



Full citation: Coronado, Rod, tkintz, Kris Maenz, Errol Schweizer, and Josh Laughlin, eds., *Earth First! Journal* 19, no. 6 (21 June 1999). Digitized in cooperation with the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek.  
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# Earth First!

Litha

June-July, 1999

THE RADICAL ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL

Vol. 19, No. 6

\$3.50

## Aussies Dig-in for Old-growth Karri

BY ALAN FEATHERSTONE

In the southwestern corner of Australia, the fate of some of the world's tallest trees is currently being contested. Old-growth karri forest (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*) is being clearfelled by the Bunnings Company under logging plans established by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM), the state government department in charge of natural resources. Opposing them are several groups of committed forest activists utilizing an ingenious variety of nonviolent direct actions to slow down and stop the logging.

The area of contention is in the Wattle State Forest, strategically situated between Shannon and Mount Frankland National Parks. Its protection would maintain the link between the existing parks, providing a larger contiguous area of protected forest. However, CALM has other plans, and two units—Wattle 1 and 2, totaling 36 hectares—were logged in November and December last year. Karri trees almost ten feet in diameter at the base were



Ingenious nonviolent car kitchen at the Wattle 3 blockade—finally a good use for an automobile!

felled. The forest was left a flattened wasteland, with 85 percent of the harvest scheduled to be converted to low grade woodchips to be made into cardboard boxes and shipped to Japan.

During the logging operation in the Wattle, there were continuous actions by forest activists, including tree-sitting in platforms high in the giant trees and people padlocking themselves to heavy machinery, resulting in over 50 arrests.

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## Ludwig's Van Explodes in Edmonton

BY TOOKER GOMBERG, ANGELA BISCHOFF AND ED PRESS

The on-going battle over pollution in Alberta, Canada, took a nasty turn on April 20 when Wiebo Ludwig, a well-known opponent of the energy industry's poisonous practices, had his 1986 Dodge van destroyed by an explosion. Wiebo, who was about 20 feet away at the time, was only cut on the forehead and slightly injured. The explosion took place in the parking lot of a hotel in the provincial capital of Edmonton.

Because he had been charged with numerous offenses against the installations of the energy companies operating in the province, Wiebo was legally under what amounted to house arrest at the time and had traveled to Edmonton with special permission from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to consult with his lawyers.

Ironically, this same police force had recently admitted in court that it had planted explosives and blew up a gas well shed belonging to the Alberta Energy Company (AEC) on October 14, 1998. The RCMP claimed the operation was intended to entrap Wiebo Ludwig and his friend Richard Boonstra



"The explosion took place in the parking lot of a hotel..."

for committing what the police called terrorist acts against the energy sector. The oil and gas producers are major players in Alberta's economy and have enormous political power.

Why did the RCMP blow up the shed and why the attack on Ludwig? Last week we decided to investigate. After three days as guests on their Trickle Creek Farm in northwestern Alberta, we discovered the most explosively powerful story of all: their self-reliance.

Many environmentally concerned people know the problems related to pollution. But the 35 members of the Ludwig and Boonstra extended family are living proof that sustainable alternatives are possible.

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## Storyscapes of Silyaye Aheace

BY PHILIP M. KLASKY

We turn off the interstate and begin the slow journey through a remote desert valley, jostling down a washboard road toward an area activists call "ground zero." Sitting in the front seat of my truck is Llewellyn Barrackman, revered elder and Vice Chairman of the Fort Mojave Indian tribe. Before us is a vast desert valley of creosote, bursage and cactus, desert tortoises, sidewinders and golden eagles. The valley is surrounded by designated wilderness areas, and to the east the once wild Colorado River flows fast and cold. The grand vistas inspire the marriage of great distance and deep time as we approach our destination, the site where Native American and environmental activists established a protest camp to confront plans by the nuclear power industry to build a national nuclear waste dump on sacred lands.

Mr. Barrackman positions himself on high ground. Behind him the desert valley reaches out to dusky mountain ranges. The crew sets up the cameras and recording equipment and signals they are ready. We are making a film of Mojave traditional and sacred sites narrated by the elder who knows the ancient storyscape of his people. Barrackman begins: "We are here at Ward Valley. We call it *Silyaye Aheace*, the place where we collected the fruit from the screwbean mesquite. The desert is our medicine cabinet; this is a sacred place to us; this is where they have been trying to put nuclear waste in a hole in the ground close to the river. We are the *Pipa Aha Macav*, the Mohave people, the Keepers of the River. This is where we have been defending our land. Ward Valley is sacred to us; we sing about this place in our songs; we tell about it in our stories."

This entire region of California's Mojave desert is considered sacred aboriginal territory by the Fort Mojave, Chemehuevi, Cocopah, Quechan and Colorado River Indian tribes. For the last decade, America's nuclear power industry has been planning to bury long-lived and highly dangerous radioactive wastes, mostly from nuclear power reactors, in shallow, unlined trenches above an aquifer 18 miles from the Colorado River in critical habitat for the desert tortoise and other threatened species.

When the federal government issued its threat to clear the valley of the protest camp that had occupied the land for the last four years, the five Colorado River Indian tribes and environmental activists sent out the call through an emergency response network. Hundreds of people responded in direct defiance of the federal order to vacate. The activists expanded the occupation camp, adding a 24-hour peacekeeping force, security check points and observation posts, nonviolence training, a kitchen and campground. A sacred fire burned day and night and became the center for ceremony and strategy. At the entrance to the protest camp a sign announced:

The Colorado River Native Nations Alliance welcomes you to *Silyaye Aheace* Village.

No drugs;  
No alcohol;  
No firearms;  
All vehicles subject to search

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# EARTH FIRST!

NO COMPROMISE IN THE DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH!

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## Contradictions, Battles and Such

This is the first issue of the paper produced by the newest editorial affinity group at the *Journal*. The four of us haven't known each other very long and yet we must discuss our deepest philosophies and opinions on many subjects. Everyday another article or phone call demands everyone's attention. It certainly is not easy. My beliefs are called into question daily and I must defend my feelings and ideas. Consensus is a long and complicated process when you are such a diverse group of individuals.

Luckily, even though all of us are very different we are all Earth First!ers. From the mellow gardener to the inner-city organizer, the radical archeologist to the hunt saboteur, we represent but a small fraction of the huge spectrum

of the movement. When you add in the much needed diversity of a new short-term editor every issue or two, you truly begin to see the beauty of the philosophically diverse Earth First! movement. We will never agree on everything, but we can work together. Showing a little mutual admiration and patience will carry the *Earth First! Journal* and the movement far.

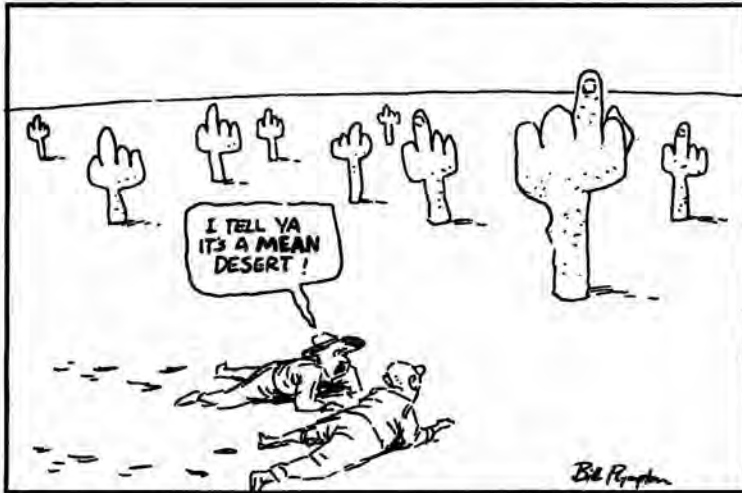
In the short time I have worked here, I have noticed that patience is not one of the movements virtues. It

also seems that we are more inclined to criticize than support each others' tactics and beliefs. The *Journal* staff is assaulted by intensely rude criticism on a much too regular basis. Trust us—we never forget that we represent the Earth First! movement. We are listening, learning and changing as we absorb your well-meant criticisms and praise. Please be nice.

Try as we do, though, we will never be able to satisfy everyone. Each issue contains at least one article that I strongly disagree with. That does not mean that I am going to stop reading the *Journal*—or worse yet, swear off the movement. In order to be strong we must be tolerant and give up the ridiculous moral high ground attitude so prevalent amongst activists. In order to win the war for the planet and all its species we need many tactics and beliefs. We must learn to appreciate the fact that this battle is much bigger than our petty differences.

A person can be misanthropic and still believe that humans lives should be as good as possible. A person can be pro-whale and pro-Makah. A person can be anti-hunting and still eat meat. Each of us is full of contradictions and it shows. Never be too sure that your beliefs are the only right ones; for when you close your eyes to the lessons being taught, you lose. Our strength lies in our ability to learn, wait and respect. The beauty of Earth First! lies in its diversity.

—KRIS



## Soliciting All Warriors of the Earth—Please Write

In Chiapas, it's *Libertad*. In Ireland, it's *An Phoblacht*. For the Earth and Her frontline warriors, it's the *Earth First! Journal*. Every resistance needs its voice to be heard in the printed word. The *Earth First! Journal* is only as thought-provoking and revolutionary-rousing as you, the activists, make it. The paper is a compilation of articles and information contributed by you. Journalistas opening the mail and behind fax machines and computer screens work with only what defenders of

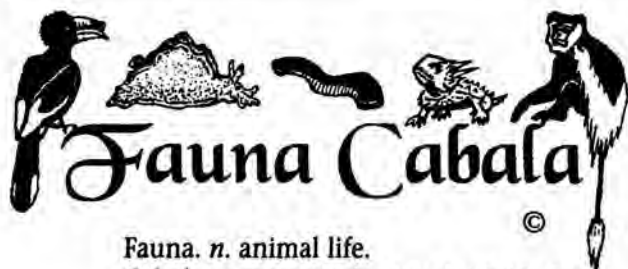
the Earth send in.

The *Journal* staff endeavors to be regionally balanced and representative of our larger planetary movement, but we need your continuing input and constructive criticism. The Earth First! movement has survived the FBI, media and Earth-destroying industry's attempts to smear and squash us. It's vital that Earth First!ers recognize the *Journal* as our media outlet and a target for those who would silence our voices which are rarely heard in the mainstream press. We must utilize the *Journal* with

maximum impact to get the Earth and Her children's voices heard, but we need your help. Keep writing about your actions, campaigns and visions. Send us artwork and poetry. Short-term as a journalist! Make sure a representative from your tribe or collective comes to the *Journal* workshop at the RRR and the Activist Conferences.

Together let's maintain the *Earth First! Journal* as a voice of truth that keeps the enemies of the Earth up at night and makes the Feds pee their pants!

—ROD



Fauna. *n.* animal life.

Cabala. *n.* an esoteric, secret matter or mysterious art.

Aliens are high in the mountains of Colorado, bodysnatching. In late summer, some mustard plants of the genus *Arabis* are infected by the wind-borne spores of the rust fungus *Puccinia monoica*. Over the next month, they become completely possessed because the rust's tendrils invade meristematic tissue, taking control of all future growth. Monster mustards are then manufactured. By the next spring and summer these mustards are twice

### BY FAITH WALKER

as tall as uninfected plants, have double the number of leaves and have sprouted bright yellow flowers. But these flowers are fakes and don't look at all like mustard flowers. Instead, they are a precise match of buttercup flowers even mimicking the sweet odor and sugar exudate and often fooling botanists.

The aliens do this to attract insects, who are required for them to sexually reproduce. Different mating types are produced by the rust fungus; insects lick the sugary spermatia of one and carry it to the other. Because counterfeit flowers produce more sugar, bees, butterflies and flies actually prefer them to true buttercup flowers. Thus, this extreme example of floral mimicry not only influences the mustard host, but also by altering the pollination behavior of insects, it can affect reproduction in the whole flowering community.



## Earth First!

*Litha*

June 21, 1999

Vol. 19, No. 6

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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 (prints are best) are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. 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.

ISSN 1055-8411, *Earth First! Journal*, is indexed in the Alternative Press Index. The *Earth First! Journal* is recorded on microfilm by University Microfilms, Inc.

All correspondence regarding subscriptions, merchandise orders, donations, letters to the editor, articles, photos, graphics, etc., should be directed to:

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**Business Manager:** Jessi  
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**Subscriptions:** Frog  
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### SCHEDULE

*Earth First! Journal* is published 8 times a year on the solstices, equinoxes, and cross-quarter days on or about November 1, December 21 (Winter Solstice), February 2, March 21 (Vernal Equinox), May 1, June 21 (Summer Solstice), August 1, and September 21 (Autumnal Equinox) by Daily Planet Publishing, POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440. US subscriptions are \$25. Outside the US, surface delivery is \$35 and airmail is \$45. POSTMASTER: Send address changes *EF! Journal*, POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440. Application to mail at Periodicals postage rates is pending at Eugene, OR 97401.

Deadline for the next issue is:

July 1

# Tales Of A Recovering Misanthrope

BY ANNE PETERMANN

Lately, charges of racism have been leveled at the environmental movement. Rather than building bridges between our movement and the movements of people of color, walls such as cultural insensitivity and white supremacy are being constructed. Meanwhile, the destruction of the Earth accelerates, and worldwide, people of color continue to be exploited and killed outright in what Zapatista Subcommandante Marcos has termed the "Fourth World War." This war is the result of globalizing capitalism which frees corporations from governmental restrictions such as environmental and human rights laws. It is a worldwide environmental, cultural and racial holocaust being promoted by the US government for the benefit of the corporate elite.

Corporations, in order to compete in a global capitalist world, conduct environmentally destructive activities on the lands of the poorest and most politically marginalized groups. This means that the brunt of pollution and environmental degradation occurs in towns or neighborhoods comprised of the poor or on the homelands of traditional peoples. For this reason, alliances between the environmental movement and movements of the poor and dispossessed should be simple and natural.

To a large degree, I believe, cultural insensitivity stems from privilege. The environmental movement is predominately made up of privileged people. This is what allows them the luxury of being involved in the protection of ecological systems and not worried about daily survival. It can be threatening to acknowledge one's privilege if one is an environmentalist because if that privilege is part of the system destroying the planet, it must be given up. It is more comfortable to point the finger elsewhere and adopt a misanthropic worldview—blaming all mankind. If all mankind is to blame, then we need not address issues of privilege, class or race.

When I was a teenager, I was deeply misanthropic. I loved nature and spent as much time as possible out of doors. But at night, I would look out the window at the Burger King across the street, at the gas stations on all sides, at the noisy, stinking stream of traffic, and I would loathe humanity, dreaming of its demise. When I found Earth First!, the campfire chants of "Billions are living that should be dead" or "fuck the human race" appealed to me. Yes, I thought, humans are a cancer on the Earth. But I was wrong.

Misanthropy is a manifestation of the nature/

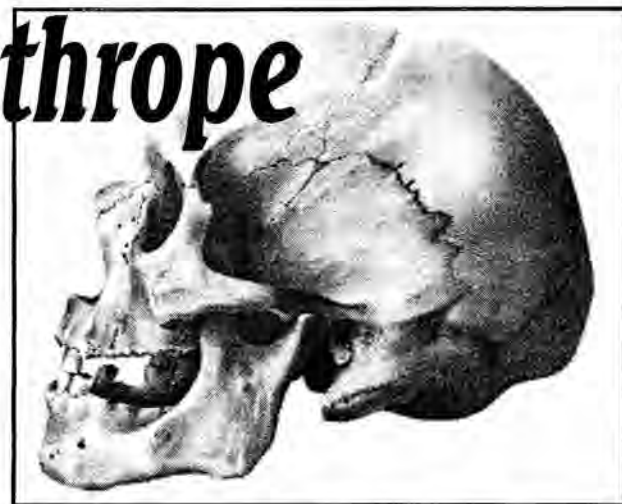
human split. This view has brought our society to the brink of extinction by assuming that we can run roughshod upon the Earth without impacting ourselves because we are somehow separate. Misanthropic Earth-centered activism is a total contradiction. One cannot be earth-centered and yet hate one's own species. This dualism dooms the environmental movement to failure. We must break through the brainwashing to see the world as it truly is—deeply complex and beautiful, interwoven and interdependent—and to see our place in it.

Judi Bari, in her article, "Why I am not a Misanthrope," from *Timber Wars*, explains, "Technocratic man, with his linear view of the world, tends to see tribal societies as earlier, less evolved forms of his own society, rather than as alternative, simultaneously existing methods of living on the Earth. The presumption is that, given time, these cultures would somehow be corrupted like ours. But there is no evidence whatever that these ancient civilizations would have changed without our violent intervention."

Humanity is not the problem. The privileged patriarchal ruling elite with their unsustainable systems of accumulation and domination perpetuated through insidious psychological manipulations and outright blunt force, are the problem. The rest of us are resources for them to exploit in the same way that they exploit the forests and the oceans. Certainly, some blame lies with the hoards practicing active apathy, but we cannot possibly blame traditional native peoples, nor the starving dispossessed, for the destruction of the Earth.

So I am enraged when I hear the intolerant assertions that come from the middle or upper middle class white activists who demand that we restrict the borders to refugees from the South. They seem unconcerned about developing an analysis of why or what the people are fleeing and uninterested in addressing issues of economic imperialism or US overconsumption. (US citizens consume 70 times the resources of the average "Third World" citizen, with most of these resources having been stolen from the "Third World.") In addition, these activists are apparently oblivious to the fact that, as descendants of immigrants, closing an artificial border to a predominately native population to our South is hypocritical.

And there are those, such as Paul Watson, who defend their right to align themselves with "political maverick" racists, with no regard for the fact that such an alliance against Native Americans would



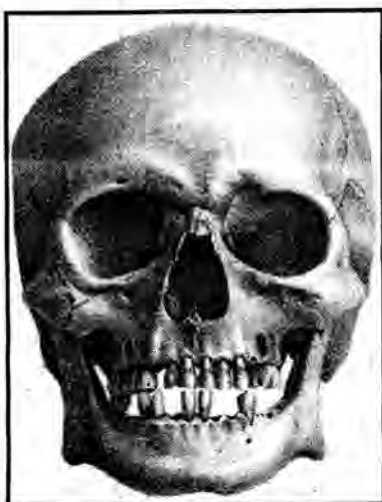
likely lead to a backlash, endangering not only that issue but the movement as a whole. It is simpler to blame native people for participating in a corporate venture without looking into the history of colonialist oppression and cultural destruction that left them with few economic alternatives.

Of course, not all members of indigenous society are exempt from the destructive behaviors white culture has injected. When a culture is engulfed in colonialist oppression for generations, some of the traits of the oppressor are bound to be assimilated in that culture. The misanthropy and privilege (skin color and class) of our movement blocks people of color from trusting us. Can traditional peoples whose cultural identity has been a holistic perspective of oneness with the Earth become involved with a movement which views humans as a cancer? Can people whose history has been one of racial oppression reach out to one which is so glaringly privileged and white?

Making these alliances requires we reach out first to build trust. It means working for cultural understanding and true solidarity. In Vermont, we started by supporting the struggles of the Abenaki in order to make an alliance. We worked hard to support their fight against the state for their ancestral right to fish. The result: We have Abenaki representation on our working group, Abenaki presence at most of our protests, and we have been adopted by the tribe, which in turn has facilitated alliances with other native nations.

As ecologists we know that everything in the natural world is connected. We also know that the more diverse an ecosystem is, the better it is able to withstand adverse conditions. Why is it so difficult to understand that these lessons also apply to our movement? If we dig deeply to find the true roots of various oppressions, we find that they all lead to the same source: the corporate, capitalist, patriarchal elite who rule our society. For this reason, our movements must unite. When we are able to stop the perpetual inane bickering and honor our strength as a diversely unified whole, we will become a force to be reckoned with.

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## Dear Shit For Brains, Talk is cheap, only 300 words, please.

Dear EF!

I recently relocated to Seattle, WA, where I found your periodical and became a firm supporter of the philosophies and efforts portrayed in the *Journal*. I went to college in Manhattan for Public Health Education and am currently enrolled at Seattle Central Community College in the Community Health Advocacy program. Increasingly, our focus has been on communities of color/non-English speaking communities because of the intentionally isolated position our government has placed them in as far as bureaucratic representation and access to crucial health info and resources.

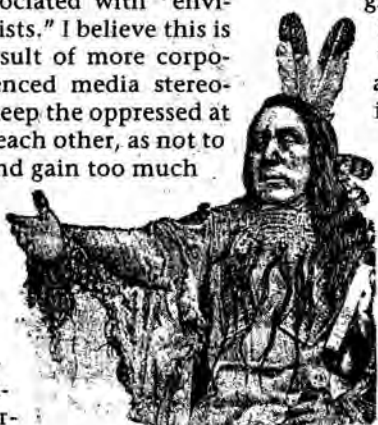
A discussion that has come up encouragingly often is that of a need for some ecological dialogue to start within our

communities because of the vast neglect most environmental movements have had regarding inner cities. The reality that both our immediate and macro environment is inextricably linked with our health is often not addressed because of a stigma associated with "environmentalists." I believe this is just the result of more corporate influenced media stereotyping to keep the oppressed at odds with each other, as not to organize and gain too much power.

That with the combination of our urbanized/ghetto setting of racially tar-

geted communities leads to a break in our link to the ecology movement and prevents us from understanding the direct importance it has on our lives as communities of color within a capitalist/oppressive society. Your interview with Carl Anthony provided great fuel for organizing and inspiration within my colleagues and community. This is an urgent and powerful angle of environmentalism that can really expand and solidify the movement. Many, many thanks, and we hope to enjoy more amazing articles.

Peace,  
—JEN ST. CYR



Dear EF! *Journal*,

Its been a long cold river of wind and snow and ice and rain in the tops of the trees in the Pacific Northwest. As spring begins to give us more and more rare sunshine, I would like to express my eternal gratitude and devotion to the treesitters. These people who have occupied tree villages through such a long winter, these are the people who keep the defiance of the living spirit in the sap of Grandma, Luna, Kali Ma, Tara, Persephone, Guardian, Yggdrssyl, Comfrey, Fanghorn, Life, Grover, Glisten, Friendly, Grandpa, Mariah, Millenia, Grace, Sorrow, Happy and Bob! To all the treesitters who have kept the fight alive through another darkest coldest winter: Thank you!

Love,

—DIRT

TO :  
Coronado,  
Rodney  
Reg# 03895-  
000

FROM :  
Lano County Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Pe-  
ters #549



Memorandum  
Lano County Sheriff's Office  
Community Corrections Center

Mr. Coronado,  
It was brought to my attention from Sgt. Hager that you went to a rally on May 1 in order to push subscriptions for the paper you work for. Per our Lieutenant you are only allowed to be at the job located in the house. Especially due to your conviction and who your employer is you are not to attend any rally type of anything for any reason. You are working there with the understanding that you will always be at your work address. I know you were not aware of this before, but it is imperative you follow this directive.

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# VIEQUES: ISLAND UNDER SIEGE

BY FERNANDO REALS

*Author's note: "u.s." is not capitalized in order to critique the colonial relationship between the United States and Puerto Rico.*

Attention all those who care about ecosystems and human life. Mother Earth is in dire need of support in a small paradise not too far from the u.s. mainland. The u.s. Navy is responsible for eco-cide, imperialism, colonialism and militarization, all of which have fatal implications on humans and wildlife in the Caribbean.

## Brief History

In 1898, the u.s. invaded the island of Puerto Rico during the so-called "Spanish-American War." The result was an increase in u.s. military and corporate exploitation of "the enchanted island." The Puerto Rican nation was divided using "Operation Bootstrap," a program to minimize the Puerto Rican population in order to maximize u.s. corporate profits.

In 1938, the u.s. Navy occupied the two smaller islands of the Puerto Rican archipelago—Culebra and Vieques. Vieques immediately became an important military stronghold in the Western Hemisphere; the stolen land has since been used for munitions storage (on the west side) and bombings exercises (on the east side). This forced Viequeses toward the center of the island, if not completely off it. A portion of the population was "relocated," given token reparations of \$30 for their land, while the majority were simply removed. The u.s. Navy then gained control of more than 72% of the land, over 26,000 acres.



"The Navy will bombard, the people will defy."

risk injury from live munitions that have not exploded, as well as toxic residues from those that do explode.

The u.s. Navy and all of its NATO allies use the island of Vieques as a test site for "war games." It is quite common for fighter jets and amphibious tanks to do military maneuvers in plain view of the Vieques community, causing psychological as well as environmental damage. Vieques was (ab)used for Desert Storm training and NATO continues to utilize it today; u.s. military officials informed the Puerto Rican press that 80 percent of the u.s. ships and fighter jets destroying Kosovo have been trained in Vieques. There are also reports of weapons coated with Depleted Uranium having been tested on the island, leaving radioactive debris wherever these shells exploded or fell.

## Ecology Attacked

It is said that the island of Vieques was home to some of the world's most beautiful land and seas before the military occupation. But the violence committed against this island does not go without resistance. Popular resistance freed the smaller island of Culebra in 1975 and it will free Vieques. However, the Viequeses need our help and our solidarity in their fight against the mighty Goliath.

The naval presence in Vieques has had a negative impact on the ecology of the island. Certain sections of Vieques have been transformed from an island paradise to a disaster zone. In 1989, Professor Jose Seguinot Barbosa, director of the Geography Department at the University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras, noted that "the eastern tip of the island constitutes a region with more craters per square kilometer than the moon." These scars were made by the constant artillery drills conducted by NATO; 10 years later the situation has not improved.

Excess Navy materials are never disposed of, instead they are detonated or buried in the ground. These metals then oxidize and decompose into contaminants that further endanger the lives of wildlife and humans. In 1988, a Vieques chemical engineer and former u.s. Army artillery officer, Rafael Cruz Perez recognized some of the contaminants to be TNT, NO<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, RDX, and Tetryl. Ten years later this problem has not been rectified. These contaminants are seeping into the water and are present at illegal levels in the air. Currently, the Environmental Protection Agency is colluding to cover up the ecological mess that the u.s. Navy and NATO are creating in Vieques.

## Latest Fatality

On April 19, 1999, an American F-18 fighter jet mistakenly dropped two 500 pound MARK82 bombs on the wrong target. The explosion killed a civilian and wounded four other individuals. The fatal victim of this latest mishap was David Sanet Rodriguez. Three other victims were Viequeses; the other was in the military.

There have been so many "isolated" incidents that one must raise the question of genocide. Ismael Guadalupe, a spokesperson for the Comité Pro Rescate y Desarrollo de Vieques, said that "this is not the first time that military planes missed their targets. In 1994, another FA-18 [naval jet] dropped five live 500-pound bombs outside town, missing their target by ten miles. Last year, another projectile perforated the same observation [sic] that they destroyed [on April 19, 1999]. This kind of incident clearly shows the danger of an accident that at any moment can happen in the civilian area. It is time to put an end to this abuse that has oppressed the people of Vieques for more than half a century."

Since the 1940s, the risk of projectiles hitting civilians or their property has been alarmingly high; imagine having to live in fear of a bomb dropping on you or your children's heads. This is a reality of life in Vieques.

## Don't Mourn, Organize!

The history of resistance is rich for the Puerto Rican community in the u.s. and on the islands. Gloria Gonzalez, former Field Marshal of the now defunct Young Lords Organization, once stated, "Wherever a Puerto Rican is, the duty of a Puerto Rican is to make the revolution." In the case of Vieques, that is an understatement. The Viequeses have fought the Navy since 1938. This struggle for self-determination has landed many in jail and in coffins; but the struggle continues. The Viequeses have literally hurled coconuts at Navy helicopters, squatted and reclaimed portions of the land and organized massive rallies and protests. Currently, there are dozens of acts of civil disobedience being staged on the island. At the center of this organizing is the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques (CPRDV in Spanish). These grassroots initiatives cannot continue without their support. And the CPRDV itself also needs help in order to fund these protests. Fuera con la marina de guerra! u.s. Navy out of Vieques!

For more information on how to get involved, contact the Puerto Rico Collective (PRC) based in New York City at PRC1898@aol.com and/or contact Roberto Rabin, CPRDV, Apartado 854, Vieques, Puerto Rico 00765; bieke@tropicweb.net; www.viequeslibre.org. Gracias to Roberto Rabin, Raquel Z. Rivera, Kelvin Santiago-Valles, Omar Colon, Ricanstruction, and the Puerto Rico Collective for the information.

*Fernando Reals is an organizer, agitator and hip-hop scholar in New York State.*



A sea turtle: non-human animals are also victims of colonialism and militarization.

The Navy also took control of much of the surrounding seas that the Viequeses have relied on for survival. The fish are now contaminated from debris caused by naval trainings in the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility on the eastern shore of Vieques. Fishermen constantly

## Vermont Students Resist Monsanto

On Earth Day morning, April 22, two Vermont activists scaled the University of Vermont's 150-foot water tower to hang a huge banner that said, "Reclaim the Earth-Monsanto out of UVM." One of them, Darini Nicholas, spent much of the day at the top of the tower speaking with supporters and local news reporters by cell phone and walkie-talkie. Nicholas is a native of Sri Lanka, an active member of NorthEast Resistance Against Genetic Engineering and a graduate student at the Institute for Social Ecology in Plainfield.

"I am here at great personal risk to draw attention to the environmental devastation supported by the University of Vermont's (UVM) investment policy," said Nicholas in a prepared statement. "This action is part of a movement to demand that UVM invest our public funds in a socially and environmentally responsible fashion, rather than in corporations like Monsanto."

A noon rally on the steps of the university library featured speakers on the hazards of genetic engineering and Monsanto's sordid history, as

well as music by Seattle-based songwriter Jim Page.

Ties between Vermont's state university and the Monsanto company have been a matter of controversy for 10 years. In 1989, a veterinary pathologist at UVM's experimental farm revealed that cows injected with Monsanto's genetically engineered Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH) were aborting fetal calves with severe deformities. Her revelations led to an investigation by the General Accounting Office of the US Congress and helped delay government approval of rBGH for use by dairy farmers in the US. In 1997, student activists revealed that Monsanto stock represented the single largest holding in the Vermont state university's portfolio.

A university representative told the *Burlington Free Press* that the university now holds \$192,500 in Monsanto stock. The campus-based Coalition for Responsible Investment has discovered that UVM recently sold off its individual corporate holdings and is instead investing in mutual funds. This is clearly in response to students and local activists investigating continuing research ties between UVM and Monsanto.

# Eco-Catastrophe Hits The Balkans

BY MITCHEL COHEN

*"We must do more to reach out to our children and teach them to express their anger and to resolve their conflicts with words, not weapons."*

—PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON, AFTER THE SHOOTINGS AT COLUMBINE H.S., COLORADO, AS THE US-LED NATO FORCES BOMBED BELGRADE.

## NATO Endangers Region's Water Supply

Early in April, a leader of the Yugoslavian Green Party, Branka Jovanovic warned that NATO missiles were beginning to contaminate the water supply for much of Eastern Europe. "I warn you that Serbia is one of the greatest sources of underground waters in Europe and that the contamination will be felt in the whole surrounding area all the way to the Black Sea," Jovanovic reported from Belgrade. Her worst fears have apparently come true.

On March 24, the first day of the NATO air strikes the municipality of Grocka, where the Vinca nuclear reactor is situated, was hit. The site contains a large stockpile of nuclear waste. No US media outlet reported this. The municipality of Pancevo was hit, in which a petrochemical factory and a factory for the production of artificial fertilizers were situated. They were bombed again two weeks later. The municipality of Baric was also hit. Baric houses a large complex for the production of chloride, using technology similar to Union Carbide's fatal Bhopal plant. "It is not necessary for me to explain what the blowing up of one of such factories would represent," Jovanovic says. "Not only Belgrade, which is situated at a distance of 10 kilometers, but the rest of Europe would be endangered."

On the second day of bombings, a chemical factory in the Belgrade suburb of Sremcica was bombed. Also hit was a rocket fuel storage area, leaking fuel into the surrounding area and water. Branka also reports that four national parks were bombed and that the depleted uranium weaponry first used against Iraq, responsible for thousands of cases of leukemia and other cancers in children, is now being used against Yugoslavia. Meanwhile, McDonald's has reopened three of its eight restaurants in Yugoslavia.

