accountable for commitments, and by making sure notes from past workshops are accessible, we can keep the discussions going and end up with something tangible—a larger, more inclusive, bad-ass movement using inspiring new tactics to wrest control of the Earth out of the hands of corporations. With small goals like that, how can we not be successful?!

See you at the Marcellus Rendezvous this Summer!

*Toby is a nerd. Long live Team Not Cows... Yes, this is an inside joke. You got a problem with that?!*

# Solidarity in a Biocentric

By E. Chiaravalli

*A very telling vignette happened inside a chilly hippie bus during the Deep Green Resistance (DGR) Workshop at the OC. As people were voicing their concerns about a hierarchical DGR, one Earth First!er chimed in.*

*"We are not all Anarchists."*

*From the back of the bus came the quick reply.*

*"But most of us are!"*

This is a theme I've heard over and over. It echoed through this Winters' EF! Organizers' Conference, coming up in discussions about Earth First! prisoner support, in the context of anti-oppression, in movement building, and the repercussions it has on the structure of DGR. This represents the ongoing discussion on the relationship between radical politics and our radical environmental movement.

When I think about Earth First! I see a distinction between the movement and the campaigns. Both of these inform and affect one another but have different scopes. In our individual bioregions we, as Earth First!ers, are fighting fracking, stopping clearcuts, saving wolves, preventing pipelines, educating people, and working towards many other goals. On this level, Earth First! can be seen as a network of campaigns. However, on a more holistic level, Earth First! is a movement. These campaigns are moving us to an over arching goal of creating a culture rooted in biocentrism, where people are no longer oppressing each other and nature, but are one part of a flourishing diversity of life.

Because we work on both levels simultaneously we need to figure out what solidarity means in both contexts, in campaigns and as a movement. From the people I am working with in individual campaigns, I need a shared concern for the environment and a basic respect for me as a person. However, as an EF!er, I want meaningful ideological solidarity with those coming from radical social justice and anarchist backgrounds. As the conversation moves forward, in order to prevent Earth First! from becoming a watered-down cause-orphanage of the left, let's stick to the three points of unity Earth First! is founded on: a no compromise attitude towards wilderness preservation, biocentrism and direct action.

I see Earth First! as a movement creating a culture rooted in biocentrism. Where wild places are protected, respected, and growing. Where we, as people, in a greater family have stopped oppressing each other; where we, as one culture, in a greater community have stopped exploiting each other. To create this we need both to stop destroying the land-base we have left, and grow a culture that respects life. It is short-sighted to just protect the forests without addressing the culture that destroys them. When I'm feeling hopeful, I do not want to just create an escapist, refuge in the woods. I want to end the systems we are escaping from; this requires solidarity

The industries that mine the forests, mountains, and deserts also mine our labor and energy. The systems that see animals as resources to use up and discard also see us as expendable. The capitalist military system that keeps us from acting in the first world keeps us slaves in the global south. Across the board those who don't value the well being of the planet, usually don't value the well being of women, people of color, the poor, nor other marginalized communities. I see Earth first! as part of a greater liberation struggle. The ethics we have towards the planet have positive repercussions on people also. Let's celebrate the cross-pollination between ending oppression of people and of the Earth. We are fighting the same fight as MEND, MOVE, and SHAC. To create a long-lasting biocentric culture Earth First! needs solidarity with the allies the bigger picture requires us to recognize. If we can't stand with each other, soon we will have nowhere left to stand.

I take pride in EF!s anarchist tendencies, not to pigeon hole ourselves, but to be honest about how we often organize: autonomously, and horizontally. Anyone can start an Earth First! group. EF!ers decide what goals they will work towards. We don't have bosses or bureaucracies to ask permission from. This style of organizing which values direct action and the idea that the system is beyond reform is often the way both Earth First!ers and anarchists get things done.

EF!ers see direct action as an effective tactic. Direct action is the idea that "it is more empowering and effective to accomplish goals directly than to rely on authorities or representatives. Free people do not request the changes they want to see in the world: they make those changes", Peter Gelderloos, from his book *Anarchy Works*. EF! has been doing this since day one; from our friends the Boltweevils to Treetopia, our use of direct action is anarchistic. EF! already uses direct action as re-claimed freedom to act in defense of Mother Earth. Let's extend this respect for diverse and radical tactics to our comrades on other liberation fronts.

A vibrant ecosystem needs be in tandem with a long-lasting biocentric culture. Anarchism is a system that can do this. Anarchism works to alleviate the oppression of the environment and people. This is the over arching goal that I, as an Earth First!er, am concerned with as I create the world I want to live in. Keeping this end in mind helps me stay centered in the struggle. Solidarity on an ideological level with those who are also working towards a similar future is so important.

That said, on the bioregional and local level solidarity looks very different. As we work on campaign goals I don't need to agree with someone's entire philosophy, just the goals we are working on at the moment, maybe their tactics, and that we are both equal people in the struggle. Let's agree to live



# Movement

by basic respectful codes of conduct, then continue being eco-warriors. Let's mimic the biodiversity that makes ecosystems strong in the way we fight, and who we are allied with.

While preserving a wild place, I don't care why my comrade has joined the fight. I'm working to save the mountains for the sake of themselves, another person maybe saving the mountains as a place to hide during the zombie apocalypse. If we can agree that the coal should not be mined, I'm happy to have the wing-nut on my team! This feeling extends to normies too. I came to ecodefense through Girl Scouting. Currently, I don't share their love of America, but I would still be excited to protect our waters together. If someone wants roadless areas to hunt in, I want to protect wilderness with them. We may have to part ways later, but this isn't an issue until the forest is saved.

Ideological differences do not need to hinder the ways we work together. Whether someone loves the Earth because it is a beautiful convergence of atoms, reflects the glory of God, or is just plain old coincidence, doesn't really affect how we can protect the places we love. Who else can we reach out to in support of common short term goals? They may not be on board for my anarcha-feminist ecotopia, but I'm happy to travel with them for this part of the journey. I want a culture of resistance where we can be cordial and respectful towards each others' real and meaningful differences. Homogeneity is not strength.

I want EF! to be open and welcoming. How can we keep the doors open to those who are both more radical and more conservative than us? Which goals can we work together on? When do we need to go our separate ways? EF! needs a sober assessment of when ideological solidarity is needed and when fighting for a common goal is enough.

*Elizabeth Chiaravalli is from the Great Lakes State, fostering cross peninsular solidarity as a member of the Earth First! Journal Collective in Florida.*

Excerpts From:

## My Flaming Arrow to the Heart of the Movement

a Response to Kick in the Ass/Anti-Oppression Discussion

By Elizabeth R.

....When I have voiced the unspoken words I felt crowding the room, or let down my defenses long enough to actually hear the voice of another resonate with my own experiences. When I overcome fear to express uncertain love or to stand up against oppressive behavior; I have made the most powerful connections of my life. I have felt most alive, most seen, most cared for and appreciated, and when I have made the biggest difference to others. This is because kindness and love are not divisive, they are expansive.

• • •

Destruction of the environment and the exploitation of human life are symptoms of an oppressive, violent, conquest-oriented society. These are the building blocks and infrastructure that our lives are crafted upon and within. To recognize these dominant forms of systematic oppression is merely a foot in the door compared to the amount of consistent openness and work it will take to disengage from them. Despite everything we have accomplished or how we choose to see ourselves, these structures and processes have profoundly, almost indelibly, shaped us. We continue to implement their designs nimbly with one hand, while waving our green anarchy flags, or what have you, with the other.

• • •

I fear these ways that we harden ourselves. The defense mechanism of closing off and toughening oneself against the catastrophic devastation that humans have wreaked upon Earth, is what allows some to fight for a better world in the short-term. But, this is a dangerous flaw. Our work is clearly driven by our hearts, yet our conversation does not include this.

In Western industrialized society, the most oppressive forces which keeps people shut down is the maligning of the heart and the heart's desire, and the appropriation of our lives for profit- and power-mongering. To pull together, to create a revolution that will roll as ceaselessly as the tides across this world, we must harness our hearts, be open to each other not just as activists and comrades-in-arms, but as compassionate fellow beings. It is within our reach to heal so many wounds with the simple acts of listening, caring, softening, extending. As much pain as it brings me to be vulnerable and open to the world and everything it presents, I know that it is the way forward, that my pain is intertwined with great power.

