VENEZUELAN SURGE AGAINST POWERLINE

BY CHERIE MILLER AND ATOSSA SOLTANI

Five hundred years after the arrival of Columbus, indigenous peoples in Venezuela are still fighting, and fighting strongly, to keep the last of their ancestral lands. On July 27, nearly 1,000 Indians from the Pemon, Karina, Arawaco and Akawao tribes joined together to roll massive logs onto the only highway connecting Venezuela and Brazil, strengthening their adamant protest of a 450-mile long electrical transmission line that will rip through their rainforest homeland. The area affected includes the Imataca Forest Reserve and Canaima National Park (a World Heritage Site). It is also home of Angel Falls, the world's tallest waterfall. In a recent press conference, Pemon leader Jose Luis Gonzalez warned the Venezuelan government, "Rapid economic development will equal the death of our forests and of the indigenous peoples." Despite bullying from the National Guard, blockades of construction crews and equipment have continued for over one month.

The $110 million transmission line is part of a mega-development package recently adopted by the Venezuelan government aiming to diversify their vulnerable economy, which currently relies heavily on the export of petroleum products. In addition to selling energy to Brazil, the government proposes to use the power to open up the previously protected Guyana Shield region to large-scale logging and mining.

This area not only represents one of five major biological hotspots identified in the world, but it also boasts one of the last large blocks of intact frontier forest and contains tepuyes, unique highland table-top mountains—the inspiration of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s classic adventure story, The Lost World.

continued on page 24

VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN THE BIG WILD

BY ECHO

Warnings rung out from across the bog into the sacred grove of Douglas fir and spruce the night of August 21. "Now is the time to get the women and children out," yelled a threatening voice. "There are eight men coming with baseball bats and the trail has been booby trapped." That was the start of the psychological warfare. The evening’s activities escalated into a violent attack of the Otter Wing satellite camp in Idaho’s Big Wild.

Drunken timber and road workers armed with guns and other weapons turned their angry propaganda and death threats into a reality by entering and violating the personal space and safety of activists. "Pink bunnies" fled into the darkness of the woods as the mob’s flashlights crept up the trail toward camp. Helpless eyes watched the climax of this visit erupt into a blaze of fire where backpacks, clothes, tarps and food went up in smoke. Slashing of sleeping bags and backpacks went unchecked, and other personal gear was bagged two exhausted sitters.

It seemed they would stay as long as it took to apprehend the infamous Sidehow Bob, who thwarted all the Freddies’ efforts to maintain authority on the scene. But when they baited a trap to lure Bob out of his tree, he evaded without a trace into the Idaho wilderness.

continued on page 29
Getting Ready for the Day

The possibility of impending disaster connected to the Y2K problem, coupled with crashing financial markets, demands our undivided attention as Earth Firsters. In a dramatic change of events, it seems as if the Luddite fantasy of the collapse of industrial culture and all its baggage is upon us. A time for brief reflection on the state of our activist network is in order.

Over the past several weeks, everyone has witnessed the fragility of global capitalism. We are all familiar with its effects on the Earth’s environment. It costs a lot of money to try and sustain the inevitably unsustainable. We may soon find ourselves in a situation we’ve been hoping for; a chance to do the big “I told you so.” Are we coming to a point in our struggle where we can make people realize that this ugly system is ultimately self-destructive? Are we prepared to weather the storm and demonstrate the type of sustainable culture we’re all envisioning?

Now is the time to be crafting truly bioregionally-centered working models of what this vision is. The seeds of this grand, yet humble vision, have been planted. It is time to nurture it with all our energy. People who are working on everything from recycled lumber to sustainable, organic urban farming often lend much support to our campaigns but often are not considered “true activists.” While not on the “front lines,” these people are the backbone of our communities. There are resources they provide for us and skills and resources we can provide to them in return.

Food cultivation is a fundamental need in all human cultures. With this in mind, it is essential that we honestly examine where our food comes from. As EF!ers our role in this is clear. We can do everything from recycled lumber to sustainable, organic urban farming—each is important and necessary, but each is only one aspect of the overall picture. We can create positive and attractive solutions to the oppressive industrial culture we so despise.

Visualizing industrial collapse is a slogan and a dream. At the end of the millennium, will the dream come true? We are watching, waiting and preparing...

—Jim Bowler

The Journal Wants You!

Are you a journalist at heart? Do you have a passion for long hours and little pay? Does the concern of ecological collapse hit home? The Journal has an opening for a long-term editorial collective member. We are looking for commitment, drive, humor, stamina and a love for the wild. Those interested must have basic skills in desktop publishing (Photoshop, Pagemaker and Microsoft Word) and a familiarity with Macs. Those interested should send a cover letter, resume, and a writing sample to the Journal.

BY FAITH WALKER

Fauna Cabala

Fauna. n. animal life. Cabala. n. an esoteric, secret matter or mysterious art.

In the intertidal zone, sea anemones are harpooning each other to death. Anthopleura elegantissima (Brandt) reproduces asexually, eventually forming dense colonies of genetically identical individuals. Members living on the edge of the colony are referred to as “warriors.” Smaller than the central, reproductive members, the warriors have more and larger stinging cells called nematocysts and leave the process of fission to their larger clanmates. When warriors from corporations that control food distribution in this country, living off the excess that this country wallows in doesn’t necessarily help us achieve sustainability. Depending on anyone else for survival—be it the government or a multinational corporation—leaves us vulnerable to the whims of market fluctuations and political rhetoric.

So where do we go from here? The survivalist hype being generated as the millennium approaches can be focused more importantly on the solutions we as the Earth First! movement could offer. Doing things like stockpiling recycled building supplies. Everyday there are houses torn down and thrown away. With a little sweat one could haul it off and build their own shelter. The next time you’re at an action and a logger asks if you live in a house made of wood, you can say yes—wood I recycled. Another solution is to grow your own food. By starting now you can gain valuable experience in the coming years, experience you can’t get out of a book. Try living without electricity and let your imagination fill the void. If you must have electricity, solar panels are becoming more affordable. Start researching how people lived in your bioregion before the arrival of Europeans. The sooner we make the transition to self-sufficiency, the stronger, more independent and sustainable our movement will become.

Changes in the dominant paradigm might just happen if a serious disruption in the lifestyle of each and every one of us occurs. We as activists need to not only act defensively but actively to create positive and attractive solutions to the oppressive industrial culture we so despise.

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Help With the Wilson Family Fund

Some EF!ers recently learned a cruel lesson about the impermanence of all things when the bus they were living in went up in flames. Delyla, Stan and Meagan Wilson were abruptly separated from all their material possessions and could really use your help. An account for the Wilson Fire Fund; Acct. #103074; 215 Lincoln St., Eugene, OR, 97440 Send a little, it means a lot.

Subscriptions

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Earth First! Journal

Vol. 18, No. 8

September 22, 1998

Earth First! Journal

Eugene, OR 97440

Phone (541) 344-8004

Fax: (541) 344-7688

Deadline for the next issue is:

March 21 (Vernal Equinox), May 1, June 21 (Summer Solstice), August 1, and September 1, (Autumnal Equinox). One-year subscriptions in the U.S. via third class mail are $25. First class and foreign: $35. All subscriptions outside the U.S. surface delivery is $35 and airmail is $45. Corporate and law enforcement rate is $45. Deadline for the next issue is:

October 5

IN DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH

Earth First! Journal

Earth First! Mabon

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Submissions are welcomed and should be typed or clearly printed. Send a SASE if you would like them returned. If you want confirmation of receipt of a submission, please request it. We encourage submissions on Macintosh disks or via e-mail. Art or photographs should be accompanied by articles and essays. (Prints are best, negatives are good, slides are fair.) They will be returned if requested.

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.

EUGENE, OREGON • 97440 • (541) 344-8004
BY GARTH KAIL

By now most people have probably heard something about the "millennium virus," or "Y2K" as it is known in more technical circles. This problem poses the fact that many of the world's computers will recognize the date January 1, 2000 as January 1, 1900, and may shut down or malfunction as a result.

Following any kind of breakdown... the government will be all too willing to declare martial law at the slightest provocation.

Just what the effects of this world wide computer malfunction will be is completely unpredictable. Scenarios forecast by both computer experts and politicians run the gamut from a few days of minor disruptions to six months or more in which the power grid, telecommunications, food and petroleum deliveries will be completely disrupted world-wide. Nearly everyone prognosticating agrees on one thing—it is difficult to predict the effects with much certainty.

One of the biggest problems faced by the computer "experts" is there is no "one size fits all" upgrade or other quick fix that can be applied to reprogram the computers. The core programming of the computers controlling everything from generators in dams and power plants, to the checking account at your bank or your credit card balance, was in most cases written from scratch. The lines of computer language, or "code," were designed a little different for each. To correct the problem, it is necessary to manually reverify and reprogram computers, and components of entities like General Motors and the Pentagon have billions of lines of code in their systems.

The Pentagon already admitted there is not a man, woman or child who didn't know that K, 2, and Y2K were coming. The soft pedaling of the Pentagon hierarchy. A rebel with my peeker showing.

Dear SFB,

I knew EF! readers would want to hear the truth, people of America, not just the lies!

I banged her like a cheap going. Which is not news, folks, because if you think Monica Lewinsky was the only skin flute they're a little older than I thought. Nixon before that, was in most cases written from scratch. The lines of computer language, or "code," were designed a little different for each. To correct the problem, it is necessary to manually reverify and reprogram computers. The Pentagon already admitted there is no way it is going to correct even the majority of their systems billions of lines of code in their systems.

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Aerial view of the drag-line "Big John" in operation

BY SHIREEN PARSONS

An aerial view of the huge mountain top removal mining sites in southern West Virginia reveals miles of decapitated mountains and filled-in valleys. And this is just the beginning. Individual sites, now separated by green, forested, intact mountains, will eventually merge together as all the mountains are leveled as far as the eye can see. Land companies own the mountains and coal companies already have permits to mine many of them. Right now it looks like they won't stop until they've leveled every coal-bearing mountain in the state.

The huge Earth movers called draglines work around the clock every day. The largest of these shovels, nicknamed "Big John," is 20 stories tall and moves 130 tons of rock each minute. It only takes one second to operate a dragline. A hidden cost of this efficiency is jobs. There used to be 125,000 miners employed in West Virginia, but now there are only 18,000, although coal production has never been better.

The Appalachians, the easternmost mountains on this continent, stretch from Georgia to Nova Scotia. What nature sculpted over hundreds of millions of years, we, with our modern technology, can destroy in a matter of months. Richard Bambaeh, professor of paleontology and geology at Virginia Tech, describes the genesis of the Appalachians. "Five hundred and forty million years ago, when the eastern portion of the continent was the ocean floor, layers of sediment were deposited on the base of volcanic and metamorphic rock. Three hundred and forty million years ago, the land mass that is now Africa bumped into the land mass that became North America and, over the next 100 million years, the Earth's crust buckled and folded from the Piedmont across the Blue Ridge area, sculpting the Appalachians into the magnificent landscapes of ridges, valleys, hollows and coves that characterize the region."

Today, the coal-rich mountains of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia and Kentucky are disappearing as a result of the latest, most cost-efficient method of mining coal: mountain top removal. In this process, 500 to 1,000 feet of the entire top of a mountain is removed to expose successive seams of coal. The overburden, or spoil (everything that isn't coal) that is removed during the process, is then trucked to adjacent coves and valleys and dumped. It's the most profound destruction imaginable, and it's forever.

The forests are clear cut from the mountain before it is decapitated and the remaining vegetation is burned. "Reclamation" means planting special grasses that grow without soil because there is no soil left. In addition to having to watch these mountains being razed, neighboring residents must endure the constant noise of the huge machinery and the effects of blasting: showers of dust and rock, structural damage to the homes and places of business, dried-up wells and contaminated water.

This form of strip, or surface mining (as opposed to deep mining, which tunnels into a mountain) began in the 1950s. Back then, operations were small and few. In the late '70s and early '80s, mountain top removal increased dramatically. After amendments to the federal Clean Air Act passed in the early '90s requiring electric utilities to use cleaner-burning, low-sulfur coal, the number and size of mountain top removal sites has increased dramatically.

In 1997, in an attempt to protect the environment and coal field residents, Congress passed the Surface Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA), which requires coal companies to restore the "approximate original contour" of surface-mined land. However, operations that remove the entire tops of mountains are exempt from this rule. SMCRA, which was fought by mining interests from the beginning, gives states the power to permit mining operations and responsibility for the enforcement of SMCRA regulations.

But in West Virginia, King Coal really rules. In May, Governor Cecil Underwood, a retired coal-company executive, appointed Michael Miano, a Pittston Coal Company executive, to the SMCRA last year, as the director of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the agency overseeing coal mining activities. His appointment was confirmed even though federal regulations require coal executives to wait at least two years before taking a regulatory position involving issuing water pollution permits for coal mines.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and coal field rights of way commissioner John Griffith, the DEP Assistant Chief, said the only long-term study was conducted by Arch Coal Company. That study, he said, showed down-stream water quality was actually enhanced by the mining process! In response to the question, "Isn't that a like the fox guarding the hen house?" Griffith replied, "Individuals in the coal industry are honest, hard-working folks, and they tell it like it is."

Actually, it seems that no one's guarding the hen house. Both Griffith and Tom Morgan, Acting Field Office Director for the Office of Surface Mining, said neither agency is capable of determining the number of active mountain top removal operations and/or the number of permitted sites on which operations have not yet begun. Morgan said the EPA, the Corps of Engineers and the Fish and Wildlife Service are just now working with OSM to determine the effects of valley fills on streams. Meanwhile, the mountains and valleys are being leveled at an alarming rate. Compared to that $540 million year timeline, King Coal can make a mountain disappear in less than a heartbeat.

For information on how you can help, please contact the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, 1101 6th Ave. Suite 701, Huntington, WV 25701, (304) 522-0246; mfoneman@marshall.edu.

A herd of oil-slicked poodles to Exxon's accountants and attorneys for figuring out ways to avoid paying the $5 billion Valdez settlement. Dragging their feet keeps that interest rising to the tune of $90,000 an hour—roughly $2 million a day or $800 million a year.

A slimy, scheming poodle with its nose up everybody's butt to Represent a slimy, scheming poodle with its nose up everybody's butt to Representa Don Young (R-AK) for requesting the Forest Service to provide the names of their employees who are members of, or support, various "environmental" groups. Sounds like this poodle is yapping "intimidation."

A sick, twisted and depraved poodle to Keith Twogood who was recently arrested in the UK for importing US-made "crush" videos. Evidently, they depict scantily clad women in silhouette "playing" with frogs before crushing them underfoot.

A saliva dripping, inbred with a llama, poodle to the cops in Guelph, Canada, for jailing an animal rights activist for splitting at a store that sold fur. After the deserved deed was caught on video tape the activist was arrested. In defiance he went on a hunger strike and refused to pay a fine until he was released on the condition that he not come within 20 meters of the store.

Wolves & Poodles

A righteous, radioactive-free wolf sporting a no-compromise t-shirt, to Prime Minister Jenny Shipley for refusing to repeal New Zealand's ban on US nuclear ships. Even though Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, journeyed to the beautiful island to push her nuclear agenda, Shipley announced at a press conference in scale. After amendments to the federal Clean Air Act passed in the early '90s requiring electric utilities to use cleaner-burning, low-sulfur coal, the number and size of mountain top removal sites has increased dramatically.

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The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, West Virginia Citizen Action Group and West Virginia Environmental Protection Agency are suing Miano's removal. Another lawsuit filed by the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and coal field rights of way commissioner John Griffith, the DEP Assistant Chief, said the only long-term study was conducted by Arch Coal Company. That study, he said, showed down-stream water quality was actually enhanced by the mining process! In response to the question, "Isn't that a like the fox guarding the hen house?" Griffith replied, "Individuals in the coal industry are honest, hard-working folks, and they tell it like it is."