In Pancevo, at least 50 residents were reported suffering from poisoning due to the bombings of refineries, fertilizer facilities and a vinyl chloride and ethylene plant. The Health Ministry could not find enough gas masks to distribute. Residents were told to breathe

through scarves soaked in sodium bicarbonate as a precaution against showers of nitric acid.

"By burning down enormous quantities of naphtha and its derivatives, more than a hundred highly-toxic chemical compounds that pollute water, air and soil are released (endangering the entire Balkan ecosystem)," said New Green Party scientist Luka Radoja. Dr. Radoja points out that the NATO bombing is happening just as many crops vital for survival, such as corn, sunflower, soy, sugar beets and vegetables are supposed to be planted. As a result, 2.5 million hectares of land have gone unplanted.

## Poison Cloud Engulfs Belgrade

In the US the news is simple: NATO bombers, we're told, hit and crippled Yugoslavia's oil refineries yesterday. Yeal! Go NATO! Root for the home team! The news is well-scrubbed so that no blood leaks. But here's how Tom Walker, reporting from Belgrade for the *London Times* on April 19, tells the story: "A towering cloud of toxic gases looms over Belgrade after warplanes, on the 25th night of the NATO onslaught, hit a petrochemical plant in the northern outskirts of the city. An ecological disaster was unfolding yesterday after NATO bombed a combined petrochemicals, fertilizer and refinery complex on the banks of the Danube in the northern outskirts of Belgrade. A series of detonations that shook the whole city early yesterday sent a toxic cloud of smoke and gas hundreds of feet into the night sky. In the dawn, the choking cloud could be seen spreading over the entire northern skyline."

"Among the cocktail of chemicals billowing over hundreds of thousands of homes were the toxic gases phosgene, chlorine and hydrochloric acid. Workers at the industrial complex in Pancevo panicked and released tons of ethylene dichloride, a carcinogen, into the Danube, rather than risk it blowing up. At least three missile strikes left large areas of the plant crippled. Oil and petrol from the damaged refinery area flowed into the river, forming slicks up to 12-miles long. Temperatures in the collapsing plant were said to have risen to more than 1,000-degrees Centigrade. Asked about the hazard from chemical smoke, NATO said there was 'a lot more smoke coming from burning villages in Kosovo.'"

The lack of fuel for agricultural machines will have catastrophic results because it will lead to hunger of much of the population. When you add to this the poisoning of the water, air and soil, the catastrophe

becomes a cataclysm. "As an expert who has spent his entire work-age on the fields of this up-until-now ecologically pure part of Europe, I am a witness to the disappearing of the most beautiful garden of Europe," Radoja said.

On April 19, the *London Times* reported that a recent airstrike had grazed a tank containing 20,000 tons of liquid ammonia. If it had gone up in flames much of Belgrade would have been poisoned. The pollution in the Danube and in the atmosphere over Belgrade knows no frontiers, and scientists warned neighbouring countries that "the poison clouds could soon be with them." Indeed, the chief inspector of the Macedonian Ministry of Environment, Miroslav Balaburski, said that toxic furans and dioxins released by bomb explosions are being carried long distances. The pollution is entering Macedonia by air and by the river Lepenec, which crosses the border between Macedonia and Yugoslavia, according to Zoran Bozinovski, a speaker for the Center for Radioisotopes, a Macedonian government institution based in Skopje. Ivan Grozdanov, a chemist at the center, made the further point that burning aircraft fuel is the primary source of stratospheric nitrogen oxides which are severely damaging the ozone layer.

Shame! Shame on Representative Bernie Sanders (VT), on Senator Barbara Boxer (CA), on Jesse Jackson, and on the other erstwhile "progressives" and their newly discovered bloodlust! Shame on the leader of the French Greens, Daniel Cohn-Bendit and on Joschka Fischer, the Green Party leader and Foreign Minister of Germany, who are all making this war possible. Bombing a civilian population, destroying their water supply, poisoning their crops—this is the "Green alternative?" No. It is the very essence of modern warfare, of advanced technologies specifically designed and utilized to inflict terror and ravage human beings and nature alike because they refuse to accede to the demands of international capital—they simply won't do what "we" want?

Surprisingly, it is Clinton himself, who in a little known statement made the day before the bombing began, that puts the US/NATO's rationale most succinctly: "If we are going to have a strong economic relationship that includes our ability to sell around the world, Europe has got to be a key. That's what this Kosovo thing is all about." (*The Nation*, April 19, 1999)

Mitchel Cohen, a founder of the Red Balloon Collective, is an activist based in Brooklyn, New York.

*You asked for it, you got it! Here is the first installment of a new feature, "Classic Moments in Earth First! History." This article is reprinted from 16 years ago, Litha 1983.*

"If you don't get out of the way, I'm going to kill you!" screamed Plumley Construction Company bulldozer driver Fred Brown to five Earth First!ers blocking his path at the end of the remote road in the Siskiyou National Forest near Grants Pass, Oregon. But the five, Diana Warren, Molly Campbell, William Smith, Peter Swanson and Doug Norlen, stood firm. Brown charged them time and time again with the rear of his machine. Finally, he turned the big rig around and buried them with dirt from the blade. The fight for the North Kalmiopsis was, in Mike Roselle's words, "getting gnarly."

The blockade to save 150,000 acres of remarkably diverse primeval forest had begun two weeks earlier on April 25 when Mike Roselle, Steve Marsden, Pedro Tama and Kevin Everhart had shut down operations on the Bald Mountain Road construction project for three and one-half hours until Josephine County Sheriff's deputies arrived to arrest them...

The *Grants Pass Courier* then featured an interview with bulldozer jockey Les Moore who had faced the first two groups. He told how he feared violence at the hands of the blockaders. His wife said that every morning when he left for work she worried that she would be a widow come nightfall...

On Thursday, May 12, Dave Willis of Ashland and Dave Foreman set up a road block to stop the Plumley workers on their way to work. With



Steve Marsden, Pedro Tama, Kevin Everhart and Mike Roselle.

help of their support team, they pulled a downed tree into the road in front of them because, as Foreman said, "I don't want to be a hood ornament on a Plumley truck."

At 6:00 a.m. a sheriff's deputy arrived and asked the men to move. They refused. The deputy then winched the log out of the way and parked 500 feet in front of them. At 6:15 the Plumley sixpac pickup carrying five workers arrived and drove around the deputy vehicle. They tried to pass Willis on the inside of the road cut but Foreman stepped over and blocked their path. They then drove to the outside of the road bend where Foreman had previously stood. He stepped back in place.

For a moment the blockaders faced off the

truck. Then it shot forward hitting Foreman in the chest and knocking him back five feet. Again truck and man faced off. The truck pushed against Foreman. He pushed back. Les Moore, the driver of the truck, accelerated and pushed Forman back. With the truck firmly pressed against him, Forman had to backpedal to keep from being run down. As the truck went faster and faster, he could not get out of the way. He finally lost his balance and went down before the truck. He held onto the bumper for a few seconds and the truck finally stopped. The distance was later measured at 103 yards.

The five construction workers piled out of the truck and surrounded Foreman who was lying half under the front of it. "You dirty communist bastard," yelled Les Moore. "Why don't you go back to Russia where you came from?"

"But, Les," Foreman replied, "I'm a registered Republican..."

The sheriff's department told the news media that there had been no assault, that Foreman had stepped in front of a moving vehicle and had been knocked down. They claimed the truck had immediately stopped. There was one thing that was wrong with their story. A UPI reporter had witnessed the entire incident and two TV stations had filmed it. The Forest Service and sheriff's department were caught in their cover-up when the television news aired that evening. The question remaining was: Had the authorities encouraged the construction workers to intimidate the blockaders?...

For the rest of the story and other historic tales, send \$4 for each back issue; \$400 for all we got.

# A LETTER FROM NEAH BAY

BY WAYNE JOHNSON & JENNIFER ARADANAS

Immediately after the gray whale gave up its life to the Makah people on Monday morning (May 17), our whaling crew prayed as best we could under the noise of circling helicopters and the scrutiny of live television. Then, the crew members raised their paddles in the air and celebrated success. It was an occasion of great joy.

Some people have criticized us for this celebration, saying that it should have been a somber event and that we should have mourned the whale in the way they imagine to be proper. I am so tired of non-Indians pushing their values on the Makah people and telling us how and how not to be Makah.

When the whale arrives on the beach, we don't mourn it. We thank it for giving itself to us; then we eat it. That is how we show respect. If it does not satisfy the emotional needs of many white people in America, I can only say that we have a long way to go before this society is truly multicultural.

I am disturbed by the enthusiasm with which many people have criticized our culture. The ugly telephone

calls and e-mails show the worst side of intolerance. We have been told that we are lazy, drunk and barbaric, that our culture is a joke.

Now that whales have been elevated to near-deified status in Euro-American culture and most people think that meat comes from shrink-wrapped packages, derogatory terms are once again directed at us.

Some people suggest that our culture needs to "evolve." Non-Indians have frequently assumed that our culture is backward and needs to embrace whatever the Euro-American fad of the century is. In the late 1800s and early 1900s this energy was directed into turning the Makah people into farmers. But our land and our people are not suited for farming. So we bent the pitchforks they sent us, turned them into halibut hooks and continued our life of harvesting from the sea.

At the whale hunt, protesters in nearby boats screamed insults and threw flares and smoke bombs. I was proud of the Makah crew members for ignoring them. They focused on their paddling and drowned out the commotion by singing songs passed onto them by their grandfathers. It was these same songs that we sang on the beach to welcome and celebrate the return of the whale.

*Wayne Johnson is the Captain of the Makah whaling crew.*

**"I am so tired of non-Indians pushing their values on the Makah people."**



# IN DEFENSE OF WHALES

BY KENNY

Sea Defense Alliance is still on the scene near Neah Bay, WA. After ten weeks of being here and safely escorting many gray whales through the Makah hunting grounds, the whalers finally got lucky. A juvenile whale on her way north from the lagoons of Baja, where she surely got a lot of positive attention from humans, had her trust violated when she swam under the whalers canoe. Instead of getting the attention that she was looking for, a harpoon was rammed in her back. Confused, scared and in

pain, she tried to make a run for it only to be shot to death by a .50-caliber rifle. After she was towed in to the harbor, people danced on her corpse in jubilation. Seeing people happy about the death of an animal that was both beautiful and intelligent was sickening.

We did not fail, however. Sea Defense Alliance working with other groups safely escorted many gray whales through the area. Only when the US Coast Guard took away our boats and every line of defense that these creatures had were the whalers able to kill. The Makah did not hunt this whale, however. The actual hunters were the Clinton/Gore administration, the US Coast Guard, National Marine Fisheries and the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Association. The only thing that the Makah whalers did was to throw the harpoon and pull the trigger. They could not have done this without the direct guidance and financial backing of the US government and Japanese and Norwegian whaling interests. The US government gave at least \$425,000 in above board donations to the Makah earmarked for the hunt.

The battle is not over just because

one whale is dead, as tribal chairman Ben Johnson has already stated, "We're going to do it all over again."

The best thing that we can do now is to not forget the life of that one whale and to focus our anger. Call your local media stations and let them know how you feel. Call president Clinton and Vice President Gore and tell them to stop this before it can happen again. Call everyone involved and tell them to stop hunting whales for the Makah. Call the US Coast Guard and tell them to start doing their job by protecting life at sea. Call your local representative and tell them to speak out against this travesty.

Sea Defense Alliance will not let this rest. We are prepared to do whatever we can to keep this from happening again. We are working on getting our boats released. They are still in the custody of the US Coast Guards after being confiscated for violating a 500 yard exclusionary zone around the whales and hunters. The only boats allowed near marine mammals are the ones hunting, capturing or testing them.

Thank you to everyone for your prayers and support. We could not have prevented the kill for this long without you. We still need your support, however, as we have three heroes with us who are facing criminal charges for interfering with the hunt and protecting these gentle giants. We may have to be out here again in the fall to prevent the killing of another whale. Boats, jet-skis, video cameras, marine band radios and money are desperately needed. Donations can be sent to SeDnA, POB 401, Williams, OR 97544; [www.sedna.net](http://www.sedna.net). Also for the truth from the Makah themselves, visit their webpage at [www.makah.org](http://www.makah.org).

**"Seeing people happy about the death of an animal that was both beautiful and intelligent was sickening."**

# CANADIAN SEAL SLAUGHTER CONTINUES

BY PATRICIA GRAY & ROD CORONADO

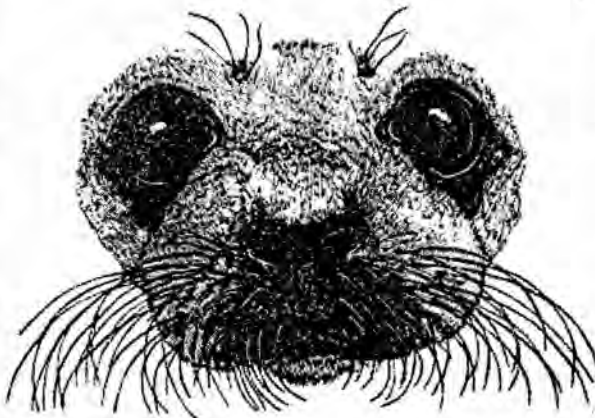
After the ice pack surrounding Prince Edward Island (PEI) National Park began to break apart in late April, thousands of harp seal carcasses began washing ashore on the coastline of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada. Many seal skulls were exposed and deep lacerations ran the length of their girth; while other bodies had been split open from chin to tail or had their genitals removed.

A report by the International Marine Mammal Association estimates that for the years 1996-98, 63 percent of the annual seal kill (270,000 in 1999) is unaccounted for as a result of seals being clubbed or shot but not killed. The report goes on to state that when the incidental kill of seals in commercial fishing operations (approximately 30,000, according to the Newfoundland government) and other hunts in Canada and Greenland are factored in, as many as 500,000 harp seals are being killed each year.

Commercial sealing operations frequently consist of two crews. The first team will travel across the ice, clubbing as many seals as possible. A second crew will follow behind to skin the animals. Often during this process, seals that have only been stunned will regain consciousness and struggle back into the water. This is believed to be the source of the mutilated carcasses now washing ashore.

Meanwhile, the Northeast Sealers Co-op says that an oversupply of pelts has led to a virtual

collapse in the seal fur market. Tina Fagan, executive director of the Canadian Sealers' Association admits that the problem now facing members of the Sealing Industry Development Council and others in the industry is to not flood the market with more seals than it can take. "At this point in time even raising the total allowable catch without



markets would be a wrong move," says Fagan.

A sealer in the Change Islands recently lambasted the Newfoundland government's aggressive sealing policy saying, "What's aboard our boat (seals) we're gonna scatter them about the shore, and we're gonna get the protesters in with the cameras and show them how the government is managing the

fishery, and Minister John Efford (Fisheries Minister) is up there asking for a bigger quota, and here is we [sic] gotta go out and kill them and dump them. It don't make sense."

An April report from the Fisheries Resource Conservation Council to the Canadian Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on the Gulf of St. Lawrence recommends upwards of a 50 percent reduction in the harp seal population. The report also recommends an experimental harvest of up to 20,000 grey seals on Sable Island and the establishment of "seal exclusion zones" in the Northumberland Strait and waters off New Brunswick, PEI and other areas. The 14 member Council represents the professional and economic interests of the commercial fishing industry and claims its intent is to protect the spawning and juvenile cod fish which many scientist conclude are the primary culprit in the collapse of the Eastern Canadian cod fishery. The report further states, "action must be taken immediately in order to improve opportunities for the conservation and recovery of cod and other groundfish stocks, without waiting for absolute scientific proof of the effects of seal predation." Existing scientific data continues to identify overfishing as the greatest threat to cod and groundfish populations.

For more information contact Patricia Gray, President, Canadian Animal Distress Network and PEI Marine Mammal Stranding Network, 11 Marjorie Crescent, Charlottetown, PEI, Canada, C1A 7V1; (902) 569-4803; 569-2839 fax; [p.a.gray@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:p.a.gray@pei.sympatico.ca).

# A MAKAH ELDER SPEAKS

## The Issue At Hand

BY ROD CORONADO

For the past year, anti-whaling forces have rallied against the Makah Tribe of Washington's plans to resume whaling under rights granted to the tribe in a 1855 treaty. The Makah who support the hunt (there is opposition from within the tribe) claim whaling is part of their ancient culture, and that the hunt will instill pride and empower youth who stand to lose their cultural identity.

Anti-whalers argue cultural preservation doesn't justify killing intelligent animals emblematic of the larger environmental and animal rights struggle. They fear that by exercising treaty rights to whale, the Makah will pave the way for whaling countries like Japan and Norway to also claim cultural whaling rights and undermine the moratorium on commercial whaling. Historically, the Makah are whalers. But their survival no longer depends on it. By asserting cultural, rather than subsistence whaling rights, the Makah validate other nation's attempts to call commercial whaling "cultural heritage" (and while the US govern-

ment supports Makah whaling rights, it is not a champion of indigenous sovereignty). If the US was truly concerned with treaty rights, it would uphold its 1,200 broken treaties instead of supporting tribal sovereignty only when it circumvents environmental laws.

The predominantly Anglo environmental and animal rights movements also fail to address the "eco-imperialism" issue, whereby greater rights are ascribed to some animals, while indigenous peoples are denied the right to self-determination. This demonstrates intolerance for indigenous peoples' relationships to land and animals that are viewed by non-natives as morally reprehensible. Members of the anti-whaling coalition also claim they are not "anti-Indian," yet alliances exist with parties such as Representative Jack Metcalf (R-WA), who has a long anti-sovereignty, anti-environmental voting record, and ties to anti-Indian, right-wing organizations.

This year 140 gray whales were slaughtered in the Bering Sea for fur farm feed, 65 have washed up dead on beaches due to unknown causes, and gray whale breeding grounds in Baja California are threatened by a proposed Mitsubishi corporation salt plant. These issues received little attention compared to the Makah's plan to kill 20 whales over a five year period. Clearly the targeting of indigenous peoples is capital-

ized upon by media who portray Indians against environmental and animal rights activists, including blow by blow reports from helicopters hovering above Neah Bay.

The *Earth First! Journal* believes that all parties in the Makah whaling issue need to be heard. With constructive debate, those people who desire a life in balance with other species, regardless of their race, can find common ground. Division among the oppressed is to the detriment of all but the oppressor.

Alberta Thompson is probably the Makah's most vocal whaling opponent and a respected elder. She has suffered threats and intimidation for her staunch position and has lost her job, had her dog killed and seen her daughter's land rights revoked for criticizing official tribal policy. Like elders in the Big Mountain, Minnehaha, Mt. Graham and Buffalo Nations campaigns, Thompson represents indigenous resisters eager to strengthen unity with all people who have an earth-centered vision.

## INTERVIEW WITH ALBERTA THOMPSON

**EFIJ:** *Opposition to the whale hunt is presented as Indians against animal rights and environmental activists. Do you think there is any legitimacy behind accusations that this is meant to fracture an otherwise powerful coalition between these movements?*

**AT:** Some of the people outside [Neah Bay] call anti-whaling people racist, but they're not against Indians, they're against the killing of whales, which I, as an Indian, am against, especially for nothing. To get rid of the whale they caught the other day [May 18] they're having a great big party and they're serving it at that party, so it will be eaten up like the IWC [International Whaling Commission] said to do.

**EFIJ:** *In the 1970s the American Indian Movement and local traditionals were targeted for their criticism of tribal councils who were more willing to serve big business than the people and lands' best interests. Do you think some Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) tribal governments still serve big business before their own people's interests?*

**AT:** This is my own interpretation. When the BIA takes a side when there's a split on the reservation, that is their main reason, to split that tribe in half. When we get split in half we're weak. We have a hard time judging what's right and wrong.

**EFIJ:** *Do you think the Makah Tribal Council is hiding behind the shield of cultural preservation and indigenous sovereignty to cover-up a financially-motivated agenda?*

**AT:** They say tradition, well the first part of whaling, the tradition is you spend a year of a clean life, spiritually clean, and they didn't do that. Three of them didn't pass a drug test. I was at court where one of them had a DUI against him and he was found guilty. But he had the common sense, the good sense of stepping down, not getting back in that canoe. But the three that didn't pass the drug test stayed in that canoe, so this is certainly not tradition. Right over television you see this boat towing this whale... and they towed it until they were almost into the bay and they then switched it over to the canoe... That is not tradition. The gun is not tradition. The way they disrespected that baby killed, by jumping on it and dancing on it is horrible.

**EFIJ:** *Native Americans in the US suffer the highest rates of alcoholism, poverty, suicide, infant mortality and unemployment of any people in this country and suddenly the Department of Commerce, US Coast Guard and other federal agencies are devoting so many resources to assist the Makah's gray whale hunt. Why is this?*

**AT:** The lady [from the Department of Commerce] that I sat next to on my trip to the IWC meeting told me, 'We are afraid not to help the Makah.' That's when I told her, 'That's easy, you can just do like you did to all the other people you

pay not to do certain things, like farming. Paying us not to kill whales.

**EFIJ:** *Chief Tom Mexsis Happynook from the Nuu Chah Nulth Nation went to Japan's Whaling Festival in Tokyo where he gave his blessing to Japan's commercial whaling operations. Do you think the preservation of indigenous North American culture is just the commercial whaling industry's latest ploy to avoid commercial whaling restrictions?*

**AT:** It definitely looks like it. I believe Tribal Chairman Johnson also went to Japan just before he went to the IWC last year.

**EFIJ:** *Indigenous traditional communities living in harmony with nature have much to teach the non-native world. Yet some pre-Conquest culture would today be morally unacceptable. Do you think it is necessary to practice such elements of our past to preserve the culture and tradition that accompanied it?*

**AT:** There I would quote the Quilliate Tribe, which is just south of us. They made a statement that we don't have to kill a whale to keep our tradition. We know our traditions, we know what we've done in the past, we know what we're doing now, and we can pass all of this on to our children.

**EFIJ:** *Yaqui communities still practice deer dances and songs which were our way of requesting permission to hunt the deer which very few Yaqui now do, yet the culture surrounding the hunt survives. Is it necessary for the Makah to kill whales in order to preserve the culture surrounding whaling?*

**AT:** No, because in the first place we've lost a lot of it because it's been 80 years since hunting the whale and we've lost a lot of the things we used to do during the whale hunt. They say aboriginal subsistence, but there isn't that many people so poor here that a whale is going to fill their tummies. We are blessed by living on the oceanside, we can catch fish, we can get mussels, we can get clams and all that rock food. We have grounds that could produce potatoes and all those vegetables. We are not hurting, we're not poor. Even during the Great Depression we didn't even know we were in it because we were eating.

**EFIJ:** *The Mitsubishi corporation plans to build a salt refinery in the heart of the Pacific gray whale's breeding grounds. Do you think environmentalists and animal rights activists have an obligation to fight threats to the gray whale elsewhere in the world?*

**AT:** Definitely. We went down there in 1997, to Baja, Mexico, to protest against Mitsubishi, and we each wrote a letter to Mitsubishi. But you know that's the biggest corporation in the world so it would be hard. The president of Mexico is in favor of that salt plant so you've got a couple strikes



against you to begin with. That's what Mexican indigenous peoples down there were so upset about; what could they do?

**EFIJ:** *On the Kamchatka Peninsula in Siberia, indigenous peoples kill 140 gray whales each year to provide food on fur farms. What is your opinion on this type of abuse of subsistence whaling rights?*

**AT:** I think that's about the worse thing they could do. I heard at the Monaco IWC meeting that the IWC really told them off about doing that and if they continued to do it then they would lose a lot of their whaling rights. I am happy our treaty binds us from selling the whale meat because right there in the treaty it says, we the Makah agree not to trade with the Indians across from us in Canada or any other dominion outside of the United States, so that binds us.

**EFIJ:** *I'm sure the Makah have stories that tell of your relationship to whales. Do you think we as indigenous peoples are capable of returning to a way of life that honors our sacred relationship to the natural world without the invader breaking or exploiting our ancient bond with nature?*

**AT:** There is a tribe in the northern part of Vancouver Island and I love what they say. They say the whale did take care of us, he did feed us, we ate the whale and now it's our turn to return that favor. So now we are just going to honor the whale and we're going to protect the whale. There are so many things that they did not do correctly in this hunt. I could start crying. They didn't tow that whale, a deep sea diver went and closed its mouth and that's not tradition. The way the media explained it they were a mile offshore when they caught the whale and we're supposed to be way more than that offshore, and they caught a little baby. They're saying it was three years-old, but it's not. And it was not cut up by Makahs. The whale was cut up by one Alaskan Indian, and when he got mad he quit, saying, 'Where are the Makahs, where is the Captain of the crew, why isn't he cutting this up?' He said, 'I quit.' So the National Marine Fisheries took over and they cut it. You should have seen all of us anti-whaling people, we could hardly talk without crying the day that they killed the baby. The media won't say baby, they just say whale.

# LONG JOURNEY TO SAVE THE SIERRA MADRE

BY RANDALL GINGRICH

In April, 109 indigenous Tarahumara from a pueblo deep in the heart of Mexico's Sierra Madre, Pino Gordo, began an arduous journey to Chihuahua City in a last ditch effort to stop the logging and theft of their traditional lands. Four elder shamans led the Tarahumara who peacefully protested for re-establishment of their agrarian rights and an immediate halt to logging in disputed territory. Armed with banners, they conducted a dignified march to the Governors Palace where they held a silent vigil until governmental leaders agreed to meet.

Tarahumara leaders eloquently spoke to state and federal agencies who avoided responsibility for the theft of their lands. The Tarahumara testified that they had always lived in Pino Gordo, that the trees were planted by *Onoruame* (God) and could not be sold by man and that they only wanted to live in peace in their forests.

Governmental negotiations were led by Ismael Diaz Carrillo of the State Secretariat and the Environmental Secretariat (SEMARNAP) authorities. Carrillo allegedly owns interest in a number of sawmills and small logging operations in the Sierra. In 1994, while he was Municipal President in Guachochi, local police beat and tortured eight Tarahumara for collaborating with the Sierra Madre Alliance (SMA). SEMARNAP officials are equally connected with an extensive logging Mafia with ties to major drug traffickers. Other agencies, with the exception of the National Indigenous Institute, appear to be taking the lead from Carrillo and SEMARNAP.

Government agencies, led by the State Secretariat, refuse to acknowledge the Tarahumara claims which are backed by historic documents and anthropologic studies. The government continues to seek a way to cover involvement of SEMARNAP and land tenure agencies' facilitation of the fraud—just one crime among thousands that have devastated 99 percent of all Tarahumara forests in the past 40 years.

Pino Gordo is one of the last great treasures of Mexico's Sierra Madre. This isolated ejido has escaped the devastation of logging and most of the political, cultural and religious pressures that affect other Mexican indigenous communities. At the heart of Pino Gordo lies more than 20,000 acres of old-growth forests. These forests are imminently threatened

by the logging plans by outside interests that would defraud 103 Tarahumara families of their land rights and leave residents in dire economic straits while also destroying habitat for a dozen threatened and endangered species, including thick-billed parrots.

In the Mexican state of Chihuahua, the Sierra Tarahumara is one of Mexico's poorest regions and for some 6,000 years has been home to several indigenous nations. Until recently, the Sierra's rugged terrain meant that native people enjoyed a great deal of isolation from external influences and were able to maintain their traditional ways of life. In recent years, however, logging activity in the Sierra Tarahumara has increased dramatically—sparking conflict between the Tarahumara and outside interests including drug-runners and marijuana and heroin-poppo cultivators; bringing violence and intense social disruption, even between indigenous communities themselves.

Over 99 percent of Sierra Madre forests have been impacted by logging, with devastating environmental, economic and cultural consequences. Land wars have seen Indian villages lose traditional hunting grounds and farming areas while over-extraction has resulted in erosion and damage to fields. Conflict over the Sierra's resources has meant that many Tarahumara have been caught between their traditional ways of life and the influence of outsiders who

often play them off against one another.

According to activists working in the region, a review of the case history of Pino Gordo suggests a long history of attempts to defraud the community of their lands and forests, involving officials from many government agencies, corrupted local leaders, a neighboring Mestizo community and logging cartels.

A special government commission visited Pino Gordo in April producing a report, drafted by Diaz Carrillo that sanctified logging as legal and placed the Tarahumara from Pino Gordo in the neighboring community of Coloradas de los Chavez, completely stripping their indigenous autonomy and setting the stage for logging the remaining old growth. The report has no legal backing and no official signature. Further negotiations resulted in an agreement to stop logging until the land tenure issue was resolved. The agreement was signed by a number of key agencies, but the logging permits have not been revoked.

Illegal logging within Tarahumara ejido lands began in December 1998, and agrarian agencies, principally the Procuraduría Agraria, have refused to rule on the Tarahumara's protests. The agencies recognize a questionable ejido registry submitted in 1995 by a backer of logging interests. The Federal Agrarian Reform Commission (RAN) and SEMARNAP are trying to change the ejido boundaries on paper to make the logging legal. Documents obtained from RAN dating from 1965 to the present irrefutably recognize the boundaries of Pino Gordo.

In 1995, Raul Aguirre, a Tarahumara from the Pino Gordo community of El Durazno, changed the ejido register with RAN, leaving 103 families without rights to their lands. Seventeen surviving elders from the original ejido register of 1965 were excluded. Agrarian rights were granted to many people living outside the ejido, including Aguirre, who was also named ejido commissioner with official recognition. Aguirre is determined to log Pino Gordo and was awarded government funding through PRODEFOR, an agency that distributes state and federal funds for forest planning and development to initiate forest exploitation—despite SEMARNAP agreements not approving the funding.

In the community of Coloradas de los Chavez, logging began in May of 1998, but PROFEPA conducted an incompetent investigation of environ-



Silently waiting for the Governor

mental damage claims filed in August, finding no damages despite photos and global positioning system measurements documenting forestry code violations. SEMARNAP hesitated to release information on logging permits in Colorado de los Chavez or grant funds for logging studies in the disputed zone and in January of 1999 reinitiated the logging permit there.

Activists are contemplating a remobilization of the community, bringing more demonstrators to Chihuahua, while sending a delegation to Mexico City. The environmental case may be brought to the NAFTA Commission for Environmental Cooperation. Letters of protest and financial support are badly needed. Sierra Madre Alliance has been



Indigenous Tarahumara march to Chihuahua

assisting Pino Gordo and numerous other Tarahumara and Tepehuan communities since 1992. At stake are virgin forests, critical wildlife corridors to the United States, endangered species and some of the most traditional aboriginal communities in North America.

In 1994 and 1995, 13 Tarahumara ejidos proposed to protect all, or part, of their forests. SMA and Mexican partners are currently working to register two of these ejidos as protected areas to serve as a model for others. Other current SMA projects include establishing a Tepehuan women's craft cooperative, indigenous leadership training, strategic planning with at a organizational and community level, medicinal plant studies, integrated community health education, migratory bird studies, conservation land acquisitions and a campaign to save the endangered thick-billed parrot.

The Sierra Madre Alliance is dedicated to the preservation of biological and cultural heritage of the northern Sierra Madre Occidental of Mexico. SMA integrates conservation, restoration, civil rights and appropriate development projects in Tarahumara and Tepehuan communities, striving for a balance between conservation of nature and local needs. SMA is dedicated to preserving the remaining old-growth forests and restoring the remaining forests in the Sierra through community based ecosystem management and private land acquisitions that provide local benefits and respect traditional use of forests. SMA programs are planned and implemented with participation of traditional indigenous leaders and with respect to their customs and rights.

The Tarahumara village demands the following:

1. That the ejido register be amended to recognize the 22 ejidatarios from the original register of 1965 who are still alive. These elders will recognize the rest of the community members living within the boundaries granted the ejido in 1965 and later annexes.
2. That ejido elections be conducted to remove Raul Aguirre from office.
3. That Procuraduría Agraria and RAN recognize the ejido limits designated in 1992.
4. That ejido Pino Gordo be reimbursed for all timber taken by Coloradas de los Chavez and logging contractors.
5. That logging roads be closed immediately.
6. That logging permits for Coloradas de los Chavez remain revoked until the previous demands are met.
7. Investigation of the negligence of Procuraduría Agraria, RAN, PROFEPA and SEMARNAP.
8. Halt to dispersion of PRODEFOR funds to Raul Aguirre.