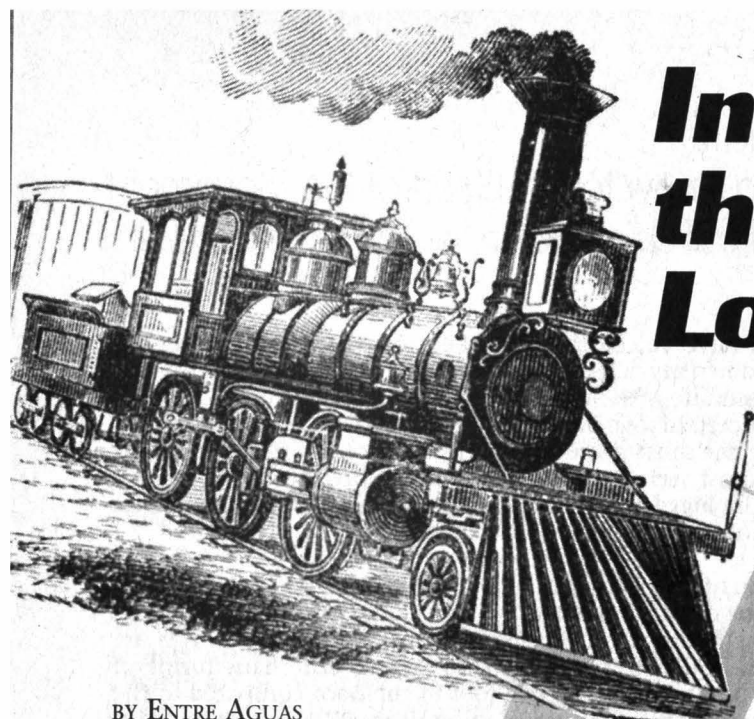
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To put it all together, I propose this: Wherever you are, stop, take a deep breath—breathe in, pause, breathe out. Focus on the pause. This is the place where you are empowered to change yourself. This space between planning and acting, dreaming and living, living and dying. Keep breathing. Now, swallow your pride. It may take a few swallows, actually. Imagine opening your heart. I mean really open. Don't know how? Think about something you care about, something that causes you to feel anger, compassion, or grief. Follow the strand of that feeling back to yourself, back to the part you shelter and protect and hide. Let this path be a crack, an opening, a sigh, and a way out to the surface. Immerse yourself in the feeling of shared humanity, shared life, shared experience, in all of its extremes.

This is a start.

Full article can be found at [EARTHFIRSTNEWS.WORDPRESS.COM/ARTICLES](http://EARTHFIRSTNEWS.WORDPRESS.COM/ARTICLES)

*Elizabeth Robertson lives in Montana, and has worked with the Buffalo Field Campaign for the the last four years. She also works with Seeds of Peace and would like to thank Claire Urbanski for contributions to this piece.*



# In the Path of the Energy Locomotive:

## Resisting Colombia's Quimbo Hydroelectric Project

BY ENTRE AGUAS

Juan Manuel Santos, the Minister of Defense under Alvaro Uribe, assumed the Colombian presidency in August 2010. He kicked off his administration by naming four focus areas the "locomotives" of his government's economic development, one of these being mining and energy generation.

While the tone of President Santos is much more diplomatic than his predecessor, Uribe, the state policies of militarizing territories to facilitate resource extraction under the guise of economic development and counter-insurgent security have not changed. The forced displacement of inhabitants that it spurred has also not abated.

Already inhabiting the projected path of this "locomotive" are thousands of Campesino and Afro-descendent populations, over 100 distinct First Nations, as well as some of planet Earth's most scarce and vital sources of fresh water, cultivable land and an incredibly rich biodiversity, including many endemic species. In the wake of this locomotive's "development" is a mass of open pit mines laden with toxic chemicals, hundreds of thousands of hectares of agro fuel plantations, and environmentally disastrous oil and gas extraction. The latter has created a web of pipelines that divide ecosystems and communities. Finally, there are the hydroelectric dams that create colossal reservoirs, killing rivers and the communities that rely on them.

Nationally, this collection of extraction projects is part of the prior government's neoliberal Colombia 2025 project, which is part of the continental mega infrastructure projects of Project Mesoamerica and the South American Regional Infrastructure Initiative (IIRSA).

"All of Colombia's hydroelectric dams being constructed all over the country have violated some



legal procedure in their implementation thus creating resistance from local communities," shared Juan Pablo Soler, a coordinator of the *Ríos Vivos* Movement. *Ríos Vivos* ("Living Rivers") is a national movement bringing together all the communities that are threatened by dams or the diverting of rivers. "The Movement against the Quimbo dam is part of a larger movement that demands that 'Rivers are for life, not death'," says Soler.

### The Land

The bioregion that the dam is being constructed in is the Upper Magdalena River, originally called the Guacahayo River. The Original Peoples of these lands have existed here for thousands of years. The Great Nations of the Nasa, the Pijao, the Yalcón, and the Andaki all battled with the Spanish from the 1500s on, trying to save the valley and its two mountain chains from the invasion. While these nations still inhabit the surrounding territories, the large amount of stone carvings, petroglyphs and pottery found throughout the area of the reservoir is a testament to the vast cultures that once dominated the region and respected the rivers, peaks, and other ecosystems as sacred.

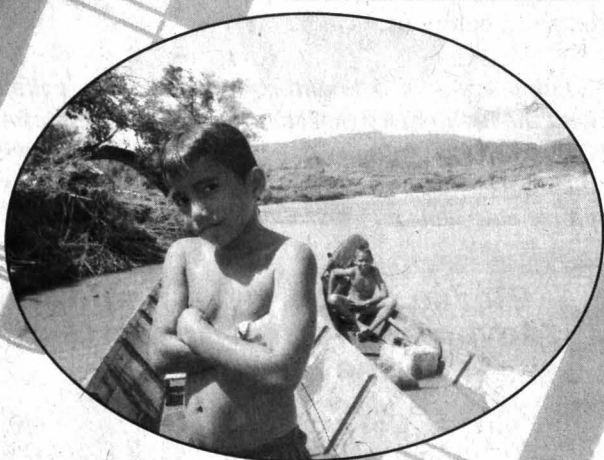
The dam is being built at the only point where both





the central and eastern mountain ranges almost touch, if it weren't for the river. This entire area is important for the movement of local as well as migratory birds, insects, bats and a great variety of wildlife that call this area their home. This biological corridor is vital for the exchange of genetic diversity between species that live in both mountain ranges. The Natural Preserve of El Biche is in this region, where a variety of protected species are found.

This territory is also rich with many species of fauna and flora. There are around 900 hectares of



riparian forest, the preferred habitat of the endangered "*Euphonia frentinegra*" or *Euphonia concinna*, an endemic bird species of the Upper Magdalena.

The tropical dry forest, the aforementioned riparian forest, and an incredible topography of mountains and basins creates multiple habitats for a variety of animals and birds such as the real hummingbird (*Galbula ruficauda*), the vireo (*Cyclarhis guianensis*) and the owl (*Rhinoptynx clamator*). There are also many species of amphibians, snakes, lizards, turtles, fish, insects, bats and endangered species such as the American Mazama deer, the ocelot, otter, and the nocturnal monkey to name just a few.

## Strike

In the Upper Magdalena River Valley, the peoples of the central part of what is now the Department of Huila, inspired by the global Occupy movement, initiated a regional strike on January 3rd that lasted for two weeks. The strike was called by the Association of Communities Affected by the Quimbo Hydroelectric Project (ASOQUIMBO), the Civic Committee of La Plata, the Regional Indigenous Council of Huila (CRIHU) and the communities near the Matambo Mountain and the Páramo of Miraflores peak being devastated by the Emerald Energy Petroleum Company. These communities united to form the Regional Movement for Defense of the Territory with a clear message: multi-national corporations out of our territory!

That same week the Comptroller's Office opened "preliminary investigations" against the Ministry of Environment, the Regional Environmental Autonomous Corporation (CAM) and INVIAS- National Highway Institute for violations of the environmental license of the Quimbo Hydroelectric Project.

Even though the two week strike effectively paralyzed the construction of the Quimbo Dam, the national corporate television stations and newspapers had a media blackout of the strike. During this time the management of the company responsible for the Dam, Emgesa, used the Colombian military to protect the Dam's installations and used private security to constantly pressure and intimidate the fisher people, artisans, and other workers into lifting the strike. The company tried to sneak in its workers to the construction site daily, forcing the Campesino Guard, formed



Photos: Top, In Domingo Arias, Paicol. Zone used for the re-routing of the Magdalena River.

In the route of the locomotive, children from the fishing community of El Hobo. All photos by Entre Aguas

and trained by the CRIHU's Indigenous Guard, to chase and forcibly block the entry of workers trying to enter the site.

During the last four years, the Quimbo's construction has not only caused ecological destruction, but increased the cost of living, psychological trauma, and abuses against local communities. Over 2,000 people live in the region that would be flooded by the 8,500 hectare reservoir, though more than 15,000 people in central Huila depend on this region for employment and food production. The region's numerous sensitive tectonic faults, along with other legal violations, have all been effectively ignored or bypassed, in order to impose the dam on the local population.

"Emgesa has effectively tried to cut many of us out of this process by not including certain sectors in their assesment of those who will be affected so that they do not have to compensate all of us," explained Zoila Maria Ninco, a fisherwoman from the village of La Jagua as she waited in line to be counted in ASOQUIMBO's counter-census. "Emgesa has claimed that the fisher people from La Jagua and from Hobo are not part of the population affected by the dam, so they have no need to compensate us. We are doubly affected because we can't maintain our traditional fishing since the fish we catch need running water and not a stagnant puddle to be able to reproduce. Also most fisher people do not own any land titles [so] we will lose our subsistence as well as homes."