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In the middle of winter, when the wind roars through Maiden Basin near Yellowstone National Park, it is the chilling sound of bullets against skulls that reverberates in your memory. The sound of Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) bullets shooting down the last wild buffalo herd in the United States—about 20 head—found sanctuary in Yellowstone National Park. 

—Caleb Shildets, Tribal Chairman of the Assiniboine and Sioux Nations, Ft. Peck Reservation, Montana

Yellowstone
Buffalo
Need Your Voice

by Winona LaDuke ©1998

"Like us, they are the last survivors. Those of our ancestors who survived the 19th century found sanctuary in the reservations. One in 1894, the last wild buffalo herd in the United States—about 20 head—found sanctuary in Yellowstone National Park."

—Caleb Shildets, Tribal Chairman of the Assiniboine and Sioux Nations, Ft. Peck Reservation, Montana

Yellowstone Bison Management EIS in San Francisco, Minneapolis, MN.}

The painted buffalo skull occupies a place of honor during the annual Sun Dance, the Buffalo Nations' sacrifice and thanksgiving. The skull's eye and nose cavities were often stuffed with grass, as a symbolic offering to the buffalo.

In the winter of 1897 alone, the long awaited draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Interagency Bison Management Plan for the state of Montana and Yellowstone National Park is ready. The sound we hear today is paper shuffling. After eight years to prepare the draft EIS, the government is now moving fast, allowing just 120 days for public input before finalizing their buffalo management plan. The deadline for written public comment is September 10, 1997, West Yellowstone, MT 59758, or Denver, CO 80225-9001. To help protect buffalo at Yellowstone National Park, contact Buffalo Nations at POB 957, West Yellowstone, MT 59758, (406) 646-0070.

[See announcements section for upcoming dates and locations of Public Hearings on the Yellowstone Bison Management EIS in San Francisco, CA; Austin, TX; Minneapolis, MN.]

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The first weeks of the Minnehaha Free State have been full of victories. No bulldozers have been seen anywhere in the vicinity, and the demolition deadline came and went with not one house touched. The local community continues to be incredibly supportive, bringing food and other items to help the activists at the occupation. People are coming from all over to see what is going on, and the overwhelming sentiment is against the road. Even the corporate media seems positive. Local television stations have covered the occupation live several times, and the Minneapolis newspaper has run favorable articles describing neighborhood support for the occupation.

Members of the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota community joined Big Woods Earth First! on day two of the occupation. These aboriginal inhabitants have come to the Minnehaha Free State to lay claim to what is rightfully theirs and to help protect several sacred sites destined to be destroyed by the road. Driven from their own land and promised land they never got, these people have survived the onslaught of European domination and maintained their cultural traditions over the years. The Indigenous Environmental Network and Honor the Earth have also come out in support of the occupation. Members of the American Indian Movement have held drum ceremonies at the encampment in support of the preservation of the Dakota sacred sites. This alliance promises to be a formidable obstacle to the road builder's agenda.

Several forces are actively conspiring to pave over this irreplaceable land. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDoT) has long thought of cars as the only acceptable mode of transport, fueling the spread of urban sprawl with an ever-expanding road system. The Metropolitan Airport Commission has been greedily expanding the airport just south of the reroute and pressure is being applied by the wage-labor slaves in the downtown corporate offices who want the three minute faster commute to the airport the new route would provide. And then there is the proposed light rail transit corridor, which, coincidentally (or not), is scheduled to use the same path—seen by many as a divide and conquer tactic on the part of city planners. Road building is big business. Large construction companies with clout at the state capital stand to make lots of money. These forces are not accustomed to being challenged and will not be stopped easily.

Every other method to halt the crazy plan has been tried, including collecting over 8,000 signatures, conducting tours of the threatened area, writing letters, calling officials, holding rallies, attending public meetings and suing in court. But it became clear that more serious action was neces-
MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI!

ON THE

sary when, with a lawsuit appeal pending, MnDoT arrogantly released its call for bids to demolish the perfectly livable homes in the path of the road. MnDoT has been tightlipped and smug in its approach. The project coordinator said the houses would be down on schedule and any illegal occupants removed, a statement he had to eat as the deadline came and went. As time passed, it became clear their strategy would be to play a waiting game rather than risk confrontation, as even police driv-

ing by the site said they didn’t want the road. Of course, MnDoT argues they went through all the public participation process needed to conclude that people want the road. This statement may have been true 30 years ago, but sentiment has clearly changed. If only MnDoT realized it is never too late to change a bad plan.

The Minnehaha Free State has an around-the-clock watch, and many people from various backgrounds are working full-time to sustain the occupation. A governing system based on consensus has been set up. At our daily meetings we make sure concerns are addressed, ensure the smooth operation of the occupation and plot further strategy. A free kitchen is being operated by Food Not Bombs. Affinity groups have formed around different aspects of camp maintenance, and the feeling of empowerment is running high. Plans for a fall garden, pirate radio and a weekly zine are all in the works as the Minnehaha Free State creates a new autonomous community. To many of us, this is not just about stopping one road, but about redefining the way people think about roads and transport in general. We desperately need to turn away from the car culture. Road building and urban sprawl are rapidly gobbling up precious wild lands. We need to fight back against the mentality of the road-building wackos who are ruining the planet. It is also about native sovereignty and returning the continent to a more balanced state. Earth First! has broadened its horizons in the past years and has built alliances with indigenous groups and others. This expansion is essential to increasing the struggle against the destruction of the Earth. This struggle will not be won in the courts, but through direct action efforts to change the way people think, empowering people to act against the destruction.

The Minnehaha Free State is an ongoing campaign. We intend to maintain the occupation until the reroute is canceled and the land claims of the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota are recognized and upheld. It is hard work maintaining the occupation, but also fun and rewarding. We anticipate more groups will be joining the fight. Come get involved! Contact us at Big Woods Earth First!, FOB 580936, Minneapolis, MN 55458; (612) 362-3387; earthfirst@juno.com. If you can’t join us, you can help by calling the MnDOT Commissioner James Denn at (651) 297-1467; US Representative Martin Sabo at (612) 664-8000; Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sales Belton at (612) 673-2100; MN Attorney General (also running for governor) Skip Humphrey at (612) 225-0726; US Senator Paul Wellstone at (612) 645-0323. Tell them to stop the reroute of Highway 55 and to support the Mendota land claim.

Susan Jasper, Green Party candidate for Lt. Governor. Susan has been sleeping at the foot of Joe Hill’s tripod.
THE FAILURE OF THE WARD VALLEY CAMPAIGN

BY PATRICK DIEHL

While the struggle to stop the Ward Valley radioactive waste dump near Needles, California, has had some success, the overall campaign must be called a failure. The problems it highlights are widespread in the movement. Those of us who believe in direct democracy, consensus process and nonviolent direct action, including myself, often fail to communicate effectively for our ideals when we are in coalition settings, especially multicultural ones. We are self-silencing; we fail to take active steps to inform coalition members and constituencies about our skills, and we are unwilling to challenge power holders.

One incident in particular brought our failures home to me. During the frantic days in February, just before the confrontation with the government over further site testing, members of tribes whose lands lie farther south down the Colorado River were arriving. Someone looked at the diverse, bustling crowd and asked, "Why are all these white people here?"

In October '95, the campaign focused shifted from the courts and legislature to local organizing, expansion of the coalition and preparations for nonviolent resistance. The first large-scale regional gathering was held in Ward Valley, and a protest set to occur on site. The Fort Mojave Indian Tribe then opened the Save Ward Valley office in Needles, and the campaign began to attract national media attention.

At the same time, an unequal contest began between those who sought to broaden the campaign's scope and those who sought to keep it narrow. The former included the author and his partner, Tom Woodard. Among the latter, the most influential figure was Bradley Angel, a Greenpeace toxic campaign.

Those activists wanting to broaden the coalition's focus believe fundamental social transformation is needed if the present ecological crisis is to be surmounted. They wanted to educate consciousness about nonviolent direct action, consensus process and direct democracy; to connect the campaign to the larger issue of nuclearism on a national and planetary scale; to form alliances with other groups fighting similar radioactive waste dump proposals in Boyd County, Nebraska, and Sierra Blanca, Texas; and to unify with anti-nuclear coalitions like Alliance for Nuclear Accountability and Abolition.

From 1997 on, those who wanted a narrow focus succeeded in limiting the campaign to the issue of stopping the nuclear dump from being built in Ward Valley. The public voice of the campaign became a Native American voice, emphasizing the Ward Valley office in Needles, staying on site. The Fort Mojave Indian Tribe newsletter or the local paper.

One that emphasizes local victories tends to push aside longer-range concerns. Similarly, a strategy that gives the lead to one part of a coalition disempowers the rest of it.

In '95, the Ward Valley coalition was loose-knit, dominated by a small "in"-group of individuals, with a half-hearted ramshackle excuse for a consensus process. But it was still a coalition of sorts. By '98, it had become a solidarity group. Decision making was handed over to the lower Colorado River tribes and to men like Steve Lopez and David Harper who acted on the tribes' behalf. This led to capricious, contradictory, unexplained decisions and heavy-handed, coercive behavior by Native Americans toward non-native activists. Believing that people should have the right to participate in decisions that affect them, especially during nonviolent direct actions, this author formally resigned from the coalition.

Self-scrutiny is the most proactive way to analyze the mistakes made in left-wing coalitions. White, social-change activists in multicultural campaigns are often subject to an especially crippling reflex: self-silencing. They feel obligated to constantly woo non-white groups in the coalition, staying on their best behavior and always aiming to please. They play the part of the traditional wife whose duty it is to provide support and sympathy and take care of the housekeeping. This double role is seldom discussed or questioned. Instead, people grumble about its consequences—particularly about having to accept behavior they would not tolerate if it occurred within their own groups.

This relationship between coalition members is a transparent inversion of mainstream American society where people of color are expected to court the good will of whites and accept their fobblies with a smile. In either form, such a relationship is false and regressive. Its dishonesty blocks communication. Once caught in it, people keep their true thoughts to themselves or confide in trusted friends. Behavior that harms the campaign goes unchecked. Individuals do not hear how negatively they are affecting the coalition, and the abilities of many activists are underutilized or not used at all. Resentment and frustration on the one side and runaway egos on the other are the natural result.

In the Ward Valley campaign, social-change activists assumed tribal members would learn of their political and social vision simply through working together. Relationships did form, but the crucial larger meeting of minds did not occur. Only a few tribal members were directly involved in the ongoing work. Non-native activists had little or no contact with most people in the tribes. Even if they had tried hard to explain themselves to tribal activists, their words would not have had a wide hearing, or would have spread beyond activist circles in a heavily filtered and mediated form.

Activists in the core group of the Ward Valley coalition did not form a caucus with other activists in the campaign to press for their political and social ideals. As a result, there was no base for doing "in-reach" and education about social-change issues. The agenda remained narrowly focused on stopping the dump. After the Needles office opened, activists could have continued on next page
NOT SOCIAL CHANGE
IT IS A HOLY WAR!

BY DAVID HARPER

I would like to respond to Mr. Patrick Diehl's opinion regarding the Ward Valley campaign. I am the traditional spokesman for the Colorado River Indian Tribes Mojave Elders. I was involved in the occupation of Ward Valley, which was led by the Mojave Elders and fellow tribal members. I do recall seeing Patrick Diehl involved in the Ward Valley campaign and recognize his involvement with other environmentalists who came to Ward Valley. I was able to see Mr. Diehl in several tribal meetings with his companion, Tori Zoodad, and Mr. Diehl, in fact, was asked for his opinion at several meetings. He was given opportunity for involvement in Ward Valley, much more so than his fellow environmentalists.

Who failed regarding the Tribe's involvement? The Tribes were much more informed than Mr. Diehl could imagine. Relatives from the Indian Tribe where Mr. Diehl could have come to see Mr. Diehl's opinion at several meetings. He was given an opportunity for involvement in Ward Valley. Each day, fellow tribal members kept abreast of the situation by radio as they worked. Each day, tribal members stepped up to meet the challenges of the occupation. The Tribes have always been responsible for the education of their people. I recall a meeting of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe where Mr. Diehl could not understand that the Tribes were responsible for their tribal member's actions in a way not covered by simply taking nonviolence action training.

As Mr. Diehl writes, he is in the process of moving to Utah to take on another cause. We, however, continue to protect our aboriginal lands and fight the proposed radioactive waste site at Ward Valley. We cannot turn our backs on this land to seek out other popular causes, nor can we simply get it all over with. Lastly, I can confidently and justly state that the Ward Valley occupation was based on our spirituality and religious occupation; it was a "holy war." We are not activists or environmentalists. We are traditionalists who believe the most powerful tool we have to assist us in our struggles is our spirituality. Mr. Diehl and other environmentalists may not understand our way of life.

"We cannot and will not ever compromise our traditional or religious culture for a social-change philosophy."

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FAILURE, CONTINUED...

No one even considered approaching these publications, and there was no support for dealing with social-change issues in the "Save Ward Valley" newsletter when it finally appeared in January '97. Activists in the Ward Valley coalition failed to open up the "in" group that ran the campaign and establish a clear, agreed-upon process for decision-making. The status quo allowed them to fend off ideas they did not like and keep the power they already had. The general meetings at the large gatherings in '95-'97 had little impact on this situation. Instead, the coalition metamorphosed gradually into the solidarity group it now is, which probably suited the agendas of most of the "in" group members. Whether or not it suited the hundreds of supporters who came to the gatherings and sent in donations, who knows? They were never asked.

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Tale of the Two Tax Trail

by Scott Silver

In the early morning hours of July 26, working upon a vast snow field, two wilderness activists laid out the ropes and stakes that would guide them in their work. It required four heavily laden trips up Cherokee Mountain to deliver the food and water they’d need. By 10:30 a.m., with garden sprayers filled to capacity, they waited and watched the protest unfold.

Marching on the hot pavement, some 1500 feet below, were more than 50 Wild Wilderness protesters and their supporters, there to display opposition to the Forest Service Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. The protesters carried placards and waved banners bearing messages such as “USFS: Nature’s Pimp”; “Hey Smokey, how much is the view worth?”; and “Wilderness $ buy RFL.”

When the groups then put down their signs and gathered in front of two dozen chairs, each one bearing the name of one of the corporations representing the proposed trail fees to public lands. The names included a litany of motorized recreational vehicle manufacturers like the Personal Watercraft Industry Association, the American Motorcyclists Association, Yamaha, Exxon and the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association. It would have required an additional 100 chairs to seat all of the corporations behind this assault. Prominent in the front row were the names of the biggest cheeses, Walt Disney and the American Recreation Coalition.

I stood before the crowd and explained how each of these companies had direct financial interest in turning nature into a matrix of recreational products. I explained how Congress’ never-ending budget cuts had left the Forest Service in a position of having to suck up to the recreation industry and accept their indulged welfare demands.

When the wristwatch alarms on the ground and atop the mountain began to buzz, the protest effort began. Towering above the protesters, among the ski runs and chairlifts, was a 300 foot tall, bold green dollar sign contrasted against the snowy white background. As we stood watching the final touches being added, most of us wondered if this was what Smokey sees when he looks at our nation’s wild places.

US Sees Dollar Signs in Outdoor Recreation.” I continued to read, “(user) fees, coupled with new rules allowing the sale of public facilities to private enterprise and expanding opportunities for private business ventures have many wondering whether Smokey will become just another huskster, pushing profit over protection.”

Then, to draw attention to the mountain, I turned and looked up to where my friends had been working. I began explaining to fellow protesters that while it was impossible for anyone but a true huskster to sell raw nature, even a bureaucrat could sell a scenic view and watch the final skillfully converted into a product and aggressively marketed. Billed as wreckreation, edu-tainment and eco-tainment, I went on to say, nature would be the new products of the Forest Service. They could simply place a few interpretive signs before a scenic vista and create something worthy of charging admission. I then gestured dramatically behind me towards the Three Sisters mountains while simultaneously pointing to a sign that read: “Pay-To-View, $5/peak.”