The Tarahumara of Pino Gordo ask that letters be sent to Julia Carabias, the director of SEMARNAP, Mexican President, Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon, and the governor of Chihuahua, Patricio Martinez.

Contact the Sierra Madre Alliance, POB 41416, Tucson, AZ 85717-1416; (520) 326-2863; sierrarg@igc.apc.org.

Julia Carabias, Director SEMARNAP, Lateral Anillo Periferico Sur 4209 Fracc., Jardines en la Montana, Mexico 14210; DF (5) 628-0600 ext. 232.

President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon, Los Pinos, Puerta Central, 1er Piso Colonia San Miguel Chapultepec Del Miguel Hidalgo, Mexico 11850.

Governor Patricio Martinez, Palacio Gobierno, Calle Aldama y Venustiano Carranza, Colonia Centro, 31000 Chihuahua, Chihuahua; (011) (52) (14) 29-33-00.

All photos by Randy Gingrich

# OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM OFF U'WA LANDS

## Frontlines

Nearly 200 human rights and environmental activists joined leaders of Colombia's U'wa people in a march through Los Angeles on April 28 to protest Occidental Petroleum's (Oxy) planned drilling on the tribe's rainforest homeland. The demonstrators massed in front of the oil company's headquarters at Wilshire and Westwood Boulevard's with signs and giant banners demanding Oxy cancel its proposed project immediately. The U'wa, a traditional community of 5,000 indigenous people who live in the Colombian forests, have vowed to commit mass suicide if Occidental Petroleum drills on their sacred ancestral homeland.

Twenty of the demonstrators marched out onto Wilshire Boulevard chanting, "Oxy out of U'wa land." When they blocked traffic in front of the company's main entrance, all were arrested by the Los Angeles Police Department. Kelly

In Washington DC, the Colombian Ambassador to the US met with human rights and indigenous leaders, and U'wa leaders Berito Kuwaru'wa

when three Americans who were helping the U'wa set up educational programs were kidnapped and murdered (see *EF!* May-June 1999).



Los Angeles sees bright speeches and big banners.

and Roberto Perez came to Los Angeles to speak directly to Oxy at the company's annual shareholders meeting. Kuwaru'wa sang a traditional song in the U'wa language, describing petroleum as "the blood of the Earth." He then asked each individual shareholder to encourage the company to cancel the oil project planned for their ancestral territory. The U'wa's plea is particularly urgent as Occidental has applied for an environmental license from the Colombian government to drill its first well on land the U'wa hold sacred.

The U'wa live next to Oxy's existing Cano Limon oil project. The pipeline is a magnet for rebel, military and paramilitary activity. According to Oxy's figures it has been bombed 23 times in the past year and 500 times in its 12-year history. The bombings have spilled roughly 1.7-million barrels of crude oil into Colombia's rainforest and rivers. The U'wa are fearful that this violence and pollution will harm them and scar their traditional territory if the project goes forward. On March 4, the U'wa had a grim preview of things to come

Shareholders, led by the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters, sponsored a resolution at Oxy's annual meeting. A major victory was scored when 13 percent of Occidental Petroleum shareholders, totaling over 40,000,000 shares, voted in favor of carrying out an analysis of the risks associated with the oil project planned. Terence Frietas, the 24-year-old Los Angeles activist murdered in March, had coordinated the U'wa Defense Working Group and worked with the Dominican Sisters to draft the resolution.

Julie Frietas, Terence's mother, addressed the protesters at the march, imploring the gathered activists to remember the work of her son and support the U'wa in their campaign to stop the oil project on their lands. She stated, "We have a lot to learn from peace-loving people like the U'wa and must work to protect indigenous cultures." This vote shows that concern over the project slated for U'wa lands has gone beyond Colombia and activist circles to top influential shareholders. "The company can no longer afford to ignore the issue," explained Shannon Wright of RAN.

To provide context of the victory, Atossa Soltani, director of Amazon Watch commented, "Three percent of McDonald's shareholders voted in favor of eliminating styrofoam packaging, and the company took action. Also, some 10 percent of Sun Oil shareholders voted to have the company adopt the strict environmental guidelines for its operations, and today Sun has put in place such standards. I don't believe Oxy can go ahead with this project without upsetting its major shareholders—a foolhardy thing for a company to do."



Activists block traffic during the LA demo

Quirke of Rainforest Action Network (RAN) who was arrested commented, "If the U'wa are willing to kill themselves to stop Oxy's drilling, getting arrested is the least I can do to make sure it doesn't happen." On April 30, protests were held simultaneously in 10 US cities, as well as in Colombia, Peru and Canada.

## A Demand from the President of the Traditional U'wa Council

The following is an international communiqué from the association of traditional U'wa authorities, Kerachikara, sacred U'wa territory, Colombia—April 1999 by Roberto Perez Gutierrez, President of the Traditional U'wa Council. Roberto Afanador Cobaria Berito Kubaruwa, Official Delegate of the Traditional U'wa Authorities and Javier Vesga Florez, advisor to the Traditional U'wa Council

For thousands of years the U'wa people have lived in territories known today as the Departments of Casanare, Arauca, Boyaca, Santander and North of Santander, Colombia. This gives us the right to demand that the Colombian government and multinational oil corporations fully recognize and respect our territory, as well as all resources that belong to us, all of which are recognized as ours by the National Constitution and national and international laws. The U'wa people have consistently reiterated that we will not give up our ancient rights to the interests of the state and multinational companies. In Colombia we have exhausted all existing legal channels to solve the conflict between the U'wa and Occidental Petroleum. None of our efforts in Colombia have produced the necessary measures needed to respect the rights of the U'wa people. Because the Colombian government has not recognized our rights as a distinct people, we have been obliged to reach out to the national and international

community (governments, environmental and human rights organizations and indigenous peoples—all who work for life and peace). They have, without restraint, joined our cause. The lack of recognition and violation by the Colombian government and multinational corporations (i.e. Occidental) of the historical rights and heritage of the U'wa people forces us to demand the following:

- We reaffirm the demand of the U'wa people for the cancellation of oil activities in our ancestral territory.
- We express the urgent need for the recuperation of our land, to which we have a right, in order to guarantee life. The Colombian government should promise to enlarge the existing reserve and to respect our ancestral territories.
- We reaffirm that for the U'wa, our territory, natural resources and our people are not objects to be negotiated. They should be respected according to the laws of nature.  
Objectives:
  - Consolidate international solidarity in support of our just cause for territory, culture and oral history.
  - Demonstrate with concrete examples the destructive processes that oil activities such as Oxy's bring to our people and our environment.
  - Demonstrate that the model of development promoted by the U'wa people is an alternative for all humanity that will guarantee the life of this planet under the principles of sustainable development.

### "Honoring the Mother"

Around 700 people gathered at the Nevada Test Site from May 7-10 to celebrate Mother's Day and demand an end to radioactive poisoning.

May 10, 175 activists participated in a Western Shoshone occupation of the Test Site by entering the site, erecting a teepee and joining in a Sunrise Ceremony led by Corbin Harney. Lands for the Nevada Test Site were seized from the Shoshone in 1948, forcibly relocating 100 families. This was only the second time since 1947 that the Shoshone have been able to have morning prayer on this portion of the 1,250 square-mile site.

Another teepee was set up five miles inside the Test Site perimeter, high on a ridgetop overlooking Mercury, NV. A Sunrise Ceremony was celebrated by activists there. A third teepee was erected well inside the front entrance, visible to the thousands of arriving workers. Around one hundred people were at the front gate greeting workers and entertaining Test Site guards.

The arrestees were detained and released on site. They are unlikely to face prosecution, as the US government has avoided the issue of the treaty with the Shoshone for some time.

### Occupation in Thailand

More than 5,000 villagers occupied the Pak Mun Dam site in Thailand on March 23 to demand compensation from the Thai government and the Washington DC-based World Bank.

Eight groups of villagers affected by various development projects—including six dams—in Northern Thailand have united at Pak Mun to demand reparations from the Thai government. The villagers have set up a settlement near the dam.

In a statement released on March 23, the villagers said, "We, the people who have been affected by development projects, have chosen to seize Pak Mun Dam because this dam is the symbol of development, which has caused us serious social and environmental problems. We will fight until we have justice and the dam builders resolve our problems."

The Pak Mun villagers are demanding compensation of 15 rai (2.4 acres) of land for the 3,080 fishing families who have lost fisheries income because of the project.

The cost of this would amount to approximately \$45 million. If the Thai government and World Bank fail to respond, villagers are demanding that the dam gates be opened to allow fish to migrate upstream.

The 136 MW Pak Mun Dam, which was completed in 1994, was built by the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand with \$24 million in financing from the World Bank.

### Kyrgyzstan Rebellion

Local villagers in the Issyk-Kul region of Kyrgyzstan shut down the Kumtor gold mine from May 4-8 and prevented 55 trucks from entering the mine. Two trucks were destroyed in the battle between the protesters and local police. The residents were protesting against a local official named Bolotbek Kurmanbekov, who has been accused of embezzling money given to the community as compensation after a Kumtor truck with 20 tons of sodium cyanide crashed into the Barkoon River on May 20. At least four people died, about 2,600 people were poisoned and more than 1,000 were hospitalized.

# DEFEND COLORADO'S LYNX!

BY ARCTIC WOLF

*At some point we must draw a line across the ground of our home and our being, drive a spear into the land, and say to the bulldozers, earthmovers, government and corporations, "thus far and no farther."*

—EDWARD ABBEY

Last October, the US Forest Service (USFS) gave the go ahead for Vail Resorts/Vail Associates (VA) to rip a three-mile long road into the Two Elks Roadless Area in Colorado. VA plans to continue the destruction on July 1, *Decimation Day*. Over 4,100 acres of high alpine forests containing stands of old-growth spruce, aspens and the best lynx habitat in the Southern Rockies is in imminent danger of being destroyed by VA's corporate greed. Earth First!, Rocky Mountain Animal Defense, Ancient Forest Rescue and other grassroots activists will be there staring down the bulldozers, armed only with our steadfast belief in the protection of Mother Earth.

VA and the USFS repeatedly insisted to the press last October there were no lynx in Colorado and that protection of the Two Elks Category III (Cat III) expansion on behalf of the lynx was a moot point. Activists knew they were lying, and now an official report and memos released this spring by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) reveal the importance of the Vail expansion area to the imperiled lynx and the government's own internal campaign to ignore the existence of the species in Colorado. The report was the outcome of a conference between the USFWS and the Colorado Division of Wildlife required under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when a species proposed for listing might be affected by projects on public lands. The memos came to light in a search of USFWS files by the Boulder-based, Land and Water Fund of the Rockies.

The report states, "Only a few, isolated areas in

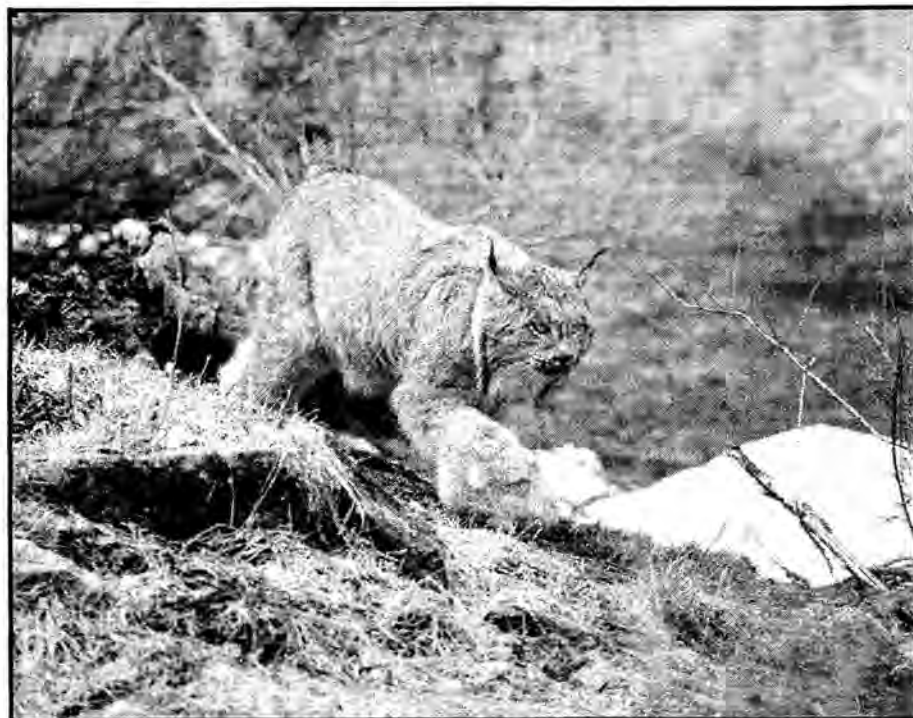
**"We can't let Vail make money off the destruction of our public national forests at the lynx's expense."**

Colorado demonstrate such historic lynx presence which has continued to the present day. At this point it seems biologically prudent to maintain the viability of these bowls rather than risk the permanent displacement of lynx from the area." VA biologists state in the report that there is "no question that lynx exist at the Vail Ski Area" and that the area provides "optimal lynx habitat." This report vindicates all who have been fighting to save the Two Elks on behalf of the lynx. More importantly, the report highlights the need for activists to act now to preserve this ecologically important habitat.

Even more alarming, the report states, "the Service also finds that the Cat III project, as proposed, is likely to adversely affect the lynx and may contribute to the ultimate extirpation [i.e. extinction] and diminish the potential for recovery of the lynx in the Southern Rockies ecosystem." The USFWS determined in the report that lynx can only cross Interstate 70 through underpasses west of Vail. Loss of this vital corridor due to the Vail expansion would leave two isolated nonviable lynx populations.

This further imperilment of the endangered lynx and its ecosystem is doubly objectionable as the destruction is on public land, unknowingly subsidized by the American public. For every \$1 made by VA, the USFS receives less than two cents. In 1997 VA made \$291 million from ski operations on public lands. VA will exterminate the lynx from the Southern Rockies ecosystem to increase its profits unless we do something about it.

Top biologists at USFWS's Colorado office say



Victim of politics. This lynx was kidnapped from Canada for speedy reintroduction.

superiors discouraged them from stopping projects that jeopardize lynx habitat. Biologist Gary Patton, who has studied lynx intensively said, "That was pretty much the gist of what we were told. Basically, it wasn't stated as an order, per se, but it was stated as, they're not likely to go along with any jeopardy calls that we make."

The memo reveals the trend by USFWS to impede endangered species investigations throughout the country as highlighted in a December 1997 report by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, which documented the USFWS' systematic sabotage of endangered species protection in the US.

In a January memo, Patton and Lee Carlson, the Colorado USFWS field supervisor (its highest official in the state) claimed officials in the agency's regional office ordered that lynx habitat not be classified as being in jeopardy "under any circumstances." A March memo stated reasons why lynx habitat should be preserved, including how the failure to act quickly to protect other threatened species like the black-footed ferret had "brought us perilously close to loss of the species and resulted in unnecessary losses of important habitat recovery potential."

The memos were drafted when USFWS analyzed the Cat III proposal and when regional USFWS director Ralph Morganweck failed to declare that the project jeopardizes lynx habitat. Patton is among those biologists who still believed lynx live in Colorado's backcountry and views the fragmentation of their habitat by development as a threat to their survival.

The USFWS report further indicates that VA now owns the 6,000-acre Gilman property adjacent to Cat III. For years, VA denied it had plans to purchase and develop this property. But the report revealed that Vail plans to build million-dollar ski in/ski out homes on land seven miles from the present ski area but only one mile from the Cat III expansion area and that the cumulative effects of the development of Cat III and Gilman may lead to the permanent loss of the Vail area as a functional lynx habitat. This means that Vail's expansion will actually destroy approximately 10,000 acres of undisturbed wilderness.

These revelations come one year after US District Judge Gladys Kessler severely chastised the USFWS for moving too slowly to protect the lynx in the 48 contiguous states. Kessler hinted in an unusual ruling that she would step in to protect the lynx unless the agency initiated ESA protection. It now appears the USFWS hopes to delay the court-ordered ESA lynx listing from 30 days to six months allowing habitat destruction to take place in Colorado and elsewhere before the lynx can benefit from federal statutory protection. We can't let Vail make money off the destruction of our public national forests at the lynx's expense.

Last summer, Martha Kettle, district supervisor for the White River National Forest, promised that destruction of the Two Elks Roadless Area would not begin until USFWS had completed its conferencing opinion on the effects of the expansion. She lied. Last

fall, months before the report was issued, VA was permitted to build a three-mile long, 30-foot-wide road into the Cat III area. But the majority of old-growth forests and optimal lynx habitat remains untouched. *We must act now to protect this crucial, pristine area from corporate-terrorist devastation!* We invite the world to join us on July 1, in the spirit of Edward Abbey, Julia Butterfly Hill and Martin Luther King, to stand before the destroyers and say "thus far and no farther!"

*Join us in the White River National Forest, from June 29-July 5 to kick off an escalated resistance to VA plans to fragment 4,300-acres of the Two Elks Roadless Area. The old-growth forests and high-alpine ecosystem within the target zone are home to 72 mammal, 202 bird and five amphibian nations. These animals and their homelands are counting on you. Contact the Coalition to Stop Vail Expansion at (303) 545-6203; [www.stopvail.net](http://www.stopvail.net)*

## LYNX SIGHTED IN COLORADO!

Lynx are living in Rocky Mountain National Park according to Park Service Ranger, Jim Detterline, who saw one of the elusive cats last December. It is the first credible lynx sighting in more than a quarter century. State and federal officials have received numerous reports of lynx sightings in Colorado in recent years, but they were discounted as having been made by people without the training to distinguish a lynx from a bobcat.

Detterline, a ranger in Rocky Mountain National Park's back country since 1984, saw the lynx at close range. "I'm 100 percent certain it was a lynx, unless someone painted up a bobcat and put steroids in its legs," said Detterline, who has a doctorate in biology from Memphis University in Tennessee. The last confirmed lynx sighting in Colorado was near Vail in 1973. Many biologists have long believed the animal still lives in the remote back country of Colorado. "It proves what we've been saying all along—that the lynx are out there and that they can survive in Colorado if the necessary steps are taken to protect their habitat," said Ted Zukoski of the Boulder-based Land and Water Fund of the Rockies.

Detterline said he saw the lynx late in the day as he was coming back from closing off roads during a snowstorm. The lynx ran across the road in front of his car and Detterline shined a light into the trees where the lynx had darted. "It was only about 10 yards away at the side of the road so I got a very good look at it. For some reason, it didn't spook, it just stood there and looked at me... It had very large hind legs, kind of like a jacked-up bobcat, and it had very large feet." Detterline said he watched the cat for about a minute before it ran off. But it stopped briefly, giving Detterline a chance to see the distinctive, black-tipped tail. "Then it disappeared," he said.

—EXCERPTED FROM ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS



Graphic courtesy: WOLF Forest Protection Movement

# Katuah Earth First! Cashes in Willamette's Chips

BY JOHN JOHNSON AND RICH SPENCER

On the morning of May 24, activists from Katuah Earth First! and EarthCulture laid siege to Willamette Industries' Broad River chip mill in Union Mills, North Carolina. As the sun lit up the early morning sky activists deployed five stumps fitted with super-strong lock boxes. In minutes the front gate was blocked and over 50 passionate forest defenders

The construction of the North Carolina mill was particularly controversial because of overwhelming opposition in Rutherford County and throughout the state. It was opened in August and it, along with a new chip mill in Missouri, will feed chips to an expanded Willamette paper mill in Hawesville, KY, which makes 100 percent virgin-fiber cardboard. Both of these chip mills use only hardwood trees. The Pisgah, Nantahala, Cherokee and Sumter National Forests lie within the sourcing area for Union Mills.

The state of Kentucky sacrificed the forests of North Carolina and Missouri by offering Willamette some generous corporate welfare to help finance the mill expansion. Willamette only had to agree to not cut more forests in Kentucky to receive tax breaks and bonds from the state.

"Willamette is clearcutting our national forests and old family land in the Southeast, but they're not giving communities anything in return except for stumps," says Katuah Earth First!'s Cilantro Jones, who blockaded the gate. Willamette Industries causes problems wherever it goes. They have been guilty of trashing old-growth forests in the Northwest and polluting communities from Arkansas to Pennsylvania. In addition to rampant clear cutting on the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania, Willamette has destroyed the area around their Kane, PA, chip mill.

This year in North Carolina the shutdown lasted for over six hours. The Rutherford County authorities were very aggressive and had apparently been told to expect this sort of action. They cleared away the surrounding protesters from the blockade and forced them across the street into a ditch. The police also harassed

and ticketed local folks who drove by, honked, waved and gave us water. They started bragging that they would break the blockade in 15-20 minutes. Four hours later they still had mauls and axes stuck in our spiked stumps, and they had to call in the jaws of life. The cops finally split the stumps around the lock boxes but still had four locked together people to deal with. Brave blockaders were hauled off in a furniture truck still fastened together.

After the blockade was taken down, the law focused on the people on the crane. They were 70-feet up on the boom of the log crane, completely immobilizing it. The fire department and some sort of jack-booted "men in black" squad had to be called in to use a fire truck ladder to get the climbers and banner anchors down.

The men in black also managed to nab one of our backwoods crane support folks, bringing the arrest total to 10. Those arrested were charged with criminal trespass and resisting arrest and face heavy fines.

Willamette will still have to face opposition to their forest destroying activities in the Southern Appalachians and across the country. Katuah EF! and EarthCulture will hold these corporate carpetbaggers accountable for their Earth-raping business. We will draw strength and inspiration from the mountains, rivers and forests to carry the struggle for the Earth forward! For more information on the campaign and efforts to protect the beautiful Southern Appalachian bioregion, please contact Katuah EF!, POB 1485, Asheville, NC 28802; (828) 285-0631.



Photo by Gil Mark

It's Willammit, Dammit!—Katuah EF! blockades Broad River mill

arrived to sing and chant and demand an end to the chipping of the Southeast's precious native forests. At the same time another team of activists scaled the facility's log crane and deployed a 25 square-foot banner that read, "Willamette Destroys Our Jobs, Forests and Rivers." Katuah Earth First! and EarthCulture have been warning Willamette for years that actions would take place if the corporation would not increase its use of recycled materials, stop clear cutting and stop logging our national forests.

There has been a dramatic shift in the wood products industry from the Pacific Northwest to the Southeast over the past 10-15 years. Since 1985, 108 of the 140 chip mills in operation in the southeast have opened. Willamette's Union Mills employs six people and devours 8-10,000 acres of native hardwood forests a year, yielding 300,000 tons of chips. The Oregon-based Willamette's new Southeastern headquarters is now in Fort Mill, SC, which was the target of a protest last October.

## Feds to Study Southeast Chip Monster

Environmental groups hailed an announcement on April 27 that four federal agencies will conduct a comprehensive ecosystem health assessment of the increasingly threatened forests in 13 southeastern US states. Despite hearty praise for the officials undertaking the crucial investigation, the groups say lack of a moratorium against new, high-capacity chip mills while the two-year study is carried out means the greatest menace to the region's resources remains unchecked.

Officially targeted towards "ecosystem sustainability," the new study was prompted in large part by public outrage over the drastic increase in intensive logging driven by the rapid proliferation of chip mills—highly automated facilities that grind trees into small flakes used in paper, pressboard and rayon. In just 10 years, the number of chip mills in the region has more than tripled to at least 150, each devouring an average of 10,000 acres of forest a year. Combined, they consumed more than a million acres of trees in 1998.

"If chip mill construction con-

tinues at the current pace, any practical results of this two-year study could be moot," says Danna Smith, executive director of the Dogwood Alliance. "We think caution should rule when an entire region's forested ecosystem is at stake, especially in the Southeast, where there are few environmental safeguards in place."

Last July, a group of 100 scientists, headed by Harvard University ecologist Edward O. Wilson issued a similar call to the Vice President to support a study of the forests of the Southeast.

The 13 states covered by the study include Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. The agencies involved are the Forest Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

For More information contact the Dogwood Alliance at POB 1598, Brevard, NC 28712; (828) 883-5889; into@dogwoodalliance; www.dogwoodalliance.

## Wolves & Poodles

A glossy, yuppified poodle with a millenarian cult obsession to *Gear* magazine and intrepid "investigative" reporter Peter Klebnikov for their article on Ted Kaczynski and his "followers." Petey "uncovered" a "dangerous cult" of environmentalists, Native Americans and anarchists who are critical of technology and environmental destruction and tried to portray them as Unabomber worshippers. Well, hope that doesn't scare the socially conscious clientele that undoubtedly reads *Gear*.

A greenwashed, freshly clearcut poodle to Home Depot for its Earth Day tree-planting gimmicks designed to foster environmental appreciation in kids. In response, Rainforest Action Network's Michael Brune said, "The kids would learn a lot more about the need for forest conservation by taking a tour of the dead rainforests for sale on Home Depot's shelves than by planting a seedling in the parking lot."

A poodle covered in soot and grime to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) for appointing a coal industry stooge to regulate the coal industry. Ron Kolbash, who worked for American Electric Power and Ohio Mining and Reclamation, was appointed as Deputy Director of the ODNR, overseeing the Division of Mines and Reclamation. Talk about the fox guarding the hen house.

A glowing, cancer-stricken poodle looking out for its own radioactive ass to NBC for censoring all references to radioactive waste in its made-for-TV movie



"Atomic Train." The movie, about a train carrying radioactive waste and a nuclear bomb that detonates and destroys Denver, will now feature a train carrying "hazardous" waste. Hmm, this couldn't possibly have anything to do with NBC's parent company, General Electric, who is one of the biggest players in the nuclear industry, now could it?

A goosestepping, neocolonial poodle to our brand new Treasury Secretary Lawrence "Larry" Summers. Back when he was the Chief Economist of the World Bank, a memo attributed to him was circulated, saying, "Just between you and me, shouldn't the World Bank be encouraging more migration of the dirty industries to the LDC's (least developed countries)... I think the economic logic behind dumping a load of toxic waste in the lowest wage country is impeccable and we should face up to that... I've always thought that underpopulated countries in Africa are vastly underpolluted." Summers later apologized for the statement, saying it was just a "thought experiment." Hmmm. We thought it was called neoliberalism.

An old-growth wolf with journalistic integrity to Italian National Television (RAI) for broadcasting a live interview with Humboldt County treesitter Nate Madsen. RAI visited Nate in the ancient redwood he is occupying in order to protest watershed destruction and clearcutting in northern California by Maxxam. The station then asked viewers to write or call in and subsequently received over 7,600 responses from concerned Italian citizens. Magnifico!

A neo-luddite, Hollywood wolf to the makers of the flick "The Matrix." Despite starring Keanu Reeves, this overblown blockbuster actually has some pretty anti-technological and subversive themes, leading us to wonder how it got past the censors. We can only hope that some of its message penetrated the thick skulls of the MTV generation.



# "all cattle must be removed at once"

Boldly declaring that "all cattle must be removed at once," the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently issued a livestock impoundment notice to remove cattle from the entire 45,000-acre San Pedro River Riparian National Conservation Area (RCA), in Cochise County, Arizona. In 1988, Congress created the San Pedro RCA, prohibiting grazing, mining, water diversion and offroad vehicles; but trespass cattle have been preventing full riparian recovery.

In 1996, the US Fish and Wildlife

Service directed the BLM to execute the impoundment process to protect endangered species such as the southwestern willow flycatcher. "The BLM has done the right thing, finally, to start to remove these illegal cows from the San Pedro. Livestock impoundments are not common or easy for BLM and this sends a clear message to ranchers to keep their cows off the San Pedro national riparian treasure," acknowledges Daniel Patterson, desert ecologist with the Southwest Center for Biodiversity

who formerly worked with BLM.

The Southwest Center has pushed for upholding the law and backs the BLM on the livestock impoundment notice. Ranchers in violation will be responsible for all trespass and administrative fees associated with impoundment and may have all livestock found in the RCA impounded without further notice within the next year. Most grazing adjacent to the RCA is on Arizona state trust public lands, administered by the Arizona State Land Department.

The San Pedro River supports hundreds of bird, mammal, reptile and plant species. The river continues to be threatened by groundwater pumping for agriculture, development, the US Army Ft. Huachuca expansion around Sierra Vista, the Cananea copper mine in Sonora, Mexico, and grazing and water diversions outside the RCA.

For more information contact Southwest Center for Biological Diversity at POB 710, Tucson, AZ 85702-0710; (520) 623-5252.

## Hippies, Anarchists and Florida Sunshine

BY GROMET

The first Florida celebration of radical history and direct action was held to commemorate Mayday/Beltane from April 30 to May 2 in the Ocala National Forest. Around 80 people hiked into the Juniper Prairie Wilderness Area to camp, attend workshops and trainings, while celebrating two of our most repressed holidays.

In the 1880s, May Day was the day that the General Strike for the eight hour workday in America began. At the heart of the movement, the Chicago Commercial Club bought the Illinois National Guard a machine gun to be used on strikers. That gun killed four strikers and led to a mass meeting of anarchists in Haymarket Square. At the end of the meeting the police showed up and a bomb was thrown, killing one cop and injuring others. The police then rounded up Chicago's eight most active anarchists and found them guilty of the bombing even though most of them were not. Four of the anarchists were hung and the rest sent to prison. It's no surprise that our government then officially named May 1 "Law Day" and created another "Labor Day" with no historical significance.

Beltane, the festival of spring and fertility, was also discouraged in America. This tradition dates back to the Druids and involves courting rituals like serenading, dancing with flowers and singing sweet songs. The Puritans banned its celebration in the New World, church and state working hand in hand to help us forget true history.

Because of its red and green context, we celebrated it that way with workshops on labor history and Earth First! direct action training. Unfortunately,

many of the Florida wobblers (even the ones who confirmed their workshops) did not show up. I was told that this was because of the dual focus. There were, however, some wobblers present who obviously saw the importance of labor and environmentalist movements developing close ties. So, we did have workshops on hobo history, practical anarchism and activists' common ground. The green side included trainings in nonviolence, climbing, blockading, food choices (beyond veganism), Zero Cut, forest watch, do-it-yourself gynecology and a men's and women's circle.

The weekend began with a gathering at 7:00 p.m. and then some music. Saturday was packed with trainings, a performance by Holly Gwinn Graham, a Florida Radical Activist Network meeting, a crazy celebration with Florida home-brew, and music by Against Me!, Je-free and Emilio and Lars. The evening also included a sing-along from the *Little Red Book*, *Little Green Book*, favorites by Casey Neill and Skid Row, a performance by some Radical Cheerleaders and lots of dancing around the Mayday Lantern (no fires because of the drought). Hence, Sunday's workshops started a little later than planned and were followed by a hike to a clearcut and a spring for a swim. The weekend finished with a intimate dinner and campaign briefing.

Plans are already in the works for next year in the Ocala, with more workshops on radical history, sustainability, info-centers, free schools and intentional communities. There will be a Mayday 2000 planing meeting in September in Clearwater, Florida. For more information contact the Green Monkey Collective, POB 17838, Clearwater, FL 33762; clearwaterfnc@hotmail.com.



Photo by Jan Turz/Headwaters Action Video Collective

Julia "Butterfly" Hill, Bonnie Raitt and Joan Baez

Photo taken in Luna, the giant redwood tree Julia has occupied for the past 18 months. Musicians Bonnie Raitt and Joan Baez visited the trees to present Julia with a 1999 California Music Award trophy Ms. Raitt had received. The women commended Julia on her commitment to preserving the world's ancient forests. "Things of real value in life are worth going to any length in love and respect to safeguard," said Butterfly.

## BURNS VS. BEARS—POLITICS AND THE GRIZZLY

BY BOB CLARK

In the Northern Rockies, politicians are dictating whether grizzly bears get to live or die. The grizzly has lost 98 percent of its original range in the lower 48 states. It has been hunted, trapped, poisoned and pushed out. Of a population that once numbered some 100,000, only about 800 bears remain. Back in 1975, when the grizzly was listed as an endangered species, the magic number for recovery and delisting was 2,000 bears.