When former President Alvaro Uribe illegally gave the Magdalena River as a "public utility" to Emgesa without an expiration date, the inhabitants of the region lost all rights to be able to gather or take water from the reservoir or within 200 meters of the reservoir's shores.

### Militarized Territory

The strike was only lifted when Minister of the Environment Frank Pearl agreed to meet with the Regional Movement for the Defense of the Territory. In the meeting, Vice-President of the Senate Alexander Lopez made a formal request from the Ministry of the Environment to suspend the diversion of the Magdalena River to prevent an "irreversible catastrophe" until the Ministry presents its review and response to all the cases presented in the Plenary Roundtables. Thus far this request has been ignored.

As a result of that meeting, seven different plenary roundtables were held with the communities affected by the corporations. While the Comptroller's and the Ombudsman's Offices attended these, the Ministry of the Environment never showed up to a single one, as was recorded in the communities' testimonies. This after the Director of Environmental Licenses, Luz Helena Sarmiento, attempted to violate the agreements of the meeting by inviting Emgesa-Endesa-Enel (Emgesa's parent company) and Emerald Energy to partici-

pate in the roundtables before they had even started.

The last roundtable was held on February 3rd, with no participation or presence from the Ministry of Environment or the National Government. The Regional Movement for the Defense of the Territory resumed the strike on February 5th, this time creating encampments of fisher people and other campesinos at the Paso del Colegio Bridge and the area of Domingo Arias. Currently the encampment in Domingo Arias is blocking the diverting of the river that has been pushed back a month by the earlier strike. The national government has completely militarized the area, filling it with soldiers and ES-MAD (riot police).

### Unite

"Over four hundred years ago the Cacica Gaitana [a woman chief] led an uprising against the Spanish after the Conquistador Pedro de Añasco burned her son alive for refusing to pay tribute. They won then because they were united," shared Juan Chillo Musse, an elder from the Nasa People who lives in La Plata. "La Gaitana united all the different original peoples of the Upper Magdalena River Valley and were successful in expelling this common enemy. If we do the same, come together and unite in defense of our territory, we will succeed and triumph just like our grandparents did before us."

*Entre Aguas is a Miami-born autonomous pollinator with the Beehive Design Collective and a member of ASOQUIMBO who continues to live, love, and struggle within the Cuacua (Suaza) and Guacahayo River Valleys as his people have done for thousands of years.*

### Please support the Regional Movement for the Defense of the Territory

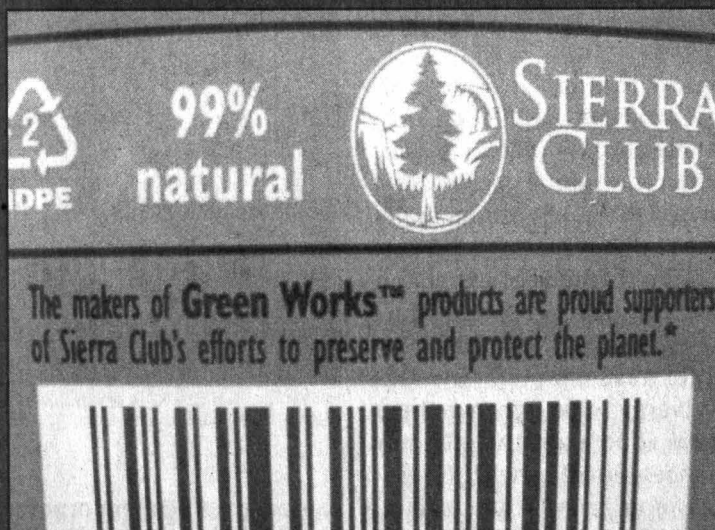
Contact Colombian Minister of the Environment Dr. Frank Pearl (fpearl@minambiente.gov.co / 011 57 332 3400) and inform him that you support the affected communities. Request:

- The immediate suspension of the Quimbo Hydroelectric Project's Environmental License and the Diverting of the Magdalena River. Yes to Agro Ecological Food Security Campesino Reserve!
- The immediate suspension of the Emerald Energy's Environmental Licenses in Huila.
- Emgesa to immediately repair the Paso del Colegio Bridge and the other highways that connect La Plata to the rest of the Huila.

Search for articles about the Quimbo Hydroelectric Project at [UPSIDEDOWNWORLD.ORG](http://UPSIDEDOWNWORLD.ORG), [CORP-WATCH.ORG](http://CORP-WATCH.ORG) or [LEFTTURN.ORG](http://LEFTTURN.ORG)



# Big Greenwashing 101



Actual label off the Sierra-endorsed "green" Clorox product

Or How The Sierra Club Learned to Stop Worrying  
About the 99% And Love Wall Street

BY RED EMMA

**GREENWASHING**—a compound word modeled on "whitewash"; a form of spin in which green marketing is deceptively used to promote the perception that a company's policies or products are environmentally friendly.

John Muir must be rolling over in his grave.

The organization he founded in 1892, the Sierra Club, America's oldest and largest environmental group, have been in cahoots with the worst of the worst corporations in recent years. They've been paid tens of millions of dollars by the fossil fuel industry, tyrannical billionaire mayors and Wall Street in exchange for cleaning (and greening) up their public images. Not only have they acted as a green public relations firm for the bastions of wealth and power, but have also sold out frontline communities most impacted by extractive industry.

Corporations rule our world with an unyielding iron fist. They poison and literally explode local communities with fracking and mountaintop removal. They profit off dirty extractive industry with multi-billion dollar investments. They empower a police state to repress social movements drawing a line in the sand against Corporate America. But they also insidiously mitigate the power of grassroots resistance movements with a complicit non-profit industrial complex. Most environmental non-profits actively serve as a buffer

zone between movements seeking real change and a corporate state hell-bent on sucking every last bit out of the planet and its people before the impending ecological collapse.

In recent years, there has been an expanding critique of the Big Greens. Corporate executives and the super-wealthy occupy the donor rolls and boards of many green non-profits. Organizations like Environmental Defense and Natural Resources Defense Council have actively partnered with the fossil fuel industry in the US Climate Action Partnership, a front group that helped stop climate legislation in 2010. A 2010 exposé in *The Nation* by Johann Hari revealed that Big Oil made large donations for decades to organizations like Conservation International and The Nature Conservancy to negate bad press over human rights and environmental abuses. Essentially, the big institutions of the environmental movement have been bought and sold.

Sadly, the Sierra Club—which boasts a democratic governance system and a healthy grassroots base of local chapters—has become part of the corporate world's equation for control. They've partnered with, and been funded by, natural gas corporations to promote gas as a "bridge fuel." They've taken large donations from New York's Mayor Michael Bloomberg even as he's attacked labor unions and Occupy Wall Street (OWS) and released his racist police force to harass and demonize the Muslim community. They've

been business partners with the worst of the worst Wall Street banks, Bank of America, in greenwashing schemes to repair the bank's damaged public image to the environmental community.

### Greening Natural Gas

In an attempt to stem scandal, the Club's executive director Michael Brune revealed in February 2012 to *Time* that from 2007 to 2010 they had taken over \$25 million in anonymous donations from the natural gas industry. The industry is most known for the environmentally destructive extraction process known as hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking." Fracking's methods of extraction from deep gas shale include the burning of diesel fuel and polluting ground water with toxic chemicals.

From 2007 to 2010, while local chapters in states like New York and Pennsylvania were fighting these gas companies, former Sierra Club executive director Carl Pope developed a cozy relationship with Chesapeake Energy, a leading gas company. Pope, in fact, toured the country with CEO Aubrey McClendon promoting natural gas as a "bridge fuel" because it burns cleaner than oil or coal. Local Sierra activists were outraged that Pope publicly sold them out to the fracking industry.

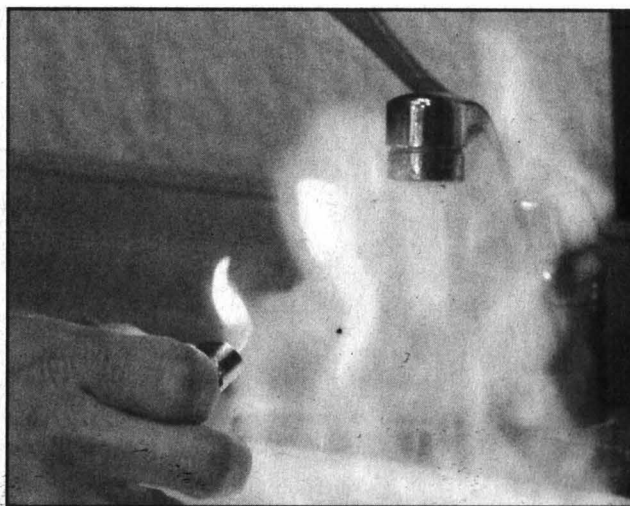
While Pope partnered with gas companies, a grassroots revolt against fracking began from the Marcellus Shale in the Northeastern United States to the Barnett Shale in Texas to the Rocky Mountain states. Organizers are fighting it in the permitting hearings and legislatures, municipalities are banning it from their city limits and acts of civil disobedience, at both corporate offices and drilling sites, are growing in frequency. Furthermore, Josh Fox's Academy Award winning film, *Gasland*, has sparked a national conversation about fracking that has backed the environmental non-profit complex into a corner.