Everyone began to marvel at the creation that began appearing on the side of Mt. Bachelor. Towering above the protesters, among the ski runs and chairlifts, was a 300 foot tall, bold green dollar sign contrasted against the snowy white background. As we stood watching the final touches being added, most of us wondered if this was what Smokey sees when he looks at our nation’s wild places.

Minmin the Crown Jewel of Tennessee

by Will Cumberland

It all started when Skyline Mining Company announced plans to strip mine for coal in Van Buren County, Tennessee, within the Fall Creek Falls State Park watershed, the “crowning jewel” of the state’s park system. Citing how mining in the Sewanee coal vein has already produced some of the worst pollution the Cumberland Plateau has ever seen, SOCM (Save Our Cumberland Mountains) held a petition drive to gather signatures from local citizens opposing the mine.

An existing mine has already impacted the basin surrounding Fall Creek Falls, confirming the state geologist’s advance report that surface mining in Southwestern Tennessee might pollute the aquifer. The runoff from the acidic soil polluted the water in the gorge, killing all forms of life and making the water undrinkable. “It was like some one had stabbed deep into the heart of the mountain and all the blood was just pouring out,” said a local Cumberland Plateau resident.

The shock on the face of the miners, the company owner were there to silence the people of the Cumberland community resident Jamie Baulker also moved the crowd when she held up a jar containing a sample of the acid-washed water that runs through her property. It looked like darkly-colored orange juice. Baulker and her partner received death threats when they spoke out against the mine’s impact a few years ago. But the campaign of fear designed to silence the couple has failed with the community’s support of the SOCM.

The shocked residents and the company owner were there to silence the couple that supports the SOCM. The group has been a united community. For more information contact SOCM. (UAINE)

Trummeled in N

by Walter Bassley

A few years ago, Donald Trump purchased 200 acres in Westchester County, New York, from Yale University and Rockefeller University. Now he wants to turn the estate into his very own exclusive golf course and residential development with an annual membership fee of only $250,000. Seven Springs, the estate, is located amongst three towns and is perched above the Byram reservoir, which means that whatever Trump does to the estate will pollute the water. Of course, Trump couldn’t care who or what he dumps on as long as it doesn’t affect him. He has a proven track record of perching his rump on the wrong people.

He has destroyed a homeless “village” in New York to make way for another one of his building projects. Incidentally, in a television interview, Trump confirms that buildings rarely let him down. In The Creek Falls book, he admits to regularly using revenge as a business technique when someone does him wrong. Isn’t revenge immoral and illegal?

In order to make a parking space for his limousines, Trump tried to get Atlantic City, New Jersey, to condemn a family restaurant on the grounds of “public good.” Decency prevailed in court, causing Donald to suffer from devastation and reverse peristalsis: He failed in his attempt to perch and eliminate and ended up getting a taste of his own shit.

Now he is trying to relieve himself by getting permission to place his golf course over the stream. He has no plan to do it himself; instead, he would rent the fairways of his course a laxative of fertilizer, pesticides and weed killer to boast that, of all the top courses, he’s got the most effluent one.

If you would like to guarantee that Donald Trump’s gluttony, gastrointestinal disaster, and his toilet humor isn’t just a fart for a toilet doesn’t result in his squinting aside to your reservoir, or if you are concerned about the social inequalities of this issue, write or call the Water Department at 104 Main Street, Mt. Kisco, New York 10549; (914) 666-6210 or contact Frederick P. Clark Associates, Inc. (planning consultants) at 360 Theodore Frend Ave., New York 10586; (914) 967-6540.
RED CLOUD THUNDER AT FALL CREEK

by WARCY

For the first time in North America, tunnels are being used in a direct action to stop the illegal logging of old-growth trees. The tunnel, which is 200 feet underground at Fall Creek, a pocket of old-growth forest in Oregon's Cascade wilderness. This subterfuge was the newest strategy, but it has a long history as a tool of resistance. Underground was the only place where the Vietnamese found protection from the bombings of American B-52 bombers. The Viet Cong lived and maintained their base camps inside tunnels. They had live mice and bats with them,outes from them in war time necessities. Changed. English and American forest activists finally caught upon the usefulness of tunnels in their nonviolent struggles.

I've been living here in a 500-year-old Douglas fir for almost three weeks now. I'm 200-feet up in the exquisite and breezy upper canopy where stars shine like the heavens at night and breezes roil the foliage all day. Red Cloud Thunder is the name of the seven month-old forest defense campaign at Fall Creek. It's named after the warrior chief of the Ogala Lakota who led the Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapahos in the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Red Cloud did not recognize the authority of the government. Broken treaties and government lies were familiar. Western expansion was responsible for the massacre of his people and the destruction of the wildlands and game that the tribes were depended upon for survival. Today, only islands of old-growth habitat remain in the area surrounding Fall Creek. We are fighting for these remaining patches of low-elevation old growth. The driving force behind our insurrection is fighting to keep Cascadia alive and to hold it as a place of rest.

SALMON NOT SALVAGE IN FIRE COUNTRY

by SPRING CHINOOK

I have three questions to ask. How many more litanies of destruction, tales of extinction, looming chasms of extinction must we endure before we stop to consider the usefulness of tunnels in their nonviolent struggles.

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PEHUENCHES REJECT RALCO DAM
ACCESS DENIED BY HUMAN CHAIN

BY ALETA BROWN

A David and Goliath struggle is playing out in the upper reaches of Chile’s Biobío River, where a small but determined group of indigenous Pehuenche people are standing up to Empresa Nacional de Electricidad (ENDESA), a huge Chilean utility company. On July 30, over 100 Pehuenche protesters and their supporters attempted to block construction of the $500 million Ralco dam by forming a human barrier to stop work on the road to the dam site. The protest heated up when local police and a riot squad tried to disperse the crowd with tear gas. The protesters threw the canisters back at the police and four people were arrested. The protesters, including Cristian Opaso of the Grupo de Acción por el Biobío (GABB) and Augustín Correa, a Pehuenche activist, were charged with public disorder.

The unrest at the dam site forced ENDESA and government officials to agree to meet with people affected by the development. As a result, Planning Minister Gertrudis Quiñotana ordered ENDESA to stop further work at the construction site until the dispute was resolved. CONADI, the governmental agency responsible for protecting Chile’s indigenous population, had earlier petitioned ENDESA to suspend all work in the area, but the utility company refused and construction continued. In light of this, 30 Pehuenche protesters decided to continue to guard the bridge leading to the dam site.

According to Chile’s 1993 Indigenous Law, ENDESA cannot begin construction without written consent from the 400 Pehuenche who would be resettled to fill the dam’s 13-square-mile reservoir. The upper Biobío was formally declared an indigenous area in March 1997. The law states that indigenous land cannot be sold, only traded, and that the families involved must all agree to the move. As with many development projects, the community is divided over the issue. There are those who support the project, believing it will improve their situation, while others remain steadfastly opposed. Nine families have said they will never trade their land for any price. Nicolasa Quintremán, whose family lives on their own and sold their land on the same land for 500 years says, “The only way I’ll leave here is dead.”

United Press International (UPI) reported on an internal memo by CONADI revealing that some of the families may have been coerced by ENDESA into signing contracts. The story alleges that ENDESA told the families that, because the company had already received all needed permits, they had no choice but to sign. A Pehuenche man who signed told CONADI representatives, “We don’t have any alternative. They are going to flood our land and we are not fish.”

On the eve of a critical CONADI vote concerning the Ralco dam, Chilean President Eduardo Frei fired Domingo Namuncura, the head of CONADI. The vote concerned the legality of land swap contracts which ENDESA had negotiated with the Pehuenche. Namuncura concluded that the contracts had been unfairly negotiated and that the land offered to the Pehuenche would not sustain their culture and lifestyle. His vote, when added to that of the eight indigenous people on the CONADI council, would have torpedoed the project.

In his resignation letter to President Frei, Namuncura wrote, “CONADI’s review of the land swap contracts, in strict accordance with the Indigenous Law and our own regulations, found that the contracts could not be approved because they did not comply with a series of requirements regarding their conception and execution. The Indigenous Law demands respect for indigenous culture. Indigenous lands are to be protected so that they are used appropriately and so that ecological balances are maintained. There is no doubt that the Ralco dam project will have a tremendous impact on the indigenous people living there.”

President Frei, a staunch supporter of the project and a hydraulic engineer, could not have expected the rally of support for the Pehuenche that followed. Marching from Santiago to Valparaíso, 70 Mapuches (Chile’s largest indigenous group) insisted that the country’s Human Rights Commission travel to the Upper Biobío and assess the situation. The Communist Party of Chile has also pledged its support.

Aside from displacing 600 people, the 570 megawatt Ralco dam and its reservoir will threaten at least 50 species of freshwater and aquatic life dependent on the river; increase access to logging; subject 1,400 hectares of denuded reservoir banks to erosion and landslides; decrease downstream flow during low-water periods; and seriously impact downstream aquatic life and indigenous fish. The indigenous fisherman, ENDESA won’t give up this easily. The company and its shareholders have much to gain from this project. A representative of ENDESA told protesters, “We have until the year 2002 [the year the reservoir would fill] to solve the issue of the lands of the Pehuenche.”

The Indigenous Law and the determination of some Pehuenche are not ENDESA’s only obstacles. A lawsuit against ENDESA has been filed at the Sixth Civil Court in Santiago. The plaintiffs claim the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Ralco dam project should be declared null and void because the procedure for implementing the EIA did not comply with established guidelines. The lawsuit against ENDESA is also supported by three members of the Parliament.

This is not the first struggle for land rights faced by the Pehuenche. The Pehuenches are descendants of the mounted warriors who held back Spanish conquest for 200 years. The river and the land are interwoven into their cultural beliefs. The Pehuenche read and understand the language of the river. The píton pines and the valley have been at the core of their spiritual and physical home for centuries.

To address the issue, fax your letters of protest to Chilean President Eduardo Frei at +56-2-635-4720. For more information, contact Alleta Brown at International Rivers Network, Berkeley, CA; (510) 848-1155; alleta@irn.org. Also contact Juan Pablo Orrego or Cristian Opaso, Grupo de Acción por el Biobío (GABB), Santiago, Chili; +56-2-737-1420; gab@deuna.cl.

Alleta Brown works closely with the Biobío campaign through the International Rivers Network. Her article originally appeared in the August issue of World Rivers Review.

SLOWING KOLA’S EXPANSION
NEW RUSSIAN REACTORS TARGETED

BY VLADIMIR SIYVK

On July 19, more than 150 activists from Eastern and Western Europe established a camp near the Kola nuclear plant, one of the oldest and most dangerous in Russia, to prevent the construction of two new reactors. The Kola camp in Polymarye Zory became the largest one ever for training direct action activists against the nuclear industries in the former Soviet Union. For the first time, experienced activists as well as beginners from Russia, Moldova, Ukraine, Belorus, Kazakhstan, Norway, Denmark and Sweden came together to exchange experiences and to hold a protest on the Kola peninsula, just above the polar circle.

This new generation of reactors at Kola will be partially loaded with MOX fuel, a weapons grade plutonium. Anti-nuclear activists are demanding the Russian Nuclear Ministry to abandon this experimental project because it may lead to new nuclear accidents, will create more nuclear waste, threatens non-proliferation treaties and increase the risk of nuclear terrorism. During the Cold War, the nuclear industry was a sacred cow producing plutonium and telling fairy tales about the cheap energy from nuclear plants. After Chernobyl, it finally became clear that nuclear power is not only dangerous, it’s the most expensive source of energy man ever designed.

Kola has had problems in the past. In 1992, more than 500 square-meters of radioactive water escaped from the Kola plant, causing contamination of the local environment and health problems for residents and workers. In February, 1993, the Kola plant nearly exploded. Strong winds destroyed power lines near the plant, and the plant’s operator was unable to run the automatic electricity system designed to keep the reactor working. The emergency shut down system failed. A plant worker later revealed, “We succeeded to shut [the] reactor down one second before the explosion.” Soon after, the Kola nuclear plant was listed as the most dangerous in Russia in a ’93 confidential report titled “Most Dangerous Reactors” compiled by the US Department of Energy.

On July 19, when busses of activists arrived at the camp, police and nuclear plant guards requested a meeting. The authorities informed the activists that anyone who trespassed would be killed. Just before the campers came, the number of anti-terrorist guards at the plant doubled. Military and police from the Kola peninsula’s cities were brought in to “protect” the plant. Every day the local authorities and Kola representatives came to the camp to tell the activists their occupation posed a threat to the plant and told them to leave. The Federal Security Service (ex-KGB) sent a special team to watch the camp organizers.

Although under heavy scrutiny, the camp organized direct actions to protest the construction of the second nuclear power plant. Activists of the Grupo de Acción por la Preservación de la Vida, the Russian Environmental Action Network and the Russian Ministry of Atomic Power shut down the old, dangerous and expensive Kola nuclear plant reactors, reject the plans for the construction of the new nuclear
BY IKE OKONTA

Although Chevron has been operating in Ilaje, Nigeria, since 1962, producing an estimated 276,000 barrels of oil each day, the people of the region have complained that they have received in return for putting billions of dollars of oil revenue into the pockets of Chevron and Nigerian government is a secondary school building, two jetties and a watering hole, which broke down after it was commissioned.

Ilajeland is an impoverished community in spite of its substantial oil wealth. The people lack such basic necessities as piped water, electricity, hospitals and schools. Infant mortality in the community, one of the most affected by Chevron's oil exploration and production activities is taking a terrible toll on the environment on which they rely for survival. Olarenwaju Esan Malami, the president of the community, says, "Our fresh water was opened to the ocean by numerous canals dug by Chevron. We no longer have fresh water for us to drink. Gas flaring has left our economic trees leafless. Our occupation, which is fishing, has been disrupted by frequent oil spillage, and left our economic trees leafless. In our activities, have depleted fish life in the region have complained that all they receive is a charge of piracy and kept in dehumanizing conditions in a military cell for 26 days. They were released on June 26, following pressure mounted by several human rights and environmental organizations in Nigeria.

Unfortunately, situations like these are often silenced. Chevron's public relations machinery in Nigeria is awesomely efficient. While Shell and Mobil take all the blame for environmental devastation in the Niger Delta, Chevron manages to project the image of a caring and environmentally responsible company. This is a result of an astute manipulation of the media and the construction of "environmentally friendly" edifices like the Nigerian Conservation Foundation Center in Lekki, a suburb of Lagos. But the reality in all devastated areas as Ilajeland is a far cry from the picturesque environmental paradise of Lekki. Bola Oyinbo who is still recuperating from wounds he sustained was waging a war on our land and forests and water for several years. Go to Awoye community (a district of Ilajeland) and see what they have done. Everything is dead—mangroves, tropical forests, fish, fresh-water streams, even our wildlife.

The people of Ilaje, long suppressed and expropriated, have embarked on the path of peaceful protest and are demanding a new political and economic arrangement in Nigeria that will guarantee the sustainable development of their natural resources, the protection of their ecosystem and the empowerment of local people so that they will be able to share their lives and determine their future.

Following the death of the military dictator General Sani Abacha in June 1998, there were hopes that his successor, General Abdulsalaam Abubakar would adopt a more conciliatory approach and address the long standing social and environmental problems of the oil producing communities of the Niger Delta. This, however, has not happened. As the Parado massacre has shown, the Nigerian military junta and the western oil companies are still in the business of killing the local people, stealing their oil and leaving environmental carnage in their wake.

Ike Okonta works with Environmental Rights Action/ Friends of the Earth, Nigeria.

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TARGETING KOLA’S NEW REACTORS... continued from previous page reactors, and design and implement a regional program for the development of renewable energy sources.

During the early morning hours of July 29, groups of campers left using mountain roads in order to avoid detection by police. A few hours later, .30 reactors, and design and implement a regional program for the develop­ment of renewable energy sources. The efforts are needed to force Kola nuclear plant to become a thing of the past that will not threaten the future generations anymore. Anti-nuclear campaigners are striving to reach this goal. If you want to support efforts towards a nuclear-free future or for more information contact ECODEFENSE! at POB 1477, 236000 Kaliningrad, Russia; 7-0112-437286 (gsm); ecodefense@glasnet.ru; http://cci.glasnet.ru/antinuclear.html.