Today, even with the Forest Service roadbuilding moratorium in place, the

bear is losing habitat every day. Not to worry though—government bureaucrats and big game trophy hunting slob, as well as top agency officials, say that the grizzly bear is doing just fine and that delisting is just around the corner.

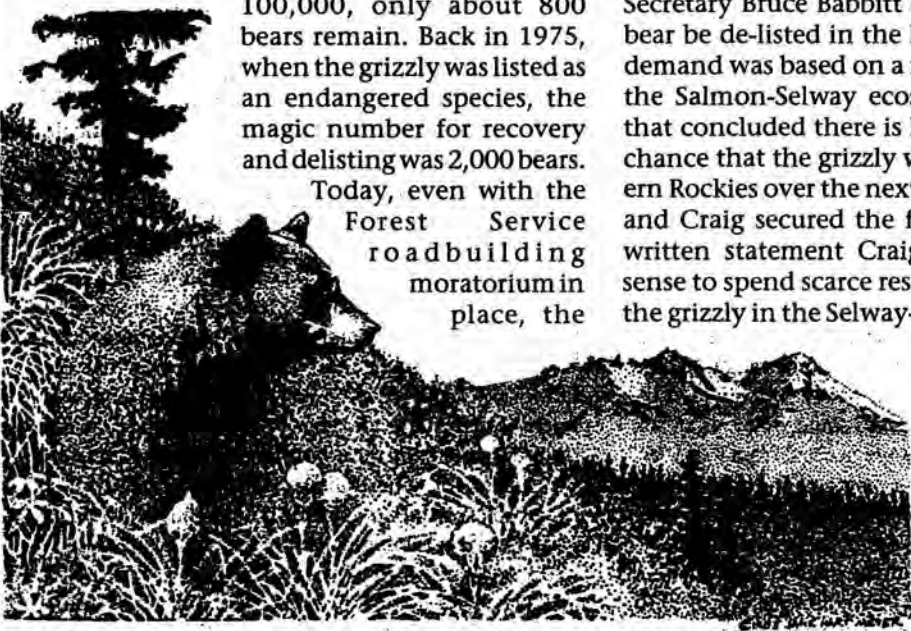
In March, three undistinguished Senators from the Northern Rockies, Conrad Burns (R-MT), Larry Craig (R-ID) and Mike Crapo (R-WY) sent a letter to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt demanding that the grizzly bear be de-listed in the lower 48 states. This idiotic demand was based on a report of habitat viability in the Salmon-Selway ecosystem by Dr. Mark Boyce that concluded there is less than a one in a million chance that the grizzly will go extinct in the Northern Rockies over the next 100 years. Of course, Burns and Craig secured the funding for the study. In a written statement Craig stated, "It doesn't make sense to spend scarce resources on reintroduction of the grizzly in the Selway-Bitterroot when the money

can be better spent on the recovery of other species." As if he really cares about any species other than Republican *Homo sapiens*. This "study" is based on lots of assumptions and has been heavily criticized by respected grizzly bear experts. As might be ex-

pected, agency officials are touting the political line, saying, "The grizzly is very close to full recovery, and delisting will soon follow."

Meanwhile, the government is moving along with grizzly reintroduction into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The final Environmental Impact Statement is due out at the end of June. Most conservationists feel that the US Fish and Wildlife Service will stick with the government's preferred alternative, called the ROOTS alternative or alternative #1. This lame plan was hashed out by agency officials, timber industry representatives and sellout environmental groups like Defenders of Wildlife and the National Wildlife Federation. The ROOTS alternative assigns transplanted bears experimental, nonessential status under the Endangered Species Act and creates a citizen steering committee whose members would be appointed by the governors of Montana and Idaho (imagine the make-up of that). Worst of all ROOTS releases most of the best grizzly bear habitat, the large roadless areas like the Great Burn, Mallard-Larkins and Meadow Creek to logging. Conservationists and other citizens concerned with the future of the grizzly will surely challenge the implementation of the preferred alternative and hopefully stop it.

Please write your state officials and demand they intervene on behalf of the Grizzly Bear. Pressure them to take a strong stand against the delisting of this large carnivore and encourage conservation efforts for critical habitat.



## Hoosier "House Log" Boondoggle

BY FRANK AMBROSE AND JOSHUA MARTIN

On Valentine's Day, 1999, Indiana Forest Alliance members were touring the Hoosier National Forest inspecting clearcuts. While looking at these wastelands, feelings of sincere love welled up in our hearts for the de-Forest Service. When we came upon several recently cut trees lying in an old log yard, however, this perplexed us, as there were no active timber sales known to anyone within a three-hour drive. Upon further inspection, we discovered several more trees that had been cut but not yet hauled out of the woods—and many more standing that had been marked for death.

The next "work day," we asked Forest Service personnel for an explanation of what was going on. Our calls were met with panic and confusion. The responses started with "Oh my gosh, this could be timber trespass," and ended with, "don't worry, this is a house log sale" carried out under the "Miscellaneous Forest Products Decision" that allows for the sale of up to 200 trees without public notice, much like a firewood permit.

When the confusion died down, it was found out that this "house log" sale and another larger one were illegal, according to a Circuit Court ruling several months prior to the sale that required the Forest Service to do an Environmental Assessment. After three days of angry letters and nasty phone calls, the Forest Service decided that it was in the wrong and canceled the sale. Well, sort of. In the three days it took to cancel the sale, all but two trees had been cut down, and operators were allowed to remove all the cut trees. Apparently, dragging trees across a sensitive stream zone was not something they needed to formally assess the impact of.

When the violations were made public, the Forest Service told the press they "goofed" and thanked the Indiana Forest Alliance for reporting the sale to them—as if they did not know it was occurring. The discovery of this sale caused us to re-evaluate our perception of what was happening in the Hoosier. Until that fateful day, we thought we only had one lingering Salvage Rider sale to worry about. We immediately fired off a series of Freedom of Information Act requests to determine how many more sales had occurred in secret.

The documents we received showed that at least eight "house log" sales were made in secret over the past five years. Not a single person knew of these sales, aside from the Forest Service and loggers. While it may be argued that these sales were small in terms of trees sold, they are very damaging to the public's trust of the agency. Now all projects in the Hoosier, even benign trail adjustments, are to be viewed with severe skepticism. The Forest Service's conduct in Indiana forests makes a strong case against commercial extraction for private gain from public lands. Forest monitors across the country should request documentation for all "house log" sales. You may be surprised, as we were, to find out that more logging is occurring than is advertised.

The Indiana Forest Alliance can be reached at POB 1074, Bloomington, IN 47402; (812) 332-4878.

# THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DRIVES SOUTH

BY AME SOLOMON

The Department of Energy (DOE) wants the Southwest to become a nuclear sacrifice zone. Nuclear waste shipments began on March 25 from Los Alamos National Lab through Santa Fe, NM, and to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in southern New Mexico.

Hundreds of protesters have mourned the desecration of Mother Earth by the DOE. The agency has been holding hearings on WIPP for almost 20 years and promised not to dispose of any waste at WIPP before a state Hazardous Waste Permit was issued. The hearing on the permit was not even complete when DOE began shipping waste.

There are some 38,000 shipments of deadly radioactive waste planned for the next 35 years through 22 states and 14 Native American reservations. Radioactive waste may be passing through your community in giant TRUPACT-II containers on the back of semi-trucks. The transportation of nuclear materials and waste presents many problems, including accidents, emergency response and clean-up of the contamination.

The first shipment of nuclear waste from the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Lab arrived at WIPP on April 28. The DOE recently announced that it has 79 shipments ready to move from the Rocky Flats Plant near Denver, perhaps as early as June. Over 35,000 shipments will travel through the Denver area on I-25 from Idaho and



Washington. Thirty-five thousand shipments divided by 35 years of shipping means 1,000 shipments a year, or two to three shipments a day through Denver. Shipments are also expected from Hanford (16,844), Savannah River (2,238), Livermore (162), Oak Ridge (1,884) and the Nevada Test Site (92).

WIPP is a DOE facility designed to dispose of existing and future nuclear weapons waste. WIPP is located 2,150 feet below the surface in saltbeds near Carlsbad, NM. WIPP is supposed to dispose of the nuclear waste "safely," encasing the metal drums of radioactive waste for 240,000 years. In their own words, the waste is "irretrievable."

The DOE has predicted that a highway accident will happen at some point during the next 35 years. Most communities are truly unprepared for a nuclear waste spill. It is also highly likely that, in time, the radiation will seep out of the WIPP site and contaminate precious aquifers and rivers, including the Pecos

and Rio Grande. The entire Southwest is at risk.

WIPP is a promise to the weapons industry to clear out its closet and continue bomb production. Alternatively, waste intended for WIPP should be isolated from the environment at sites of generation in monitored retrievable storage (MRS) containment. If these wastes begin to leak, they can be repackaged. The MRS option allows time for a national dialogue to develop scientifically credible, publicly acceptable nuclear waste policies.

For more information contact the Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety at 107 Cienega St., Santa Fe, NM 87501 (505) 986-1973; 986-0997 (fax); www.nuclearactive.org.

The revised draft permit and the technical support document may be viewed at [www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wipp/](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wipp/). Comments on the permit may still be directed to Peter Maggiore, Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department, POB 26110, Santa Fe, NM 87502-6110; (505) 827-2855; 827-2836 (fax); peter\_maggiore@nmenv.state.nm.us. Contact Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson at 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20585; (202) 586-6210; 586-4403 (fax); bill.richardson@hq.doe.gov.

Action is needed now to stop this insanity! As legal action continues ongoing nonviolence trainings are happening in New Mexico. Contact New Mexico Direct Action at (505) 984-8321.

## WHY TO REFUTE PELICAN BUTTE

BY WENDELL WOOD

A development corporation's hopes of constructing what would be the second largest ski resort in Oregon recently plunged downhill after three roadless area timber sales at Pelican Butte were withdrawn. Attorneys for the US Forest Service claimed the sales were "not legally defensible" after a lawsuit was filed by the Oregon Natural Resources Council (ONRC) and 13 other national, regional and state environmental organizations. The defeat of the timber sales does not mean, however, that the Winema National Forest and its Jeld-Wen Corporation partners are ready to throw in the towel.

Scenic Pelican Butte, adjacent to Southern Oregon's Sky Lakes Wilderness Area and Crater Lake National Park, is still the preferred site for the ski resort. But heavy doubts were cast on the plans after the Department of Interior (DOI) released an 84-page letter highly critical of the proposed development. The letter concluded there were mistakes, omissions and misleading information contained in the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), prompting the Environmental Protection Agency to express similar objections.

The DOI quickly called for a rewrite of the DEIS, saying it would take the fight to the White House Council for Environmental Quality if necessary. Clearly, the government's refusal to argue its case on the timber sale further bolsters conservationists' insistence that the ski resort plans are not legally defensible either. Following the judgment and after a strong public outcry where thousands of responses in support of a "no action" alternative were received, the Pelican Butte Ski Development Corporation hired former Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas as a consultant to guide them past the hurdles.

The development would be in clear violation of the Northwest Forest Plan. It would clearcut in an old-growth forest reserve and allow roadbuilding and ski run construction in the roadless portion of a designated "key watershed" already set aside as critical habitat for the northern spotted owl. Unfortunately, Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber gave his "qualified" support for a ski resort

on Pelican Butte. The governor said he supports the development of the downhill ski area if various environmental concerns can be met. Trying to be all things to all people, the governor wrote, "The people of Oregon can be expected to hold this ski area to an unusually high standard for natural resource protections, and they would be right to do so."

But the proposed development would set an incredibly negative precedent regionwide. A 2,000-car parking lot in a designated bald eagle nesting area would disrupt nests and winter roosts that support up to 100 eagles. Impacts would be magnified by secondary developments such as roads, utilities, restaurants, condominiums and other housing. It would also impact a total of 34 threatened, endangered, sensitive or indicator wildlife species. Water resources that support pelicans, waterfowl and other wildlife on the adjacent Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge would be diverted for domestic use and artificial snow. The development could also potentially impact significant archaeological sites such as rock cairns and prayer seats. According to the DEIS, Pelican Butte has been identified as an active location for Native American spiritual activities.

Groups now opposing this ski resort development need your help to support the retention of Pelican Butte's undeveloped, natural character. For more information contact the ONRC at 1161 Lincoln St, Eugene, OR 97401; www.onrc.org.



Lava flow near the top of Pelican Butte

Photo by Shannon Wilson

## BARE BONES

### Mexican Community to be Vacuumed for Lead Dust

The northwestern city of Torreon, in the Mexican state of Coahuila, will get a high-tech vacuum cleaning from one of the world's largest silver producing companies, Industrias Penoles. The clean-up was ordered by the Coahuila state government after the company's toxic waste was linked to lead poisoning in children. Industrias Penoles has been ordered to set up a \$6.4 million health-care fund to treat victims and relocate people living near their slag heap. It must plant trees and scour the city with high-tech vacuum cleaners to decontaminate homes of the toxic slag-tainted dust.

Bismuth, gold, lead and silver are refined at the Penoles plant and the waste product, known as "slag," has been dumped in a pile that now towers over the Luis Echeverria neighborhood. Torreon has a population of 507,800 located some 500 miles northwest of Mexico City. According to state officials, of the 2,281 children and pregnant women tested in Torreon, 1,166 had more than the acceptable level of 25 micrograms of lead per deciliter. People living near the slag pile have been found with more than 60 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood.

The neighborhood began its battle against Penoles in 1984 after a study by the Autonomous University of Coahuila discovered the high levels of lead in children's blood.

### Celestial Seasonings Poisons Prairie Dogs

"Here in Boulder, there's a company committed to truth, beauty and goodness. Welcome to Celestial Seasonings," says a smooth voice on the tea company's telephone system. Celestial Seasonings has cultivated a pro-environment image since its founding more than 25 years ago. But early in April, contractors killed dozens of black-tailed prairie dogs on the company's Gunbarrel property. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is considering a petition to list the black-tailed prairie dog as a threatened species.

In Colorado it is legal to poison or shoot prairie dogs for causing property damage. Prairie dog "control" has proved controversial in Boulder County, with pro-prairie dog activists turning up whenever they hear about plans to poison colonies. In March 1998, two women were arrested for trespassing as they tried to stop the poisoning of prairie dogs on a 34-acre lot.

At Celestial Seasonings, contractors did their work at night, after dark. Workers didn't kill the entire prairie dog population on the property. "There are dogs being walked on our property during the day. We don't want to put any neighbors or their pets at risk," explained Steve Hughes, CEO and president of Celestial Seasonings. It was reported that someone passing the property after dark saw a man wearing a backpack sticking a hose into prairie dog holes and shoveling dirt over the entrances.

Celestial Seasonings is the largest herbal and specialty tea manufacturer in the nation. You can contact Mo Seigel, Chairman, Celestial Seasonings, 4600 Sleepytime Drive, Boulder, CO 80301.

# Lakota Sioux Resist Hog Farm

BY ROD CORONADO

On the plains of South Dakota, in the homelands of the Sicangu Lakota, a coalition of Rosebud Sioux tribal members, environmentalists, local ranchers and animal rights activists are fighting against what would be the third-largest hog operation in the world. The \$105-million factory farm four miles west of White River, operated by Sun Prairie, a Nebraska-based pork company, would produce 859,000 hogs a year and generate more than three times the amount of raw sewage produced by South Dakota's entire human population. On March 18, community activists from the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Sinte Gleska Tribal College and Lakota drummers rallied outside the office of Senator Tom Daschle in Rapid City. They demanded that the construction be subject to the same environmental impact studies that would be required on non-tribal lands.

In August, the Department of the Interior (DOI) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) deemed the project would have "no significant impact" on the physical or human environment. The 1,200-acre hog farm overlaps the Corn Creek Management Area, home to one of the country's largest concentrations of black-tailed prairie dogs. The area is also home to pronghorn antelope, whitetail deer, badger, bobcat, trumpeter swans, and bald and golden eagles. Without an environmental assessment, the project will violate the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

In addition, the farm would directly impact the cultural integrity of ancient Lakota burial and camp sites and trails that Chiefs Sitting Bull, Hump and Spotted Tail and their people regularly used. "My grandmother, Alice Olive Larvie Wooden Knife, was born on that trail and we have always considered it to be sacred," said Oleta Mednansky, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and co-chair of Concerned Rosebud Area Citizens (CRAC). "This project was approved so hurriedly that our people never got a chance to express their views." An overwhelming majority of tribal members are opposed to the project and many of the affected communities were excluded from the public comment process, a violation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Local BIA authorities also denied tribal members their process to appeal the Finding of No Significant Impact.

Construction of the farm began last September. When completed, each of the 13 sites will consist of 24 intensive confinement hog barns housing 48,000 pigs each. As of April, structural work on feed barns was proceeding at a high pace and "site one" already had approximately 12,000 pigs.

Last November, a lawsuit was filed by mane Farming Prairie Hills and South Dakota Peace and Justice Center against the DOI and BIA asserting that the agency approved the project without the required environmental studies. Opponents fear contamination of their aquifer and air

pollution caused by ammonia and methane gas rising from the hog waste pumped into ponds. By locating the hog farm on tribal lands beyond state jurisdiction, Sun Prairie (which is owned by Bell Farms of North Dakota) is circumventing a successful 1998 state initiative that prohibited new corporate farming operations in South Dakota. Mednansky says, "Our land will be destroyed. Our air will be polluted. Our way of life will be ruined. Economic development is something we need but not the kind that will destroy our land, air, water, wildlife and historical artifacts."

The day after the Justice Department filed a brief arguing that the hog farm was in compliance with environmental and historic preservation laws, the BIA reversed its position and voided the hog farm's lease due to what it perceived were NEPA violations. A BIA spokesperson lamented, "This is a case where we just can't win. We're always interested in creating jobs, such as in Rosebud. We're not interested in damaging the environment." Since the reversal the BIA in turn became the target of a lawsuit filed by Bell Farms and the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council, who, desperate for economic development, voted 16 to 2 in favor of the project. In March, US District Judge Charles Kornmann ruled in favor of the farm, allowing construction to continue despite the lack of an EIS. "What the BIA is attempting to do here causes the Court to recall promises (of tribal sovereignty) made years ago by the same federal agency to Native Americans," Kornmann said.

The Rosebud Reservation is one of the poorest in the nation with an 85 percent unemployment rate. It appears that the federal government is exploiting this fact, supporting tribal sovereignty only when it serves to benefit corporate interests—in this case by locating an environmentally hazardous operation unwanted in other communities on tribal lands. Kornmann also granted an injunction against hog farm opponents prohibiting "...any action which would have the purpose or consequences of interfering or attempting to interfere with the (hog farm) construction." Gail Eisnitz of HFA stated, "This ruling would have us believe that the Court is less concerned with impacts to area residents and the environment than it is with financial harm to the agribusiness corporation which has secured huge loans for the project. Nor has anyone yet examined the impact that such practices and the resulting high animal mortality rates could have on a community whose cultural and spiritual values are so inextricably linked to respect for all forms of life."

Despite the injunction, activists gathered for a rally on March 20 on the property line of the construction site. Local, state and federal police kept a close eye on the protesters in attendance. Actor James Cromwell, who played the farmer in the motion picture "Babe," joined in both protests saying mega-factory farms are part of a global pattern of industrialized agriculture that threatens land, people and other creatures. At the hog farm rally the vegan actor urged elected officials to giving into big corporate donors and fight the trend towards corporate domination. At least two ranchers at the protest agreed that without the help from environmental and animal rights groups, the campaign against Bell Farms wouldn't be as effective.

In the proud tradition of their Lakota ancestors, members of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and their strange assortment of allies vow to defeat this latest corporate invader. "These lands belong to us," says Chief Homer Whirlwind Soldier, "They have been passed down to us from our ancestors for many generations. First the government forced us off much of our land. Now our own tribal council is trying to sell our remaining land right out from under us, turning our land rights over to a hog factory without our knowledge or consent. It's like our tribal council has sold it's own people down the river—the White River."



CRAC, Hu-  
Association (HFA),  
Audubon Society and

# NYC Communities Fight Waste Facilities

BY BRIELLE EPSTEIN

As the government continues to discourage waste prevention and recycling, an environmental justice nightmare is unfolding in New York. After 50 years of illegally dumping New York City's garbage in the Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island, the city has finally decided to close the world's largest dump. But Mayor Giuliani's plans to privatize the city's waste disposal will mean the garbage will be dumped on low-income communities of color that are already inundated with waste facilities.

Giuliani's plan calls for the city's municipal solid waste (13,000 tons per day) to be packed at facilities in New York City and New Jersey and then shipped by rail or barge to low-income communities located in Virginia, Pennsylvania, upstate New York and elsewhere. The waste will be handled by multinational waste corporations like Waste Management, Inc. that have disastrous environmental track records. Despite massive public outcry from the effected communities, Giuliani and the private companies have refused to listen to our concerns.

In New York City, there are three communities that bear the burden of the excessive waste production of the racist, classist, monopolistic waste industry: Williamsburg-Greenpoint and Red Hook in Brooklyn and the South Bronx. All three are low-income communities comprised predominantly of people of color.

The Hunts Point section of the South Bronx has approximately 30 waste transfer stations. These facilities already handle over 40 percent of Manhattan's commercial garbage, as well as the Bronx's 1,750 tons per day of residential and other commercial garbage. It is also the location of a sewage treatment plant and a sludge pelletizing plant that "recycles" about 70 percent of the city's sewage sludge into toxic fertilizer. Hunts Point also has an asthma rate 12 times the national average. There is a major highway as its boundary, one million truck trips polluting its air every year and a severe lack of open space. As the city plans to dump more garbage in this highly impacted area, it also threatens to bulldoze its community gardens (practically the only open space in the community) and further degrade its waterfront with waste facilities instead of public parks.

OWN (the Organization of Waterfront Neighborhoods) was formed in response to the solid-waste issues facing low-income communities in the city. OWN has mobilized thousands of residents to attend hearings, write letters and hold demonstrations to force the city to look not only at reducing the impacts of waste facilities on these communities, but also to include these communities in the process of developing an environmentally sound, equitable solid-waste management plan.

OWN's agenda includes waste prevention, reduction, and recycling as the key methods for solving the waste crisis. Some OWN members, such as The Point Community Development Corporation (CDC) in Hunts Point, have even tried to set an example by conducting community-based recycling education, reuse campaigns and composting projects through the community gardens. Both the waste industry and the Giuliani administration have undermined efforts to reduce waste in order to protect profits from the growing waste trade. New York City even fails to comply with the EPA's 25 percent recycling goal, barely recycling at a rate of 19 percent.

Activists fighting the battle for environmental justice are proposing initiatives to reduce the city's waste stream by more than half. Like the waste companies, other corporations contribute and benefit from the crisis. The use of excessive and non-biodegradable packaging severely increases the waste stream and contributes to its toxicity. As one method of reducing waste, activists proposed taxation of packaging as an incentive to produce more environmentally-sound products. In addition, use of recycled products by government agencies would provide a greater market for recyclable goods, providing the incentive needed to force municipal recycling. Offering composting services to restaurants and hotels as well as residential homes is a solution being suggested by such advocates. Such an initiative could reduce the city's waste stream by over 1,000 tons per day.

Groups like OWN have been working at the community level to educate people about how waste issues



Waste-transfer facility in Hunts Point.

are not only unjust but also lead to the destruction of their already ravaged environments. Door-knocking, tabling on major avenues, holding public forums and other outreach events are strategies being used to inform communities about the environmental and health threats affecting them. Activists try to make connections to provide an ideology that explains the forces fragmenting community power.

Using these techniques, anti-waste activists and community organizers have successfully organized campaigns to educate community residents and build a movement strong enough to force the government to listen. In February 1998, The Point CDC held a forum where over 250 community residents testified to public officials. They demanded a zero tolerance position on dumping in their community, as well as demanding waste reduction and recycling. To further inform and organize residents, The Point organized the "Hunts Point Not Dumps Point" parade in June 1998, an event that attracted extensive media coverage and forced officials and organizations to commit to zero tolerance pledge. Similar events have been held in other affected communities in the city, as well as in landfill communities in other states. Further, communities throughout the nation affected by New York City's garbage crisis are now starting to work together and will hopefully be planning actions against the city and corporations during the next few months:

Activists in NYC have built a cohesive movement to fight the city's irresponsible solid-waste management policies. That effort is currently evolving into a movement more broadly committed to protecting the environment. However, there is much work to be done. While groups like OWN have succeeded in building the foundations of an extraordinary movement, it now seems that a more radical approach will be necessary to achieve goals of waste reduction and sustainable development. As the Giuliani administration continues to ignore the demands of communities and environmentalists, direct action will be taken to force serious attention to be given to these environmental injustices.

For more information, contact Majora Carter or Brielle Epstein, The Point CDC, 940 Garrison Avenue, Bronx, New York; (718) 542-4139.

## Millions For Mumia

On April 24, people all over the world rose up to demand freedom and a new trial for imprisoned, award-winning journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal. Jamal, who has been on death row since 1982 after being framed by the Philadelphia Police Department for the murder of police officer Daniel Faulkner, has come to symbolize the global struggle against the death penalty and the racist prison-industrial complex.

A massive show of support erupted in San Francisco, where over 25,000 gathered. It was spearheaded by the Longshoreman's Union, which shut down every port on the West Coast for two hours in a show of solidarity with Jamal. Among the speakers were Bear Lincoln, a death row inmate who had been freed the previous day, and Angela Davis, a scholar, activist and former political prisoner.

## NYC Gardens Update

As a result of a nonviolent direct action campaign carried out by community activists from the More Gardens! Coalition (MG!C), the city of New York was forced to abandon its plans to auction 114 community gardens. On May 5, a massive rally was organized to disrupt a pre-auction seminar for landlords planning to buy the gardens. Over 500 people gathered, with more than 60 people blocking two major streets for over an hour by refusing to comply with police orders to disperse.

This action, as well as a successful tree occupation outside city hall the previous week, lent great weight to various lawsuits filed by garden advocates. Even the state attorney general filed a case to stop the sale after he was put on the spot by an Earth Firster at an open forum.

In court, after a federal judge advised the administration that the case for the gardens was strong and that the auction would likely be stayed if the city did not compromise, the government wanted to negotiate. The Trust for Public Land then stepped in with a deal, offering to buy half the gardens. The next day, Bette Midler and the NY Restoration Project were enlisted to purchase the remaining gardens for \$1.2 million more than the assessed value, even as the judge hearing the attorney general's case granted an injunction to halt the sale. These groups, eager to play "hero," legitimized this unnecessary land sale; there are over 15,000 vacant lots in NYC without community gardens.

That the administration was forced to compromise demonstrates the power of the people. There are still over 700 gardens to preserve and more gardens to be created. Long-term tree sits are being discussed for nine gardens still slated for "development" into "affordable" housing. An MG!C lawsuit calling for permanent protection for every single garden is still being pursued. From the island of Manhattan and its environs, the movement to live in harmony with nature continues.

For more information, contact MG!C at 50 Avenue B, NYC; (212) 330-6851; [Moregardens3@hotmail.com](mailto:Moregardens3@hotmail.com).

Jamal's home city of Philadelphia celebrated Mumia's birthday with a 15,000-strong demonstration at city hall. The diverse crowd marched through the city after listening to such speakers as Mumia's lawyer Leonard Weinglass, Pam Africa, and Geronimo ji Jaga Pratt. Other demonstrations took place in Barcelona, Vancouver, Eugene and many other places.

While the day of protests was judged to be successful by many organizers and participants, Mumia's struggle is far from over. His death warrant can still be signed at any time by Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge.

Contact Governor Tom Ridge, 225 Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; (717) 787-2500, 722-1198 (fax); District Attorney Lynn Abraham, 1421 Arch St, Philadelphia, PA 19101; (215) 686-8700, 686-8024 (fax). For updates contact the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal at (215) 476-8812, 476-7551(fax).

## BARE BONES

### Montana's Hyalite II Sale Flushed

On April 16, a federal district court in Missoula, Montana, permanently barred the Forest Service from carrying out the proposed Hyalite II timber sale. This ruling was the result of a lawsuit brought in August 1997 by American Wildlands, Montana Ecosystems Defense Council, the Native Forest Network and the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club. In permanently enjoining the timber sale, District Judge Donald Molloy ruled that the Gallatin National Forest violated the National Environmental Policy Act by ignoring the potential cumulative impacts to wildlife from the Hyalite II timber sale in addition to the logging and roadbuilding associated with the recently completed Gallatin II Land Exchange.

The Hyalite II timber sale proposed to log 2.8 million board feet from 348 acres, build .7 miles of temporary road, reconstruct 4.8 miles of road and legalize 50 surplus miles of road, causing potential damage to water quality and wildlife in the Hyalite drainage. Recreationists, hunters, anglers and conservationists were concerned that the forest plan amendment to lower habitat effectiveness could translate to significant impacts on Bozeman's drinking water supply, fish and wildlife habitat and elk and grizzly bear security.

### Georgia's National Forests Shut Down

The Sierra Club recently scored a major victory when the Justice Department ordered the Forest Service to stop all on-going logging activities in Georgia's national forests beginning May 14. Under the threat of a lawsuit the Forest Service was provided with an ultimatum by the EarthJustice Legal Defense Fund and the Sierra Club.

In response, the federal government agreed to halt all active timber contracts in Georgia. The order stopped an additional 17 timber contracts in their tracks. A total of 26 sales (or 28 million board feet) were still under contract, of which six sales were already enjoined by three lawsuits, two had defaulted and one had been recently completed. No new sales have gone forward in three years in Georgia's national forests.

### Buffalo Petition Effort

Thousands of people from around the nation have declared their disgust with the State of Montana's management of wild buffalo. A petition originated on the web has received over 400 signatures a day from around the world. The petition demands that the federal government remove subsidized cattle grazing allotments on lands outside Yellowstone Park to make room for the last wild free-roaming bison herd in the United States.

Since the mid-1980s more than 3,000 buffalo have been killed by the State of Montana after wandering onto public lands that cattle graze on. Recently, Montana's Governor Marc Racicot secured \$500,000 of federal tax monies to carry out their zero-tolerance policy against buffalo. An alliance of Native Americans, animal rights, taxpayer and environmental groups presented the first batch of signatures to the chief of the Forest Service Mike Dombeck, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and President Clinton in front of the Forest Service Building in Washington DC on May 5. Please sign the Buffalo Petition at [www.wildrockies.org/buffpet](http://www.wildrockies.org/buffpet).

# Uprising In Ecuador's Amazon Indigenous Groups Protest Pipeline

BY KINTTO LUCAS

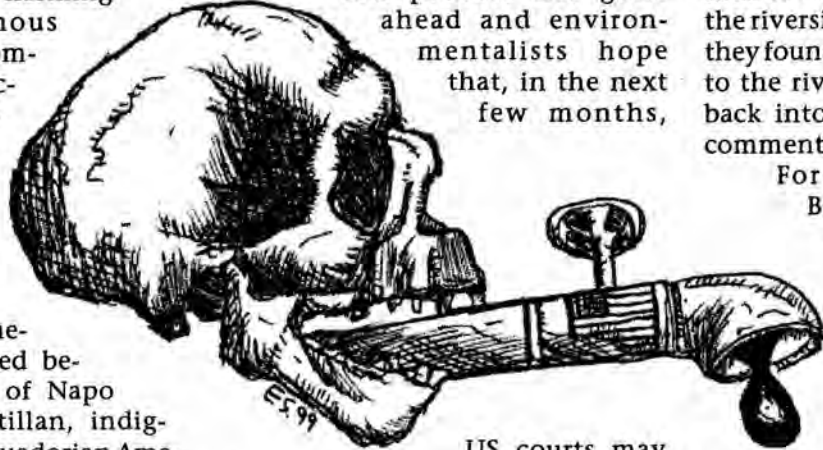
Indigenous communities in the province of Napo in the Amazon region of Ecuador are suffering serious health problems as a result of pollution caused by construction work on a new oil pipeline. There has been an alarming increase in diarrhea among children and the appearance of a widespread skin fungus, which medical analyses confirmed stemmed from consuming polluted water from the Misahualli River. Indigenous community leader Martha Tupuy said, "The river is part of our lives. If we can't drink the river water, we have nowhere else to get it from."