But Pope's response to criticism from local groups did little to address the concerns of people living with fracking: "Will the 20% of the membership that happens to live in places where drilling is happening be unhappy? I'm sure that's true."

Late in 2011, Carl Pope stepped down from the Sierra Club board citing disagreements with the direction that Brune, former director of Rainforest Action Network, was taking the Club. To Brune's credit, he ended the relationship quickly after assuming leadership and rejected another \$33 million from the frackers, but as an institution they have been compromised and seen as very out-of-step with the grassroots on this on this important issue.

### New York's Big Green Darling

The fracking industries aren't the only ones cozy with the Sierra Club. Last June, New York City's billionaire mayor Michael Bloomberg had his philanthropies donate \$50 million to Sierra Club's anti-coal



A still frame of flaming faucet from the film *Gasland*

campaign. Another corporate donation negotiated by Carl Pope has turned Bloomberg into a darling of the liberal green establishment.

But as Bloomberg seeks to stop climate change, he wages war on New York's working people, Muslims and Occupy Wall Street.

Empowered by nation-wide right wing attacks trying to roll back one hundred years of social progress, Bloomberg has worked to shrink government on the backs of the city's working class and unions. Through his entire reign as "King of New York," Bloomberg has fought to privatize or "reform" labor rights including pensions, wages and health care. In January 2012, Bloomberg in his annual state of the city address took aim at the teachers' union by seeking to bypass their right to collectively bargain for employee protection, wages and bonuses. He further spreads lies and misinformation claiming that labor unions "hijacked" Occupy Wall Street in attempts to create wedges between labor and grassroots radicals.

His shock troops in the New York Police Department have long violated the rights of New York's Muslim community through surveillance, infiltration and harassment. They've just recently admitted to screening an Islamophobic film, featuring NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly, to 1,500 officers. As the Muslim community seeks Kelly's resignation, Bloomberg responded that Kelly "probably visits more mosques" than many Muslims in New York. (Sorry Mike, undercover operations don't count.)

Bloomberg and the NYPD have also become the latest line of defense between the Masters of the Financial Universe on Wall Street and people's movements challenging Corporate America. Since the beginning of Occupy Wall Street at Zucotti Park, Bloomberg has directed numerous attacks using beatings, pepper spray and unwarranted arrests. On





Carl Pope's buddy, NYC Billionaire Mayor Michael Bloomberg

October 1, they arrested over 700 people on a peaceful march across the Brooklyn Bridge. They target independent and corporate journalists reporting on police abuses through intimidation and arrests. As liberal actor Alec Baldwin tweeted: "Bloomberg's NY is no place for the First Amendment. Bloomberg serves Wall Street, now and forever. And Wall Street cannot handle free speech."

While climate change is an urgent issue, so is the repression of workers and radical democratic movements, as well as racist attacks on Muslims. The Sierra Club is seen as a progressive force by many liberals in the US, yet greenwashing right wing politicians for big bucks doesn't seem too progressive nor productive.

### The Wrong Kind of Affinity

*"Banks hold the purse strings for the fossil fuel industry and have tremendous influence in determining whether we continue to destroy our climate and our communities, or even whether we start to fund the future with a green new deal that creates a clean energy future."*

—MICHAEL BRUNE, SIERRA CLUB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Despite publicly touting their role in shutting down hundreds of coal fired power plants, the Sierra Club continues a long standing financial relationship with the largest funder of coal in the US—Bank of America.

The Sierra Club greenwashes Bank of America through "affinity schemes." An affinity scheme is a crafty public relations scheme where environmental organizations have their members get green branded credit cards through Bank of America. With every purchase, they make a donation to a good cause and a public image coup for a bank under fire for everything from foreclosures to mountaintop removal to massive employee layoffs. The Sierra Club is far from alone in this scam; Credo Mobile/Working Assets, Defenders of

Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Foundation and The Wilderness Society all have Bank of America affinity schemes.

According to Rainforest Action Network, Bank of America has the biggest portfolio of coal projects that harm public health and destroy the climate. In 2009-2010, the coal industry received \$3.9 billion in underwriting and corporate loans from Bank of America. It is involved in every step of the coal cycle. It regularly underwrites billions to the industry, including hundreds of millions of dollars in loans to Arch Coal and Peabody Energy—the two biggest coal mining companies in the country. They also underwrite billions every year to coal-heavy utility corporations, such as Southern Company and Edison International. They are also the largest forecloser of homes in US and have laid-off tens of thousands of employees in recent years.

For over a decade, Bank of America has worked to green their image through putting recycling in their offices and branches, building LEED certified buildings and has even gone as far as making false promises around climate and extraction investments to get pesky environmentalists off their backs. By far, their biggest greenwashing investment is the billions of dollars they spend supporting the charitable causes of the non-profit industrial complex. Meanwhile their coal financing portfolio makes them the biggest funder of coal in the US. The Club's tough talk on the coal industry and growing anti-corporate rhetoric coupled with their affinity for Bank of America stinks of rank hypocrisy.

Mistakenly, many see organizations like the Sierra Club as the left flank of the environmental movement, but their collusion with Wall Street and the extraction industry dispels that myth. As author Naomi Klein so aptly observed at the end of Copenhagen climate talks, "A particular model of dealing with climate change is dying." While the grassroots environmental and climate movements increasingly rise up against the one-percent, the environmental non-profit complex follows the direction of corporate donors. Climate impacted communities have long viewed Big Green groups as another buffer between corporations and the frontlines.

The failures of this "particular model," as exemplified by NGOs like the Sierra Club who have grown all too cozy with corporations and the political establishment, has undermined our democracy, our frontline communities and efforts to fight Wall Street. It's time for the environmental left to realize where the lines are drawn in the coming years.

*Red Emma is a spirit as old as the mountains, hills and forests of North America. She fought for liberation in Bacon's Rebellion and King Phillip's War, rose up with Nat Turner, stood with the martyrs at Haymarket, loved Sacco and Vanzetti, threw bricks at Starbucks windows in Seattle and spent last fall camped out at Zucotti Park and Oscar Grant Plaza.*



# Twenty Years of Protecting Forest Ecosystems

BY KAREN COULTER

Looking back over our twenty years protecting biodiversity and ecological integrity in eastern Oregon, I realized it was important to tell our story of lessons learned and pitfalls stumbled through to help other groups be as effective as possible. The name and mission statement of an organization

set the tone for group's focus and methods. I'll be forever grateful that we named *Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project* (BMBP) as we did.

*Blue Mountains* indicates a sense of place, and a limit to the scale of our work (though we did over-stretch ourselves by exceeding the limit when it seemed necessary.) *Biodiversity* is the key concept we wanted to push into the public frame of reference. Biodiversity is what we really wanted to protect—not just big pretty trees, or charismatic mega-fauna, but the intricate and essential ecological inter-relationships and diversity of species that make wild Nature magical and life supporting. *Project* implies an active campaign that can be ended at any time, rather than an organization that perpetuates itself through bureaucratic inertia or as a funding sink. The name reminds me, as BMBP's director, what I should and should not be doing.

Our mission statement set the stage for us as a radical group, even while working within legal boundaries. The mission includes not only protecting biodiversity and ecological integrity but also restoring damaged habitat and extirpated species. We also included the goals of promoting alternative ways of thinking in the largely right-wing, resource extraction focused rural communities around us, and most importantly, addressing the root causes of ecological and community instability. The "root cause" focus left us free to engage in public speaking, workshops, activist trainings, and movement-building contesting the authority of corporations to govern us and destroy the Earth.

The down-side of the focus on ending corporate rule was that once larger corporate money-based foundations saw that's what we meant, they left in droves. It would have been smarter to separate the two different aspects of our work as different projects for grant writing purposes. However it's also a sign you're effective—or at least working towards (r)evolutionizing the dominant paradigm when the bigger foundations don't want to touch you. This also encourages you to diversify and democratize your funding base for greater long-term sustainability.