Chevron with billions of dollars worth of oil. Finally, they demanded compensations for economic trees, land and fishing streams polluted by the company. During the meeting, Haastrop claimed he did not have the authority to enter into any agreement with community people. However, he assured them that he would return two days later after consulting with his supe­riors at Chevron's headquarters in Lagos, the country's capital. Bola Oyinbo and the other youths who were still waiting at the Chevron oil platform in Ilaje were worried that production activities were taking a terrible toll on the environment on which they rely for survival. Olarenwaju Esan Malami, the community's spokesman, was interfered with, nor was work stopped or continued. An Oyinbo and his col­leagues wanted was Chevron's CEO in front of them. After a series of consultations between the two parties, Deji Haastrop, the company's community relations manager, arrived by helicopter on the following day to speak with the community leaders and try to clear the oil platform. Oyinbo directed Haastrop to a man in charge of the community's oil platform in Parabe, not far from their community. Bola Oyinbo, 33, leader of the Ilaje community, expressed his grievances of his people. Not a single Oyinbo was interfered with, nor was work stopped or continued. An Oyinbo and his colle­agues wanted was Chevron's CEO in front of them. After a series of consultations between the two parties, Deji Haastrop, the company's community relations manager, arrived by helicopter on the following day to speak with the community leaders and try to clear the oil platform. Oyinbo directed Haastrop to a man in charge of the community's oil platform in Parabe, not far from their community. Bola Oyinbo, 33, leader of the Ilaje community, expressed his grievances of his people. Not a single
A few of the over 100 Green Party candidates running in the '98 elections were asked to present their positions. The following answers were received...

Editor's note: Publication of this article in no way constitutes a political endorsement by the EFJ Foundation—Jah.

Dan Hamburg, Green Party candidate for governor of California.

Educator, graduate of Stanford and the California School of Natural Studies; represents one California in US congress in early '90s; author of Headwaters Forest Act.

Do you believe in Earth first? Yes. We realize our own humanity in protecting Mother Earth. What do you believe is the most about your bioregion and if elected, how would you protect that? I'm fortunate to live on the North Coast [of California] where natural beauty still remains. However, our environment has been seriously compromised in the 150 years of the white man. Our air, our forests, our rivers are all threatened to varying degrees. We face mass species extinction. As governor, I would use all my powers to change the relationship between human beings and the natural environment of California. Our children to the seventh generation deserve no less.


Long-time environmental activist, radical environmentalist, plaintiff in the famous North Roaring Devil lawsuit, relentless Forest Service watchdog and wilderness advocate.

Do you believe in Earth first? Yes. And I believe in Earth first because it is a fundamental philosophy of Native Hawai'ian culture and our natural environment. Our children to the seventh generation deserve no less.

Sondra Field-Grace, Green Party candidate for mayor, Kaua'i County, Hawaii.

School of Native Hawai'ian culture and Native environmental activist.

Do you believe in Earth first? Very much so. Here in Hawaii' we call aina. It is a fundamental philosophy of our island people and stems from ancient Hawai'ian beliefs. In our creation chant, the Kuma Lipo, it is clear that the Earth comes from a familial relationship with the Earth and a responsibility to care for one another.

What do you love the most about your bioregion and if elected, how would you protect that? Our Hawai'ian Islands and our people have a long history and philosophy of living as one with the Earth. Through colonization and forced assimilation, we are becoming generic Americans. My goal is to reverse this trend and to restore the Hawaii'ian foundation where we will become self-sufficient and self-sustaining and be as one again. Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much) for your hard work and dedication.

Ken Pentel, Green Party candidate for governor of Minnesota.

Former Greenpeace staffer, community organizer, Prairie Island Coalition member.

Do you believe in Earth first? I believe Earth first is the conscience of the nation and the planet. I believe nonviolent direct action is a vital strategy to challenge injustice. Many of the freedoms we have today come all start to dissent. Earth first's education, mobilization, and action makes for a healthier planet and democracy.

What do you love the most about your bioregion and if elected, how would you protect that? I live in one of the most ecologically vital regions on the continent. The Mississippi River, the Great Lakes, and the Hudson Bay basins all start in Minnesota. Our responsibility to the fresh water is critical. We have three nuclear reactors, many coal power plants, a huge oil refinery, big feedlots, massive amounts of fertilizers, persistent toxic pollutants, and levies, all choking and contaminating the Mississippi River alone. I am running to protect the fresh water as one of many campaign goals.

Folks in the Green Party think they have something resembling a solution. Blair Bobier, Pacific Party candidate for governor in Oregon, expressed a common Green sentiment at a recent press conference, "I got tired of petitioning politicians to try to make them listen to our point of view and take actions that were in keeping with environmentalist's ideals, so I decided to try to take the reigns myself."

The Bobier campaign arranged for Lighthawk, a pilots organization dedicated to wildlife preservation, to take media on flyovers of federally managed lands in Oregon. As we flew, Margaret our pilot explained the facts of forest ecology and the disastrous effects that the current administration's resource extraction policies are having on the land between the Coast Range and the Pacific ocean.

Bobier and his supporters are obviously committed to protecting Oregon's wilderness and honestly believe if the six Pacific Party candidates running for office in the state are elected, it would help.

But can the state be really be used to promote the ideals of Earth first? While the Greens' Ten Key Values do offer inspiring and idealistic words to live by, politics as usual necessarily means compromise and absolute power corrupts absolutely. So why get involved at all? You be the judge.

The Greens' Ten Key Values

1. Grassroots Democracy

2. Social Justice and Economic Opportunity

3. Ecological Wisdom

4. Non-Violence

5. Decentralization

6. Community-Based Economics and Economic Justice

7. Feminism and Gender Equity

8. Respect for Diversity

9. Personal and Global Responsibility

10. Future Focus and Sustainability

From the Green Party Platform homepage

'98 Elections Green Party Facts


• California has the most Green Party candidates (24); New York has (16); New Jersey (14); Wyoming (8); Hawaii and Oregon (6); New Jersey (5); Maine, Alaska and Georgia (4). The rest have 3 or fewer candidates.

• Of the 110 Green Party candidates for political office, 76 are male and 34 are female.

• There are Green Party candidates running for governor in Alaska, California, Maine, Minnesota, New York and Oregon.

• The Green Party candidate for governor of New York is former actor Al Lewis, aka, "Grandpa Munster" (seriously) who received a Ph.D. in Child Psychology from Columbia University in 1941. Grandpa insists he has been politically active for nearly all of his 88 years and that he was just acting batty. His campaign did not respond to requests for an interview and a cool picture of him in his vampire suit.

• Offshoots of the Green Party include the Pacific Party, the Green-Labor Party and the Green Choice Party, to name a few.

(Source: Feinstein and Krompak's Green Parties of North America homepage)
CALIFORNIA FUNDS HEADWATERS DEAL

BY HUGH MOROSE

In the waning moments of this year's legislative session, California lawmakers approved funding for the Clinton/Feinstein/Hurwitz deal to purchase part of Headwaters forest.

Grassroots environmentalists did their best to kill funding for the deal, which puts thousands of acres of ancient forest on the chopping block and could place California's vanishing salmon in even greater peril. However, ten hours of furious negotiations between lawmakers, the governor and his staff revealed that deal-cutting Democrats and the mainstream enviros who gave them green cover had been rolled once again by the Maxxam machine.

Legislators initially sought improvements to Maxxam/Pacific Lumber's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) as a condition for appropriating the state's $13 million share of the Headwaters deal. In a tremendously blatant display of the influence of cold cash over the legislative process, they instead settled for throwing even more cash at Charles Hurwitz.

The final legislation appropriated an additional $100 million for acquired reserve land - $60 million for ancient redwood groves, including Owl Creek Grove, which could have been sacrificed under the HCP. However, the legislation also lent protesters was excessive. "The district attorneys said the protest was excessive. The officers had other options. They could've used a swab on the eye-lids, or a direct spray at point-blank range, as shown in the police video. The plaintiffs admit to evidence that a still photograph from the video taken of the protest at Congressman Riggs's office and directly after the civil enforcement and to law enforcement for years in Humboldt County. The protesters were apprehended, but were allowed to continue the fight to the next trial. "This lawsuit is our chance to do our part to protect the civil rights of future nonviolent protesters, plain-tiff activists and their lawyers have vowed to continue the fight to the next trial. "This lawsuit is our chance to say to Humboldt County law enforcement and to law enforcement across the country, you cannot punish us for our beliefs, you cannot abuse our constitutional rights, you cannot torture us," said plaintiff Noel Ten dick.

Locked down with the stump in place and sawdust everywhere, little did these courageous women know what would happen to them. Frank Riggs' headquarters shortly after this photo was taken.

Hanging Out for Forests

On August 16, Rainforest Relief staged a demonstration on the Coy ney Island boardwalk by hanging a 125-foot-long banner from the former timber mill. They were protesting the use of tropical rainforest wood by the New York City Department of Sanitation, which is responsible for maintaining the boardwalk. The protest was a failure, with only five demonstrators participating and five others arrested for obstructing traffic.

Stealing Home

The Stealing-Home Coalition launched a nationwide campaign on August 26 to bring home the importance of old-growth rainforest woods with bicycle U-locks at the Rothen Park, California, site. The coalition, comprised of old-growth forests and bicycle lovers, was guided to the site by the local council. The protest came in the wake of months of corporate stone-walling and the threat to sell the forest to the county district attorney. The coalition plans to continue their campaign as long as necessary.

Jumpin' Jiminy Cricket

New York's Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has seen many protests—but perhaps never one to last his number and so small in girth. On July 27, protesters released 10,000 crickets at police headquarters in lower Manhattan to protest the city's purchase of several community garden lots and a building that is part of the largest rainforest block in the U.S. The result was bedlam. "People were scrambling, I screamed," said Elsa Ress, an artist who was there. "It was madness." The group of Lower East Side advocates calling themselves "Jiminy Cricket." Wendy Madison, a spokesman for the group said, "We wanted something more symbolic than a stink bomb."

Over-Reaction at Seabrook

Revolution and police brutality was no stranger to Philadelphia's minds the evening of June 27 when 40,000 East EFPs, Forces of Nature and other activists marched to the memorial for the Connecticut River in New Hampshire to commemorate the largest anti-nuclear rally in the United States. After the ceremony, a crowd of 4,000 assembled in front of the police headquarters, including the national leaders of the New England Peace Movement, who were arrested for blocking the entrance. When the ladder to the fence was seized, the police began to tear gas the crowd, indiscriminately arresting 15 people including a number of the leaders. When the protest was over, police were briefly hospitalized. All 14 were cited and released.

Pepper Spray Jury Hung

By Dixie Cup and Q-tip

The nine Headwaters forest activists who were pepper sprayed last year while engaged in nonviolent direct actions have had their day in court. After two weeks of trial and five hours of deliberation, the San Francisco jury announced on August 25 that it was hopelessly deadlocked. Four jurors were in favor of the pepper-sprayed plaintiffs; four were in support of the defendants, the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department members.

The nine Headwaters forest activists, including four from the Peace and Justice Group, were arrested by Humboldt County Sheriffs in the Fall of '97. "active resisters," those who go limp, when engaged in nonviolent direct action, were locked down, etc., while engaged in nonviolent direct action. Legal standards and Training Department members testified that they were acting in self-defense.

Testimony during the trial underscored how significant this case is. Ollie Sansen, a police trainer in Contra Costa, California, testified about a new report from Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) that outlines ways of dealing with "active resisters." In a chillingly Orwellian manipulation of language, a glossary of terms in the report defines passive resistance as an oxymoron. The report goes on to suggest ways of directly applying chemical agents to "active resisters," those who go limp, lock down, etc., while engaged in nonviolent direct action. Legal standards and Training Department members testified that they were acting in self-defense.

When pressed by reporters, Schimke revealed that at the center of the deadlock was one juror in particular who "wouldn't have changed his mind if a bomb went off in his lap." He also stated that if the protesters trespassed on his property, he would have gotten his gun.

Determined to protect the civil rights of future nonviolent protesters, plain-tiff activists and their lawyers have vowed to continue the fight to the next trial. "This lawsuit is our chance to say to Humboldt County law enforcement and to law enforcement across the country, you cannot punish us for our beliefs, you cannot abuse our constitutional rights, you cannot torture us," said plaintiff Noel Tendick. "It is our chance to do our part to make sure this never happens again."

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I Coudn't See Being Silenced...

EFJ: How did you end up in prison Bob?

Bob: Well, back in 1996 I got involved in the civil disobedience campaign at Enola Hill, which is in the Mt. Hood National Forest. It's a sacred site to several Native American tribes. A vision quest site, a site that has been used for a gathered medicinal plants, holds ceremony. I was arrested multiple times there. Apparently, the federal government decided that those of us that got arrested more than one time were somehow ring leaders or career troublemakers. Those were the words they used to describe me. They decided to bring charges against me in federal court. They were looking to hold me for a 90 day pre-trial probation and large fines to drive a point home that would cause people not to do things like this anymore.

EFJ: So, what happened?

AN INTERVIEW WITH BOB LAWRFENE FROM PRISON

BY JOHN BOWLING

Those who know Bob Lawrence, know him for his tireless dedication to direct action. Since the late 80s, he has organized with Earth First!, Greenpeace and Rainforest Action Network up and down the West Coast. He's spent a couple of times in prison for blocking factory trawling and log export ships, sticking up for endangered species, resisting mineralization, defending Cascadia's wild forests, critically massing against clearcutting and the logging that genetically caused the collapse of the wilds. He's spent time in Lompoc Penitentiary and we shared this conversation on noncooperation and prison life.

Bob: Well, the two charges that got me here in federal prison were charges of trespassing and one of blocking a federal road. The first trespassing charge came from an action where myself and 40 other people walked into the sale unit, brought forward the sale unit, got the lockbox open and took over. That was an action that started the day after Earth Day and general protest of not just being about as a big a pain possible in the ass of corporate America and the Forest Service. Recently, Bob called me from considered radical. Leslie, with the Earth First! Journal, Mick for Cascadia Forest Defenders. They said that because I worked for Greenpeace, it was obvious that I was a radical and a career troublemaker. They also said in court that I was an admitted member of Earth First!

EFJ: They offered you a deal in court, didn’t they?

Bob: Yeah, basically I could've taken 200 hours of community service for the government, a $1,000 fine and a year of probation. They wanted to stop me from doing direct action. Originally, they wanted me to be doing community service for the Forest Service. I couldn't agree to that. They wanted $1,000 which is a huge amount of money for an activist, and I couldn't see giving money to the same people who had caused the destruction of Enola Hill.

EFJ: Of what prison you’re in. I’m working on the prison farm. We grow corn and beans there.

EFJ: Aren’t you the lead chainsaw repairman?

Bob: Yeah, they had me working on chainsaws and heavy equipment when I first got here, but the last couple months they cut me out of the heavy equipment, planting the crops. They haven’t had me back working on chainsaws in quite a while now. I sort of had the feeling that they read my sentencing report and found out what I was in for. Lately, they don't even ask me to go near the chainsaws.

EFJ: Are you treated differently as a political prisoner?

Bob: Yes, definitely. My mail seems to be more closely monitored than other prisoners'. When I first came here, I was warned very specifically not to involve myself in any kind of work that were stirring up problems, like encouraging people to strike, petition gathering, helping people with complaints with the administration. I was told that if that happens, I would be very harshly punished and possibly have additional charges brought against me. On the reverse side, the inmates are treating me especially well.

There are a lot of people in prison who are known snitches. Coming in as a political prisoner sort of gives you a little bit different status of respect with people because they know you're not someone who sold out their crime past or didn't understand that there was a better sentence. So, I've been treated really well. The only thing significantly different is that whereas other people's mail comes within about a week of the postmark, mine takes about a month. I got a couple of pieces of mail where they'd circled numbers, key paragraphs, phrases or whatever.