During the first week of May, dozens of indigenous people gathered on a bridge to block the way of the company's workers and faced off against soldiers and police before being ejected. In another zone, women and children of the communities seized a bulldozer belonging to the company and held its operators hostage without harming them. The indigenous people want the company to halt construction and decontaminate the river before continuing. In the meantime, they are asking for tanks to collect rainwater for daily consumption.

After the protests, a negotiation was arranged between the governor of Napo province, Edgar Santillan, indigenous leaders of the Ecuadorian Amazon and executives from Argep, the oil company constructing the pipeline. Officials promised to comply with the requests of the communities. Indigenous leaders warned that if the problem was not solved, they would take further action which would move the conflict to the rest of the Amazonian provinces of Ecuador. Turquino Tapuy of the Federation of Indigenous Organizations of Napo said that the damage caused by the oil industry is not new, and for that reason "the communities do not have much confidence in the word of the representatives of these companies."

The environmental group Ecological Action charged that, "the oil activity in eastern Ecuador is destroying one of the zones with the greatest biodiversity on the planet and is seriously threatening the survival of many indigenous communities." For 20 years, oil exploitation in the Amazon was carried out solely by Texaco and, later, by the state-owned Petroecuador and other foreign companies. With the departure of Texaco, various indigenous Amazon towns and environmental organizations filed a lawsuit in the United States against the company for damage to the ecosystem during the years in which it was exploiting oil in the region.

A succession of Ecuadorian governments, including the current administration of Jamil Mahuad, refused to support the legal action against Texaco and asked US courts to dismiss the case and transfer it to Ecuador. In spite of this, the judicial process has gone ahead and environmentalists hope that, in the next few months,



US courts may order the company to clean up the affected zones and compensate the indigenous communities. Valerio Grefa, an indigenous Amazon deputy stated, "Besides the fact that there could be irreversible health problems, it is an attack on the symbols of our people, on their world and when that happens, the only thing left is to fight them."

These days, another alarming development has occurred in the Ecuadorian Amazon. The pink dolphin, one of the rarest species in the region, is in danger of extinction. Biologist Judith Denkinger, a specialist on the

species, says that these animals could disappear if deforestation and contamination of the Cuyabeno, Aguarico and Lagrato Rivers, among others in which they take refuge, are not contained. The discharge of petroleum in Shushufindi in 1993 contaminated the Aguarico River and caused the deaths of dozens of dolphins. Since then, further dumping coupled with deforestation has triggered the disappearance of most cetaceans, pushing them to the edge of extinction. The dolphins that manage to survive seek refuge in the most inaccessible rivers and lakes on the border between Peru and Ecuador, where Denkinger installed an observatory to study their behavior.

Denkinger said that if deforestation and oil contamination of the rivers are not stopped, a species that is unique in the world will disappear. "It will be only an indigenous legend, according to which pink dolphins transformed themselves into men or women to find their mates in the riverside communities and when they found them, returned with them to the river where they would turn back into dolphins," the biologist commented.

For Salesian priest Juan Bottasso, who has lived in Amazon communities for more than 15 years, the oil has had a significant destructive impact on daily life. "In ethnic eyes, there is no contradiction between rich and poor.

The Indians of the Amazon are not poor, they live in a culture connected to nature," explained Bottasso. "In order to relate better with them and prevent their extermination, there must be respect for that vision because to attack nature, as the oil companies have done, is to attack their way of life," he concluded.

For more information contact the Coalition for Amazonian Peoples and Their Environment, 1367 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036-1860; (202)785-3334; 785-3335 (fax); [amazoncoal@igc.org](mailto:amazoncoal@igc.org); [www.amazoncoalition.org](http://www.amazoncoalition.org).

## STOP CHAD—CAMEROON PIPELINE!

The World Bank will decide as early as July on whether to approve critical financing (\$370 million) for a unprecedented oil exploration pipeline project through Chad and Cameroon being pushed by Shell, Exxon and ELF-Aquitaine, a French Corporation. If approved, a 300 wellhead drilling field and associated 600 mile-long pipeline corridor to the Atlantic would likely turn southern Chad into another Nigerian Ogoniland and western Cameroon into another Burmese Tennasserim in terms of ecological destruction and state-sponsored terrorism.

This scheme is going forward under great secrecy and with no regard for democratic accountability or respect for basic human rights and environmental protection. A recent letter to the World Bank signed by 115 citizen organizations from 29 countries, demanding the release of feasibility studies, socio-ecological impact assessments and greater decision-making transparency, has gone unanswered.

According to Human Rights Watch and a recent article in *Dollars and Sense* magazine (May-June '99), more than 20 villagers in Chad were killed as grassroots

opposition to the project was met with increasing "law-and-order" repression. Last February, Ngarlely Yorongar le Moiban, a member of the Chadian parliament from the affected region, was released from prison. He was arrested in June 1998 en route to Brussels to brief European Parliament members about concerns over the project. A much more detailed background article on the project appeared in the May 1997 issue of the *Multinational Monitor*.

Please contact your congressional representatives and tell them oppose the Chad-Cameroon pipeline by telling the US Treasury Department. to oppose World Bank financing of this scheme.

Contact the US Treasury Department at International Affairs, 15th and Pennsylvania NW, Washington, DC 20220; (202) 622-0060; 622-0417(fax). Also contact the World Bank; President James Wolfensohn, World Bank, 1818 H St NW, Washington, DC 20433.

For more further information contact Sara Zdeb c/o Friends of the Earth at (202) 783-7400 x220; Korinna Horta at the Environmental Defense Fund, [korinna@edf.org](mailto:korinna@edf.org); or Lisa Jordan with Bank Information Center, [ljordan@igc.org](mailto:ljordan@igc.org).

# Nicaragua After Hurricane Mitch

BY ORIN LANGELE, ACERCA

From October 25 to November 2, 1998, Central America was hit by Hurricane Mitch. Although Mitch was a "number five hurricane" with intense rain and winds that ranged from 250-300 kilometers per hour, the Nicaraguan government took no measures to prepare. While Mitch did not directly hit Nicaragua, the country still suffered indirect effects and exposed decades of land abuse and environmental neglect. A combination of social, political and economic factors caused the environmental degradation that exacerbated the tragedy.

Hurricane Mitch destroyed roads, communications, homes, wells and farmlands. With thousands dead and tens of thousands homeless, the hurricane will have long term effects on food production for the entire populace. Seventy-two percent of all that was planted was lost. Small farmers were hit the hardest losing 90 percent of their beans and 80 percent of their corn. Community networks were lost and, in some cases, whole communities were destroyed. Many people have been forced to migrate to Managua, Costa Rica and even the US.

## Nicaragua Before Mitch

European development and exploitation of resources and people began with the Conquistadors and continues to this day. The United States has financially and militarily intervened in Nicaragua since the 1800s. In the 1950s large cotton export operations flourished, clearing the land and ruining the soil with monocultures and pesticides, forcing people to move to more marginalized lands. This and other export commodity crops such as coffee, sugar, tobacco and cattle pushed the agricultural frontier towards the eastern rainforests.

For 45 years the US backed the Somoza dictatorship in order to protect corporate interests in the region. If corporations paid concessions to the dictatorship, they had access to Nicaragua's natural resources. When the leftist Sandinistas assumed power in 1979, inheriting poverty, environmental devastation and debt, the US used a "clean up" operation to eliminate this perceived "socialist threat." By the end of 1982, the Reagan administration organized a counter-revolutionary (contra) military force made up of Somoza's ex-National Guardsmen. The first major contra attacks targeted Nicaragua's teachers, doctors, agricultural technicians, small farmers and key economic installations. The CIA helped finance the contras through the flourishing Los Angeles crack cocaine trade.

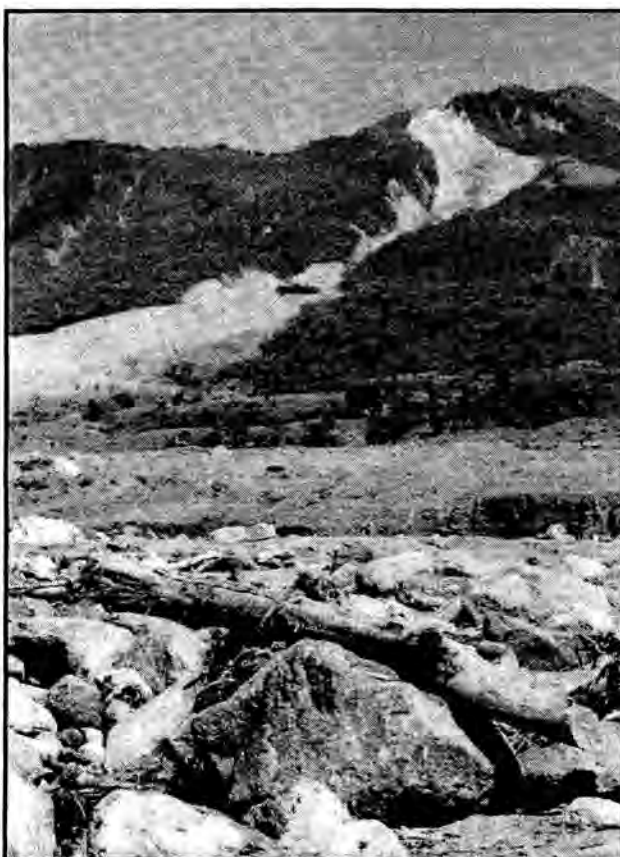
Due to the contra war many ecological and social gains of the Sandinista revolution were thwarted. The contra war further displaced the populace to marginal lands and put pressure on ecologically sensitive areas. The real purpose of the "clean up" was to set up a government that would be conducive to a neoliberal free market economy, forcing the exploitation of natural resources and people. Neoliberal policies, directed by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank through Structural Adjustment Programs (SAP), divert spending from the social sector (health, education, environment) towards corporate and business elites. Nicaragua is the living consequence of SAP's. Problems abound including massive foreign debt, high unemployment, low ability to export, food insecurity and the widespread inability to meet basic needs.

## Environment Prior to Mitch

Prior to Mitch much of Nicaragua was in an accelerated state of environmental decline. One hundred thousand hectares per year were being deforested. Before Mitch it was estimated that a record 300,000 hectares would be lost during 1998. Deforestation in the region has led to less rainfall and some areas are now becoming desert zones. In 1998, there were 15,000 fires in agricultural and forested areas. For three months, Nicaragua appeared to be in flames. The forest fires destroyed the vegetation under trees and when Mitch's rains saturated the ground, many trees were swept away. With the tree cover eliminated and cash crops such as cotton planted, there was an intense overuse of agricultural chemicals. The soil lost its capacity to

hold plant life. Winds caused dust storms which further depleted the soil.

The majority of the land was in the hands of multinational corporations and elites. The poor were forced to move to the agricultural frontier or to marginalized lands such as mountain sides, where trees were cut for firewood or cleared for cropland, further destabilizing the soil. When Mitch rained, and there was no tree cover and little plant life to slow the rain runoff, sharp surges of water rushed off of mountains and fields into rivers, causing flooding and mudslides of unprecedented proportions.



A human-made disaster: The collapse of the Las Casitas volcano

## Las Casitas Volcano

The circumstances surrounding the collapse of *Las Casitas*, a volcanic crater, exposes the Nicaraguan government's pattern of gross negligence. On October 30, the lake collapsed, causing a mudslide that swept down the side of the mountain, careened over small villages and killed over 2500 men, women and children. The Nicaraguan Institute for Territorial Studies had warned the government on October 28 that conditions were becoming unstable throughout Nicaragua, increasing potentials for landslides. In the village of Posoltega on October 29, Mayor Felicita Zeledón alerted the media. President Alemán called her an alarmist. After the lake collapsed, Zeledón told the media she estimated that 1000 people died. National Assembly congressman and member of the government's Environmental Commission, José Cuadra, blamed Congressman Eduardo Callejas for the collapse of the volcano. Cuadra said that Callejas deforested the slopes of the volcano in the 1960s and 70s. Pedrofélix Obregón and Elvira Blass of Comunidad Ambientalistas said that in addition to the deforestation of *Las Casitas*, Callejas was building 11 telecommunication towers on top of *Las Casitas* and also was building a road to the top of the mountain, further damaging the integrity of its slopes. Centro Humboldt's Magda Lanuza has stated that Callejas was still cutting trees on the slopes for coffee production as late as last year. In January of this year, Callejas was placed on the Environmental Commission.

## Damage to Biodiversity

Due to the magnitude of destruction, monitoring of non-human species has taken a back seat in this tragedy. In the Atlantic regions of Nicaragua, where the majority of flora and fauna reside, there was less rain and the intact rainforest did not incur much damage. The situation for fish species has yet to be determined. There was widespread flooding and related environmental catastrophes which could prove deadly to some species of fish (such as cyanide tanks from mines overflowing into rivers).

One of the major environmental complications of Hurricane Mitch was the long term damage to

watersheds and riparian areas. Due to industrial forestry, there were few trees holding the banks of rivers. Now the rivers are drying up because without river banks, root systems and tree cover, water spreads out and evaporates.

The disaster in Nicaragua was not just a natural occurrence. It was the direct result of neoliberal economic policies guided by multinational corporations and global financial institutions. Until the social structure in Nicaragua changes, disasters like this will continue to happen.

For more information, contact ACERCA at POB 57, Burlington, VT 05402; (802) 864-8203; acerca@sover.net.

## Defending The Bio-Bio

BY KITA, TRANSLATION BY KORA McNAUGHTON

On April 16 and 17, some 700 people marched for 35 kilometers, singing, shouting and demonstrating their opposition to an enormous dam project that threatens to destroy the ancestral homes of the Pehuenche of the Upper Bio-Bio River in Chile. The march was also in defense of the women's group "Mapu Domuche Nehuen" (Women with the Strength of the Earth) who oppose the proposed Ralco dam.

In government polls, the Pehuenche cause is supported by 80 percent of Chilean citizens, while the companies involved in the construction of the dam and the government continue to lose credibility among the people.

The government is trying to justify the repression it is using against the Pehuenches under the pretense that it is trying to stop the growth of a "terrorist group." The government argues the Pehuenches are slowing the advance of a project and a company that supports and contributes to the economic development of Chile.

The Bio-Bio campaign has become more than a battle against a dam. It is at the center of a struggle against the injustices of the system where the dispossessed fight against corrupt governments and huge corporations. The struggle continues against the power that is willing to exterminate those who have always lived there, the Pehuenches and 3,500 hectares of forest and nature that will never recuperate from the damage the dam would cause.

The Bio-Bio cause brings together many different kinds of people, all of whom disagree with the abuse that the government justifies for a "development" model that is in no way beneficial for those who are exploited. To the government, the greatest problem is that those who interfere with their plans understand the value of life, land and culture, and refuse to exchange it for money, television, or fancy new shops.

We, the defenders of the Earth, are a major problem for this so-called development. We are supposedly dangerous people, rebels who oppose progress, growth and development in Chile.

But what else is there to say or do when we feel helpless upon seeing the fallen forests, or the rivers converted into lakes which flood kilometers of virgin lands to give life to monstrous dams? What is left to say, when the legal system is blind and influenced by money? And that the president of Chile speaks in favor of all this "progress"?

How do we react in the face of abuse of power? How can we react? Collecting signatures? Protest publicly and allow ourselves to be repressed for actions that will later be forgotten? Our thoughts in the face of all this do not turn toward violence. They do not turn toward death, nor forget all that remains to be done. Instead, we think about being present, making it known that we are still alive and that we are still resisting. There is still time to say "enough" and ask for responsibility, justice and recognition. Our hope does not die. The struggle continues, and the Bio-Bio awaits us.

For more information, contact Aleta Brown at the International Rivers Network, Berkeley, CA 94703; (510) 848-1155; aleta@irn.org or Juan Pablo Orrego, Grupo de Accion por el Bio-Bio (GABB), Santiago, Chile; +56-2-737-1420; gabb@reuna.cl

# SNITCH UNCOVERED: TERRY JOHNSON

As the glowing embers illuminate faces circled around the night's campfire, it is often too easy to speculate about who the snitch is. In campaigns resisting the government's plans to annihilate ecosystems, species, and ultimately the resistance itself, history has told us it is not such a bad idea to raise an eyebrow around the intimate fires, the morning circles or the strategy sessions. Whether they are intelligence gatherers or just plain disrupters, it's no secret that they are at our demonstrations, weekly meetings and even at protest sites.

So it has been recently in Cascadia. After being cited by Forest Service Law Enforcement for not having proper gathering permits for last summer's Round River Rendezvous (RRR) at Twin Lakes in the Umpqua National Forest, a few organizers decided to challenge the "Rainbow law" (the same case being used against the annual illegal Rainbow gatherings also held on national forests). During the discovery process, documents pertaining to the RRR were forked over to the defendants. In the dossier were witness testimonials of each day of the rendezvous, discussing July 1-5 in scary detail. Now why did the Freddie's have these? And why were they handing them over?

The descriptive email accounts ranged from who was smoking marijuana with whom, to who was organizing the annual end of the rendezvous action, to who ordered the tripods to go up on the road into the Bear Paw timber sale units. Even more flabbergasting, these hardcopy email reports were printed for someone who regularly attends weekly Southern Willamette EF!/Cascadia Forest Defenders' meetings. He is someone who has been at various resistance campaigns and has lent support in many ways including vehicle transportation, holding down basecamps when there was little or no support, and taking supplies back and forth from town. He even rented the generator for the ¡TchKunG! show at the RRR, as one of the documents is a receipt from a rental agency with his name on it, *Terry Johnson*. Many of the emails in the pile say "printed for Terry Johnson, <dushawk@teleport.com>." It seems that Terry downloaded all these off his email account and later shoveled them off into some Fed's hands.

The person that Terry was handing the notes to says in one of the documents that on July 8, "he

[Terry] gave me assorted receipts for food, generator for the RRR and gas; two micro-cassettes: Eugene rally of 6/22/98 and one from the RRR; *News Review* [Roseburg paper] articles on Bear Paw and RRR; assorted email; some of his notes typed." This document goes on to state that this person and Terry discussed many personal accounts focusing on various people's involvement at the RRR. Unfortunately for both the Feds and the activist community, lots of his accounts were false and outright lies. We got smeared, and they have a snitch that can't tell them the truth they are seeking. One way or another, let's hope they reimbursed Terry for the generator receipt, therefore renting it for our memorable ¡TchKunG! show!

Another document states that on July 28, "he [Terry] gave me assorted receipts for radiator hose, gas; a handwritten note with 'cell phone for PAW'; rough sketch of Helldun basecamp [another controversial timber sale in Cascadia]," amongst many other notes. Moreover, there are detailed descriptions of various forest defenders at Fall Creek and illegal road work that had been done there.

Terry Johnson has bounced around various campaigns in the Northwest from Headwaters to the Eagle timber sale that threatens the Salmon-Huckleberry Roadless Area, from the Fall Creek tree sit to the Umpqua's La PAZ (the Paw Autonomous Zone) and from the Helldun campaign aiming for the protection of the Warner Wilderness to most recently the Buffalo Field Campaign (formerly Buffalo Nations). It was there in Montana that he got the boot after organizers caught wind of his not-so-slick involvement at the RRR. It was reported that out there in Yellowstone he was the *de facto* mechanic that worked on campaign vehicles and snowmobiles used to protect the buffalo. Report-

edly, there were lots more problems with the machines after Terry was done working on them.

Out in the low-elevation old growth of Fall Creek, where he was kicked out numerous times, Terry smashed out his own car window, rammed it into a Forest Service gate and later claimed others did it and that they stole his wallet in the process. This resulted in heavy law enforcement harassment and a press release issued by the public relations wing of the Forest Service stating that activists at Fall Creek were responsible.

So who is this guy and who is he working for? He doesn't seem to be a wannabe industry-sponsored, Clausen-type loser from the federal documents. Rather it seems as though the Forest Service, the agency that is supposed to be stewarding our public lands, is involved in some Matlock-like activities by employing Terry Johnson to snoop around basecamps that are committed to the preservation work that the agency is supposed to be doing. In a

document received from the California Department of Corrections, it looks like the Feds have given this former inmate a plea bargain to do some counterintelligence for them.

On May 20, 1977, Terry Roy Johnson was convicted of unlawful violation of personal liberty, burglary and attempted taking of a vehicle.

According to the records all three crimes happened simultaneously. Unlawful violation of personal liberty, if you don't know your legal terms, translates into kidnapping. His sentence was set at ten years in the federal pen, but his plea let him out in three. So here he is today making the circuit around various resistance campaigns doing the Fed's dirty work. Since his antics have circulated around the movement and since he was most recently eighty-sixed from Yellowstone, Terry Johnson hasn't shown his mug at one single weekly meeting, any demos or any planning meetings.

Terry Johnson was born on September 24, 1955; stands 6'1 and weighs 200 pounds; has brown hair and blue eyes. His hair has recently been back length, and he usually has a scruffy facial hair. If ya see him lurking around your fire, put on your size tens and give him the boot!



Terry pickin' roads



... at Headwaters



... at Buffalo Field Campaign

## McCarthy Meets Warner Creek

BY STEVE HOLMER

The United States House of Representatives Resources Committee and the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health have conducted a series of investigations and hearings over the past year to harass administration officials and promote the idea that, due to political pressure from the White House, the US Forest Service has been coddling protesters, and as a result, they are failing to get the cut out.

At a hearing a year ago, Chairman Helen Chenoweth (R-ID) requested the Forest Service prepare a "report on eco-terrorism in the national forests and what the Forest Service has done to combat these terrorists, including the use of conspiracy or RICO statutes." The Forest Service responded with a one page report that begins "although the term 'anti-timber terrorist group activities' is unclear, we assume you are referring to unlawful acts committed by persons who oppose the harvesting of timber from public lands."

Chenoweth responded to the report by stating, "this response is an insult to this subcommittee and it illustrates how seriously the Forest Service is combating eco-terrorism." The Resources Committee was instructed to convene "a task-force" on the "Warner Creek Timber Sale Eco-Terrorism Incident and

Related Matters" and to hold several hearings to discuss the agency's handling of the 1996-97 Warner Creek blockade in Oregon's Willamette National Forest. In this case, the committee seems to be convinced that higher-ups in the Clinton administration ordered the Forest Service to lay off the blockade as a result of pressure from the environmental community.

Ranking democrat on the Resources Committee, George Miller (D-CA) responded with a scathing letter to Chairman Don Young (R-AK) saying, "The Majority has raised the specter, in a memo to Members, of wrongdoing by administration officials, including violations of unspecified criminal laws. Yet no evidence has been disclosed either to the Minority or the public to support these and other serious allegations. The one-sided, partisan investigation that has been undertaken to this point fails to meet even minimum standards of objectivity and fair play. Rather, your inquiry appears a partisan effort to harass and intimidate federal agencies undertaken largely in secret by the Majority."

The Resources Committee under Young's leadership operates in a very McCarthyite fashion. The Committee has subpoenaed tens of thousands of documents, including every document the Western Ancient Forest Campaign

(now American Lands) had ever given the Council on Environmental Quality relating to the Salvage Rider. In another glaring example of harassment, Chairman Young recently attempted to intimidate public employees in the Southwest by requesting their affiliations with environmental groups such as the Sierra Club.

So great is the committee's paranoia that the second hearing on Warner Creek was held behind closed doors. Federal marshals were present inside the hearing room to intimidate the witnesses and posted outside to prevent the public from entering. An official gag order was placed on all of the administration's witnesses preventing them from discussing the hearing with anyone.

The Warner Creek "investigation" is ongoing, but to date, no credible evidence of wrongdoing has been presented. Calling the Warner Creek protest eco-terrorism stretches the facts beyond all recognition. The Forest Service did not classify the famous Oregon forest defense action as eco-terrorism and, despite calls from the prosecutor for fines and community service, the judge let the activists go free with no penalties. Paul Fishman, formerly of the Justice Department, has denied there was political pressure to not arrest or prosecute the activists.

On May 21, a hearing focusing on the conduct of Forest Service Law Enforcement featured Forest Service Law

Enforcement Director William Wasley. Chenoweth repeatedly questioned Wasley about why the agency wasn't taking stronger action against the forest activists at Cove/Mallard in Idaho. A series of timber industry witnesses described all forms of citizen protest as "eco-terrorism" and called on the committee to administer block grants to states to aid local law enforcement and the courts in responding to forest defense actions (stay tuned, this could be a rider soon).

Director Wasley opposed this idea but did admit that the Forest Service was stretched thin and lacked adequate resources to deal with forest activism in remote areas like Cove/Mallard while protests were happening in Oregon at the same time. He also said that the agency has other three other law enforcement priorities: basic policing to deal with crime associated with the growing number of visitors to the national forests; timber theft, which Wasley testified "is still a major problem on the national forests" and drug interdiction, primarily marijuana eradication. Wasley reported these factors limit the resources available to deal with forest defenders.

Steve Holmer is campaign coordinator for American Lands protecting national forests from logging, roadbuilding, grazing, invasive species, off-road vehicles, inequitable land exchanges and efforts to gut our nation's forest protection laws and regulations.

# CAR Busters



**Contact Us:**

44 rue Burdeau

69001 Lyon, France

## Resisting Mad Car Disease in Europe

**B**ike lanes painted by guerilla gangs of Warsaw urban environmentalists. Life-sized cardboard cars paraded around and burnt by Dijon eco-anarchists. Eight lanes of Munich traffic crossed diagonally in mid-intersection, by a sole activist defying the car. These are the actions of the European car-free movement.

You've probably heard of Reclaim the Streets in Britain, but maybe not Ecologistas en Accion in Spain. When Madrid's mayor proposed a network of 140 km of underground highways, the Ecologistas presented the city's leaders with a "genetically-modified creature," half-human and half-mole, designed to survive in the new urban habitat. *Homo madritensis futuribilis* appeared frequently at tunnel inaugurations and peppered the mayor's re-election campaign with shows of "gratitude" for such excavating enthusiasm.

Then there's Maloka in Dijon, not the largest of groups but certainly one of the most creative. They've invented a device that attaches to a bicycle and leaves behind a bike-lane stripe in its wake. They've also driven their cardboard cars Fred Flintstone-like all over town covered with slogans such as "I pollute, make my driver aggressive and never will let you live until 2012."

In Russia, members of the group Atshy have been arrested for holding banners in front of the government halls without a permit. Three weeks later, the police were unsure what to charge them with when a legal funeral procession appeared before the same building. The pall bearers of the

Caucasian Biosphere Reserve wore names of the authorities responsible for the planned road which would "bury" the reserve.

Meanwhile in Eastern Germany, the A17 Action Camp has been blocking work and holding resistance weekends with music, theatre, cinema and action. On International Transport Action Day, passersby were confronted by quotes from poet Goethe scrawled on 15-foot square picture frames, which captured the threatened landscape.

It's clear. A movement has formed to liberate cities across Europe from the car, a growing movement making itself heard louder and louder across national boundaries and language barriers. At a conference called Towards Car-Free Cities in 1997, this international movement came together for a first-time fusion of ideas, experiences and culture—65 activists representing 50 groups from 21 countries. It was there that Car Busters was founded, as a means to maintain the momentum and international exchange that was started there.

Two years later, Car Busters has published five issues of its quarterly magazine and eight issues of its monthly bulletin, set up a clearinghouse of mail-order resources, produced a copyright-free graphics booklet, submitted to peer pressure and

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set up a web site, established an international staffing program, and raised money for and helped organize the second Towards Car-Free Cities conference, to be held this October in Krakow, Poland, to help kick car culture out of the East.

Car Busters attempts to keep the urban environmentalists of Warsaw in touch with the transport campaigners of Budapest, and the eco-anarchists of Dijon in touch with the bike activists and blockaders across the pond. Because there's a lot of inspiring groups and crazy ideas out there which should be contagious.

As someone in the anti-M11 campaign once yelled from the top of a crane: "We are more possible than they can powerfully imagine." ■

# ASSEZ AUTO



pig by CorelDraw 7.0; stretching by Car Busters



## Save This Patch of Dirt Beside a Pig Farm

**Sick of breathtaking wilderness?** Tired of endangered species running around your campsite and posing for camera shots? Why not come to a beautiful British road camp, home of farms and mud.

Believe it or not, British activists spend countless hours fighting to keep roads from plowing over places like this. Saving the countryside is one reason, but not the main reason people fight roads.

While most enviros wouldn't show much interest in stopping a proposed highway unless it bisected an area of ecological significance, being a radical environmentalist should mean moving beyond this.

Why? Turns out that roads can cause a lot more environmental damage through air pollution and greenhouse gases than through the loss of whatever habitat the road happens to bisect. And road building, of course, represents an imposition of one transportation mode to the exclusion of many other, more sustainable ones. And it doesn't solve the problem.

Unless we understand these issues, we're likely to make severe errors like supporting one bypass route over another because the "better" one would spare an ecologically sensitive area. (Okay, so many transportation activists are too busy having asthma attacks to realize that wilderness exists. No one's perfect here.)

Since conservationists focus on the habitat that a road would destroy, and since transportation activists focus on the damage caused by the road itself, both types of activists need to understand each other's viewpoints. So to start, here's a few concepts to help EFlers understand the car-free movement:

- **traffic generation and evaporation** - Build or widen roads and cars will come, before long filling the road to capacity. But pedestrianize streets or subtract car lanes, and traffic will evaporate like magic. Just as obesity isn't cured by loosening your belt, congestion can't be cured by building more car infrastructure. We determine traffic levels by the amount of public space we give to cars.

- **"predict and provide" planning** - Question your traffic planner! Since traffic expands to fill available road space, predictions of traffic growth simply justify more car infrastructure. The predictions are only made true when we add the infrastructure and surprise, surprise, along comes the

predicted traffic. A self-fulfilling prophecy.

- **social speed** - Car drivers seem to be going faster than anyone else. But when you divide the time they spend earning the \$5,000/year it costs to drive by the distance they travel, they're actually going less than 5 mph, which is *certainly* faster than a snail.

- **driving as addiction** - The idea that we must provide drivers with alternatives is a red herring. Most drivers won't kick the habit as long as it is convenient, economical and socially acceptable—despite whatever alternatives exist. So driving must be made inconvenient, expensive and frowned upon socially.

- **never "clean" or "green"** - The "green" car would be a wonderful idea. If it wasn't for issues of public space, isolation, human death, roadkill, stress, waste and sprawl. Not to mention the effects of the "alternative" fuel sources themselves. With a growing global car fleet, more "zero-emission" vehicles don't mean less total pollution.

- **no new cars** - Fifty-five percent of a car's total pollution is emitted before it even hits the road. So buying a new car normally creates much more pollution than keeping your old car, even if the old one was a gas guzzling hunk of rust. And if you sell your old car, chances are someone else will still be driving it around. You do the math: that's one more car on the planet.

- **energy efficiency** - Cars are 1% efficient on average, meaning only 1% of the fuel burned goes into actually moving the passenger. Alternative car designs can give modest improvements, but bikes are the most energy-efficient means of transport yet invented.

- **time pollution** - Since people tend to spend the same amount of time travelling regardless of how they do it, high-speed transportation doesn't leave people with more time, but just leads to sprawled-out development, in which one's destinations are spaced widely apart rather than condensed in walkable clusters.

- **reclaim the streets** - The streets were once filled with community life rather than the individual isolation of rushing car traffic. Reclaim the streets to reclaim our public space and our lives. Just say no to Prozac and address a root cause of depression. With up to half of our urban environment paved over and devoted to the car, it's time to tear up the tarmac (that's *de-pave* to you Yanks), and re-green our habitat. Yippee! ■

## Arrested for Squatting A Couch

Tooker Gomborg

Today, March 27, felt like the first day of spring. The sun and warmth brought hordes outdoors to celebrate the end of winter by ambling along St. Denis, one of Montreal's great strolling streets. The sidewalks pulsed with pedestrians. In the gutter, winter's last traces trickled toward the sewers. Strolling along, I and my partner Angela spotted a couch that was waiting for the garbage truck. We looked at it, looked at each other, moved it to the edge of the road, and sat down.