So what did we accomplish in twenty years? We have stopped many thousands of acres of ecologically destructive commercial logging over four national forests. In one good year we stopped over 10,000 acres of logging with two lawsuits. We've significantly modified thousands of acres of timber sales by getting areas dropped from logging such as steep slopes, wetter mixed conifer forest, roadless areas, and critical wildlife habitat. We've also increased stream buffers, stopped new road building and the re-opening of closed roads. We stopped the planned roadless area logging under the "logging without laws" 1995 salvage rider despite all its exemptions from environmental laws. We stopped a bio-control spray plan that would have indiscriminately killed native moths and butterflies in the larval stage over six National Forests. We temporarily stopped (for many years) all herbicide use on the Malheur National Forest because they weren't preventing the sources of the invasive weed problem and a judge agreed with us. We thus inspired Region 6 of the Forest Service to prepare a new programmatic plan for dealing with invasive plants that included an emphasis on prevention. We've set several court precedents beneficial to other groups trying to protect national forests. We've trained at least 187 volunteer interns in forest ecology, wildlife and plant identification, map and compass orienteering, and other activist skills in our summer internship program.

On the anti-corporate rule and public use education front: we organized an "end corporate dominance"



# a Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project Retrospective

conference in Portland, Oregon that persisted for three years, attracting 800 to 1,000 people each time. It was focused on bringing different movements together, attracting diversity by paying effective activists of color to be keynote speakers and workshop leaders and being accessible to low-income people and people with disabilities by offering free admission, food and accommodations for disabilities. We also publish a people's guide to institutions leveraging corporate power, which is now available as "The Elite Consensus" by George Draffan. We helped organize the Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment, a labor-environmental alliance and the Seattle World Trade Organization protest in 1999. We've reached thousands of people with our speaking presentations, workshops, activist skills training, and media interviews.

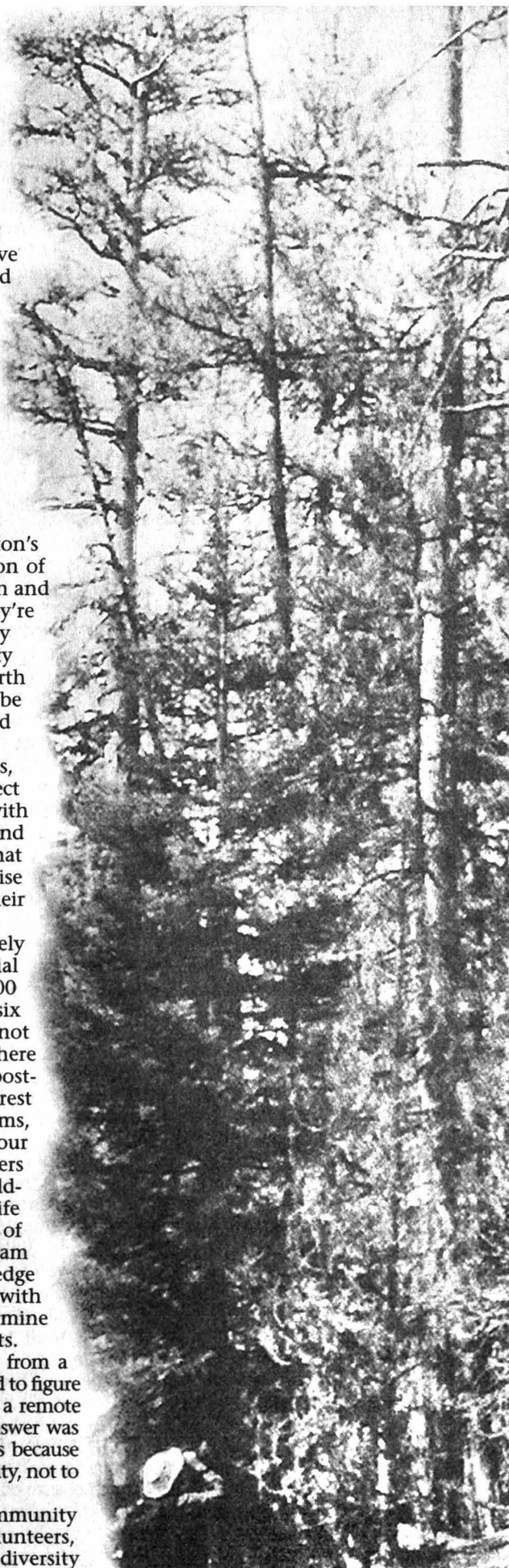
So what did we do right to accomplish this? First, there's an important distinction between mainstream environmental groups and grassroots biodiversity projects like ours. (See Doug Bevington's book *The Rebirth of Environmentalism* for a well informed discussion of this.) Mainstream environmental organizations tend to lack passion and a close relationship with either their supporters or the place they're protecting. They tend to become large, bureaucratic, and driven by funding and political access. By contrast, most of the biodiversity project groups in the US have their roots firmly embedded in Earth First! principles and are nurtured by EF! culture. They tend to be small, gutsy, passionate, low-budget, close to their supporters and thoroughly grounded in the places they're protecting.

Spending a lot of time in the areas threatened by timber sales, herbicide use, mining, ect., is critical to fighting strongly to protect them. Too many mainstream activists really aren't that familiar with the areas they are addressing and spend most of their time behind computers. This makes it much easier to compromise. It's not that biodiversity projects never compromise, but they try to not compromise on core values and critical habitat and are more willing to stick their necks out with risky lawsuits, or to offend politicians.

Some of the methods that have worked well for us include extensively field-checking all or most timber sale "units" planned for commercial logging with the help of volunteers (each sale is now 6,000 to 10,000 acres of commercial logging and we usually field-check five to six sales a year.) Field-checking gives us valuable information that is not usually included in environmental impact statements, such as where legal violations would occur on the ground, existing and probable post-sale habitat conditions, species of wildlife and plants in the area, forest structure in each sale unit, steepness of slopes, proximity to streams, ect. We use standardized survey sheets to gather evidence for our comments, appeals, negotiations and lawsuits. We train volunteers to accurately measure tree diameter, canopy closure, slopes and old-growth habitat quality as well as plant types, tree species, and wildlife sighted or through foraging signs. Volunteers also take photos of typical views, unusual plants, wildlife signs, steep slopes, and stream conditions. While not using a scientific study method, our knowledge of conditions on the ground brings us much greater credibility with the forest service, the public, and the courts, and helps us determine negotiating positions for appeals and the merit of potential lawsuits.

The co-founders of Blue Mountain Biodiversity Project started out from a direct action background with Earth First! and other movements but had to figure out what would be most effective in protecting forests and wildlife in a remote rural area with huge timber sales accessible from many roads. The answer was not direct action. So we went seemingly backwards, to legal strategies because our goal was to protect and restore ecological functioning and biodiversity, not to perpetuate an image of ourselves as radical.

With the lack of numbers in local support, we couldn't use a community organizing model (otherwise advisable) but had to recruit volunteers, largely from colleges, universities, and Earth First! gatherings. The diversity



of our volunteer base has grown to include more people of color, LGBTQ folks, and an age range from 12-60. We've had volunteers from many states and at least two other countries, mainly through word-of-mouth and regional outreach.

We had to learn the laws—easier than it sounds—and draw from other groups' appeals to learn how to write our own. We eventually cultivated a relationship with a law school, now students write most of our appeals as part of their education. We also had to create relationships with lawyers and media reporters.

Over time we've had to wean ourselves from dwindling foundation support and be more creative, splicing together income from major donors (usually nurtured as friends), speaking engagements, in-kind donations, Fund for Wild Nature support, and periodically laying our last employee—me. This tactic is not terribly sustainable, but has forced me to diversify my income base.

We've purposefully transitioned from purely defensive strategies (eg. lawsuits) to taking advantage of the opening when local communities finally invited us to the table as part of their collaborative groups. It's important to have a skeptical attitude when entering a collaborative group situation, as environmentalists tend to be out numbered by timber industry representatives and loggers. Many mainstream environmentalists seem to suddenly feel an urge to increase logging rather than remember all the damage it does. Yet, if you enter the situation with specific goals and continuously evaluate whether you are achieving or compromising them, and are prepared to leave the group when co-optation overwhelms benefits, a lot can be gained. We entered with the primary goals of breaking down local community-environmentalist polarization and to bring information to the local communities (including loggers and ranchers) about forest ecology, ecological limits, and the needs of various species at risk. With those goals it was easier to stay calm and respectful and not get lost in the detail of a particular project in planning, while still trying to improve it as much as possible. We have been achieving significant modifications early and from inside the process. This is especially important when there is no appeal process, as under the "Healthy Forest Restoration Act", and when the project would not likely be winning a lawsuit.

In this way we gained a lot of respect from the collaborative groups—and thus a better relationship with local communities. In the case of a particular collaborative group from which we had to drop our membership due to a failing consensus process, the group's respect for us continued even after we left, maintaining our influence in their meetings. The point of involvement for us was to open dialogue and start transforming local community values to favor ecological protection. However, we have watched some environmental engage in deplorable giveaways of public land protection in exchange for promised wilderness set-asides through the collaborative process.