EFJ: Really?

Bob: I don't know what they're doin' with that, but I'm not too concerned. I've also had problems with my visitors. They won't let one of my personal friends who has a misdeemeanor visit me... They aren't allowed to do that. I'm really not allowed to do that unless they have a felony. This person has a misdeemeanor for being in a protest for Headwaters a few years back, and they've pretty much stopped me from having a visit from one of my best friends.

EFJ: Do you have any suggestions for anyone facing jail time right now for their activism or any suggestions for anyone to cope with being in jail?

Bob: Well, there is a good quote by Gandhi. It says, "One way out of this dilemma, you must enter just as a bridegroom enters the bridal chambers. Peace, justice and freedom will be there, not inside prison walls, sometimes on gallows, never in council chambers, courts or in the school room." So, I hope that people act in the spirit of Gandhi, in the spirit of noncooperation. I hope you start to start to do jail time of your fines and accept probation and start to involve yourself in any kind of activities that were noncooperation for their activism or any suggestions for anyone to cope with being in jail?

Bob: Yeah, I know we've done one was myself... I was also arrested for Kryptoniting myself to the rear axle of a logging truck. There were two of us who locked ourselves down to that truck that day. I spent about two days in the county jail after they finally got us cut off. The court didn't bring charges in county court because the federal government apparently wanted them to hold off from doing that so that they could bring charges against us in federal court. So, that was what ended up getting me in here.

EFJ: That was your third arrest, the log truck?

Bob: Yeah, I had three arrests but I beat... the one where I locked myself to the gate leading up to the main logging site with a lockbox the first day they tried to log it. They tried to use a cop to testify against me who wasn't actually there that day. On a misdemeanor it has to be an eye witness.

EFJ: You were clumped together with other activists who were recognized by the court as repeat offenders for these two actions.

Bob: Yeah, that would be Heather Vergottis, Molly Fagan, Leslie Hemstreet, Mark Lippe—whose charges were dropped. Mick Garvin and me.

EFJ: Were these people involved in the same action as you? The others were just lumped together in court for multiple arrests at Enola?

Bob: They basically went easy on Molly and Heather right from the beginning in court. They said, well, we never got to you, we never got to it, and we never got caught up in the passion of the reasons or whatever. They tried to hang Leslie and Mick and I as the career troublemakers, repeat offenders. We worked or were involved with groups that were thought that the best way to continue noncooperation was to go to prison. I've been following really closely over the past couple of years the activities of the Plowshares activists and the Catholic peace movement. The Plowshares activists always refused to pay fines or accept probation, to become involved in that system at all in any way, because that system is corrupt and it's wrong. So, they always end up going to prison for what they do. They feel it is another way of bearing witness. You can't anybody to do something you haven't done yourself. So, I felt it was in the best interest for the movement, and for myself, to take my time and come to prison.

EFJ: So, what is prison life like Bob?

Bob: Well, I'm in a prison work camp and what the prison here is about is slave labor. It's pretty boring. In federal prison they make everybody work, flooding prisons. I think it's important that if we are to be a resistance movement, we have to have something to say. We have to have something that people will talk about. I'm in jail eight, nine times, and I've never really had a bad experience. It's all what you make of it. Take the time to read, meditate and study and you'll do just fine.
The Problem:

Today is the most critical moment in the three-and-a-half-billion year history of life on Earth. Never before—since the end of the Cretaceous period, 65-million years ago—has there been a period of extinction as intense as we are now witnessing.

Over the last several hundred years, industrial civilization has declared war on nature, leading to a drastic reduction in the biological diversity of this planet. Some respected ecologists assert that the only large mammals to survive the near future will be those we humans choose to allow to live.

Other prominent biologists, aghast at the wholesale devastation of tropical rainforests and temperate old-growth forests, rapidly accelerating desertification, and eradication of countless life forms due to habitat destruction and poaching, say that Earth could lose one quarter to one third of all species within a very few years.

Not only is the blitzkrieg against the natural world destroying ecosystems and their associated species, but our activities are now beginning to have fundamental, systemic effects upon the entire life-support system of the planet—upsetting the world’s climate, poisoning the oceans, destroying the ozone layer and spreading acid rain, radioactive fallout, pesticides and industrial contamination throughout the biosphere.

Indeed, some biologists have warned that vertebrate evolution may be at an end due to the activities of industrialization.

Clearly, the conservation battle is not one of merely protecting outdoor recreation opportunities; neither is it a matter of elitist aesthetics, nor “wise management and use” of natural resources. It is a battle for life itself, for the continuous flow of evolution.

We—this generation—are at humanity’s most important juncture since we came out of the trees six million years ago. It is our decision, ours today, whether to hold renegade corporations and lawless governments accountable for the destruction of the natural world or turn our backs on mother earth and her defenseless life forms. Will we allow Earth to continue to be a marvelously living, diverse oasis in the blackness of space, or will the charismatic megafauna of the future consist of Norway rats and cockroaches.

Are you tired of mamby-pamby environmental groups? Are you sick of overpaid corporate environmentalists who suck up to bureaucrats and industry? Have you become dis-empowered by the reductionist approach of environmental professionals and scientists?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then Earth First! is for you! Earth First! is different from other environmental groups. Here are some things to keep in mind about Earth First! and some suggestions for being an active and effective Earth Firstier:

First of all, Earth First! is not an organization, but a movement. There are no “members” of Earth First!, only Earth Firstiers. Earth Firsters are bound together by a belief in biocentrism, that life—the Earth—comes first, and a practice of putting our beliefs into action. While there is broad diversity within Earth First!—from animal rights vegans to wilderness hunting guides, from monkey-wrenchers to civil-disobedience acrobats, from whiskey-drinking backwoods riffraff to thoughtful philosophers, from misanthropes to humanists—there is agreement on one thing, the need for action!
Earth First! is an international movement composed of small, bioregionally-based groups. Earth Firsters (EFiers) take it upon themselves to become intimately familiar with the ecology of the area they are defending and the most immediate and serious threats to it. We apply “direct pressure” to stop the bleeding, with a potent combination of education, organizing and creative direct action. Many EFiers experience both the joy of the wild and the anguish of losing it so acutely that they feel isolated and alone before coming together as a group. Nothing is more empowering or more: fulfilling than standing defiant in creative consort with other like-hearted people. Dare to love that much!

Earth First! has survived attacks by moderates, would-be leaders and the agents of the system, while remaining the most diverse, passionate, committed and uncompromising group of environmental activists. Our direct actions in defense of the last wild places only seem radical compared to an entire paradigm of denial and control, where the individual is convinced they are powerless, and the organizations set up to protect the wilderness continue to bargain it away.

Earth First! is a priority, not an organization. It is the name of our journal, and the slogan of our emerging tribe, but it is a tribe without chiefs. The only “leaders” are those temporarily working the hardest in defense of our last wilderness. New ideas, strategies and crucial initiatives come from individuals, and all decisions are made within affinity groups based on preferred tactics. EF is as much an extended family as an environmental movement, developing the integrity and skills for a new/old way of living with the land. Our actions are tied to deep ecology, the spiritual and visceral recognition of the intrinsic, sacred value of every living thing.

To start an Earth First! group in your area, consider the following elements:

Campaigns: These can include everything presently impacting biodiversity on this planet— old-growth forest defense, endangered species protection, habitat destruction, disastrous public lands grazing, damming of rivers, the re-wilding of the continent, etc... To really protect a bioregion, we have to connect with it through our hearts and souls. To really become acquainted with that which we fight for, we need to spend a lot of time intimately exploring our deserts and canyons, mapping the ancient forests, documenting the existence of endangered and threatened species and just feeling the wildness of these places.

EF! coordinates actions nationally as well, such as countrywide demonstrations against Burger King (which stopped its importation of Costa Rican rainforest beef as a result of our grassroots action!), the annual “Day of Outrage” against the US Forest Service, campaigns against predator control and other issues such as Hydro-Quebec’s ongoing river destruction projects.

Contacts: Even though it is up to every individual EFier to come up with campaigns and strategies and carry them out, a successful group still needs a “contact” to:
• Establish a mailing address and phone for the group so that anyone may get in touch. Contacts are listed in the EF! Journal. To avoid any confusion or loss of momentum should some key motivator leave, it is best to have two committed contacts, ideally male and female (two names, two numbers, one shared PO Box).
• Maintain a mailing list and a phone tree, to help instigate actions, or to make urgent announcements.

A mailing list & phone tree are essential for keeping everyone in touch. Begin with whatever number of “leaders” you can mobilize to set up shop in a shop where you can make notes on their skills (enjoys making costumes, sic festivals, etc...). Put out an information table in front of student unions and natural history stores with stand-up graphic displays on your campaigns and a sign-up sheet. Try doing a one-time-only insert in related alternative publications calling for participation.

note: Make sure it is clear to everyone putting their name on this list that it is a list for potential activists, not just a mailing list for free newsletters. This list should include space for the signers’ addresses and phone numbers for quick access and notes on their skills (enjoys making costumes, good with signs and graphics, willing to work on timber appeals, computer projects, committed to civil disobedience, etc...).

Fundraising: In a capitalist world, there’s capital to be had. If you put your mind to it, you can pile it up by the boatload. Try these handy methods:
• benefit concerts, slide-shows and tabling.
• disgusting pleas for money through various newsletters and radio programs.
• auctions of donated goodies and services.
• foundation grants for specific projects.
• school money funneled through campus clubs for EF! presentations.
• EF! work parties.
• profits on the sale of EF! merchandise (available from the EF! Journal).
• EF! Journal sales.

Meetings: It’s true. Meetings are the bane of civilization, the low benchmark for all environmental “organizations.” But EF! does it differently. Call them parties with a focus! We gather for potlucks, hikes, climbs, music jams, swims and river trips. However, we meet for one purpose only: the actions that follow!

Tactics: EF! is open to all forms of non-violent direct action. What we share is an undiluted passion, a belief in the sacred intrinsic value of all life and a willingness to act! Although known through the sensationalist media for our arrest scenarios and advocacy of ecotage, EF! activists use all of the following tactics, and more:

Money: Unlike most other environmental groups which require immense funding to do their work, Earth First! campaigns are pulled off on a shoe string budget. The major expenses for an Earth First! group are printing, postage and the occasional costs associated with planning and staging actions and demonstrations. If arrests are made, be aware that legal costs and court fines can add up quickly.

An EF! Bank Account: Setting up your own bank account and local fundraising plans are essential parts of being a contact. More than one person in your group should be allowed to sign checks. This allows for fair and open accounting of the scant funds going through it. As these funds are used entirely for lawful (but radical) purposes, the resulting records are no threat to the signatories. Remember that civil disobedience is constitutionally protected free speech and that any incursions endured during EF! actions are lawful.

continued on next page
In addition to local groups, some Earth Firsters focus on broader campaigns by forming projects to strategically coordinate their work. Because the projects help to articulate our proposals, give our campaigns more direction and generate more pressure against governmental agencies, multinational corporations, politicians and other big bios, many national and international networks have been created. The following is only a partial listing of ongoing Earth First! projects. Get in touch with one near you!

Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers Video Project
POB 7941, Missoula, MT 59807 (406) 540-2244
CMCR produces videos by, for and of the environmental movement. Recent projects include Cove/Mallard, forest health, trophy hunting, salvage logging, bison protection and lots more. CMCR has led the fight against the Stone Container pulp mill in Missoula and organizes the Forest Health Outreach Project. An organizer’s packet is also available.

Cove/Mallard Campaign
POB 8968, Moscow, ID 83438
(208) 882-9755; cove@moscow.com
The Cove/Mallard Campaign is multi-faceted with many groups, entities and individuals participating. Our basecamp in the heart of the Big Wild welcomes those wishing to protect and learn about the greater Salmon-Selway ecosystem—the largest wilderness in the contiguous 48 states. Trainings include tree climbing, nonviolence, backcountry orienteering, monitoring agency actions and other topics relevant to the protection and restoration of the Big Wild.


eff! Action Update
Dept. 29, 1 Newton St.
Manchester M1 1HW, ENGLAND
0161 69 37 40 80; eff!@manu.onforty.org
www.k2net.co.uk/ef/earthfirst.html
Published monthly, this newsletter chronicles the direct action news and events of the 40-plus Eff! groups in Britain and other groups throughout Europe.

End Corporate Dominance
HCR 82, Fossil, OR 97830 (541) 468-0228
Direct action to end growing corporate rule. Campaigns focus on corporations abusing the Earth and its inhabitants, and point out their threat to democracy and environmental and social justice.

Headwaters Forest Campaign
NCEF, POB 28, Arcata, CA 95518 (707) 825-6598, (707) 468-1660
nccf@humboldt1.com
Since 1960, Earth Firsters in Northern California have been in the forefront of the struggle to save the last unprotected ancient redwood forest in the world—Headwaters Forest. Their undaunted community-based resistance has helped to unite thousands of people, for rallies and months of sustained direct action. Participants are asked to adhere to a nonviolence code which prohibits property destruction.

**NAAFSG**
POB 69597, 5845 Yonge St.
Willowdale, Ont M2M 4K3
CANADA; naausage@envirolink.org
The North American Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group is a 50 percent volunteer organization which supports activists who are imprisoned for allegedly involved in animal liberation activities and publishes Underground three times a year. Memberships, including a year’s subscription, are between $20-30. All money raised legally supports animal liberation and assists imprisoned activists.

Northeast Forest Practices Campaign
NH EF!, POB 4101, Portsmouth, NH 03802
norfpr@amigo.net
The Northeast Forest Practices Campaign is working to stop ditching operations, end clearcutting, stop aerial spraying of herbicides and pesticides, end commercial timber extraction on state and federal lands, oppose genetic engineering of forests and food, ban the export of wood chips and raw logs and oppose the destructive practices of Hydro-Quebec.

Salva La Sierra
Cueva ERI, POB 762, San Luis, CO 81152 (719) 672-3012; afa@amigo.net
Help Cueva ERI stop the largest logging operation in the US, which is systematically destroying one of the last remaining mountain ranges in the Southern Rockies. At stake is a generations old sustainable Chichano farming community and several threatened and endangered species.

Sea Defense Alliance (SeDNA)
POB 400, Williams, OR 97544
sasedna@cdsnet.net
The Sea Defense Alliance is a direct action group answering the call to preserve the biological integrity of aquatic ecosystems. There are many groups that defend the forest, the desert and the rivers, there are just a few groups that stand up for the coastal waters. We are here to fill that niche and need your help.

Wisconsin Forever, Exxon Never!
Midwest Headwaters EF!, 731 State St., Madison, WI 53711; (608) 255-8765
Join the strong coalition of activists fighting the mining industry’s industrial assault on the Midwest Headwaters/upper Great Lakes region. The ongoing Sea Defense campaign includes organizing, education and direct action to defend the land from corporations like Exxon.

**Warrior Poets Society**
ASUC Box 361, Berkeley, CA 94720-1111 (510) 644-3237; fax 642-4700
The Warrior Poets Society is an organization of Earth First! poets that started at the 1991 Round River Rendezvous in Vermont, near the home of Robert Frost, America’s best-loved poet. “Warrior” because we are a warrior society—using poetry to spread the word of biocentrism and wilderness protection, often in humorous and unpredictable ways. We use poetry to inculcate, educate and motivate. We have a newsletter, The Warrior Poet, which is free to all contributors. We also have tapes of past “Night to Howl” poetry readings and a t-shirt with Lone Wolf Circles artwork.
Earth First!: We mean it.

To begin with, we do not believe that it is enough to preserve some of the remaining wilderness. We need to preserve it all, and it is time to recreate vast areas of wilderness in all the planet's ecosystems: identify key areas, close roads, remove developments and reintroduce extirpated wildlife.

It is not enough to oppose the construction of new dams. It is time to free our shackled rivers and tear down Hetch Hetchy, Glen Canyon, Bonneville, Tellico and other concrete monstrosities.