We settled in, soaked up some rays, and read the paper. Unexpectedly, the sofa had become a tool for liberating a small chunk of pavement from the cars, allowing people to gather and visit.

St. Denis walkers have a lively pace. They snake along briskly, heads bobbing and panning, taking it all in. Thousands slithered by. When their glance alighted on us they smiled. Thousands of smiles. Many burst out laughing. Humor thrives on the unexpected. The psychology of the street was subtly changed by the incongruous and intuitively appropriate scene.

Some gave us the thumbs up. Parents chuckled and elbowed their kids to have a look. One woman, loosened by alcohol, joined us and began heckling the people passing by: "Bring out your furniture. We need a kitchen table." I joined in: "Anybody have any plants?"

Sitting in the street we observed how the hordes of pedestrians were herded onto the narrow sidewalks, while the vast majority of the space was hogged by two-ton tin cans speeding, honking and dangerously pushing their weight around. We gloried in taking back a bit of space and giving it back to people. Imagine mini "Reclaim Some Tarmac" actions popping up all over the paved planet. A sofa here, a carpet there, a rocking chair. Little chunks of convivial, neighborly space to hang out in can be found in any city. Tiny plazas; noncommercial people-places. Liberated space. "Beneath the tarmac: the beach," as in the graffiti slogan from Paris 1968.

A police car visited. "Is this your sofa?" they asked. "No, we're just sitting in it." Confused, they drove off. Photographers snapped. Kids jumped in. The limber and the hobbled stopped, looked and lounged with us.

We were there for a couple of hours; maybe we were having too much fun. A second police car showed up as the sun dipped beneath the buildings. The officers were not amused. We were interfering with the traffic flow, they said. Someone shouted that the traffic was actually being blocked by the cop car. (In truth we weren't impacting the traffic: the couch was in the lane where parked cars usually squat.)

Next thing I knew, my hands were forced behind my back and handcuffs pressed on. The crowd boomed. Into the back seat and off to the station. Why weren't the police dealing with the true criminals—speeding motorists and drunk drivers? A glorious day ended on a sour note with three hours in a holding cell and two \$135 tickets. I left them with my fingerprints in their snazzy computer, and their camera framed a scowly portrait for the rogues' gallery.

Over the decades we have lost our cities to smog, noise, speed, and asphalt little by little: a road widening here, a parking lot there. And we can restore cities to people in a similar fashion. A couch here, a rug there, a street party. A loaf of bread, a jug of wine and now—let's take back the streets bit by bit. Why not try it: it's fun, and all sorts of passersby will join in, reclaiming what's rightfully ours.

My ticket says: "Couch in the street." Maybe it's time to put the street on the couch and analyze it: given the shortage of room in our cities, is parking a car really the best use for that space? Seems kinda crazy to me!

After they let me out I put my shoelaces back on, headed for the Metro and returned to the scene of the crime. The couch had been moved onto the sidewalk. I sat on it for a few minutes pondering the flow. Shoe leather fluttered by on the sidelines, and all was back to "normal": the main stage swirled with speeding steel and screechy rubber. The same police car cruised by again. I wasn't occupying any asphalt. The cop just waved. ■

Tooker Gomborg is an activist, writer and former Edmonton city councillor now working for Greenpeace Canada. This article is appearing simultaneously in issue #5 of Car Busters magazine.



## Land Cruising Over the Planet



graphic: Emerald City Communications

**The SUV.** Vehicle of ranchers, farmers and workers of the great outdoors. Vehicle of suburban businessmen, negotiating the speed bumps on the rough ride home. Vehicle of environmentalists, battling it out in the forest for what they believe in.

The SUV, besides being heavy enough to frequently mangle other drivers in a collision, has only two-thirds of the fuel efficiency of your average car, and is exempt from federal pollution laws. But first, a bit of history.

1975. Lines at the gas pump and continual price increases. Efficiency regulations are introduced to wean the country off a compromising foreign oil dependence. SUVs are exempted, not because they're big and sexy, but to avoid disadvantaging farmers.

"Why just own the road when you can own the planet?" Nissan's ad is just one of a generation which commodifies nature and portrays the SUV as the essential vehicle for

life—even life in the concrete jungle. It's the 1990's and it's less socially acceptable than it used to be to beat up your wife. But you can still beat up the outback.

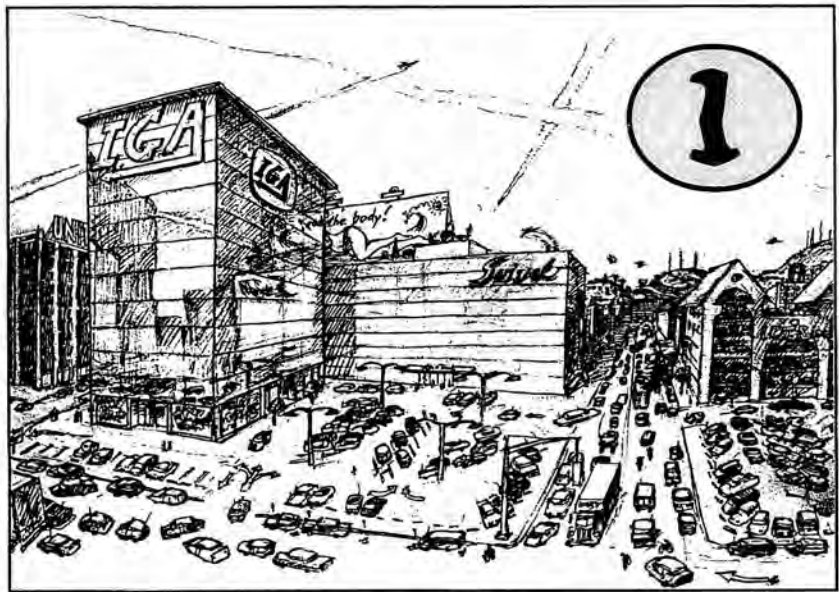
1999 and it seems the advertising has paid off. Light trucks are now one-third of the cars on U.S. roads. It's even socially acceptable for environmentalists to own them, though they're mostly used by suburbanites navigating the wilds of downtown. With a bit of help from industry lobby groups such as the Coalition for Vehicle Choice, the exemption in the regulations has weathered the Middle East crisis of the '91, and remains a comfy polluting loophole.

Light trucks are now the fastest-growing source of US greenhouse gases. And people keep buying them. Range Rover, Dakota, Expedition, Mountaineer, Bronco, Rodeo. Real men don't conquer nature, they round up industry and close government loopholes. ■

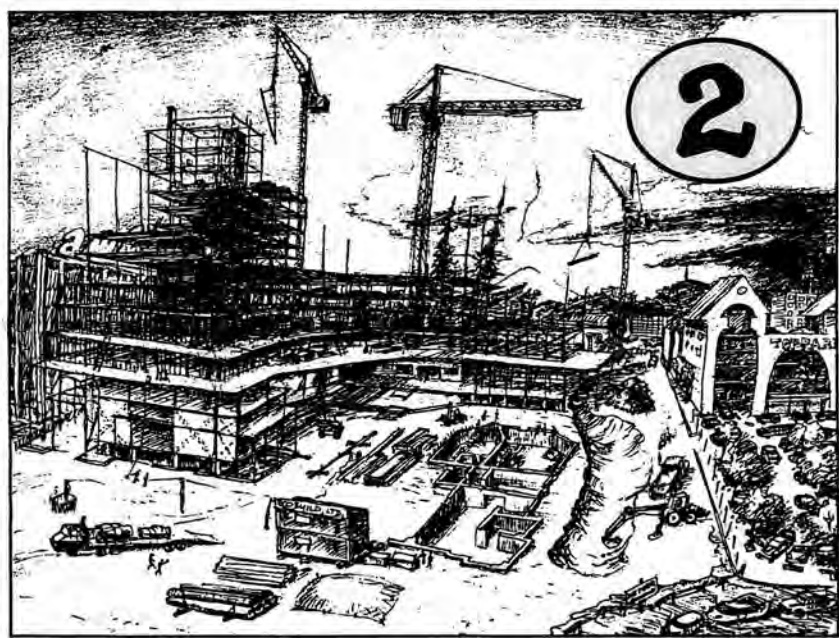
*Adapted from an article by Philip Goff.*

# Why Eco-Cities?

Artwork by Richard Register



Many environmentalists see cities as a place to escape from, unaesthetic, barely tolerable places that are inherently unsustainable. Yet it's rarely the higher population densities that make many cities uninviting, it's the bad development patterns and car dependence combined with a lot of people. Still we tend to associate cities with the above picture, rather than what they could be with a little imagination and a lot of work?



Meanwhile, other environmentalists are working to transform the urban environment into a human habitat that embraces nature. They bring natural creeks back to life, tear up parking lots, redesign architecture, establish light-rail lines, start community gardens, fight for pedestrian streets, set up co-housing projects, and generally work to make urban living green at every level.



The result would be more compact cities with both denser habitation and more open space, with everything from solar energy and greywater recycling to rooftop organic gardens and all-local, sustainably produced building materials. A place where the human footprint on the planet is reduced to the minimum, given we can't have six billion hunter-gatherers. A place you'd want to live, rather than escape from, and where nature—even some wildness—can regain a foothold. ■

## Why not subscribe to *Car Busters*? You get 963 subscriptions for the cost of a Fiat!

Yes, here's a little something I found under the sofa. I look forward to receiving the quarterly *Car Busters* magazine and reclaiming my life from the car.

- I'm enclosing a check for US\$17.50 for a one-year subscription or CAN\$20 cash.
- I'm enclosing a donation of \_\_\_\_\_ because otherwise I'd blow it all on beer.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Group, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- I want to receive the monthly bulletin, so here's my e-mail address. I'm aware that if I don't write legibly, I won't get the bulletin. \_\_\_\_\_
- Here's US\$7.40 for a copy of the *Car Busters* Graphics Book, which is 44 pages of reproducible, copyright-free transportation-related graphics for use in my campaigns.

U.S. address for subscriptions: *Car Busters*, P.O. Box 10141, Berkeley, CA 94709  
tel: +(33) 472-00-2357 - fax: +(33) 478-28-5778 - [carbusters@wanadoo.fr](mailto:carbusters@wanadoo.fr)

# Cars Kill More Trees



**People work tirelessly** to protect forests from logging. For good reason. But climate change will mean drastic changes in the conditions that species have spent thousands of years adapting to. Forests will be left struggling to adapt, or migrate.

The only problem: Trees can't run. A quarter of our forests will fry from global warming by 2100 <sup>1</sup>, unless we take drastic steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

***Save the forests. Kill the car.***

**CAR Busters**

<sup>1</sup> according to 1998 calculations by researchers from the Tokyo Technological Institute and the (Japanese) National Ecological Research Institute, based on the International Panel on Climate Change prediction of a two-degree centigrade rise in average global temperature by 2100. If this is a rise of 3.5 degrees, the researchers calculate 43 percent of the world's forests would die.

## Frontlines

### Spanish Against Iota Dam

A protest took place at the Basque regional parliament in Pamplona, Spain against the building of the massively destructive Iota Dam. The dam is part of a wider plan for industrial and tourist development of the region and will flood 48 square miles. There has been a history of resistance to the project. In 1996, eight people cut dam cables across the valley each weighing 140 tons, causing untold damage and setting work back by 11 months.

On April 7, people from 20 countries chained themselves to the metal grills surrounding the parliament building, scaled the side of the building and hung banners. Parliamentary police yanked people off the windows, cut chains and poked people with scaffold tubes to get them off the facade. Thirty-three people were arrested. Charges and expulsion proceedings are being brought against resisters. As one British activist commented, "This is not a local issue, it's a European one. European companies and tourists are the reason this dam is going ahead."

### Recalling St. George's Hill

On April 3, 350 years after the original band of revolutionary roundheads known as the Diggers settled in to cultivate St. George's Hill in Surrey, a new group of like-minded diggers set out to do the same. In 1649, when the original diggers settled on St. George's Hill it was common land. Nowadays it comprises two golf courses and one of the most exclusive estates in Britain.

The most recent occupation started with a march of 300 people onto the hill. A communal settlement was established, crops were planted and structures erected. There was one violent incident when a resident of the estate pulled up in a four wheel drive vehicle, started removing information boards and, when challenged, punched a man in the face. On the other hand, many residents were supportive (but not to the point where they gave up their land and privilege, of course!). One of the aims of the occupation was to increase public rights of access to St. George's Hill.

Eventually the owners, North Surrey Water, obtained an eviction order. The diggers, deciding that a defended eviction was not part of the aim, left the hill on April 16.

### Korean Students Occupy GM Greenhouse

Korean students and environmental activists organized a direct action against GM (genetically-modified) technology at the center of Korean agricultural biotechnology—the National Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology.

The action started when about ten students and activists occupied and blockaded a greenhouse where field trials of GM crops were being conducted. They placed a big banner with the X symbol over the greenhouse and chained themselves to the building's entrance. Other activists demonstrated outside with placards that read "No Genetic Engineering."

Koreans are shaken by the fact that the government allows the field trials of GM crops while it does not even have legislation or an agency to monitor and regulate the experiments. One of the participants said, "Genetic engineering is good for the economy, they say, but can this be a good excuse for ignoring the environment, public health and ethical considerations?"

# Impoundments and Evictions in Black Mesa

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) conducted a livestock inventory this winter designed to force any Diné still living on the Hopi Partition Land (HPL) to obtain new grazing permits as part of the new Accommodation Agreement (AA) lease implementation. Over the last few months, several truckloads of armed Hopi Rangers and BIA officials have shown up at each homesite to count animals.

BIA and Hopi monitors have been observing the animals for years. Any livestock in excess of the permits is considered a trespass and therefore illegal, according to the BIA. The BIA has issued five-day notices to impound trespass animals. The notices last for a year and can be enforced without warning. Grandmothers are never quite sure when to be prepared to defend their homesite and livestock. The stated reason for the impoundments is overgrazing. However, the family is allowed to buy back the impounded livestock at outrageous rates—only to face possible impoundment again. The Diné generally don't have the money to buy back their animals, and residents have said that the permitted level of livestock is not sustainable. The sheep are used for food, for trade and at ceremonies. The grandmothers weave the wool into rugs to sell for money. The sheep and goats are at the center of their livelihood.

Ninety-day notices to vacate, distributed by the federal Office of Navajo-Hopi Indian Relocation, were received by 14 residents of non-signer homesites and expired on April 25. The notices demanded that residents make timely arrangements to relocate or lose their right to reside on the HPL. Relocation housing awaits them at the New Lands, an area contaminated by a 1979 radioactive spill near Sanders, Arizona. If the "trespasser" does not take action to move, the US Attorney's Office will review their case for possible forced eviction.

This final phase of relocation is in full effect now. Supporters and resisters have reported US military planes flying only 200 feet off the ground. These tactics are intended to frighten the grandmothers and make the sheep unmanageable.

Several Diné supporters have been detained in the past few months. In one such case, a supporter was held in a pain

compliance hold for 45 minutes by three rangers, while another ranger confronted a grandmother concerning her livestock. This is an attempt to break down the Diné and prepare the land for mining by Peabody Coal Company.

Diné families have requested that supporters of the resistance come live on Black Mesa to herd sheep, cook, chop wood, repair hogans, houses, corrals and vehicles as well as to garden, witness harassment and help with daily living. It is very important to come prepared so that your host family is not overburdened. Families prefer if supporters can stay one month or longer. Supply runs and weekend work parties are also appreciated. Contact Big Mountain Indigenous Support (BMIS) for a supply list. Next winter will be a critical time at Black Mesa, and



The high desert within the four Sacred Mountains

support will be needed. If you can't come out to the land, consider outreach, education and benefits to raise money for supplies. We provide cultural sensitivity packets for people planning to help on the land. BMIS is based in Flagstaff, AZ, two to three hours from Big Mountain.

Contact BMIS at POB 23501, Flagstaff, AZ 86002; (520) 773-8086. All donations are tax-deductible.

—BIG MOUNTAIN INDIGENOUS SUPPORT

## A Diné Elder Who Will Not Move

BY ROBERTA BLACKGOAT

*The following is a statement by Roberta Blackgoat, a Diné elder, resisting relocation in Big Mountain, Arizona (April 14, 1999).*

My name is Roberta Blackgoat. I am speaking to you from Thin Rock Mesa, the place where I live, the place where I've been born and raised and been taught how to live.

For 25 years I've been dealing with the government trying to move me off my ancestral lands. My great, great ancestors have been born here, and they've been buried in this area. Around here there is a lot of my ancestor's graveyard sites.

My grandfather taught me how to care for life on the land in the sacred ways, with the sacred prayers and the sacred songs. He told me how in the very beginning the world was created and how the Great Spirit has surveyed it for the Dine people in this area, between the Sacred Mountains: Mount Blanca in Colorado, Mount Taylor in New Mexico, San Francisco Peaks in Arizona and Mount Hesperus in Colorado. Between these four Sacred Mountains is a room for the Dine people, where it has been made like a church, and way out on the west side, by the San Francisco Peaks, inside the room is our altar.

We are being told to move off the land. This is our altar that we can't

give up. We can't sell it, we can't buy it, we just have to take care of it and have people live in this area.

This is why I really need it to be understood. The government, what they want this land for, is what the Mother Earth is living on. She is supposed to have a liver, lungs and a heart... Just like our bodies, the Mother Earth has internal organs. These are the precious and valuable minerals that she needs, and so all the equipment and things we make, all our food, even ourselves is made out of the Mother Earth, and even money is a part of her body that has been turned into money. And now the greed is always working against our Mother Earth, and Mother Earth is suffering.

We've been hearing a lot about tornadoes and earthquakes. A lot of these warnings have been going on. That's Her breath because She is suffering, and her breath is giving us warnings.

Please, I am wanting to have this understood by writing letters to the Congressional leaders, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and all these people to know we have a pain feeling for our Mother Earth. She's getting more surgery and no patch to it. It's just when a human being has surgery and something is patched, but I don't believe Mother Earth has any patches. They just keep on killing her more and more.

I am just needing for this to be heard. I am not begging for money or anything, but I'm really hanging on to the

world for my Dine people and every living thing. There is a great loss on the mountains, the wildlife people are living there. And even the water, the people that live in the water are struggling with all the pollution and the sickness in the spirit of the water and also all the human beings, us Indians, all the different tribes, they are all facing the same struggles with their land and their food. They are suffering also, not just the Navajos are suffering. It's all Indians living in this Indian country are suffering.

I do hope to be having a great help from all you people who are aware, by having you write to President Clinton, Senator McCain and Bruce Babbitt. Please let them have their hearts be touched.

I have heard of the white man's story, how the Creator made the first man, and He saw that he was lonely and so He created a woman for him, and He told them that all the things they could see were for them, but they must not eat the apple on the tree. So it is for us Dine people. The Creator has told us we must look after the land in between the four sacred mountains. So write to the politicians and tell them that if they want us Dine people to move off our sacred land they should sue the Creator.

I think this will be all.

Thank you,

Roberta Blackgoat, POB 349, Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

# Coffeetalk in the Big Wild

BY GARY MACFARLANE

An eight-year-old may believe in the goodness of god(dess), the evilness of the devil, and that right, truth and the wild, especially the wild, will prevail. Well, almost believe it. Eight-year-olds are smart. A few years of industrial reality tweaks that outlook to something like this: It is delusional to think that anything could be construed as a victory for all that is good and wild, even if it bites you in the nether regions, wolverine jaws locking down and clamping shut. Then again, the recent events at Cove/Mallard just might be the tonic for unbelievers, eight-year-olds or otherwise. Well, almost.

Anything that dates back in time is bound to have twists and turns like the switchbacks on the Campbell Ferry trail leading out of the Salmon River Canyon. Agatha Christie ain't got nothing on Cove/Mallard for suspense, action or sheer lunacy. About 30-some miles of the 145 miles of roads and some 15-20 million board feet of the 82-million board feet originally targeted have been cut. As it stands today, three (four if you count the Small sale) of the nine proposed Cove/Mallard sales have been cut. The others are yet to be sold.

More importantly, most of Cove/Mallard, about 65,000 to 70,000 acres of the formerly wild 76,000 acres, is still wild and unroaded. Cove/Mallard is only a part, though it is a biologically crucial part, of the largest single roadless area in the lower 48 states. That area, over three-million acres in size includes core lands protected as the Frank Church-River of No Return and Gospel Hump Wilderness Areas with surrounding unprotected wildlands like Cove/Mallard and Otter-Wing.

The following conversation between two EFlers was accidentally overheard at a public place in Moscow, Idaho. One Earthy was sipping some organic, locally grown, herbal tea in a reusable, hand-crafted, ceramic to-go mug. The other was chugging a dumpster-dived, half-empty, recyclable bottle of rot-gut.

•Fact One (or, thus the angel spake): The Cove/Mallard Environmental Impact Study (EIS) will be over ten-years old after the moratorium is over. Most site-specific EIS's need to be supplemented. That means a whole new EIS with public comment period after five years. We have won!

•Counterpoint One (or, thus the demon spake): This is Idaho. Environmental legal precedents are ignored. Idaho Federal District Judge Lodge, regardless of how respectable he looks in his black robe and snowy-white coif, will never rule for the wild, regardless of the legalities involved.

•Fact Two (or, thus the angel averred): Forest Service personnel have admitted privately that the Cove/Mallard sales are in trouble. The agency will withdraw the outdated EIS due to public and internal concern about its age. Furthermore, the Freddie's know they would be foolish to attempt a supplemental EIS because the public outcry would be too much. The end is nigh!

•Counterpoint Two (or, thus the demon smirked): This is Idaho. The Freddie's, regardless of how green they look in their polyester uniforms, will never do anything good for the wild, especially Cove/Mallard.

•Fact Three (or, thus the angel implored): Forest Service Chief Dombeck came up with this moratorium specifically for Cove/Mallard and other threatened areas in the Wild Rockies. We have an opportunity to move forward, make progress and protect areas. Besides, why else would all these other areas in the country be excluded from the moratorium if it wasn't designed to protect Cove/Mallard and the Wild Rockies?

•Counterpoint Three (or, thus the demon chortled): This is Idaho. Idaho's Targhee National Forest is excluded from the moratorium. So is Otter-Wing, just a few miles away from Cove/Mallard. Besides, Clinton and Dombeck are smart at playing politics. There are no democratic votes anywhere in the Gem state so the administration loses nothing and gains support from the mainstream greens for this short-lived gesture without any real teeth. Besides, this so-called moratorium

is only 18-months long, just enough time to get us focused on a plethora of other problems and then, bam, the Cove/Mallard sales will be back with a vengeance.

•Fact Four (or, thus the angel cursed and swore): Go to hell you damned fool! You can't see the positive in anything, even if it bit you on the butt! These are all good signs. The Cove/Mallard sales are essentially over. Dombeck has come through. We have won!

•Counterpoint Four (or, thus the demon laughed): This is Idaho. In other words, Larry Craig, Helen Chenoweth, Dirk (aka Dork) Kempthorne, Mike Crapo (aka...), JR Simplot, Boise-Cascade, Potlatch Timber Company. By the way, thanks for cursing me to somewhere other than Idaho.

Well, the upshot of all of this is that the Cove/Mallard Coalition is preparing to cover all the possibilities. The coalition is undertaking defense of other areas in the Greater Salmon-Selway ecosystem this summer, not just Cove/Mallard, by continuing to oppose the nearby Otter-Wing timber sale. (Note: The moratorium

doesn't protect this area as it was sold before the moratorium was enacted.) Other visionary organizations are also doing what they can to defend Otter-Wing. Marc Fink has filed a lawsuit on behalf of Friends of the Clearwater, the Idaho Sporting Congress, the Ecology Center, the Northern Rockies Preservation Project and others in an Idaho Federal District Court.

As usual, people are needed. The Cove/Mallard Coalition can be reached at POB 8968, Moscow, ID 83483; (208) 882-9755; cove@moscow.com. Come to the Big Wild (or what is left of it) this summer!



Moose spirits helped shut down logging at Cove/Mallard

photo courtesy Cove/Mallard Coalition

## Bankruptcy 101 With Uncle Ramon

BY UNCLE RAMON

(Hippie Alert: This article may contain confusing words such as "assets" and "liabilities." For simpler fare, try "Dear Shit for Brains.")

"B-K all the way!"

"B-K all the way!"

With the above cheer resounding through the vast halls of super-lawyer D. Bernard Zaleha's (Bernie-the-attorney) Boise, Idaho, offices, the lawsuit against your uncle in federal bankruptcy court was dropped. Thus, after five years and one month of harassment (and just six days before trial), I am officially bankrupt, and I'm leaving Highland Enterprises, Inc. in Grangeville, Idaho, to go whistle up a tripod at Cove/Mallard.

Ergo, since this tactic seems to have worked, in a helter-skelter way, we thought we'd share. Pay attention: This will be on the final.

### A Citizens Guide to Bankruptcy

#### A) Ground Rules:

1. Your "liabilities" must exceed your "assets." (Hippies—I warned you!)

2. You are required to pay your federal government for any back income taxes owed for the three-year period prior to your declaration of bankruptcy. (Serves you right for hav-

ing an income in the first place.)

3. You are required to pay your federal government for your student loans. (Serves you right for borrowing money from your federal government so you can be taught what your federal government wants you to be taught so you can get a job and pay your federal government its income taxes. Do you have this all figured out, or what?)

4. You are required to pay your federal government a fee in the amount of \$175. (I told you I had this all figured out!)

B) Benefits to you, your family and society:

1. Disgrace. You finally will have achieved absolute "black sheep" status in your family. Yes, it does feel good.

2. High self-esteem. Not for you, for your family. Compared with you, they can now strut about like some superior species.

3. Beer. People who used to mooch now will buy you a round. Not in salute, in sympathy (see "disgrace" above).

Time out. I must digress. The real purpose of this article is to urge you to celebrate the moratorium on building roads in roadless areas. Yes, I said

celebrate. Yeah, yeah, yeah, I know...

A) The moratorium lasts only for 18 months.

B) They'll just nuke every other place to get the cut out.

C) So what? Have a beer for goodness sake (your round).

But that was more of an "aside" than a true "digression." The really real purpose of this article is to show you, step by step, how you can use your federal government's bankruptcy laws to finance your future campaigns. Here's how...

A) Establish a large line of credit. (How? How in hell do I know? I'm your uncle, not your father. Jeez!)

B) Next, give away all your assets and quit your lame job.

C) Now buy enough supplies, dried food, banners, paint, ropes, phone cards, computers, stationery, kryptonite locks and gourmet coffee to last six years. Charge it.

D) Be sure to get your name and picture in the papers and on TV as a highly visible "spokesperson" so you can then...

E) ... get sued by the people offended by your campaign (the logging company, the road building company, the furriers, your federal government).

F) For the next three to five years, dot all the "I's" and cross all the "T's" during the various legalities leading up to your trial.

G) Then declare "B-K all the way!" three days before the trial is scheduled to begin. This automatically, and quite legally, removes you from the lawsuit, or it from you, whatever. Consider it a form of legal magic. Shazam! Oh yeah—be sure to call Bernie first.

You are allowed to do this once every six years, like unprotected sex. If you are age 27, for example, you can do it eight times between now and age 75. If you try it after that, your federal government has the right to shoot you down, dog that you are.

Finally, on the off-chance that the plaintiffs (that's the people suing you) pursue you into federal bankruptcy court (as they did to me), just run away to Mexico for a while. Get a nice tan. To hell with it.

### Final Exam

A) How many times may you have unprotected sex over the next 48 years?

B) How many words in the English language have the letter "ptcy" in a row?

C) What is the capital of South Dakota?

D) All of the above.

Pencils up!

# Alberta Explosion

continued from front page

They show that a strong community can, in just 15 years, become self sufficient by growing their own organic food, brewing their own wine and herbal coffee, even bolting a windmill to the top of a 65-foot tower made of poles fashioned from nearby trees. From the wheat in their bread to the wool hats on their heads to the soap they scrub with, virtually everything consumed on the farm comes from their land. "You can get everything off the land that you need. You don't get luxuries, but you get everything that the Lord provides for your needs. And once you start realizing that, you say 'wow.' We have got to protect this land. We can't let it get ruined," Mamie Lou, Wiebo's wife explained.

Over the past few months, the Ludwigs and Boonstras have become well known as outspoken critics of the oil and gas industry. Many family members are also accused of involvement in bombing and vandalizing the polluting oil and gas facilities.

Beginning May 3 almost two weeks of preliminary hearings were held in Grande Prairie, Alberta. Recessed until June 7, these hearings are to decide if the Crown has presented enough evidence to the court to

bring Wiebo and Mamie Ludwig, Richard Boonstra and several other members of the Ludwig family to trial on various charges of allegedly destroying energy company property close to their farm near Hythe, Alberta. So far, charges have been dropped against one member of the family for lack of evidence. Meanwhile, there is a growing debate occurring all over western Canada concerning the dirty practices of the oil and gas producing companies.

From all the hype, one might expect an armed compound at the Trickle Creek Farm. Yes, we spied a couple of tanks on the property, but these were more akin to ploughshares made from swords. The tanks were discarded oil industry tanks buried underground and used as walk-in root cellars. Inside we found not bombs but beets, carrots and potatoes, kept cool and crisp through the long winter. Over meals Reverend Ludwig read from the Bible, and we debated everything from homosexuality to woman's place in society. We didn't agree on everything, but we appreciated their desire to live their own lives, as a strong and healthy community, with little interference from the outside world.

All was good at the farm until the oil and gas industry burst onto the scene a few years back. You don't need to be a Talmudic scholar to appreciate that it just isn't right to throw poisons onto your neighbour's property. If you went downtown with a barrel of benzene and allowed it to waft into the air and pour out onto the pavement, you would be hauled away in shackles and locked up for a while. But if Alberta Energy Company, or any other company for that matter, comes by to punch a hole on your

neighbour's property and spew carcinogens into your air, tough luck. These are the biggest players on the planet, puffed up on bully and bluster, and a whole lotta bucks and influence.

At a cost of \$4 billion, the Alliance Pipeline has sparked a prospecting rush to locate and tap into pools of underground natural gas. Gas activity has exploded over the last few years with up to 15,000 wells being drilled annually. There are now over 70,000 active producing wells and 150,000 miles of oil and gas pipeline in Alberta, some very old with pinhole leaks.

Once gas is discovered the companies pour highly toxic benzene, toluene, ethylene, and xylene down the hole. These poisonous chemicals, along with hundreds of other carcinogenic and mutagenic substances, are then released or vented into the atmosphere for a period of seven days or more. The force of the exhausted gases shakes the earth, causing a deafening din, sounding like a roaring locomotive one half-mile away. Once a gas well is put in place there may be additional flaring. Numerous gas plants that process the gas also cause significant air pollution. Ethylene glycol dehydrators that upgrade the gas vent three to nine tons per year of carcinogenic benzene onto agricultural land.

We were told of strange behaviour in the woods. Extensive tree stands are developing tree rot; deer are eating pine needles; birds are showing signs of immune deficiency; and moose are dying from a massive tick infestation, possibly due to immune systems weakened from acid snow and atmospheric pollution. "I've seen three dead moose lying for days, and it's like they are poisoned and embalmed. They are not bloating up, and the coyotes and ravens won't even touch them," we were told by Allan Johnstone, a local environmentalist.

Mamie Lou put it this way: "Studies are coming out now that show that it's very dangerous for animals. The government won't make the steps to say: 'Hey, that if it's dangerous to animals, it's got to be dangerous to humans. Are we just interested in big business, in cattle, in how healthy they are, or are we interested in our children, in our future of people?' It seems they don't care about that; they just care about big business." The Ludwigs themselves attribute four human miscarriages, including a deformed birth and dozens of animal deaths and deformities to gas-well venting and flaring from facilities surrounding their land.

The real eco-terrorism is what is going up the stacks and into the water. Across western Canada, farmers, ranchers and others are starting to voice their concerns about an industry that is running roughshod over the health of the land, the animals and the people. And like a choir, they're just getting tuned. Industry and government would be wise to face the music and act on their concern. Concludes Wiebo: "Land and a place to live is an inviolable, sort of fundamental right and necessity, especially if you're going to live like we do. We feel we have a stewardship responsibility to the land and if we don't protect it nobody else is going to. That's a fundamental responsibility that we feel even in a sense to the death because it is your death when they take the land from you. It is real critical, something we've lost in our generation. We just flit around and sell and buy, and we don't put down roots. When you put down roots, it's a whole different ballgame."