Short-comings of the Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project model include fighting endless brush fires. Since the advent of Bush, there has been no federal forest policy solution in sight. It is profoundly disempowering to watch the Forest Service reinstate a virtually identical timber sale to the one you defeated in court years ago, as happened to us recently. Or to witness a timber industry appeal of a precious district court victory bring about a Ninth Circuit defeat and the logging of a magnificent,

diverse old-growth forest and north spotted owl habitat, as happened in the Five Butte sale. These are reminders of the greater forces of capitalism and anthropocentric societal values. The forest work is a holding action, but necessary to save vulnerable species from extinction and to slow climate change.

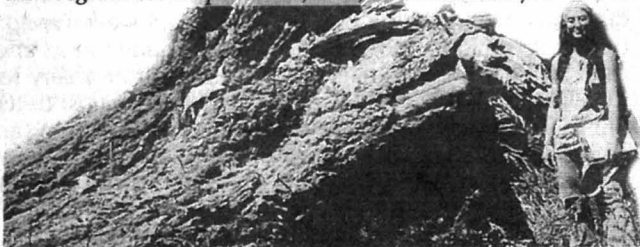
Balancing ecological defense work with activism against the system of corporate rule makes for more effective and satisfying results in the long run. It is encouraging to me that the Occupy movement, Earth First! and groups with a radical analysis such as Rising Tide are now taking on institutions that leverage corporate power such as the American Legislative exchange Council (ALEC). Ideas like abolishing corporate personhood were originally put forward by the Program on Corporations, Law, and Democracy about 19 years ago and are now coming to fruition, riding on the momentum generated by the "Citizens United" decision and Occupy Wall Street. My spirit is not content with temporarily stopping ecological destruction. We'll never change societies to embrace a biocentric ethic until we tackle corporate rule and corporatized culture head-on to create the space for ecological vitality and social mutual aid across cultural and national borders.

The challenge of the work over the past two decades for Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project has included harassment and sometimes deadly threats against us, an overwhelming work load, and relative poverty (though nothing compared to what the imperialist nations have imposed on indigenous cultures and Third World nations.) So why do I continue being an activist? The benefits include spending lots of time in beautiful wild lands, living simply, really getting to understand Nature and wild species, hanging out with some of the best people, seeing values change from my efforts, and developing a sense of place—feeling the satisfaction of holding ground.

So come join us and feel these rewards yourself! We need volunteers to field-check proposed timber sales every summer, June through September, for weeks to months.

If you want to volunteer, call (541) 385-9167 and leave a detailed message with your contact information. If you can't come out to join us, please strongly consider donating money to keep our work going. Our financial situation is extremely precarious due to the national economic depression. For a tax deduction, send checks made out to "League of Wilderness Defenders" c/o Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project, 27803 Williams Lane, Fossil, OR 97830. Thank you! See you on the frontlines.

*This year Karen Coulter is being given the Fund for Wild Nature award for activist of the year. She has been an activist since 1980 for a variety of ecological and social justice causes, including work with the American Friends Service Committee against the MX missile, as a campaigner for Greenpeace International, and involvement with the Earth First! Movement since 1984. She is currently director of Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project and a principal activist with the Program on Corporations, Law, and Democracy.*





# Thinking Long Term

## A Proposal for an Earth First! Land Project

BY MARIE J. MASON

*Marie is currently serving near 22 years for her involvement in an arson against genetic engineering laboratories in Michigan and a dozen other ELF actions in the Midwest.*

What follows is a proposal combining strategies of various environmental groups, in which threatened land is "owned" to protect it from development. But more so, the intention is for permanent access to land that could be utilized as a permanent stronghold for the Earth First! movement; a place for education, training, and rejuvenation from the stressful daily lives of EF! organizers and eco-warriors. The land could also be visited by educational groups and researchers to document resident species and regional threats to biodiversity.

By making a point to bring urban youth into the land—taking them on canoe outings, hikes and camp-outs—a new generation could form real relationships to the land. An organizing center could be built, or better converted from an abandoned building, for providing educational presentations and housing information about the site and movement.

The project would seek to prevent a permanent stress on the land while still providing a public interface between Earth First!ers, the local community resisting development and the general population.

This land would support a multi-generational effort to connect with and preserve a piece of wild land in an area that has fallen under the eye of developers and industrialists.

For this to work as a long-term project, there would need to be an effort to create a low-tech, off-the-grid intentional community to provide staffing of the organizing center and the guides for trips. This would be done best by having the folks interview for positions, be term-limited and try to represent the movement in a similar way that the *Earth First! Journal* staff has done.

The *Journal* staff collectives have served a vital purpose in the past by being the public voice of the movement. For many activists, myself included, it was their first introduction to the ideas and campaigns of Earth First!. I fell in love with my first reading, and never looked back.

Now more than ever, we must look to ways in which we can be a lasting presence and serve specific needs—starting in one place, and then, perhaps many places—so that we can show, as well as tell, what Earth First! is about to new generations.

I had originally intended to put out a call for a completely envisioned project to provide Earth First! a tangible and permanent footprint from which to build community and consciousness. But I realized that this was putting the caboose before the train. So, what I'd



Artwork by Marie Mason

like to do is begin a conversation with other Earth First!ers about what happens next, about how we can continue to be the only uncompromising, activist-driven, open organization that continues to defend the Wild on the frontlines, even in this climate of fear and repression.

For my part, I would commit to setting up the non-profit aspect of the project, fund-raising and doing outreach. I'm hoping that movement folks will offer their advice on this idea, as well as their participation in it. This project is in no way to be construed as an attempt to counsel the movement to change direction, tactics or focus—or to become more bureaucratic or mainstream. It is only an effort to add one more project to a diverse and dynamic movement that has fought long and hard for wilderness, that has grown so much over the years and that I love and respect so much. I hope that you will join with me in molding this project.

For the Wild,  
—Marie

*[Editor's note: See the next issue of the Journal for further thoughts on the EF! land project and an initial proposal on a location where the project might begin. This concept and proposal was initially proposed for discussion at the 2012 Winter EF! Organizers' Conference in Utah. It may be discussed further at the Round River Rendezvous this July. Correspondence can sent by mail directly to Marie at her address listed on page 50.]*



# Eco-prisoners, and Hostages

*This page and other eco-prisoner related content courtesy of Earth First! Prisoner Support Project, a prisoner and post-release support group for earth and animal liberation prisoners. To support their efforts, contact them at EF!PSP c/o Sacramento Prisoner Support, PO Box 163126, Sacramento, CA 95816, or email: [EFPris@riseup.net](mailto:EFPris@riseup.net)*

*For a more complete list of prisoners, including international listings, and resources for comrades behind bars, check out: [EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG/PRISONERS](http://EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG/PRISONERS)*

**Tim DeChristopher** #16156-081, Herlong FCI, Federal Correctional Institution, PO Box 800, Herlong, CA 96113. Sentenced to 2 years for bidding on oil and gas leases on public land to stop fossil fuel extraction. DeChristopher spent 20 days in solitary this March after asking supporters to check a rumor that a donor to a legal defense fund was planning to move some manufacturing operations overseas. If true DeChristopher allegedly stated, "I'd threaten to return their money or give it to the workers..." His use of the word "threaten" in an email to supporters triggered an alert from an internal monitoring system for inmate correspondence. The email somehow made it into the hands of an unidentified congressman who lodged a complaint and prompted a prison investigation that landed him in solitary. More info on Tim can be found at: [BIDDER70.ORG](http://BIDDER70.ORG)

**Eric McDavid** #16209-097, FCI Terminal Island, Federal Correctional Institution, PO Box 3007, San Pedro, CA 90731. Eric, recently moved to Terminal Island, was arrested in January 2006 after being targeted by an undercover informant. He was indicted on a single count of "conspiracy," or thought crime, and is now serving out a near 20-year sentence in federal prison for his ecological beliefs.

**Marie J. Mason** #04672-061, FMC Carswell, Federal Medical Center, POB 27137, Fort Worth, TX 76127. [SUPPORTMARIEMASON.ORG](http://SUPPORTMARIEMASON.ORG) [See page 49 for info on Marie.]

**Michael Sykes** #696693, 10274 Boyer Road, PO Box 5000, Carson City, MI 48811. Serving 4 to 10 years for anti-sprawl arsons, graffiti and attempting to chisel through the cement is his jail cell.

## GAIA

Sad, wise, cautious eyes.  
Green shoots after a wildfire.  
Life follows all storms.

—KURT MICHAELS #E64903

1-EY-49, SQSP, San Quentin, CA, 94974,

[Editors' note: Kurt is a prolific poet, Death Row inmate and subscriber to the Earth First! Journal, seeking correspondence.]

**Fran Thompson** #1090915, WERDCC, 1101 E. Hwy 54, Vandalia, MO 63382, USA. Serving Life for killing a stalker in self-defense. Before her imprisonment Fran was an eco, animal & anti-nuke campaigner.

**Daniel McGowan** #63794-053, FCI Terre Haute-CMU, PO Box 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808. Charged on multiple counts of arson and conspiracy relating to the arson of Superior Lumber company and Jefferson Poplar Farms claimed by the ELF. He is serving approximately 7 years.