While many environmental groups are members of the American political establishment and essentially adopt the anthropocentric (human-centered) world view of industrial civilization, we say the ideas and manifestations of industrial civilization are anti-Earth, anti-human and anti-life. We are developing a new biocentric paradigm based on the intrinsic value of all natural things: Deep Ecology. Earth First! believes in wilderness for its own sake.

Lobbying, lawsuits, letter writing and research papers are important and necessary. But they are not enough. Earth Firsters also use direct action tactics, confrontation, guerrilla theater and civil disobedience to fight for wild places and life processes. And while we neither condone nor condemn monkeywrenching, ecotage, or other forms of property destruction, we do present a forum for the exchange of ideas on creative opposition to the juggernaut of "progress," including ideas about monkeywrenching.

To avoid co-option, we feel it is necessary to avoid the corporate organizational structure so readily embraced by many environmental groups. Earth First! is a movement, not an organization. Our structure is non-hierarchic. We have no highly-paid "professional staff" or formal leadership. To put it simply, the Earth must come first.

How Deep is Your Ecology?

A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.

—Aldo Leopold

The central insight of John Muir and of the science of ecology was the realization that all things are connected and related; that human beings are merely one of the millions of species that have been shaped by the process of evolution for three-and-a-half-billion years. With that understanding, we can better answer the question, "Why Wilderness?"

Is it because wilderness makes pretty picture postcards? Because it protects watersheds for the downstream uses of agriculture, industry and homes? Because it cleans the cobwebs out of our heads after a long week in the assembly factory or over the video display terminal? Because it preserves resource extraction opportunities for future generations of humans? Because some unknown plant living in the wilds may hold a cure for cancer?

No. It is because wilderness is. Because it is the real world, the flow of life, the process of evolution, the repository of that three-and-a-half-billion years of shared travel.

All natural things have intrinsic value, inherent worth. Their value is not determined by what they will ring up on the cash register, nor by whether or not they are good. They are. They exist. For their own sake. Without consideration for any real or imagined value to human civilization.

Even more important than the individual wild creature is the wild interconnected community—the wilderness, the stream of life unimpeded by industrial interference or human manipulation. These twin themes of interconnectedness and intrinsic value form the core of the ideas of such pioneer ecological thinkers as John Muir, Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson, and are the basis for action by Earth Firsters.

This biocentric world view, as opposed to the anthropocentric paradigm of civilization (and the reformist position of mainstream environmental groups), has been developed into the philosophy of deep ecology by philosophers such as Arne Naess of Norway, John Seed of Australia, Alan Drengson of Canada and George Sessions and Dolores LaChapelle of the United States, among others.

Earth First!, in short, does not operate from a basis of political pragmatism, or what is perceived to be "possible." Wilderness is not something that can be compromised in the political arena. We are unapologetic advocates for the natural world, for Earth.

America STOP this madness!

How to Connect with Earth First!

If you haven't met an Earth First! group in your area, contact the Earth First! Journal. Since we have no central office, the Journal serves as an information switchboard. You can get sample issues, the names of regional contacts or projects, or information on a current campaign.

Earth First! Journal, POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440; (541) 344-8004; fax 344-7688; earthfirst@igc.org; http://www.envirolink.org/orgs/ef
The place is Yarnell, Arizona. The time is 1994. The old folks teetering on their legs from the old age are watching the slow, rural lifestyle. Then, like a tornado in the outhouse, nothing seems pleasant anymore. The culprit is Bema Gold, a Canadian corporation which, plans to strip mine the mountain just feet from our homes in its pursuit of precious metal. Just come to think of it, if theyrip the place, ruin everyone’s lives and line its pockets along the way! No one cares about a little village full of Jethro’s.

Out of Bema Gold, a sham corporation called Yarnell Mining Co. was formed to absolve the big guys from responsibility should it all go sideways and cyanide contamination destroy everything. For some reason, it’s back to Canada and let the Americans deal with what’s left. The residents ranted and raved to the politicians and regulatory agencies, but the Arizona bureaucrats constitute the largest collection of dim bulbs ever seen.

Fast forward four years. The Bureau (Bumpers) of Land Management (BLM) unrolls a piece of trash called the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), undoubtedly the finest piece of fiction since See White. The Yarnell Mining Co. is paying the consultant to prepare the DEIS required by the BLM. The conflict of interest is obvious. If the consultant honestly reaches the conclusion that the entire project is really crap, and puts that in their report, do we really believe they’ll have any choice but to vote for it. Bema Gold of Vancouver, Canada, and its CEO, Clive Johnson, must listen to the American public when we say, “Stop the mine, Clive! Stop it!’’ Please accept what you have read for what it represents. They are not the musings of a first-year Environmental Studies major. The writer is a 70-year-old Yarnell resident, born in California, with a lifetime in the Southwest, who has committed his remaining years to anti-mining activism. What, you ask, does this have to do with Y2K? In the next millenium, Y2K will play out like a Technicolor movie undoubtedly produced by the greatest director of all. For more information contact the Guardians of the Rural Environment, POB 1086, Yarnell, AZ 85362; (520) 427-3591; 427-0207 (fax); ftcbo@primenet.com.

The Possibilities of Y2K

continued from page 3

...feeding people in the East Bay for almost the first 24 hours was Seeds of Peace. Because they were funny, tac­

nich and low tech, they were able to do what multi-million-dollar organizations like the Red Cross couldn’t. Because they were improvisational, self-reliant and crowd sourced, they were able to alienate the quark-quaestated public and set the stage for the FBI to arrest Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney after a near fatal car bombing.

I suggest that we begin a continuing brainstorm and active skills sharing among the many brilliant and creative people in our midst. The future looks breathtakingly bright if we start making the changes in our lives that ultimately the unbridled extractive industries and their political supporters will be forced, kicking and screaming, to change.

Bare Bones

Anti-Freddie Fee Bill

The Forest Tax Relief Act, a bi-partisan bill introduced by Congresswoman Hilda Solis (D-CA) calls for an end to all fee collections on public lands managed by the Forest Service as a condition under the authority of the fee demonstration program.

Our friend Hilda Solis, Congresswoman Solis said: “To tax the great outdoors is offensive to the very concept of national parks. The forests are for the entire nation and therefore should be supported through theಚ demonstrate program. Under this plan, Congress taxes Americans twice. It is now time to remedy this situation.”

Although the fee-demonstration program has been met with opposition, it is hoped that funding will be provided by the wise-use/motorized recreation lobby. The proposed legislation addresses Congress’s concern that the fee-demonstration program is being used as a tool to turn public lands into park-like tourist attractions.

Mitsubishi Mine Cancelled

On August 18, San Bernardino County Supervisor Bob Edwards ruled in favor of a lawsuit protecting endangered plants at a mining site above Yarnell in the San Ben­

ardino Mountains. The suit was filed last November after the county approved a permit for the Bema Gold subsidiary, owned by Mitsubishi.

The area is home to four carbonate, endangered plant species including Patich’s daisy, Cunshbury milkwort, Cunshbury buckwheat, and Cunshbury oxeye daisy—plants that grow exclusively in that area. The area is also home to Nelson’s big horn sheep, a state protected species. The county let Mitsubishi cut trees by not requiring the company to do a full environmental impact report which could cost about $150,000.

Bull Trout Listings

In a move affecting 52 national forests in five states, the bull trout has finally been listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The victory, announced by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt on June 5, follows years of intense efforts to protect the bull trout and its habitat. Several environmental groups questioned the US Fish and Wildlife Service to list the threatened fish in 1992.

Hypo Critical Sub-cultural Nuke Test

In clear violation of the spirit of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) signed by the US in September 1996, the Department of Energy (DOE) plans to conduct a sub-critical nuke weapons test, code named "Bagpipe," by the end of September. The test would explode plutonium by high powered conventional chemical explosives, 980 feet underground at the Cheyenne Test Site.

The CTBT commits the US "not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosions, including underground explosions." The DOE claims that these tests are permissible because the CTBT does not define sub-critical weapons. These tests make global adoption of the CTBT less likely by encouraging other nations to copy the US decision to continue testing and update their nuclear arsenals.

Yarnell...It's a Mine From Hell!

When the water is gone, can we drink the gold? Does the 7,000,000 pounds of deadly cyanide appeal to you? How does the 24-hour operation of crushers and giant hauling vehicles droning in your ears sound? We can put a sign at the edge of Yarnell, "Welcome to crapp) town."
Neighborhood Alliance acted on their threats to roll back the devastation to the wetlands. "We wish to preserve our natural beauty and hope that the future of Ballona wetlands is not illegal, it must become so. It is clearly immoral to contemplate actions that will reduce the life quality of our children. Their lives are being sacrificed and quality of life is being sold for the greed of this generation. The conflict over Ballona embodies the struggle for the soul of Angelinos today. Citizens United to Save All of Ballona was formed to express this dream and to give a vision of a natural world alive and viable in Los Angeles. This passion, sorely needed here in the midst of concrete and steel, is at the heart of our efforts to stop the bulldozers and to roll back the devastation to the natural beauty of the Santa Monica Bay," said Yarborough. "We wish to create a vision not of greed and compromise but one that empowers us all and provides us with hope. There is no other life struggle as close to the core of all community organizations than the struggle against the illegal activities going on at Playa Vista. It is indeed our future, and we all must become involved here and now! Come to Los Angeles. When we do it here, we can do it anywhere."

The SCA recently contacted the Ballona Wetlands at 115 Vista Place, Los Angeles, CA 90291; (310) 314-9662; Ballonawetlands@usa.net.
The stands of Douglas fir along the lower north fork of the Mattole River comprise the largest, contiguous old-growth habitat in the 200,000 acres of Pacific Lumber’s (i.e. Maxxam’s) holdings. A walk through the Mattole watershed offers a view of massive oaks and colorful peeling madrones. Bay trees, gooseberries, huckleberries and black raspberries are everywhere. A hike to “All Plants Pokey” leads you to Sulphur Creek, where the Coho salmon live. The California Department of Forestry (CDF) and Pacific Lumber vehemently deny that salmon have ever been spotted in the creek. However, the National Marine Fisheries Service reportedly sighted many times in the early morning, blockading Pacific Lumber’s gates from the ongoing logging. From the top of the hill, residents arrived at the first day of blockading. 4:30 a.m. 825-6598.

The Mattole watershed provides habitat for a variety of endangered species and is also home to a riled-up community of people. Inhabitants from all walks of life have been sighted many times in the early morning, blockading Pacific Lumber’s gates from the ongoing logging. From the top of the hill, residents arrived at the first day of blockading. 4:30 a.m. 825-6598.

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VENEZUELAN UPRISING

Empowered by national and international law, world-wide media coverage and through the internet, the mountain community, the Pemon are holding steadfast to their demand that the Venezuela government legally recognize and respect the rights of the indigenous peoples to their lands. Specifically, they demand the construction work on the power line be halted immediately and the Supreme Court of Justice in Caracas, passed last April, opens up 40 percent of the Imataca rainforest reserve to large-scale gold mining. In addition to the protests, lawsuits by environmental groups have filed two lawsuits.

Unfortunately, the government hasn’t been overly interested in resolving these issues, or in legitimizing discussion. On the eleventh day of the protest, the Venezuelan National Guard was mobilized to forcefully disperse the 1,000 protesters at the blockade site. Jerrick Andre of the Indigenous Federation of the State of Bolivar (FIEB) reported, “The National Guard came at dawn in riot gear, covered in armor, from Caracas, to remove our blockade. Using a military tank, they removed the logs we had used to block the road. The soldiers forced our people out of their trees, some still sleeping or half dressed, and continued to aggressively disassemble our camp.” Additionally, bulldozers have already leveled sections of the community’s yucca, corn, banana and pineapple fields.

In the midst of further dispute, the problems with tank, the government finally agreed to negotiations. Talks with top level ministers and indigenous leaders began on 13 April. A breakthrough was reached between the Venezuelan government and indigenous representatives. The government stated that it is prepared to recognize indigenous property rights and would suspend all work on the power line until the question of land title was resolved. The government also plans to delay construction work for a month. Events unfolded in the Pemon village of Mapauri, which overshadowed the talks. The National Guard, in full riot gear, assaulted the village’s residents with tear gas and rubber bullets for gathering around a construction site where workers insisted on continuing work. Three Pemon Indians were sent to the hospital, including a thirteen-year-old boy.

Particularly hard hit by the transnational forest industrial complex is the 195,000-acre Imataca rainforest. Imataca, a reserve where large-scale gold mining and logging projects, as well as a mega-tourist complex, are planned. Additionally, there are plans to construct the first section of the Transandine Highway through Imataca. Switzerland, Imataca is home to an extraordinary array of wildlife including jaguars, bearded bluebells, mammots and the world’s largest eagle, the endangered harpy eagle.

On the Venezuelan side alone, more than 10 steel towers would be constructed through 200 kilometers of the pristine rainforest. To install these towers, EDELCA, the state-owned electric company, also plans to clear a 100-foot wide service corridor along the entire route. The first to receive electricity will be the Chontisna gold mining complex, and the entire region will be the site of a mega-tourist complex.

This controversial transmission line and the Chontisna mining complex will have serious impacts on the health, land and the way of life for more than 15,000 Pemon, Karina, Arawaco and Akawaio indigenous peoples. These communities stand united against the project as they are acutely aware of the threats they face: Mercury and cyanide poisoning in their water from mining sites; mines setting in their territory; increased rates of malaria; safety issues associated with a high voltage power line running directly through their communities; and the crime, violence, and prostitution that inevitably comes with mining towns.

In spite of these concerns, construction of the power line has proceeded without proper environmental and social impact assessment. Construction crews are clearing land in and around indigenous villages without prior notification or community consent, which is illegal according to Venezuelan law. Copies of the dubious environmental impact report are difficult, if not impossible, to obtain and fail entirely to address the project’s impacts on local indigenous populations.

As negotiations remain tenuous, the Pemon call upon the international community to write letters to the Venezuelan president requesting that the laws protecting their traditional lands, their inhabitants and the area’s biological richness be honored and that this project, which threatens the existence, be halted before it is too late. Pemon leader Lloyd Hentito, argues that, “We are the owners of this land. We were here long before Columbus, but in the eyes of the Venezuelan government we are nothing.”

Send your letters to Your Excellency President Rafael Caldera, Palacio de Miraflores Carmelitas, Caracas, Venezuela; Fax 011(58)(2)801-3644. Fax copies of your letter to: Dr. Elinar Carrera Saad, President of CVG 011(58)(2)208-1808; Dr. Juan Nepomuceno Garrido, Procurador General de la Republica 011(58)(2)693-0911; Jorge Padron, Comision del Senado 011(58)(2)844-8134; Jose Luis Gonzalez Federacion de Indigenes del Estado Bolivar; 011(38)(85)26-786; fieb@telcel.net.re

The Fight to Save Idaho’s Big Wild

by Marshall Law

The sun has risen and Rio, the friendly logger, stands by our fire sharing our coffee and conversation. Later he takes a break to discuss issues and tells us, “I’ve been logging for 20 years. I will only be remembered as a good sawyer. You will be remembered for trying to stop the madness.” As Rio and his fellow sawyer made their way down the P-line (line for the proposed road), Monkey Boy burst out of the trees and tree climbed 120 feet up a huge pine to watch the construction of the proposed road. He let out blood-curdling screeches as trees fell around him. The sawyers decided to go home at noon, either prompted by our suggestions or perhaps in honor of Heroes Day. As I walk the already cleared P-line, Malcolm (the excavator operator) and the surveyor stop working to talk. Malcolm claims that there are problems with this road. Malcolm explains, “That bog is a serious problem.” He continues, “Tell your friends to stop taking my survey notes, that it will do no good.”

Traveling back a week in time, we were on our way to the Otter-Wing Fire Project home house when we ran into two car loads of backcountry activists sounding the alarm that the P-line is being cut in pristine wilderness at the Crystal Hump. There was madness ensued as people scrambled for their gear to get into the woods. Meanwhile at the scene of the crime, three pink flying squirrels managed to heroically escape before the first tree sits in a grove of trees marked with death paint.