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Family patriarch

## Jasper Park Coal Mine Thwarted

A Canadian Federal Court has recently ruled in favour of five conservation organizations that challenged the approval of the Cheviot open-pit coal mine adjacent to Jasper National Park.

The ruling sets new precedents for Canadian environmental law. Justice Douglas Campbell found the joint federal-provincial environmental review did not comply with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. He also struck down federal authorization for the mine issued under the Fisheries Act. Campbell ruled that the permanent dumping of millions of tons of waste rock on migratory bird habitat does fall under the Migratory Bird Convention Act, which prohibits the

deposition of substances harmful to migratory birds.

The ruling clarifies the responsibility of the federal government to require a careful assessment of alternatives to developments (e.g. underground mining) and the combined effects of proposals with their projects.

The mine proposal must now go back to the review panel to consider all the environmental information which it failed to consider in the first hearing. Once this important missing information on the mine's environmental effects is gathered, the federal government must then decide if it still wants to approve the project. The ruling also establishes an important precedent that the federal Migratory Birds Act protects migratory

birds' nesting habitat, even on provincial lands.

Moreover, this decision is important for other wildlife species, in particular grizzly bears, who migrate in and out of Jasper National Park through the proposed mining area. The final outcome of the whole matter is of international concern. The United Nation's World Heritage Committee has asked Canada to reconsider its approval of the mine—located two miles from Jasper National Park—a UN World Heritage Site.

For further information contact the Alberta Wilderness Association at POB 6398, Str. D, Calgary, AB Canada T2P 2E1; (403) 283-2025; 270-2743 (fax); www.web.net/~awa.

## BARE BONES

### Amnesty Calls for Immediate Release of Peltier

On April 16, Amnesty International called for the immediate and unconditional release of Leonard Peltier, an Anishinabe-Lakota Indian and a leading member of the American Indian Movement (AIM). Peltier is serving two consecutive life sentences in Leavenworth Penitentiary for the murders of two Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents who were killed on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota in 1975.

Amnesty International has long expressed concerns about the fairness of Peltier's trial in 1977 and subsequent appeals and evidentiary hearings: the FBI knowingly used perjured testimony to obtain Peltier's extradition from Canada to the USA; Peltier's attorneys were denied the right to call relevant defense witnesses; and prosecutors withheld vital evidence. Amnesty International is concerned that Peltier's political activities and beliefs may have influenced the circumstances of his arrest and subsequent trial.

Leonard Peltier has now spent 23 years in prison. Amnesty International considers Peltier to be a political prisoner whose avenues to legal redress have long been exhausted. The US Government has repeatedly denied requests for a special executive review. Amnesty International recognizes that a retrial is no longer a feasible option and believes that Peltier should be immediately and unconditionally released.

Contact the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee at POB 583, Lawrence, KS 66044; (785) 842-5774.

### Rio Algom Ltd. Holds Town Hostage Over Crandon Mine

"The people of Nashville [WI] have spoken. We don't want a mine and we don't want a mining company interfering with our elections," stated Chuck Sleeter on April 6, who was recently re-elected Chairman of the Town of Nashville. With the election of Jan Olson as Treasurer, the Nashville Town Board is solidly opposed to Nicolet Minerals Company's (NMC) proposed Crandon Mine.

On December 12, 1996, a former town board signed a Local Agreement with Crandon Mining Company (aka Nicolet Minerals Company, owned by Rio Algom Ltd. of Canada), over objections of local residents. The opposition was by a margin of four to one. Residents were outraged at the agreement that offered no protection to town residents, yet restricted future town boards from protecting the health, safety and welfare of its citizens. In short, the Local Agreement was negotiated behind closed doors without public participation and was considered unconscionable in that all the power was given to the mining company.

On April 30, the town was served notice that the Nicolet Minerals Company had filed a lawsuit challenging the recent rescission of the Local Agreement. NMC sent two mailings to town residents which, in essence, threatened to bankrupt the town if they didn't retract their rescission. In spite of NMC's efforts, the current town board easily defeated their pro-mining opponents. Nashville residents have said they have already taken the steps necessary to protect their community by rescinding this unconscionable Local Agreement that is certainly not in their best interest.

continued from front page  
 Across the highway, federal rangers soon established their own camp; a security compound with a 24-hour guard and sophisticated surveillance and communication equipment. On day 113 of the occupation, a platoon of federal rangers arrived at to arrest the activists. The rangers found the people arranged in concentric circles of resistance. At the center were the elders, women and men in their 70s and 80s, performing traditional songs and dance in a ceremony that declared their spiritual ties to the land. All around them were Indian and non-Indian activists ready to risk arrest. When sheriff's busses arrived to haul away the protesters, one of the elders stepped forward to tell the rangers that he was ready to defend Ward Valley with his life. The officer in charge nervously dialed his superiors in Washington on a cell phone. After a short conversation, he gave the order to retreat.

The dump contractor developing the Ward Valley nuclear waste disposal site, notorious waste management firm US Ecology, has left a trail of leaking dumps and litigation across the country. All four of the corporation's existing nuclear dumps (Maxey Flats, KY; Sheffield, IL; Richland, WA; Beatty, NV) are leaking radioactive poisons into the surrounding environment. For years the company waged an expensive public relations campaign, putting forth outright lies about the kinds of waste that would end up at the desert dump, defending the technology and insisting on the safety of shallow-land burial of poison fire from the infernos of nuclear reactors. But in March, the firm publicly conceded defeat in the wake of a recent court ruling that was backed by the strength of the protest action at the site, a raft of legal challenges, numerous scientific and economic analyses and legislative obstacles.

However, the dump proposal will not be completely defeated until California Governor Gray Davis withdraws the pending request for taking federal land at Ward Valley. In the past, Davis has been an outspoken opponent of the dump, but since assuming office he has been suspiciously silent on the issue. The *Pipa Aha Macav* believe that they have lived along the Colorado River in the East Mojave Desert "since time immemorial." Indigenous activists have stated that they cannot and will not move from their traditional lands; their stories, songs and religion—their identity as a people—is inseparable from their natural surroundings. Should Davis decide to pursue the project, or even offer a compromise that would allow any type of facility to be developed at Ward Valley, thousands of Native American and environmental activists would again converge on the site to defend it once more in solidarity with the *Pipa Aha Macav*.

The Mohave, like all indigenous people, possess a rich oral literature that embodies their uniqueness, spirituality and story. Mohave songs are multi-dimensional oral maps that serve the dual role as a narration of the lore associated with landmarks in the Mohave's traditional lands and as a practical map for the ancient traveler trekking through the exacting desert environment. The presence of migratory birds, seasonal and celestial cycles and elaborate mythopoetic descriptions of natural features enabled the traveler to find scarce sources of food and water.

Mohave songs are the storiscapes of an indigenous people who have a profound and intimate relationship with their land. Recognizing the cultural significance and the beauty embodied in this living history, the Storiscapes Project began working with Mojave elders to record, translate and help preserve their traditional songs. Indigenous cultures and their stories, songs and language are vanishing at an alarming rate. The direct relationship between cultural and biological diversity has long been recognized. Peoples who have developed a

# ANCIENT LANDSCAPES



Petroglyphs at Grapevine Canyon, Avi Kwa Me (Spirit Mountain), Ward Valley

time-tested connection with their natural surroundings have inculcated the lessons of this relationship into their stories and practices, both sacred and mundane. The storiscapes represent an endowment of knowledge that the current inhabitants of this threatened Earth can draw from as we search for new ecological traditions to guide us.

According to Mohave oral tradition, Ward Valley is known as *Silyaye Aheace*, or the Place of Screwbean Mesquite and Sand. For centuries, *Silyaye Aheace* was known as a gathering place for the collection of the mesquite seeds that were a staple food. The area was also considered a rich basket of medicinal herbs to be harvested in concert with ritual. Ancient running trails traverse the region and runners from many of the river tribes have conducted Spirit Runs through the valley to gain both spiritual strength and political exposure for their struggle against the dump. Stories of the land and its creatures are often recounted at gatherings, the words mingling with the drifting smoke of camp fires.

As the 80-year-old elder talks into the camera it becomes obvious that he is speaking to future generations of his people. Mr. Barrackman is standing before *Avi Kwa Me*, or Spirit Mountain, the sacred place of origination for the Mohave people. He leans on his cane and motions to the granitic spires that pierce the blue-violet desert sky. "This is Mohave land. This is our church, our temple. You must remember this. You need to know the stories and the songs so that when they come to take our land, you can prove that we have always been here, that this is our land."

The pursuit of environmental justice and the assertion of the rights of the Native Americans who

**"THIS IS OUR CHURCH, OUR TEMPLE. YOU MUST REMEMBER THIS. YOU NEED TO KNOW THE STORIES AND THE SONGS SO THAT WHEN THEY COME TO TAKE OUR LAND, YOU CAN PROVE THAT WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HERE, THAT THIS IS OUR LAND."**

consider Ward Valley part of their sacred lands has been a potent organizing force and an inspiration for the environmental movement. In the long battle to stop the ill-conceived nuclear dump a variety of strategies have been employed from litigation to direct action, economic studies to spiritual gatherings. Every approach is an essential part of a whole, utilizing the tools and talents of all involved. Stormy Williams, beloved matriarch of the toxics movement in California, would instruct us that, "You do everything, you do it all the time, and you never know how you won."

Indian activists and traditional people from the Colorado River tribes have testified in public hearings and legal proceedings and met with government officials to bring attention to the significance of Ward Valley to Mohave and Chemehuevi cultural survival. Other steps are now being taken to preserve Mohave culture and document an ethnographic basis for environmental protection. One is the preparation of a cultural map of traditional sites, affixing the location to standard cartographic grids; another is the production of the videotape featuring Mr. Barrackman visiting dozens of traditional sites located within the boundaries of aboriginal territory—land that has been confiscated through broken treaties and taken by force.

Cultural maps and ethnographic evidence of areas of cultural significance can be used by indigenous communities to acquire lands offered for sale, distribution or co-management by private and government land-holders. Traditional peoples can also assert their rights for acquisition or access to aboriginal lands for ceremony and the collection of natural resources used in ritual and medicine. The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council was established by the Environmental Protection Agency to advise the federal agency about government actions that may result in discriminate and disproportionate adverse environmental threats to minority communities. Additionally, provisions within the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy Management Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and Title IV of the Civil Rights Act, as well as the Presidential Mandate on Environmental Justice and Sacred Sites, Department of the Interior Trust Responsibility for Native American Tribes require the federal government to recognize the rights of indigenous peoples to protect their cultural resources.

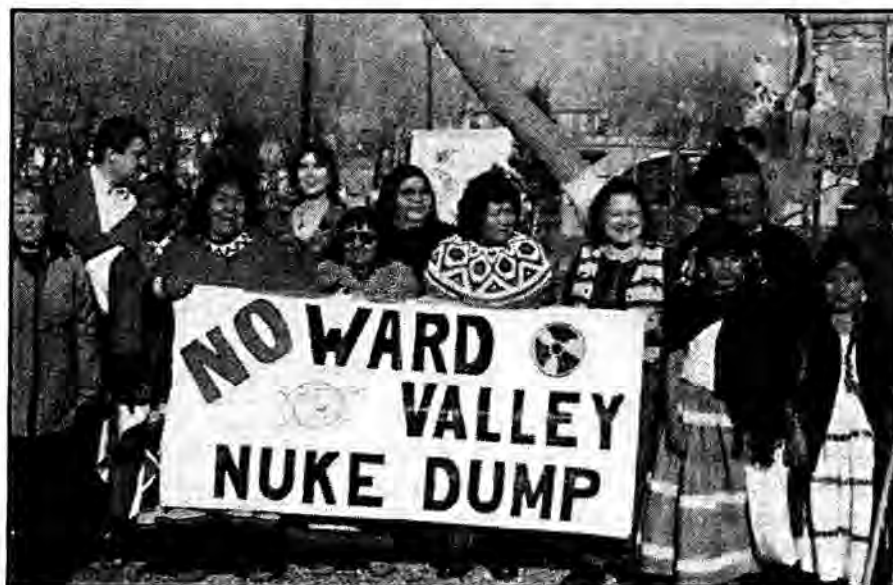
Although these mandates and provisions are rarely enforced by federal agencies that are more likely to be influenced by corporate and government interests, they can be a valuable framework for litigation, administrative processes, public awareness and political actions involving social justice and cultural defense.

For more information about efforts to assist indigenous communities in the preservation of story, song and language, contact the Storiscapes Project at the Thoreau Center for Sustainability, PO Box 29044, Presidio Station, San Francisco, CA 94129-0044; (415) 752-8678.

For more information about the campaign to save Ward Valley, contact the Bay Area Nuclear Waste Coalition 260 Golden Gate, San Francisco, CA 94118; (415) 752-8678.

Philip M. Klasky is director of the Storiscapes Project of the Cultural Conservancy and co-director of the BAN Waste Coalition which has been working to stop the proposed nuclear waste dump at Ward Valley for the past nine years.

## MODERN ECOLOGICAL RESISTANCE



Indigenous people gather in Juarez, Mexico

# Rescuing the Wild in Australia

continued from front page

These forest rescuers (a term they prefer as opposed to protesters) were able to slow down the logging and gain considerable support in Western Australia. In town, doctors, lawyers and business people sponsored two full-page ads in the major newspaper in support of an end to logging the old growth. In February, 300 business



Forest rescuers invite the public to witness the destruction of the ancient karri forest.

people gathered outside the state parliament buildings in Perth and jammed the government's telephone lines with their mobile phones in protest of logging old-growth karri.

Logging was due to start in the 110-hectare Wattle 3 unit in January so forest rescuers have dug in, literally, to prevent any more ancient karri from being felled. On each of the three access roads into the unit, old cars have been sunk into the ground blocking them. Each car has a small hole cut through the center. A pipe is then placed through the hole and set into concrete beneath the car. The pipe is just big enough so that activists lying in the car can put their arm down it and lock-on to a steel pin set horizontally in the concrete at the bottom of the pipe. Before any logging equipment can move onto the site, the whole car must be cut away and the concrete dug up. It takes the police at least nine hours or so to dislodge an activist.

While the rescuers have relatively good relationships with the loggers and the police, they face a formidable array of repressive and Orwellian legislation that has been put in place by the state government in a vain attempt to stifle the direct action campaigns. One element of the government's legal arsenal includes the designation of logging zones as "temporary control areas." This is typically done just before the logging of a forest unit is due to start and covers a period of 90 days, during which any unauthorized persons entering the area are liable for a fine of \$2,000. This



"The karri is the second tallest hardwood tree in the world... It will grow to heights of 295 feet and will live over 400 years."

time period is long enough for the loggers to clearfell the area and sanitize it. All the branches they leave behind are burned and the land replanted with a regimented monoculture tree farm of karri seedlings placed in straight lines—a far cry from the biologically diverse forests they replace.

The karri is the second tallest hardwood tree in the world (after its near relative, the mountain ash of Victoria and Tasmania). It will grow to heights of 295 feet and will live over 400 years. The karri and the other giant eucalypts of Southwestern Australia, such as jarrah, marri and red tingle, are geographically isolated from the forests of Eastern Australia by several thousand kilometres of desert and scrub. Consequently, they are biologically unique, harbouring a wide range of endemic plants and wildlife species.

Countless species are victims of this logging including the Baudins cockatoo, a species growing up to 60 centimeters which is endemic to the karri and marri forests. These birds mate for life and research has indicated that they return to the same nest site in a hollow in a mature karri tree each year.

Logging of old-growth karri forest also permanently displaces other fauna, including the quokka (a small wallaby), the mardo (a small carnivorous marsupial) and the threatened quenda. CALM justifies the logging by stating such animals escape into the forest surrounding the clearcuts. This naively assumes that the neighbouring forests are empty of such species and therefore have vacant space for these logging refugees to flee into. In practice, of course, the same species will almost certainly

have already occupied all the suitable sites in the surrounding areas, and therefore, the actual outcome is a net decrease in the populations of the affected wildlife.

Before the arrival of Europeans, these forests covered about 3.6 million hectares (1.4 percent of Western Australia's land area), but now only 600,000 hectares remain as old

growth. The rest has been cleared for farmland or is now covered with second-growth forest or plantations.

Conservation groups have campaigned against the logging of the remaining old-growth forest for a number of years with limited success. The newly designated Shannon National Park—covering 53,000 hectares—was established by CALM in the heart of the karri's range in 1988, but much of the area had previously been logged and now contains second-growth forest. In 1997, an eight-month nonviolent blockade in the 4,000-hectare Giblett Forest prevented any clearfelling from taking place, resulting in a temporary reprieve.

The attitudes of the conservation groups and forest rescuers on the one hand, and of the government and the logging industry on the other, represent two different world views with regard to the natural world around us. As such, they are not unique to Western Australia but are in fact a microcosm of what is taking place all over the planet. In Western Australia, the forest destroyers are some of the best paid workers in the state, while the forest rescuers are unpaid volunteers, with no possessions to their name, but with a total commitment to the survival of these unique forests. The fate of the last karri forests and some of the tallest hardwood trees in the world depends on their ability to succeed in the current struggle.

As of the end of May, two more protest camps have been established in some of the biggest karri forests to be logged. A public meeting soon followed with 5,000 in attendance. The pressure is on to preserve the old-growth karri.

You can help the campaign by sending letters, expressing concern for the fate of the karri forests and calling for an end to all old-growth forest logging in Western Australia to Premier, Richard Court, 197 St., Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000, Australia; +61-8-9322-1213 (fax); [www.premier.wa.gov.au](http://www.premier.wa.gov.au).

Please send letters of support or donations to Western Australia Forest Alliance, c/o Conservation Council, 79 Stirling Street, Perth, Western Australia, 6000, Australia; [conswa@iinet.net.au](mailto:conswa@iinet.net.au); [www.wafa.org.au](http://www.wafa.org.au).

Alan Watson Featherstone is the executive director of Trees for Life, an award-winning conservation charity working to restore the Caledonian Forest in Scotland and the producer of the annual Trees for Life calendar and diary. He recently spent a six-month sabbatical with his wife and son in Australia.



"In Western Australia, the forest destroyers are some of the best paid workers in the state, while the forest rescuers are unpaid volunteers, with no possessions to their name, but with a total commitment to the survival of these unique forests."

## Frontlines

### Eagle Blockades Underway

On May 14, a group of forest defenders announced they had been living in an old-growth grove in the Eagle timber sale located in the Mount Hood National Forest of Oregon.

Logging began early, in violation of rules designed to protect soil and water quality. According to the Eagle Record of Decision there is a "limited operating season required during peak sap flows and to protect soil and water resources; operations would be limited from 6/1 to 10/31. To minimize the potential for surface erosion, road and landing construction and log haul would not occur during periods of prolonged rain fall.

On May 24, the protest progressed as nonviolent activists blocked the road leading to the sales with a bipod. Earlier, the Forest Service had locked the gate to the area, allowing only the purchaser in. The protesters in the road and those living 150 feet above the forest floor say they will not leave until the Eagle timber sales are canceled or bought back.

The purchaser, Vanport Manufacturing, said in February it was willing to end the contract, but the Forest Service refused. Sold during the so-called Salvage Rider in '96, the excessive logging in the Eagle sales could not be appealed under current environmental laws.

The Eagle sales contain 500 acres of wilderness that should be added to the adjacent Salmon Huckleberry Wilderness Area. The unprotected wilderness contains the headwaters of the south fork of Eagle Creek, a key tributary of the Clackamas River which provides drinking water for over 175,000 Oregonians.

### Israeli EF! Action Gathering

For the first time in Israel, Green Action, a grass roots environmental group, with the help of many green activists and rainbow people, organized a three day Earth First!-style gathering.

The gathering was in the Jerusalem Forest, which is threatened by road building schemes and neighborhood expansions. The gathering included many workshops and walks around the endangered area. The weekend was a real success and included people from all spectrums of society. One man said, "We hope this gathering will be a step towards more anti-road actions and protesting in Israel."

### BBB Creams Vivisector

The Biotic Baking Brigade-Ecotopia Cell threw a pie in the face of vivisection by pieing University of California-Berkeley professor and vivisector Russell DeValois on April 29.

As he walked into class, DeValois was greeted with two airborne, gloopy vegan pies (of undisclosed flavors) by Field Agents Huckleberry and Tofu Creme. DeValois was notified about just why he received his just desserts to cries of "Stop torturing animals!" and "End vivisection!" from the entartistas. Using the secret pie mind tricks required of all BBB agents, they mysteriously disappeared without a trace, baffling onlookers and members of DeValois' class.

DeValois engages in brain-mapping experiments for color-blindness. He has been cited under the Animal Welfare Act for experimenting on sick and suffering animals, keeping animals in overcrowded facilities, neglecting sick and suffering animals, ignoring the recommendations of campus veterinarians and illegally acquiring animals for experimentation.

"The experiments he conducts on animals at UCB are just another example of this culture's belief that we are somehow above animals," said Agent Huckleberry. "The BBB will not stand by and while unaccountable mad scientists to torture innocent animals!"

# NO MORE THAN 300 WORDS OR WE BURN THE FORTS TO THE GROUND!



My fellow tree-huggers,

Earth First!'s fearless direct action tactics are certainly the first step towards transforming global consciousness. People see humans putting themselves on the line for "nature" and (hopefully) awaken from their anthropocentric slumber. But what then? If we want to protect the Earth long-term, we need a counter-culture—no, a counter-infrastructure—which supports Earth-friendly living. This means more alternative press, community development and "pro-active" campaigns geared toward educating the public and each other. Ultimately, it means uniting activists into tighter groups, transforming close-knit working relationships into mutualist activism communities. Defending the Earth shouldn't just be a 9-5 job! It's a way of life, a life that should be shared.

Now I know we're spread thin as it is, but this is something we need to put tremendous energy into. And allow me to be the first to offer my time and energy! I'm a young EF!er currently living in Southern Illinois, looking to help organize and/or participate in a mutualist activist community. Along with taking on eco-defense campaigns, we'd engage in co-housing to minimize expenses and strengthen activist bonds. We'd also reach out to other activists in order to help them do the same and learn from our mistakes. Encouraging the formation of activist collectives would be an incredible campaign! Fundraising for the community would be difficult, but funding for activism is always a problem and we could explore many avenues to see which works best for us.

To sum it all up, I'm looking for Earth First! activism which both defends the Earth directly and forms an Earth-loving community geared towards education and social change. If you've already got a set-up like this, please contact me, and if you're interested in building this kind of activist community, let's get it on!!!

—TREESONG  
WAYFARER@SIU.EDU

Dear Earth First!,

I am writing today to share my thoughts on a movement I feel is becoming less and less effective using civil disobedience (CD) tactics. As a long-time Earth First! supporter, I have continued to see our last wild lands plundered for the personal benefit of private companies. The entire CD tactics are simply not effective in stopping the destruction. Based on my knowledge of business, I believe the only way to bring

about real change—not simply stopping timber harvests for a few hours or weeks—is by drastically changing the mode of operation.

This change entails aggressively pursuing a position of property destruction. The vast majority of any property damage actions are covered by business insurance and thus have virtually no impact on the targeted party. The only way to make property damage actions successful is to carry these actions out with such frequency and maximum possible severity so the targeted companies are no longer able to purchase insurance on their rape and pillage equipment or the cost becomes so absorbent it no longer becomes worth the financial investment for a company to practice their destruction in a particular area. The targeted company could then operate without property insurance on their equipment, but they would have to absorb all losses from that point forward, unable to shift the risk to the insurance company, possibly doing substantial financial damage at that point.

Also, the larger the property damage actions, the better the chance of these actions causing potential property insurers to reject the risk of insuring the equipment of the targeted company.

I am more convinced than ever that CD has not and will not have any measurable positive impact on saving the few remaining wild areas. Changes in our tactics must be made quickly. We are simply running out of time as a movement.

—LYNX

Pixying is what it's called here (in Albion). The wood elves and pixies sabotage and burn the Earth rapists tools. It costs them money, lots of it. Costain, the road builders, almost went bankrupt. The pixies are regarded as heroes by the masses in a sort of underground consciousness/mind radio that subverts the mainstream mind control. It seems to me that the problem you have in Colorado is fear. The police/feds try and instill fear. *You must be solid!* There is great power from the Mother Earth in pixying. That's what I reckon anyway. Just tell the feds to fuck off.

Peace,

—JIM

I heard a story that environmental groups were hosting a so-called Earth day. If this is true is it not a bit hypocritical, what are we supposed to save with a once a year Earth day? Every day should be Earth day.

Regards,

—STEVEN McCRAW

I'm a resident of Mammoth, Utah (pop. 20), located in Juab County and the Tintic Mining District. Since 1993 Centurion Mine Corporation (Grand Central Silver Mines), Mammoth Mining Company, and Spent Hanson (Centurion's ex-CEO and owner of MMC) have tried everything in their power to screw over the citizens of Mammoth and the environment surrounding it.

They have repeatedly dynamited new illegal roads into the mountainside that lead absolutely nowhere. They've drilled

illegal wells claiming to be taking mineral and core samples. One of the things that really pissed us off was when the county illegally sold them property, right out from underneath us to further impress their investors.

They have even gone as far as putting a restraining order on the citizens of Mammoth because they were afraid we would attack and injure their miners.

Our biggest problem has been them taking the Mammoth water users and the Mammoth Water Association to court to try and get hold of our water rights, which we desperately need and they desperately want for mining purposes.

I'm basically looking for information or help in putting a stop to all of this. We just want Mammoth returned to the quiet, desolate, sagebrush and turkey vulture place that it almost always has been. Any and all information would be much appreciated.

Adios,

—JUSTIN STANGER  
JSTANGER2@WEBER.EDU

Dear EF! Journalistas,

Regarding the article on genetic engineering (GE) in the US (EF! March-April 1999) by Brian Tokar: Although he states that the Pure Food Campaign against



rBGH was an unusual positive development, he missed some important points I'd like to bring out. I have worked with the PFC since the beginning of the rBGH issue and helped to publicize it.

Tokar seems more interested in recounting the direct actions of the campaign than in assessing how and why it was successful. Yes, dairy farmer John Kinsman took personal responsibility for alerting the public, and yes, milk dumps and protests helped bring media attention to the issue. But these would have meant nothing without a lot of hard work behind the scenes, and, equally important, the participation of those economically affected: dairy farmers. The rBGH issue is unusual in my experience as an activist because it wasn't adopted by activists alone. Some farmers who didn't want to use rBGH or compete with those who did use it gave money and time and informed their neighbors and community representatives. They compiled information about the effects on cows given rBGH and sent the information to the PFC.

The media could go out and interview not just activists but dairy farmers and anti-rBGH milk companies who chose not to use rBGH. This made for a richer (and unfortunately more credible) story than one sponsored by informed activists acting on behalf

of an indifferent public. Secondly, rBGH is the best-known GE substance because we made the issue popular. Yes, we focused on labeling, not on a systematic critique of the agricultural system. We knew that requiring labeling would be the kiss of death for GE—as it still is. We appealed to Americans' expectation that their democratically elected government should act in their interests, not the corporations'. We told them that Monsanto was cheating, and the FDA was in cahoots.

We succeeded in keeping rBGH use less than what it might have been—some US milk companies still don't accept treated milk. Most importantly, we kept the issue alive by focusing on labeling. Direct action gets attention, but if you tell people their right to know is being compromised, they'll retain the memory that maybe they're being hoodwinked. They'll notice the story next time. Canada's recent decision for a moratorium on rBGH would not have been possible without the sustained informational efforts of the Pure Food Campaign and other activists.

We continue to monitor developments and provide information with our web site, [www.purefood.org](http://www.purefood.org). We also opposed the Calgene Flavr-Savr tomato, which is now off the market. I bet more people have heard of Flavr-Savr than of Terminator Technology.

Some activists do direct action; some sow seeds of doubt. We work less conspicuously, but we couldn't work at all if we didn't have a sustaining vision. I myself don't expect systemic critiques of technology to catch fire with the general population. Few people think systematically. It's a waste of time to expect to educate everyone to think as you do. Activists have to use people's existing needs and desires and show them how those can be met better under a different system.

Also, Tokar's information did not include an excellent list serve (private email newsletter) focused on GE, mostly outside the US. Send email to [rwolfson@concentric.net](mailto:rwolfson@concentric.net), web site: [www.natural-law.ca/genetic/geindex.html](http://www.natural-law.ca/genetic/geindex.html).

Sincerely,

—JACQUELINE

Dear SFB,

Considering the increasing Y2K state of mind of mainstream Americans over this next year, at what point will ELF (serious wrenching) type actions invoke their view of radical environmentalists as enemies of the people? These type of actions will be manipulated by government, media, and unsavory types to portray all of us as one united faction which seeks to cause disruption and an increase to the suffering of Jane and John Doe. For example, immediately after the 1989 San Francisco earthquake, a subsequent downing of power lines either by monkeywrenching or agent provocateurs served only to alienate the quake traumatized public and set the stage for the FBI to arrest Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney. I don't believe that anyone seeing themselves as environmental



advocates would want to become viewed as enemies of the common people.

Direct action needs to be taken in the form of hands-on solutions to the possible disruption and suffering of average people, albeit misguided they are. This type of action may invoke a change in some peoples consumptive lifestyles, but many more will see us "greenies" as helpful, emphatic and down-to-Earth neighbors. This change of viewpoint may open their minds to our point of view. Perhaps this could lead to a meaningful change in consciousness for a substantial segment of society.

We can and need to offer what knowledge and sweat starting now and into the Y2K debacle. So, initiate or just participate in neighborhood meetings to educate each other, to discuss who has what resources and knowledge, who may need the most help and what you can offer each other. Use available media to talk about reliable appropriate technology and solutions to problems that may arise. Initiate or get people to workshops on food preparation, superior appropriate technologies, gardening, and whatever life skills are needed for a simpler way of life. "We are in this together" mindset may create lifestyle changes by mainstream Americans beyond our wildest biocentric expectations.

P.S. I hope my optimism hasn't made any of the readers feel sick. I know being pessimistic and cynical is the way of this movement but most times it warrants rejection.

—SHANNON WILSON

To the editor,

On May 18, a two-year-old female gray whale swimming peacefully in a National Marine Sanctuary in US waters was brutally harpooned and shot dead by a group of men. The men who murdered her justified their action as an ancient, cultural tradition. They said that killing her made them feel proud.

Culture and custom have been used to justify the torture and murder of women, children and animals for centuries. We have been burned at the stake, thrown into volcanoes, sacrificed on altars and killed in every way imaginable. The fact that these atrocities were once legal and traditional does not make them right. I for one do not care if the whale killers were Japanese, Norwegian or Native American. What they did was cruel, cowardly and utterly contemptible.

Not all Makah people support the killing of whales. On the day of the killing, Makah elder Alberta Thompson said, "This is the saddest day of my life." Makah thugs, aided by agents of the US government, have viciously attacked and harassed Ms. Thompson and

other hunt opponents, a fact the corporate media failed to report.

The resumption of whale killing is being orchestrated by Japanese investors and others who want to open the door to worldwide whaling. The whalers have even hired a high-powered PR firm to sell the world on the idea that killing by indigenous people for cultural reasons is politically correct. To get the real story about the Makah resumption of whaling in the Pacific Northwest, checkout [www.makah.org](http://www.makah.org), [www.animalalertnews.com](http://www.animalalertnews.com) or [www.seashepherd.org](http://www.seashepherd.org). Please speak out against this madness now. Silence is the voice of complicity.

—PATRICIA WOLFF

Dear SFB,

What a relief to finally see Danny Dollinger's tapes for sale in the *Journal*! Danny is one of the coolest things to hit the EF! music scene since Bill Oliver—and only Texas could produce a musician of this caliber! He fuses personal growth with activist passion so beautifully, even including tear jerking love songs (is he the first musician in our movement to include love songs?) and its a true joy to see a gorgeous EF! man so sure in his integrity he can wear a cowboy hat to Rendezvous well into the '90s. We Love You Danny!