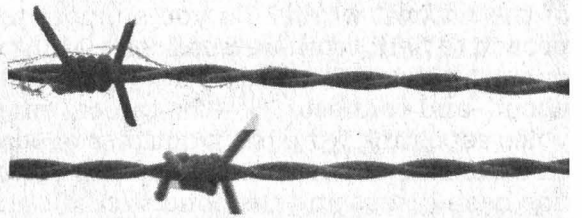
**Walter Bond** #37096-013, 37096-013, USP Marion CMU, PO Box 1000, Marion IL 62959. Arrested for the "ALF Lonewolf" arsons of the Sheepskin Factory in Denver, Colorado, the Tandy Leather Factory in Salt Lake City, Utah and the Tiburon Restaurant in Sandy, Utah which sold Foie Gras. In 2011, Bond received a sentence of 12 years and 4 months for his actions. He recently converted to Islam and also uses the name 'Abdul Haqq.'

**Justin Solondz** #98291-011, FDC SEATAC, Federal Detention Center, PO Box 13900, Seattle, WA 98198. Justin recently pled guilty to charges of arson and conspiracy in connection with the ELF arson at the University of Washington in 2001. In 2009, Justin was arrested in China for drugs and a fake Canadian ID.

**Jordan Halliday** #201200256, Davis County Correctional Facility, PO Box 130, Farmington, UT 84025. Jordan Began a 10-month sentence in January this year for grand jury resistance related to ALF raids in Utah.



# Snared Liberationists of the Struggle



## Update on Sadie and Exile:

After almost seven years behind bars for their courageous actions and refusal to cooperate with the state, Sadie and Exile will be reunited in a halfway house as of May first. The EF! Journal collective sends our love and wild wishes to them both in their return from the gulags, as Sadie has said, "All the Way Alive!"



Block print by Sadie

## Prisoner Birthdays

**JULY 11: Victor VanOrden** #6916264 North Central Correctional Facility, 313 Lanedale, Rockwell, IA 50579. Victor was arrested with his wife Kellie in October 2011-while allegedly trying to free mink from a mink ranch in Iowa. He is scheduled to be released after 2.5 years, Kellie was sentenced to two months. Victor enjoys chemistry, physics, and computer programming. He has an Amazon wish list and can receive books from Amazon.

[SUPPORTKELLIEANDVICTOR.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://SUPPORTKELLIEANDVICTOR.BLOGSPOT.COM)

**SEPTEMBER 3: Steve Murphy** #39013-177, FCI Beaumont Medium, POB 26040, Beaumont, TX 77720. Steve has been charged with a 2006 ELF action in Pasadena, CA. and was recently sentenced to 5 years on April 5, 2010 after previously pleading guilty. [SUPPORTSTEVE.ORG](http://SUPPORTSTEVE.ORG)

**SEPTEMBER 12: Leonard Peltier** #89637-132, USP Coleman I, US Penitentiary, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521. Leonard has spent over 36 years in prison for a murder he did not commit after leaders of the American Indian Movement such as himself were targets of COINTELPRO. People are commonly set free due to a single constitutional violation, but Peltier—faced with a staggering number of constitutional violations—has yet to receive justice. [WHOISLEONARDPELTIER.INFO](http://WHOISLEONARDPELTIER.INFO)

## A Letter from the Bucket

Hello, I am writing to you from a state prison in Pennsylvania, currently in the bucket (hole) as well. Yeah, it sucks, but such is prison life at times....

Over the years, I have come across copies of *EF! Journal* and always enjoyed them! I don't always agree on tactics or politics or some folks' pacifism towards a violent and destructive pig system, but to each their own I guess. The one binding root that ties us together is our strong desire to defend and protect our planet from the pigs who wish to exploit it and destroy it! God gave us all a sustainable and renewable planet to borrow while we are here! Not for a few to monopolize, privatize, exploit and ultimately destroy!

I believe in combating such with whatever tactics, actions and violence is necessary in order to defend and protect our planet! No, not everyone would agree with that and that's fine, each person has a personal limit, but I believe it should be almost unlimited in order to insure a safe, friendly planet for our children and children's children and so forth. And realistically, passive tactics don't really work long term against a violent and insane enemy. Just my personal opinion and not meant to degrade anyone else's ideology and tactics.

I am a Christian, but not an evangelist. Believe whatever one wants to believe so-long as it's not destructive and oppressive to others (without their consent)...

Anyhow, I do enjoy your magazine greatly and if possible would like to request a subscription. I can receive new or used materials, so don't destroy old back issues, I think it's all relevant and enjoy reading them even though at times they piss me off with the articles on senseless destruction by the pig systems and when another critter species is exploited, harmed and or eradicated...

Please, feel free to pass my name and info on to others! Thanks for a great magazine!

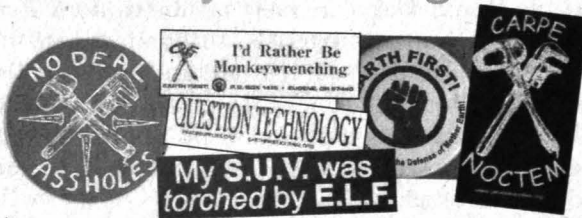
—ROBERT DUFFY #DS-9682  
SCI Somerset,  
1600 Walters Mill Road  
Somerset, PA 15510

## Ask not what the EF! J can do for YOU but what you can raise for the rev's medium of communication???

Hey you! Yeah, YOU!! Are you in an active Earth First! group? Rising Tide? Do you identify with the basic principle that direct action is needed as a tool of resistance to defend what's left of the natural world? Do you support a no-compromise and/or "every tool in the toolbox" approach to fight tooth and nail for all that remains wild, alive and precious? Are you a supporter or subscriber of the Earth First! Journal because it's the only place where you can stay informed about—and connected to—the radical environmental movement? because the journal is the only voice reporting from the frontlines of eco-defense? Well hell then! the journal needs YOU to put on a fundraiser per year to keep this voice alive! As most of you should know, the EF! movement has been discussing the condition of our movement paper and much like other wildlife on the planet, and other print media, we are on the brink of extinction and we will not be saved through petitions. Good news though, unlike wildlife and the planet, you can save us through fundraising! Throw us a benefit show, fundraiser, bake sale, garage sale, etc. Remember to be creative and think outside of the punk show! Send us your money! Our movement voice depends on you! Send any funds raised to: Daily Planet Publishing, PO Box 964, Lake Worth, FL 33460. If you have questions, comments, concerns, or words of wisdom feel free to contact us: [COLLECTIVE@EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG](mailto:COLLECTIVE@EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG), [AGUAMALA@EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG](mailto:AGUAMALA@EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG), or call us at (561)249-2071.



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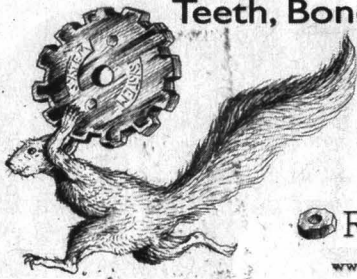
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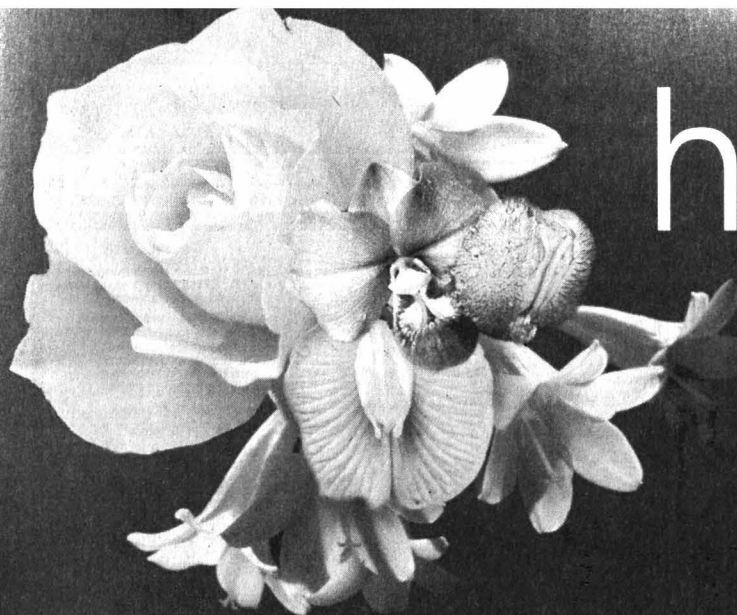
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# herb blurb

A cure for what ails you, from  
romance to the common cold!