The following night the tree village was enhanced with many traverse lines and cables to impede the Freddies and company. Another sit was opened further down the P-line, across the huge wet bog. Flying squirrel activity continued into the next day. Now the battle was to keep the excavator from reaching the first tree sit. Malcolm, who was in charge of the destructive machine, Malcolm dangerously loosened legs and debris just over their heads. In a desperate attempt to repel the energetic bunnies, he tried to use a chainsaw (malfunctioning) to cut the first tree sitter, Malcolm was forced to retreat.

After a day of silence in the woods, the Freddies informed us they were instituting a 300-foot closure. It did not deter that Idaho Judge Lodge had overturned the closure law, declaring it unconstitutional. Two people were arrested on charges relating to the closure. One was woken up and cuffed without warning while the other was given three charges; one of which was placing her body in the road, even though she was 300 feet from the road.

The following day, the Freddies stood guard while the road crew left early. That’s an hour before Malcolm’s excavator. For over an hour Malcolm swung logs, dirt and the excavator arm within inches of the brave bunny. Finally, Malcolm turned to request a field trip to the P-line (line for the proposed road), Monkey Boy burst out of the trees and tree climbed 120 feet up a huge pine to watch the construction of the proposed road. He let out blood-curdling screeches as trees fell around him. The sawyers decided to go home at noon, either prompted by our suggestions or perhaps in honor of Heroes Day. As I walk the already cleared P-line, Malcolm (the excavator operator) and the surveyor stop working to talk. Malcolm claims that there are problems with this road. Malcolm explains, “That bog is a serious problem.” He continues, “Tell your friends to stop taking my survey notes, that it will do no good.”

Traveling back a week in time, we were on our way to the Otter-Wing Fire Project home house when we ran into two car loads of backcountry activists sounding the alarm that the P-line is being cut in pristine wilderness at the Crystal Hump. There was madness ensued as people scrambled for their gear to get into the woods. Meanwhile at the scene of the crime, three pink flying squirrels managed to heroically escape before the first tree sits in a grove of trees marked with death paint.

The following night the tree village was enhanced with many traverse lines and cables to impede the Freddies and company. Another sit was opened further down the P-line, across the huge wet bog. Flying squirrel activity continued into the next day. Now the battle was to keep the excavator from reaching the first tree sit. Malcolm, who was in charge of the destructive machine, Malcolm dangerously loosened legs and debris just over their heads. In a desperate attempt to repel the energetic bunnies, he tried to use a chainsaw (malfunctioning) to cut the first tree sitter, Malcolm was forced to retreat.

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GAS WELL BOMBER

Police believe a group of militant environmentalists are behind the latest bombings of oil and gas equipment in northwestern Alberta, Canada. A gas well and installation facility belonging to Alberta Energy Co. were damaged in a series of explosions on September 18. The facility was in an area surrounded by steep rock faces and a forested area. The experiments conducted at the United Vaccines' laboratories and research farms are solely to decrease "profit-losses" incurred by premature death of animals. The experiments conducted at the ALF entered the Marmotech Inc. research facility in Dryden, Ontario, and liberate five, 130 foxes. The facility infects woodchucks with various diseases and then tests the effects of various chemicals on the animals, which violently kills them. According to data cards on the cages, only disease-free animals were released. Unfortunately, several hundred mink who had been infected with woodchuck hepatitis virus and other diseases, had to be left behind. The ALF took and destroyed the data cards in these cages. All log books and other information was confiscated and disposed of, and viral of infectious serum were removed from the facility.

For the past 20 years, Cornell researcher Bud Tennant has been subjecting woodchucks to procedures we would not allow to be performed on our worst enemies during times of war. Tennant's experiments range from the horrendously cruel to the extremely painful. A recent project involved developing an "electro-excitation device" to force woodchucks to release semen for breeding purposes. The government is trying to force Tennant and his mad scientist friends to conduct these atrocities. However, Tennant is merely confirming information which has already been gathered from human population studies and clinical evidence. Safe and effective vaccines are already available for hepatitis. Tennant is merely satisfying his own curiosity about every minute detail of a specific type of hepatitis found only in woodchucks. This additional time to coincide with the time of year in which young woodchucks leave their family and begin fending for themselves. Since some of the woodchucks in this facility were caught in the wild, they should readily return to life in the wild. And because the facility was in an area surrounded by fields and woodlands, these woodchucks will be able to find plenty of vegetation to feed on.

The third week of August culminated in ALF's Summer Action Week with four successful mink and fox liberations. On August 18, 4,000 mink were liberated from Charles Mueller's Fur Farm, located near St. Cloud, Minnesota. The ALF communiqué stated that the area surrounding the fur farm is an "ideal area for these mink to become reintroduced to their natural habitat" for its open, woodland quality. Two days later, 330 foxes were liberated from Steve Hansel's Hidden Valley Fur Farm in Guttenberg, Iowa. The following day, August 21, 3,000 mink were set free at Isebrands Fur Farm in Jewell, Iowa. Lastly, but by no means least, another 3,000 mink were liberated in Beloit, Wisconsin, on August 27, at Bown's Mink Ranch.

These actions have been dedicated to Josh Eilerman for his commitment to defend Mother Earth and her animal nations. Josh has been indicted on 16 federal counts of charges relating to the building and possession of pipe-bombs, which carry a minimum mandatory sentence of 30 years in prison. These charges stem from the firebombing of the Utah Fur Breeders' Co-op which caused over $1 million in damage. This action was part of the ALF's Operation Bite Back.

Rep. Rails Rednecks

Representative Helen Chenoweth (R-ID), a leader of the anti-environment movement and supporter of Idaho militia, held a field hearing in Espanola, New Mexico, to push a bill introduced by her to protect the "mountain man" lifestyle. The bill would give Mexican (land claim) animals millions of acres on national forests in northern Mexico. Despite her past racist remarks, a crowd of about 100 Chicano loggers and ranchers did not question Chenoweth about her support of English-only laws in Idaho and opposition to affirmative action. Instead, most of the two-hour hearing was spent vilifying the environmental community and lambasting legislatively insecure use restrictions to protect streams and wildlife.

Racism Down Under

The Australian Senate recently ratified a bill that repealed significant advancement and protections for Aboriginal peoples under the previous administration. With cries of shame emanating throughout the halls, the bill passed 30 to 20. The bill recognizes Traditional Native Title Amendment Bill gained enough votes to be passed. The bill amends the Australian Constitution, which recognized traditional rights of access, use and occupation by Aboriginal peoples. The bill makes it much tougher for Aboriginals to claim rights over land which they have harvested on for thousands of years.
Dear EF!

Much as I agree with 99 percent of what I've read and seen in the trim claims the Streets—Berkeley CA—PISSED ME OFF!
The report forgot to mention: the oil leaked everywhere from the car smashed up; the car was airconditioned and used as a prop; the noxious fumes from the fire of couches, TV's, etc., was allowed to break in the apartment block I LIVE in.

I'd like to think that everything in your journal is accurate but when the one thing that happens on the other side of the world is so completely out of context, such as a rose-tinted fashion, I begin to wonder what else is bullshit!

Tell the whole truth or shut up, PR is for the multi-national and the politicians.

Yours,
—PHILIP ROSSNITE

Dear EF!

Lately I have noticed an upswing in the number of people taking sides in the perennial "is EF! a chauvinist movement and in the EF!" article "Virtual Luddites" in Vol. 26 Earth First! Journal Mabon 1998

...for the second time in the last two months I have noticed a bumper sticker that read, "saves them the cost of clearing a rose-bush by making it into a mulch."

This is not an ego-trip.

It is important to love children and that our personal choices, parents should not be justification of the weight of so much human misery.

I don't care about the fact existing children need our care. Par-entocracy is not the answer to nurturing of future victims of the impending demise.

I would like to consider the tens of thousands of children who die from a lack of care on an individual basis. The national cre-ation of one more human by any- one anywhere can't be justified. A very relevant question is what is a subform of racism for a couple to want their specific genes repli- cated rather than care for needy youngsters. Be that as it may, this is not cause to be disre- garded by those who have made that choice.

Some of us seem to forget that choosing to breed or not to breed is a separate choice from choosing to nourish existing young people. Should it not be just as easy being a new human being as by far the greatest environmental impact of all our personal choices, parents' making the problem—human breeding is.

We all have our choices to make. Let's face the fact that those choices whose choices are different from our own. Some give-up cars, some cut the meat out of their diet from creating another competitor for wildlife habitat. The report forgot to mention: the oil leaked every-where from the car smashed up; the car was airconditioned and used as prop; the noxious fumes from the fire of couches, TV's, etc., was allowed to break in the apartment block I LIVE in.

I am a female eco-activist and part-time caregiver to children with comments on your tabloid. I see there are alternatives to childrearing for activists wishing to contribute to the next generation. My experience as an "auntie" is rewarding, fullfills a desire to nur-ture and does not put an unman- nerly burden on my activism. Adoption is an even more in- volved alternative. While natural choices for parents; they do not necessarily create new activists. Tomorrow's activists gave-up cars from the same origins those of us reading this came from—unenlight-ened. We must be honest that we dare not respect to conscious moth- ers, but I don't believe you can cross the line of activism. This should not be justification of the choice to birth a child as was implied by some Birth First contributors.

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Second, I sympathize with ac- tivists parents concerning disre- spect for their choices. This does nothing for our communities, furthering humanization of Earth. However, I would like to tell them that other activists have quietly made difficult choices against their personal desires for a joyous pregnancy, birth and child-rearing experience. Your own life-support can rip open wounds from the sacrifices of others in your community. The dominant cul- ture does not support childlessness- and while EF! might have been the catalyst for a supportive community for those making this important choice. Through this anti-birth sentiment, EF! has probably helped to insure the children
that are born into its communities have strong, mature, capable parents who consciously want something uncommon in the dominant culture. Until we live in small, land-based commons communities who can ask themselves how many children their resources can support into the future, I don't believe any E/F couples can reproduce with- out a twinge of guilt.

Finally, I would like to see information on fertility awareness and non-medical abortion in the journal. Just as medical birth is driven by patriarchy and profits, abortion and most birth control methods rely on the medical establishment, pharmaceutical corporations and industrial producers. While they serve a necessary good, they are vulnerable to the winds of politics, economics, social injustice and industrial collapse. This important form of programs to be activists, power reproductive choices independent of the social forces that do not hold nature,

—Lisa Wiesen

Dear Uteri for Babies, Research by Birth First (Lughnasadh 1997), the articles focused on the rights of women to have kids. The research was conducted by activists having the right of women to have kids without being alienated by activists having the right to breed sustainably (one or two kids). And both of you are

—Karen W.

Dear EFI, Thanks for the parent articles! Everyone is having their first (and probably last) child. I never thought I'd have a kid, and it was quite the anti-breastfeeding experience. Let me qualify that—I was very aware that I personally would have to be privy to having a kid and I was also aware of population issues. Anticipating this activity, I tried to keep my child's mind to parenthood.

Yes, there is a population problem. Parents need people to know the sheer volume of vit-

—Julie Genereux

Dear Placentia for Babies, I don't get this Birth First rave. Mothers don't feel supported?! I've grown out of the population enough? As a childless woman, I am happy to me. I'm not looking to do things that I think why the joys they bring to the lives of their parents. But I don't understand why some people are not feeling victimized about when they get to pal around with the baseline consumerism. Com-

—Julie Genereux

So-called "Earth Mother" has had her day. You de-

—Julie Genereux

Dear Babyshit for Brains, Ack, gag, dribble, vomit. Last issue's Birth First Tab-

—Catia and Karen W.

I appreciate your issues sisters, I'm sure you have frighten us. I choose to be child-free but my.

—Julie Genereux

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Those willing to risk physical harm or personal liberty to right wrongs and confront us with a moral challenge deserve a fair hearing before they are incarcerated and we turn away indifferently. This book allows these storytellers to pose their questions.

Bron Taylor, Earth First! and Global Narratives of Popular Ecological Resistance

BOOK REVIEW BY TK

Within the last decade several books purporting to describe the "radical environmental movement" have made their way into university classrooms and mainstream bookstores. Their portrayals of Earth First! and of the political history and common social philosophy underlying the movement's commitment to action are not always accurate, sympathetic, or even enlightening. However, Taylor's intimate knowledge of both the issues and the actors means this thoughtfully compiled volume is all of the above.

By conceptualizing the book as a global overview of "ecological resistance movements" (a phrase he credits to Jasper Carlton), Taylor allows contributing authors to examine the unique goals and tactics of spontaneous, typically local, grassroots organizing efforts where the common concern is popularly perceived as an "environmental" issue. This is not to say all the case studies suggest such tactics are likely to produce singular results in terms of ideological or philosophical or political expressions. Quite the contrary, the authors in this compilation are familiar enough with the general themes at issue to address how they differ, as well as how they are alike.

In a chapter entitled "Grassroots Environmental Justice for All," Bob Edwards, a sociologist at Catholic University, starts by pointing out the salient fact that, "Across the nation, low-income people are more likely to suffer poor health and quality of life due to environmental degradation." He presents a well articulated profile of the struggles these affected populations in the US have had in trying to define their communities' interests within the radical environmental movement.

In "Bread and Soil of Our Dreams," Lois Ann Lorenzten, a professor of Social Ethics at the University of San Francisco, looks at the role of "Western" grassroots environmental movements of Central America. Her case studies are interesting and compelling as she illustrates the realities of women's lives from their perspectives and often in their own words. Lorenzten's major point is summed up in her observation that "the central issue for peasant women...was that the environmental activists is survival. Concern for the land is linked with survival for humans—nature is not viewed as a separate space but as home."

This "anthropocentric" attitude is reported as common among non-Western environmental activists and at first glance appears in stark contrast to the ecological views that include much of the vision of radical environmentalism in the West. However, the actual case studies point to the fact that many who live in small-scale rural communities have yet to suffer the physical and emotional destruction of nature those of us living in post-industrial landscapes have. While all the movements discussed in this volume share a commitment to protecting and preserving what could be generally referred to as "the commons," this book demonstrates how the rationale for doing so is expressed by the subjects across a global spectrum.

Taylor's colleague at the University of Wisconsin, Al Gedicks, begins by stating his opinions in no uncertain terms. "Over the past three decades, multinational corporations and development-oriented governments have waged resource wars against native peoples. Gedicks' chapter recounts four specific battles while examining how in each case, an issue-oriented resistance campaign helped develop and channel the nascent political power of native peoples. The best and most detailed discussion is on Hydro Quebec's incredibly odious dam project planned for James Bay in northern Quebec, Canada. Earth Firsters familiar with this campaign will still learn something by reading Gedicks' account of the valiant and effective opposition mounted by the Cree and Inuit inhabitants of that bioregion aided by a coalition of Native Americans and non-native environmentalists. He also offers very interesting accounts of native resistance efforts in Malaysia, Ecuador and Wisconsin.

Vikram Akula's chapter, "Grassroots Environmental Resistance in India," is a well-written article focusing on the effects of industrialization on rural populations in India. Akula writes from the perspective of a Yale-trained social scientist and native community activist. His discussion of the history and philosophy of the Appiko and Chira movements is particularly informative. Yash Tandon's article on ecological resistance movements in southern Africa is an exceptional example of how compelling a combination of spiritual and scholarly arguments can be. His discussion on the effects of capitalism and colonialism and capitalism and environmentalism, on native Africans

must be one of the best treatments this subject has yet received.

Part four of the book contains three essays on radical environmentalism in Europe. David Rothenburg looks at the state of affairs in Norway, home of Arne Naess and constant target of Paul Watson's Sea Shepherd Society. Rothenburg discusses inherent contradictions within the philosophy exemplified by Norway's "cultural tradition" argument justifying whale hunting. The other two articles address ecological resistance in the UK. Wolfgang Rudig offers a well-written, in-depth discussion of the history and class dimensions of direct action activism in Britain, beginning with monkeywrenching in the mid-eighteen hundreds to protest the privatization of the commons! The article about radicals in Scotland (originally written by radicals from Scotland) was very interesting because of its peculiar nationalistic, tribal bond and the uniqueness of its protest movements.