## Calendula Herbal Oil

*Calendula has anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, astringent, antifungal, antiviral, and immunostimulant properties making it useful for treating minor wounds, conjunctivitis, chapped skin, bruises, burns, athlete's foot, acne, yeast infections, bee stings, and diaper rashes. This versatile botanical can be incorporated into baths, creams, compresses, salves, massage oils, tinctures, and teas. Internally, gargling with Calendula infused water may ease a sore throat, sores in the mouth, and inflammations in the mouth and throat. It is gentle enough for babies, children, and animals. This medicinal oil is simple to prepare and has so many uses.*

### Ingredients:

Organic Olive oil  
Organic Calendula flowers

### Directions:

1. Place Calendula flowers in a clean, dry glass jar. If using fresh Calendula, wilt for 12 hours to remove most of the moisture (too much moisture will cause the oil to go rancid) before adding to the jar.
2. Pour olive oil into the jar, making sure to cover the flowers by at least 1" of oil so they will have space to expand. Stir well and cap the jar tightly.
3. Place the jar in a warm, sunny windowsill and shake once or more per day. It will be ready in 4-6 weeks. If you need the oil quicker, place olive oil and Calendula flowers in an uncovered container. Warm over low heat at approximately 100 degrees F for at least 3-5 hours. A yogurt maker, double boiler, or inside the oven with a pilot light on are all effective ways to heat the oil, just make sure to check the temperature occasionally to ensure that the oil isn't getting too warm.
4. Once the oil has infused, strain out the herbs using cheesecloth and package the infused oil into glass bottles.

## Calendula Lip Balm

*This nourishing lip balm is made from healing ingredients which soothe dry and chapped lips.*

### Ingredients:

- 1 Tablespoon Shea Butter
- 3 Tablespoons Calendula Herbal Oil (from above recipe)
- 1 Tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon Beeswax
- 10-15 drops essential oil of choice
- A few drops of Vitamin E Oil

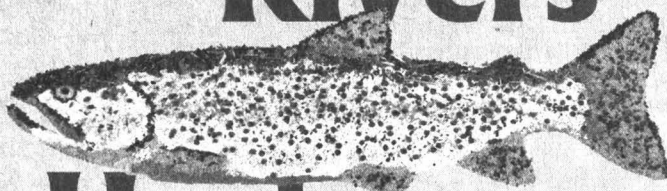
### Directions:

1. Coarsely chop the beeswax or use beeswax pastilles.
2. Place beeswax, butter, and oil in a small pot or glass Pyrex measuring cup and gently heat in the top of a double boiler until the beeswax and butters have melted.
3. Remove from the stovetop and stir in the essential oil and Vitamin E Oil.
4. Immediately pour the mixture into lip balm tubes or small containers. This recipe will make approximately 1.5 oz of lip balm, enough to fill 10 lip balm tubes, 6 of your 1/4 oz plastic jars, or 3 1/2 oz tins or plastic jars.





# Building Healthy Rivers



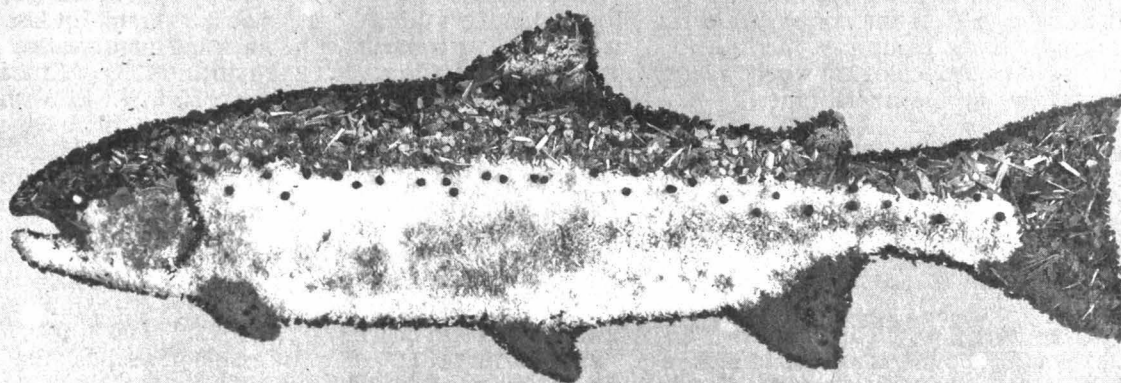
## One Herb At A Time

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A flowing river brings life to the fertile lands where our herbs grow. Commitment to organic farming holds the promise of healthy rivers with thriving fish populations and clean drinking water for generations to come.

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# EAT IT

## Eco Assassin Team (in Training)

After failing in a renewed effort to revive overt support for eco-assassin Ted Kaczynski (known to some as the Unabomber) at this year's at Earth First! Organizers' Conference (OC), a group of former Earth Firsters have decided to create a faction wholly unaffiliated with the liberal cowards and charlatans of the Earth First! hot tub social club.

### Why the splinter?

The movement needs to grow and evolve to remain effective. But we've been seeing the opposite process take place in Earth First!. Rather than raising the stakes in the face of worsening global ecological devastation, there is a rehashing of the stale old debate about adopting nonviolence as a movement principle. And within that dialogue, a proposal has even been made to remove any prisoners who used "violence" from listing in the EF! Journal—including cases of self-defense, bank robbery or political assassination.

Thankfully the courageous *Journal* collective is standing their ground in refusing to use "violence" as a determining factor in deciding who they list. In fact, they even attempted to take a step forward by re-listing Ted (as had been done in the movement heyday of the late '90s), even acknowledging that EF! was an influence and inspiration in some of Ted's most righteous choices of targets for his bold actions against the architects and elite beneficiaries of the techno-industrial empire.

While the listing of Ted was squashed for the time being during the 2012 OC in Utah, the Friends of Uncle T are not surrendering. In fact, we are stepping it up.

It's not that we want to further fracture the EF! movement with this faction; on the contrary, we are anticipating that our splinter group can increase the prominence and relevance of ecological direct action by pushing the envelope in these crucial times.

### On (not) killing CEOs and lobbyists

Let us say clearly, this is not a call to undertake assassinations of the elite scum who are pillaging the planet and enslaving the populace—but not because we think that is a bad idea.

And it's also not because we think killing CEOs and lobbyists is negative PR either. In fact, most everyone hates these creeps, and many would applaud their demise. Some would even be so enthusiastic as to make a bid on the assassin's old underwear if given the chance in a government auction, as we found out last year, when the State sold off Ted's personal belongings to further enrich the family of Unabomber victim Thomas J. Mosser, executive of corporate marketing giants Burson Marsteller. [See EF! Vol. 31, #2]

We are *not* calling for the assassinations of CEOs and lobbyists primarily because those assholes are disposable and replaced with relative ease. Whereas eco-revolutionaries like us are still far and few between, and someone getting popped on that sort of charge it could pull them out of the game for a long time.

So instead, until the police state and prison industrial complex is weakened, thus leveling the battlefield a bit more, we propose a campaign of "prank assassinations."



This involves various acts intended to let people know they are vulnerable, and well hated—even that we wish they were dead.

These could range from the classics, like flaming-shit-on-the-doorstep or a strategically placed dollar bill covered in turd on the facedown side, to the new fangled hacker-style shit all up in their internet profiles, and a million things in between... (of course, the more feces the more better.. just remember security culture, and use *non-identifiable* scat.)

### And for you non-research-nerd types

We thought we'd get you started with a list of EAT (IT)'s Top 10 List. Let's call it "The Eco-Fuckers Prank-Hit List," at least until we come up with something more creative...

**Aubrey K. McClendon**, chairman and CEO of Chesapeake Energy (gas fracker) Offices: 220 E St NE, Washington, DC 20002 and 6100 North Western Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73118. Phone (405) 935-8000

**Baxter F. Phillips Jr**, CEO of Massey Energy (mountaintop remover) Home: 8954 Tarrytown Drive, Henrico, VA 23229. (804) 784-6076

**Armando J. Olivera**, CEO of Florida Power and Light (proposer of power plant in primary panther habitat) Home: 5510 N Ocean Dr #15D. Office: 700 Universe Blvd, North Palm Beach, FL 33408. (561) 694-4000

**Russ Girling**, CEO of TransCanada (tar sands pillaging in Alberta, and wind farms clear-cutting Lynx habitat in Maine) Office: 450 1 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. (403) 920-2000

**Brian T. Moynihan**, CEO Bank of America (bank-rolled the companies who produced 40% of all the mountaintop removal coal mined last year) Home: 1 Federal, Wellesley Hills, MA 02481. (704) 386-5681

**Eric Draper**, head of Florida Audubon Society (lobbyist for developers in the Everglades.) Corporate office: 444 Brickell Ave Ste 850 Miami, FL 33131. One of many home listings: 515 N Adams St, Tallahassee, FL, 32301. Phone (850) 668-5075

**Brandon Darby**, FBI informant (founder of Citizen Patriot Response, a snitch advocacy group) Address: 21 Cotton Gin Road, Kyle, Texas, 78640. Phone (512) 268-9388



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The Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation is a conservative Christian public policy group that promotes criticism of the environmental movement, in their terminology, "the Green Dragon." In particular, the group rejects claims of man-made climate change. Research them at [www.cornwallalliance.org](http://www.cornwallalliance.org). Or don't.





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