The final section, "Concluding Reflections on the Global Emergence of Popular Ecological Resistance," offers five fascinating chapters dealing with the theory and practice of ecological resistance. It begins with a scathing critique of deep ecology written by another colleague of Taylor at Wisconsin, Jerry Stark. Even though the reader may find this chapter infuriating, its inclusion should be commended. Professor Stark argues the radical philosophies of movements such as Earth First! are essentially derived from post-modernist critiques of knowledge and science. In his attempt to deconstruct the credibility of deconstructionists, he presents a purely intellectual argument, demonstrating quite profoundly his inability to grasp some of the most significant, albeit subtle, aspects of ecological resistance movements. Reading this chapter gives one a distinct impression that Dr. Stark finds it easy to dismiss the deep ecology perspective as being socially impractical and theoretically inconsistent because he has probably spent his whole life indoors studying it from books.

Many of the authors Taylor invited to contribute this volume paid attention to the "spiritual" dimension of ecological struggle. This is something that is totally lost on Stark. In the next article, University of Pennsylvania political science professor David Duane discusses specific examples. In "In Search of Gaian Politics: Earth Religion's Challenge to Modern Western Civilization" which opens with the declaration, Earth Religion and its associated political activism is relentlessly, deeply and loudly radical. It challenges the status quo in every fundamental and far-reaching way... unlike any other previously raised in the West.

Duane's use of the term "religion" here may be slightly misleading. What he is actually referring to is an antiscientific, antipollution foundation. He thoughtfully discusses the evolving eco-centric beliefs on which the actions of the ecological resistance movements in the west are based and how they differ from movements with mainstream society. His article includes some very insightful commentary on the concepts of bioregionalism and ecofeminism, but part of his thesis compares Earth Firsters to reactionary Christian fundamentalists in an unfair and not very logical oversimplification of our position.

Paul Wanner's chapter on Greenpeace, "In Defense of Banner Hangers," accomplishes his stated objective by focusing on how successful the group has been at forcing the media to report on environmental issues. He argues Greenpeace-style direct action campaigns are one of the most important tools in the toolbox, and he makes a great case. The book's final chapter by Bron Taylor summarizes the intent of this volume: to depict how the radical environmental movements... pose their questions.

Tim, imagine the scholars who contributed to this book are considered radical in their own intellectual and academic circles for appraising the Earth First! position as coherent and cogent political theory. Most individuals en­

(continued on page 33)...
The dams that have destroyed or are threatening countless species in riparian areas? Dare we allow ourselves to hope?

Some of us remember when former Interior Secretary Don Hodel suggested in the late '80s the possibility of dismantling O'Shaugnessy Dam, the one that plagued Yosemite's Hetch-Hetchy Valley and broke John Muir's heart. At Hodel's photo opportunity (see EFJ, November 1, 1987), media-savvy activists presented him with an Earth First! t-shirt. We can sardonically note that change ... They'll sing you right to sleep... And the screw you just the same. Like Pavlov's dog salivating upon hearing the bell regardless of the absence of food, radical environmentalists have been trained by harsh experience to react cynically to politicians and their photo-ops and stump speeches. We're usually right when we smell a hysterical, agenda in them. Most people in the movement feel most comfortable expecting the hope. Hope dashed is even more painful than expected and ongoing loss.

Certainly, there is little reason to trust Babbitt. He started out with some promise, attracting grazing subsidies and the 1872 Mining Act. He soon retreated, however, forced to by his own administration and a hostile Congress. He subsequently has presided over many of the worst environmental debacles of the Clinton administration, including the "Option 9" sell-out that resulted in logging 17 percent of the remaining old growth in the Pacific Northwest. He certainly did not curb the devastation brought on by the super-x-hacker "salvage" rider. Perhaps worst of all, Babbitt has championed (not just acquiesced to), the Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) in their "no surprises" version. Such HCPs punch a bulldozer through the Endangered Species Act (ESA), empowering private property owners to kill, or "take" (in the Orwellian speakof today's resource law) numerous threatened and endangered species. The no surprises clause lawlessly obliterates the ESA's requirement that endangered species listings be based on science.

Of course, Babbitt is only one bureaucrat and much of what has transpired under this administration cannot be laid at his feet. At one time, he was one of the strongest voices challenging corporate domination in American politics. It is possible (although we vehemently disagree) that Babbitt, recognizing the need for quick action, to believe that HCPs, even with a no surprises clause, would do more good than harm. And certainly a fair-minded analysis will recognize the power of Senator Slade Gorton (R-WA) who controls the budget of the Department of Interior. Gorton recognizes the need, employing private property owners to kill, or "take" (in the Orwellian speakof today's resource law) numerous threatened and endangered species. The no surprises clause lawlessly obliterates the ESA's requirement that endangered species listings be based on science.

Perhaps Babbitt will persist with his objective to review and dismantle bad dams. His record, however, does not inspire confidence. He once stood strongly against drilling in the National Arctic Wildlife Refuge, but in early August announced exploratory drilling there. He chastised the Park Service for killing the buffalo in Yellowstone but did not stop the slaughter or secure safe haven for the buffalo in the National Park. Gorton is doing all he can to prevent allocation of funds for the dismantling of the Elwha dams in his home state. Indeed, he is holding hostage the project and the river until Babbitt coughs up the ransom: that all future dam removal would require Congressional approval. With a hostile Congress in place and the additional red tape such approval would demand, his agenda will chill further efforts to overturn the dam culture.

It is now well known, of course, that many fish species are decimated by dams and that "mitigation" (from fish ladders to barge-transportation) has failed to stabilize their populations. Giving this growing public recognition, we cannot reduce our hope. A new administration can do much. The new Interior Secretary can do much. So, if you want to contribute to the next DoD and save the editorial collective from being driven to despair and excessive drinking, please submit material by the next deadline of November 5. To subscribe for four issues, send the collective the equivalent of £10, which is a bargain and a steal, to the DoD editorial collective at POB 2971, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2T7, UK. Back issues #5 and #6 are available for £2.50 post-paid, and bulk orders can be arranged.

To a significant extent, we're winning the educational battle. It's time we strategize how to take our long-term struggle to dismantle destructive dams to the next level.
FALL IS NOW IN THE AIR

HEALING GLOBAL WOUNDS
Mothers and Grandmother's Gathering, Cactus Springs, NV—October 6-8
The focus of this gathering is to share what is happening to our children and the Earth and challenge ourselves to speak out about it by organizing a mother's voice. It is in preparation for the 1999 Healing Global Wounds Mother's Day Action to shut down the Nevada Nuclear Test Site on Western Shoshone Lands. For more info contact K.O. at 507-3 Elmhurst Ln., Las Vegas, NV 89108; (702) 647-3095; troy@shundahai.org.

Fall Gathering—October 9-12
This is a gathering for environmental and Native activists that will focus largely on Spring planning and shutting the test site down. Contact Healing Global Wounds at 6060A Freedom Blvd., Apts. CA 95003-8594; (408) 661-0445; hgw@scrsumnet.com

COMMITMENT TO CROSS
November 22, Army School of the Americas, Ft. Benning, GA
On November 16, 1997, 601 people crossed the line onto the Army base to say no to the School that has trained 60,000 Latin American soldiers. These soldiers have consistently returned to their countries to rape, torture and intimidate those working for the rights of the poor.

On November 22, 1998, nuns, priests, veterans, students and children once again, will walk together in a solemn funeral procession onto Ft. Benning. Together we will honor and speak for our sisters and brothers who have vanished at the hands of the School's graduates. Don't let the truth be silenced. For more info contact the SOA Watch at 1719 Irving St. NW, Washington, DC 20010.

Free! Solutions to 50 Home Composting Dilemmas
All you ever needed to know about composting—50 Solutions to Home Composting Dilemmas was compiled from Mary Tynes who teaches a course on the subject and hosts the Master Composter Web site. For a free copy send a SASE to 3941 Legacy Dr. #204-197-B, Plano, TX 75023 or check out www.mastercomposter.com.

Jabiluka Video Now Available
Keith Armstrong of Queensland Jabiluka Action Group recently announced his latest film, "Intermediate Ferals for the Planet—3 Weeks at the Jabiluka Blockade." The half-hour video aims to show what life at the blockade is like and encourages people to become active with the campaign. It uses a range of historic footage portraying some of the major worldwide incidents of nuclear contamination and disaster.

The video is available for $15 per copy. If you are interested please send email to k.armstrong@qut.edu.au, or write to Keith at 18 Agars Rd, Rosalie Qld, 4064 or tel. 07 3876 2304 (H) or 0412 749 729 (Mob).

Calling All Activist Mothers
Currently, I am compiling a book entitled "Women Raising Children, Women Raising Revolution: Stories of Activist Mothers." I am seeking stories, poetry, rants, raves, artwork, etc., from women about the realities of balancing the art of motherhood and the demands of activism. Along with your submissions, I need your address and phone number, brief bio and a picture of you and your kids. Send articles ASAP. Please help spread the word to other activist mothers. Send to: Mother Stories, C/O Olivia Lim, POB 1485, Asheville, NC 28802

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JERICO '98—AMNESTY AND FREEDOM FOR ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS
October 22 in a city near you
This is a day to protest police brutality and to bring forth a powerful, visible, national demonstration against police abuses and the criminalization of a generation. For questions or more info on locations, contact the October 22 Coalition, c/o KHL Inc., 160 First Ave., Box 124, NY, NY; (212) 822-8596; www.unstoppable.com/22

October is End Corporate Dominance Month
Let's take our feelings about the destruction of the Earth home to the corporations. Rally, march, blockade, rage and wrench. Send reports, articles and photos of your work to the EJF Journal.

Remember, every night is Earth Night! Go get 'em

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**Dissecting the ADC**

September 25-27, Oracle, Arizona (Biosphere 2)

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**War Resisters League’s 75th Annual Conference**

October 16-18, Camp Lejos, Annapolis, MD

**ACTION ALERT:** Official Communiqué from the Bioregional Throwers Union

“More damage can be done with a pie than a musket.” — Karl Hess

Where have all the pie throwers gone? Pies and guts; get them on ‘um! Brave pie warrior Al Deckert has Charles Hurwitz, Delyla Wilson “gutted” four foul politicians in incredible quadruple “bagging.” Two brave warriors have spoken! Eons ago yer humble writer once pied Bob Dole. We know there are do is “bag” (using pies or any other suitable fluids.) Don’t be shy, graduate from a pie or join the RRR.

ACI’I'QN

spoken! Eons ago yer humble writer once pied Bob Dole. We know there are do is “bag” (using pies or any other suitable fluids.) Don’t be shy, graduate from a pie or join the RRR.

**Green Mountain Forest Watch Seeks Executive Director**

Green Mountain Forest Watch, a grassroots environmental organization that leads the opposition to logging and road building on public lands in Vermont, seeks a new executive director. The candidate should have experience in the forest movement, possess excellent writing and computer skills, be fearless in the face of criticism from the power structure and have the ability to think strategically. The candidate’s outrage should be leavened with humor. Proven ability in fund-raising and dealing with foundations is preferred. Please send resume and cover letter to Steve Saltonstall, POB 340, Manchester Village, Vermont 05254.

**Bring Back the Buffalo Roadshow**

Sixty-million buffalo once roamed North America. Today the last 1,500 wild buffalo hold out in Yellowstone through harsh winters and Montana’s state sanctioned slaughter of buffalo who leave the park. A grassroots coalition of Native American and non-native environmentalists with the group Buffalo Nations worked all last winter to stop the senseless slaughter. Come find out what you can do to protect the Yellowstone buffalo and hear music inspired by all that is wild with songs by Timothy Hull.

• Sept 15—Bellingham, WA
• Sept 16—Cyber Cafe, Clinton, Whidbey Island, WA
• Sept 17—Cascadia Forest Revue, Portland, OR 503/241-4879
• Sept 18—Olympia, WA
• Sept 19—Reed College, Portland, OR
• Sept 2—Corvallis, OR
• Sept 25—Arcata, CA
• Sept 27—Recreation Center, Mendocino, CA
• Sept 2—Heartwood

If you or your group can help publish an event, please call.

For info contact (360) 341-4601 or (503) 241-4879; tinker@whidbey.com

**Poo-Ha-Bah Healing Center**

Corbin Harney, Western Shoshone Elder and spiritual leader, has worked to establish a traditional Native Healing Center for many years. After researching hot springs in the West, he has chosen a site in Tecopa, CA, for the healing center. A down payment of $50,000 needs to be met by November 15, in order to make this happen. Thank you for your willingness to help.

Contact Julia at 5017 Elmhurst St., Las Vegas, NV 89108; (702) 647-3095.

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**Buffalo EIS Open Houses**

• Sept. 23—San Francisco, Palace Hotel
• Sept. 29—Austin, TX, Holiday Inn South
• October 6—Minneapolis, MN, Thunderbird Hotel

**Biocentric Anarchists, Trouble Makers, Primitivists, Biocentric Philosophers and Deviants!**

There is a new biocentric anarchist quarterly coming out called FERAL dedicated to expanding biocentric theory and practice. This is for everyone who believes in wildness, freedom, wilderness and animal defense or anyone who is independent thought pushing the boundaries of creative dialogue. The first issue will be released winter of 1998. We are presently asking for submissions, donations, contacts and help with distribution. Please contact us for a mission statement, submission requirements, merchandise list or deadlines and themes for future issues.

Send requests and donations to FERAL, 530 Divisadero, Suite 321, San Francisco, CA 94117; highwater@hotmail.com

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September-October 1998 Earth First! Page 31
Armed with Visions

clear as glass & just as Dangerous...

THE MOUNTAIN

The Mountain gazes from my locker.
She is the beacon of home.
On a clear day she can be seen from infinity.

From a flying height when the land is covered over,
all but the great yellow eye is a whiteness
all but the great rolling white plain below,
from which she shone bright.
She reflects the sun most gayly.
She is higher than the others.
She is whiter than cloud.

On days when she broods in her cloudcast
majesty cries for her to show herself.
Some have died in their search for her vastness,
in the flanks of many mountains,
seeking the high places.

She is the Weathermaker.
She is the Crown of the Continent:
one approach her but in awe.
She is elemental, ice and rock,
snow and wind.
Those who climb her are breathless with her magnitude.

From her summit they gaze in wonder
at the tangling of her mighty ramparts,
the shoulders of her sisters and brothers,
their snowy heads, their howling wind souls.

Space of the land thrust up
by the grinding of continents, you signify
the might of the planet. You glow
like a lamp in the arctic summer.
Even in winter night do you shine.
You are never dark.

You are not my most loved mountain,
not favorite, not most familiar.

But Mountain, you gaze from my locker.
You can be seen from infinity,
I see you even from this far distance.

Great One, you beckon me homeward
as you stand watch over the land.

Melissa S. Green

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ELAIRD VALLEY

Trees lines diminish beyond the roadway
up and down, death smells like destruction
and now I know what rape looks like.

Above the curve of the road
lies pristine wilderness,
green is everywhere, such juxtaposition
we make with our commercialised murder.

Streams and the trees, a little snow
keeps us from walking too far.

Standing in the face of imminent destruction,
majesty holds her humble head.
Age makes one beautiful, and this tree
of unmentioned human years is so beautiful, look at
her, look at her.

It makes me weep to think of possible outcomes.

NADINE CAREW
**BOOKS**

**Concrete: Think Like a Mountain**
By Paul Chadwick. A full-color illustrated novel about a group of Earth Firsters who contact Concrete (a mountaineer/writer trapped in a concrete body) to help with an old-growth campaign. A 6-issue comic book compiled into a book about Earth First history and philosophy. 160 pages—$17

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A Descriptive Inventory of the Big Wilderness Areas of the United States
By Dave Foreman & Howie Wolfe. Maps, list of areas by size and state. 490 pages—$17

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