—NOMETTA HANDSTAND, CO-FOUNDER OF WILDD (WOMEN IN LOVE WITH DANNY DOLLINGER)

Dear Earth First!,

I was recently at the Fairfax May Day Festival in Marin County, California, and I skimmed over the many flyers and pamphlets about environmental action, issues and groups. Eventually I read them all, and tucked an update on the Headwaters situation and the *Earth First! Journal* in my bag. I've been interested in Earth First! for a while, but because it is not technically a unified organization, I was having trouble getting in contact with others and finding information. I read the whole *Journal*, and ordered myself a t-shirt... green on unbleached. The articles both uplifted and deeply saddened me. I knew there was, and is, a great need for action against environmental criminals, but I had no idea how great.

Action needs to be taken, but every time I try to do something productive or helpful to the Earth, I feel that it's not enough. Earth First! is an example of people who feel this way too and continue taking action until the job is done. While I do look forward to receiving another copy of the *Earth First! Journal*, I would like to try to get in contact with other Earth First!ers around this area. I don't have very much time to go looking for others, so if there is any way you might suggest for getting in contact with people in the San Francisco Bay Area, I would appreciate it a lot. Thank you very much, live green! Peace.

Sincerely,

—CHLOE LIEBERMAN

Dear SFB,

A quick, most mischievous request for Mr. Ned Ludd: ever heard of RF (radio-frequency) or EMP (electro-magnetic pulse) weapons? From my limited knowledge and research, these are reportedly easy to build (but how?) with relatively cheap components. (\$500-\$1000) and can

disrupt electronic equipment from up to about half a mile. Bulldozers, chainsaws, computers, logging mills, oil rigs, whole corporate buildings rendered completely useless by a few quick passes of an inconspicuous van. This sounds promising to me...

Namaste',

—MR. PORTABLE Y2K

Dear EF!,

Re: Best tree-\$piking

I'm reading Rik Scarce's *Eco-Warriors* which advises that helix or spiral nails such as those used at Meares Island, in the province of BC, are the best because "the spiral makes the nail extremely difficult to remove and removal is virtually impossible once the head is cut off."

Now I'm excited. The situation seems clear. Spike every old-growth watershed, systematically (or unsystematically), before any more of the tiny area remaining can be logged. Any thoughts on this? I'm desperate for Zero Cut, ready to "start a new job."

—RAISED BY WOLVES

Dear Earth First!,

It is a real treat to get the *Journal* here in the Arizona State Prison—thank you! I am going to be released in the later part of this year—August. That is unless I am granted a early release of 90 days. If so I will let you know and give you a change of address and a subscription fee.

I read an article about dividing the *Journal*... Together we stand—divided we fall. Why do double the work plus pay double the postage? If there are people out there who object to certain tools in the tool box, tell them there are weaker and milder blends available. I prefer full strength no fucking compromise defense! Once I am free I will be looking for a place to start "directly" taking "action" once again.

These walls and bars have only made me more determined to live wild! I will be on parole in Havasu, Arizona, for about 90 days, maybe six months. Then I will be looking to head up to Northern California, maybe Oregon to get involved. So, if you know of a particular tribe looking for a left-handed monkeywrencher, let me know. Anyone looking for a pen-pal to write as well I love to write and have the time! Once again, thank you very much. Your support while I've been down has been a great help and inspiration!

P.S. Why don't you print a list of toll-free numbers to those people we'd like to remind that they're paying for the call! LP, GP, Dupont, etc... Let's have a 1-800 party once a month with a different loved one! I'd like to see more "tips" from the tool box printed!

Peace & Love!

—JAMES K. DAILEY 139682

ASPC YUMA/CHEYENNE SO 8-A-19

POB 13006

YUMA, AZ 85366-3006

EF!,

I'm not sure where (or even if) this would go in the *Journal*, but here goes. I am in the process of starting up an intentional community on 160 acres in the north woods of Wisconsin. It's just me at this point, no running H2O or electricity and the first building is nearly complete. My vision for the place is one with a core community of six to ten people with a steady stream of visitors and activist-types decompressing from urban life.

There will also be a large number of people from the pagan and Earth-based spiritual paths using the land as a gathering place and for ritual.

I want this to be an open haven to any traveling folk and to anyone that needs some time away from where they are at. All are welcome and will be treated to all the vegan food, fresh air and physical labor (if you're interested) you can tolerate. Write for more info and directions.

—WADE FROM WISCONSIN

DEEPLY ROOTED, POB 321,

ATHENS, WI 54411

Dear SFB,

Smearing everyone more militant than you as provocateurs, as Grunt did ELF, is a tactic I'd hoped died with Stalinism. Compromisers should remember a movement's effectiveness invites repression, not "violence." Granting this, state/corporate reaction to the Vail arson suggests it was pretty effective. Granting that, people moaning about it should go hide somewhere as the passive demos they set such score by might invite repression too.

Judi Bari said ecoteurs should join ELF and leave open campaigning to EF! as a separate outfit. Some



EF!ers won't even stand for militancy despite this, though many are nonviolence cultists who'd settle for a dead Earth as long as it was peaceful. Those that aren't—it suited your ego fine when your militancy outflanked the usual environmental lobbyists so now you know how they felt. Either slot into the CD role Bari's allocated to you or take ELF action yourself.

Someone else made the same suggestion as Judi Bari in a letter to the last issue that wasn't published—Ted Kaczynski. It's no use saying his letter would damage his appeal—it had to go through prison censors before it reached the *Journal*, so all censors there achieved what to make Ted's sacrifice for nothing. Even if they admit they only print letters that suit them, they can hardly pretend this letter didn't, as it differentiates between EF! and more militant anti-industrial action. Ted's letter's still available—why won't the *Journal* publish it next issue like any other?

Finally, someone mentioned the *Anarchist Cookbook* last issue. Many of its recipes are dangerous and stupid and have killed militants in the past (why is it still in print?). Clearly *Journal* readers need Dear Ned Ludd after all...

Yours, for the destruction of civilization,

—OXFORD GREEN ANARCHISTS

Dear Earth First!,

I'm damn tired of articles, whether in EF! or elsewhere, in praise of primitivity, pre-civilization, yet no mention at all (or none I've yet seen) of the

diabolical killing in "hunting and food gathering" of animals. True, primitive folk (like American Indians) kill animal cousins essentially for food and other needs rather than for sport. Well, an animal is just as dead either way.

An illustration of my gripe? In the last *EF! Journal* that article by Bugbreath, in which he goes to a class "Wintercount" to pick-up primitive ways—toolmaking, etc... Except included in these ways are the rubbing out of other species. Like the second day at Wintercount, "I began the project that would be my focus; braintanning a deer hide." He then goes on describing just how. He ends this paragraph with, "I am grateful for the little deer whose life and death become a part of my life." But is the little deer grateful to him?

Toward the end of the article he says, "Primitive skills are about experimentation and experience... getting your hands in the dirt and muck and pulling civilization out by the roots." So far okay, cool! He then goes on to say, "... it's kinder to our Mother (Earth) to eat roadkill venison than a banana which is shipped across the sea to grace your health food store." Yeah sure, "kinder!" Gimme that banana any day over eating an animal, even if the latter is already dead!

What irony—in a photo of a primitive fella, he is so sweet-looking, altruistic-looking, as he's sitting in front of his non-civilizational hut, cutting up an animal. What damn irony!

—S. COLMAN

Dear Shit For Brains,

Hello again! My name is Garrett Beal, and I was in the *May-June Earth First! Journal*, in which I asked everyone to please send information. Well, they did! The only problem is, the guards here wouldn't let me have/or see some of the envelopes so I was unable to respond to some of my mail. I just didn't have the address! But, thank you to everyone who did write, and for all the support! I hope you don't think I was being a dick or anything. I just didn't have the address!

Peace,

—GARRETT BEAL, 107 W. TAYLOR

ST., SHELBYVILLE, IN 46176

Dear Journalistas,

Greetings from San Francisco County Jail #7 in San Bruno, California, where the sun is warm, the sky is blue and the salty ocean air rides heavy on the breeze.

My comrades Rahula, Jerry and I are serving four out of six months for serving three delicious pies to the mayor of San Francisco to protest the criminalization of the city's homeless community which has taken place under his administration.

While incarceration is by definition a violent repression, my spirits remain high. Every day I receive letters of support (and the occasional *Earth First! Journal*) from people all over the world. Thank you so much. Keeping in touch with you all helps me stay inspired. I also want to send strength and admiration to fellow BBB agents, as well as all other participants in the worldwide pastry uprising. Keep the crusts and fillings flying.

P.S. We get out on June 20, so I'll see you all at the rendezvous. Love,

—JUSTIN GROSS #1818071, CJ37  
DORM B, SAN BRUNO, CA 94066

Hey Journalistas,

Got a hold of the latest and greatest! I just wanted to send my praise to a bunch of over-worked folks and let you know that those long complicated hours you folks put into the *Journal* looks great (heard you ran into cover dilemmas at the last minute)! Many praises for the way this rag is going!

I'm so glad that you were able to include pieces like the interview with Carl Anthony. I think at times over the years of doing stuff originally as a mainstreamer doing the recycling thing in high school and then moving into the front line battles that went on in the Shawnee NF and then diligently working on Chiapas, good ol' Cassini and now having given a bit o time in Nuxalk territory.

I feel like folks don't get enough praise for the work they are doing. So I'm writing you now to do that. In other words, I like the direction the *Journal* is heading if the latest issue is any indication of where it'll be in the future. Give yourselves a huge pat on the backster! Many warm thanks for the tireless endless nights to get this last issue out.

P.S. I was around when Batboy went up into the tree in the Shawnee back in 95'(the memorial piece was two *Journals* ago). Thank you for allowing that memorial piece to be written and printed. Dave was a comrade and sure meant a lot to me and others in our organizing in Southern Illinois. At his funeral, his mother informed me that his ashes will be spread sometime in the spring or the summer in the Shawnee National Forest. To allow him to rest where he first had gotten involved with protecting the wild, a place his mother knew he loved enough to want to spread his ashes there. Dave had worked on anti-racists issue prior to ending up in Southern Illinois to go to school and it only made sense to him, to be doing the work he had done in the Shawnee. Thank you again for allowing that to be printed two *Journal's* ago about Batboy.

For the Earth and critters like the Indiana Bat!

—STEVE, A CONTRADICTION LUDDITE  
PROGRAMMING WEB SITES FOR NFN  
AND FAN



# GLOBALIZATION CORPORATIONS DEVOUR BIODIVERSITY

The Earth First! Journal presents part II of Karen Coulter's essay on the threat of corporate globalization and how the world's economic forces are scheming to rule the planet. We encourage readers to become familiar with the economic strategies of globalization which possibly constitute the greatest threat to biodiversity in the 21st Century.

BY KAREN COULTER

How did all these ecological and ethical horrors come about? The global free trade agreement, GATT, was established in 1948 to negotiate lower tariffs (taxes on imports) in order to stimulate commerce. There have been seven rounds of negotiations since its inception. The most recent Uruguay Round placed new issues on the table for negotiation, such as non-tariff barriers to trade, which include environmental policies and economic development strategies.

What emerged from the Uruguay Round was a plan for the wealthiest countries to use free trade ideology as a means of dismantling virtually all regulation of natural economies. Ralph Nader described the Uruguay Round agreements as strengthening and formalizing a world economic government dominated by giant corporations, without a correlative democratic rule of law to hold this economic government accountable.

GATT is now subsumed under the World Trade Organization (WTO), the rules of which constitute what Nader calls a Corporate Bill of Rights. Instead of sovereign contracting parties choosing whether or not to participate in certain GATT treaties, WTO members must agree to adhere to each of the agreements of the Uruguay Round in order to participate in this exclusive world trading club. The WTO body uses voting and binding dispute resolution procedures, backed by threats of economic sanctions, to enforce its decisions. The mere threat of such sanctions is often enough to persuade poorer countries to change their laws or trade practices.

Other weapons in the globalization armory are agreements on intellectual property rights. Incorporated as the Uruguay Round Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), foreign corporations can easily appropriate agricultural and medicinal biodiversity for their own private economic development. The membership of the Intellectual Property Committee designing the TRIPS agreement includes representatives from Bristol Myers, DuPont, General Electric, General Motors, Hewlett Packard, IBM, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Monsanto, Pfizer, Rockwell and Time-Warner.

Although intellectual property rights used to fall under national law, they now have become the preferred weapons transnational corporations

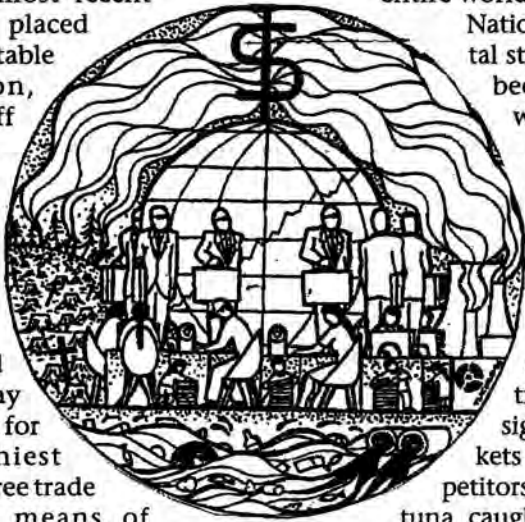
(TNC) exploit to monopolize a product, regardless of its origins or value to the greater social body. Under TRIPS, anything that can be genetically manipulated can be patented and monopolized as private (TNC) property. With intellectual property rights, TNCs can now take over whole national industries and claim the entire world as their market.

National environmental standards have also been compromised with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the WTO. Accusing the Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of being a protectionist trade weapon designed to close markets to foreign competitors, an embargo on tuna caught with dolphin-killing methods was eliminated by Mexico who sued the US, declaring the MMPA illegal under GATT. US law requiring the shrimp fishery to use nets with turtle excluder devices to protect endangered sea turtles was also found illegal by the WTO and the US was forced to weaken the law.

The proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investments (MAI) now being shuttled around piecemeal under various names and venues would go even further, giving corporations preemptive rights to determine the course of resource development while making no distinction between domestic and foreign investors. The national treatment clause would prohibit policies that favor community land tenure and resource management rights, restrict the limitation of mineral extraction and use of unappropriated water to state or national residents, and remove restrictions on foreign ownership of land, citizen requirements for logging licenses and community development subsidies.

The MAI ban on performance requirements would also prohibit governments from giving preference for public contracts to firms that are environmentally responsible or achieve levels of domestic content and hire locally.

The MAI would give corporations the right to own the saleable natural resources of a country and to extract oil, forest, mineral or other resources with no obligation to sustain or use them in the interests of local and indigenous communities. The MAI also takes precedence over multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species, the Montreal Protocol (controlling



## PART TWO

production of ozone-depleting chemicals) and the Basel Convention (controlling hazardous waste).

Under the investor-state dispute procedure clause of the MAI, any new laws to protect the environment could be considered a form of expropriation and foreign investors would have the right to sue for compensation before an international tribunal made up of unelected trade bureaucrats. Most countries have less discretionary income than TNCs and would probably eliminate new laws, leaving ecosystems open to rampant corporate exploitation.

Since such unconstrained corporate rule throws out the national and international laws activists have worked so hard to establish and enforce, new strategies and decision-making targets are needed for effective action. We must look beyond corporate-controlled regulatory agencies and courts to build an overwhelming international movement of resistance to change the current political climate. Long-term value changes have always been achieved only by stepping outside established limits of laws and habit.

Listed below are immediate opportunities for involvement and organizations supporting this work. As the stakes are so high, with the potential for worldwide irrevocable loss of genetic diversity and cultural integrity, what choice do we have but to strive for

what the Earth and Her people really need—an end to corporate governance and economic inequity.

**What we can do:**

- Attend the WTO teach-in and the WTO ministerial meeting protests in Seattle, Washington, from November 30 to December 3.

- Participate in the June 18 Global Day of Action against corporate rule.

- Support or participate in groups working on this broader framework such as: Program for Corporations, Law and Democracy, POB 246, S. Yarmouth, MA, 02664-0246. Call (508) 398-1145 for written resources and suggested reading lists.

- Alliance for Democracy POB 683, Lincoln MA 01773; (781) 259-9395

- International Forum on Globalization 1555 Pacific Ave., San Francisco, CA 94109.

**Suggested reading:**

*When Corporations Ruled the World* by David Korten.

*The Case Against the Global Economy* by Jerry Mander and Edward Goldsmith.

*Against the Grain: Biotechnology, and the Corporate Take-over of Your Food* by Marc Lappe and Britt Bailey.

*Gene Wars—The Politics of Biotechnology* by Kristen Dawkin.

*MAI and the Threat to American Freedom* by Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke.

*Globalization the Acceleration of Forest Destruction Since Rio* by Victor Menotti (available from IFG, above).

## THE GLOBALIZATION OF FORESTRY WTO COMES TO SEATTLE

BY ANTONIA JUHASZ

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is in the process of negotiating a new agreement to eliminate all tariffs on forest products that will be ratified at the third annual ministerial meeting of the WTO that to be held in Seattle, WA, from November 30 to December 3, 1999.

The Global Free Logging Agreement (FLA) would tie the hands of activists reforming unsustainable forestry practices by eliminating tariffs, increasing demand and reducing costs for forest products thereby increasing forest-product consumption and further decimating the world's native forests.

The agreement does not include steps to mitigate the potential environmental impacts of the FLA. To the contrary, negotiations will include ways to remove current protections. The agreement only focuses on the elimination of tariffs on wood, paper and other forest products. Many environmental protections aimed at sustainable forestry practices—such as timber-trade regulations, forest management standards, restrictions on pest-infested log imports and building codes that protect domestic industry by discouraging the use of imported materials like wood—can be argued to impede trade and therefore be banned.

The forest product industry's international trade agenda, as embodied in the FLA, is three-fold. It aims to eliminate restrictions on where, when and how to log in order to increase production, open world markets to forest products so more is sold and profits increase while also eliminating environmental, labor and other regulations that reduce profits.

Forest protection laws reduce profits and are therefore antithetical to this agenda. Unfortunately, the Clinton administration's trade agenda mirrors that of industry giving no consideration to forest protection.

The FLA will encourage increased logging using unsustainable practices at a time when the world's native forests are facing extinction. According to the World Resources Institute, nearly one-half of the world's original forest cover is gone. Of the remaining original forests, most is severely degraded, and only 22 percent remains as large tracts of relatively undisturbed primary forests. Worldwide, less than 10 percent of virgin temperate forests remain (excluding the Commonwealth of Independent States, part of the former Soviet Union), and half of the world's tropical forests have been cleared or degraded. Every hour, at least 4,500 acres of tropical forests fall to chainsaws, machetes, flames or bulldozers and another four plant or animal species die out, mostly in the tropics.

The world's forests need increased protections, not increased logging. Help us stop the Global Free Logging Agreement. For more information contact the International Trade and Forest Programs at (202) 547-9230; antonia@americanlands.org.

# ARMED WITH VISIONS

## BEAR WILDERNESS MEDITATION

I know  
you want that pack  
and all that's in it  
safe

Sack of synthetic fibers  
holding so much  
of your protection  
Your sunblock,  
your gloves,  
your lip balm,  
your extra clothes,  
your flashlight,  
your notèbook,  
with its soulful reflections,  
half-remembered dreams,  
and literary pretensions.

But maybe  
you should just  
let the bear  
have it.

Bear  
who is always  
bare naked  
carries  
all  
its protection  
in its self;

Great monster buddha  
of the wilderness  
eats so many berries  
shits purple.

Though all bear wants  
is your food  
bear would gladly  
rip your baggage apart.

Fearing or hating bear  
does no good  
hungry mammal  
like yourself.

Have compassion  
for bear  
and all beings  
have compassion  
for yourself.

Your margin of safety  
is thinner than you think  
and wide  
as the starry sky.

-Kirk Lumpkin



## CACTUS JACK AND THE GREAT PRARIE DEBATE

There was a man named Cactus Jack,  
Who lived down Texas way  
He shared his vittles and his shack  
With varmints, some did say.

Prairie Dogs, he loved the best  
Their politics, their style.  
In shady hours, at his rest,  
They often made him smile.

Fuzzy guards upon their hip  
Did gossip all around.  
At sentry's cry of Yip! Yip! Yip!  
They scurried underground.

By and by, a commissioner came  
And said the Town must go.  
"The Lone Star State needs a lane  
So's prosperity can grow!"

"I'll tell ole' Blue to gnaw on you,  
If'n you should try  
To ruin homes for somethin' new  
And cause my friends to die!"

Now, Cactus Jack, he held his ground  
And tied the courts up right.  
He readied for another round  
With victory in sight.

Neighbors came from every quarter,  
For news had traveled fast,  
To spy on Jack's bodacious critters  
Before their fame had passed.

"Upon my soul! Thet's a pleasin' sort,"  
One man was heard to say.  
"Yes, Sir're! The law's sold 'um short.  
The whelps is got to stay!"

The multitudes raised their voices.  
"Give the dogs their due!"  
The magistrates surveyed their choices,  
"Which plan should we pursue?"

Jack held fast. The pups won out.  
A compromise was made.  
Now the road curves slightly south  
A little past Jack's shade.

Now Fort Worth has its legacy  
They call it Loop 820  
Jack left it for folks to see  
Without the need of money.

So, "Come on down!" and lend an eye  
To sentries on their domes,  
Who watch prosperity whizzing by  
Past Jack's withered bones.

"God bless ya Jack. You done us proud.  
We appreciate your labor.  
No truer heart could grace a cloud.  
Signed, A Lone Star Neighbor."

-Carol Giddens

## Clear as cut glass & just as dangerous

Send poems to  
Warrior Poets Society,  
ASUC, Box 361,  
Berkeley, CA 94720-4510

WEST VA  
Waters folly among pale sandstone  
peel off layers  
geology reflecting the sun back at the surface  
while that blue jay shrieks a hole in canyon silence  
with a song that loses steam  
in the foaming rapid roar of mist  
an echo of the snow once graced the cliffs  
months ago before I sunburned  
and slipped across the stretching rivers  
to sit and find a spider prowling highways on my aching arm.  
To spend a century sunseting upon the stones  
inhaling air so good it lacks odor,  
but those I'm with would rather conquer than comprehend  
so I'm dragged from panorama to panorama  
seeking a dozen perfections a second  
when I'd settle for one in a lifetime.

-Tom Gilé

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# GREEN BACKLASH

## THE GLOBAL SUBVERSION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT

BY ANDREW ROWELL

BOOK REVIEW BY CINDY BAXTER

The backlash by industry and governments against the environmental movement was bound to happen. Until now though, few recognized the scale and extent to which the anti-environmental movement has grown or just how effective it has become. Andrew Rowell's *Green Backlash* documents a rapidly growing international movement to counter environmentalists. For the first time, the violence, the deaths, the threats and the organized global backlash against environmentalists have been drawn together in one volume. And it makes a chilling tale.

"The lessons learnt from the stories in this book are that with the collapse of communism, environmentalists are now increasingly being identified as a global scapegoat for threatening the vested interest of power: the triple engines of unrestricted corporate capitalism, right-wing political ideology and the nation state's protection of the status quo. The backlash tracked from the US to the UK, Brazil, Ecuador, Malaysia, the South Pacific and India, involves multinational industry in collusion with the governments that benefit from the vast profits to be made at the expense of the environment. Add huge public relations companies to the mix and a new web of 'grassroots' coalitions and campaigners comprised of people whose jobs would be affected by environmental controls. The money, the power and the use of environmentalists' own tactics add up to an effective and lethal combination. The result? What we find is that violence and intimidation are on the increase around the world against environmentalists," writes Rowell.

The themes and tactics around the globe are similar, but one thing is clear: The less money the country has, the poorer the people, the more deaths and violence there is. In the North, in the US and the UK, more sophisticated means like public relations machines and front groups are used to fight environmentalists. In the developing world, authorities are less inclined to appear concerned and balanced, and environmentalists are more likely to be arrested, shot or disappeared. Rowell takes us through harrowing tales of company collusion with military regimes, such as Shell in Nigeria and Texaco in Ecuador. Always, the same trend emerges: Where environmentalists are effective in bringing world attention to an issue, they are met with increased violence. Government authorities either turn a blind eye or actively participate by labeling the protesters "violent" to sanction the use of violence against them.

headed by Ron Arnold, whose advice to the multinationals was not to fight environmentalists at a corporate level, where the public would inevitably support David rather than Goliath. Rather, he suggested, the corporations should prop up the ordinary folk who were simply defending their jobs and forming grassroots groups to counter the greens at their own level. Various legal bodies, representing a multitude of industries, were set up to effectively lobby the government against environmental legislation. "We know how to lobby better than they do, and we've got coalitions that can overwhelm them. That's never happened to them before. It frightened them big time," commented Arnold after the wise use movement's first legislative victory against environmentalists.

In the late 1980s, Arnold was hired as a consultant by MacMillan Bloedel, the company clearcutting Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island, to help in its fight against environmentalist trying to stop the logging. Arnold told MacMillan Bloedel to give money to the coalitions of pro-logging citizens groups. "You stop defending yourselves, let them do it, and you get the hell out of the way. Because citizens groups have credibility and industries don't." Soon after, the first of many grassroots groups was formed, well-funded by the forestry industry.

In the UK, Rowell writes, there are two groups of campaigners who have suffered most from the state's attempts to silence them: anti-nuclear activists in the 1980s and the anti-roads protesters in the 1990s. "Moreover, the state has attempted to demonize both sets of protesters, either as communists, in the case of anti-nuclear protesters or terrorists and fascists in the case of anti-road organizations. Incorrectly labeling people as communists, terrorists and fascists justifies a different response to that of a mere protester. They can be deemed a threat to national security, whereas protesters are not. It can also vindicate violence, harassment and surveillance of them by the state as has happened with the anti-nuclear movement."

Rowell documents the past five years of grassroots road protesting in the UK, and the picture, never before seen as a whole, shows an official use and

Toward the end of the 1980s, with the threat of communism receding, the right-wing movement in the United States realized it had a new enemy to focus on: environmentalists. Effective environmental legislation in the US began to stop industry's slash-and-burn tactics, and it was starting to cost them money. Enter the wise use movement,

increase in violence and harassment. The rising use of private security firms to defend roadbuilding contractors is at the heart of it, and there's little happening to stop it.

When we move to the developing world, the story is far, far worse. The pressure on governments to pay back debt provides an ideal feeding ground for a multinational company whose greed fits snugly with the governments' commitments to the World Bank. Environmental laws are either dropped or ignored, and soldiers are sent to quell local protests by people whose only crime is living on land where resources are found. The more money to be made, the harsher the crackdown against the protesters. Nowhere is this more obvious than in Nigeria, where nearly 2,000 Ogoni people (two percent of the total population) have died at the hands of the Nigerian military for protests against 35 years of Shell's oil drilling operations in the Niger Delta. "A Shell-shocked Land" tells the awful tale of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the Ogoni people's nonviolent protests against Shell, and Ken's subsequent persecution and then execution after a trumped-up military tribunal found him guilty of murder.

**"... Ron Arnold, whose advice to the multinationals was not to fight environmentalists at a corporate level, where the public would inevitably support David rather than Goliath. ...corporations should prop up the ordinary folk who were simply defending their jobs and forming grassroots groups to counter the greens at their own level."**

*Green Backlash* paints a grim picture of the anti-environmental movement. The words "know thine enemy" spring to mind. Rowell leaves us with words of wisdom particularly relevant to the larger environmental groups: If we don't get back to the grassroots campaigning ideals and start organizing, campaigning and talking face to face, door to door, street to street and community to community, the anti-environmental movement will win.

"Grassroots organizing is definitely an area where the anti-environmental movement has beaten the environmentalists over the last few years. There is no doubt either that they have been able to exploit the weaknesses of the mainstream groups. The backlash is now an intricate part of working on, writing on, speaking on, campaigning on or even teaching on ecological issues. The paradigm shift that is occurring across the globe looks set to continue."

Rowell also warns that the environmental movement must build a new vision for the future, instead of simply opposing current practices. The movement has neglected social concerns, leaving the right wing to step in and accuse it of putting wilderness preservation before the human consequences of such policy decisions. "The backlash has given the environmental movement the opportunity to change for the better, it should not blow that chance." *Green Backlash* is mandatory reading for environmentalists who want to win their campaigns against polluting corporations anywhere in the world.

*Green Backlash* is published by Routledge.

## RACE MATTERS

continued from page 3

Martin Luther King was assassinated when he moved outside of the traditional civil rights movement to organize the working class and beyond that to speaking out against the Vietnam War. Judi Bari was bombed when she successfully unified mill workers and Earth First!ers. The Palmer Raids and FBI were used to destroy the massive movement of anarchists, wobblers and workers in the US that joined forces in the early 1900s. These links terrify the ruling elite.

Our efforts in Vermont to link ecological and social issues paid off when Champion and Monsanto teamed up to spray toxic herbicides on Vermont's forests. Our social justice allies stood with us to demand a ban on these toxic applications. The fury was so deep that the legislature had

to side with the people. The spraying was stopped.

Our solidarity with activists from the South fighting globalization to save their homelands, coupled with a deeper economic analysis of what "First World" countries are doing to "Third World" countries through globalized capitalism and economic pressure, such as World Bank Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs), has clearly illustrated the link between destruction of the Earth and genocide against native peoples. To protect the Earth, we must support the struggles of the Earth's indigenous and peoples of color. We must fight here in the "Belly of the Beast" to end the Fourth World War.

As the corporations of the world increasingly operate without borders and across issues, the movement must respond in kind. The compartmentalization of our organizations facilitates the

rampant planetary destruction by keeping us marginalized and ineffective. The Vietnam War was ended when people from all walks used every tool available to stop the war machine. From soldiers fragging officers to militants fighting in the streets to student sit-ins to strategic anti-war bombings, the machine had to stop when it could neither predict the next move of the populace nor keep it divided.

So when Paul Watson makes alliances with Jack Metcalfe, known throughout Native American circles as a hard-core Indian-hater, on an issue involving Native American sovereignty; when Dave Foreman announces that AIDS and famines will help reduce overpopulation among people of color in the "Third World"; when Farley Mowat and Brock Evans (and Dave Foreman and Paul Watson) endorse an initiative that would restrict immigration by the Fourth World War refugees to our

South, they enable the further destruction of our planet by reinforcing the walls between the privileged white environmental movement and the world's oppressed peoples.

The movements of the "Third World" are extremely powerful. People in the South clearly understand the interconnection of issues. When a Mayday march is called for in Mexico City, hundreds of thousands participate. The Zapatista's struggle for land, justice and food as well as for protection of the Lacandon rainforest. Instead of alienating people of color, the privileged white US environmental movement needs to learn from other movements.

Activists wishing to organize internationally based on these revolutionary ecological principles are invited to contact Anne Petermann POB 57, Burlington, VT 05402; nfnena@sover.net.

# 13 Tips For Activists

BY ERROL SCHWEIZER

*Disclaimer: This column is for "above-ground" and community-based activists. It is meant as a critique of those qualities that may keep us from building a stronger movement. So please don't feel offended (which brings us to our first point...).*

## 1. Have a sense of humor.

The world is not going to change overnight, no matter how hard you work. Take time out to laugh at how messed up things really are and at the incremental changes that you are striving so hard for. A good chuckle now and then keeps things in perspective and may actually make you feel better. Poking fun is a form of critique, and we all know that...

## 2. Critique is necessary and vital.

Analyzing what went wrong or right about an action or a campaign may help you avoid repeating the same mistakes twice. Listen to what others outside your group have to say, especially the opposition, who may be the perfect foil for your cause. Many great revolutionaries engaged in rigorous self-criticism to realize what they did right or wrong. Luckily, unlike Che or Durruti, many of us don't have to do it under a hail of bullets.

## 3. Treat everyone as individuals.

It sucks when activists refer to "the masses." By lumping people into faceless categories we forget that we are dealing with people who have reasons for believing the things they do, such as simply growing up in this damn culture. When you approach people as individuals, you are reminded that you didn't always have the beliefs that you have now, and that once upon a time you may have been alienated by how some "activists" behave. And so, the most important aspect of reaching out to people may not be what you have to say but actually to...

## 4. Listen to what others have to say and

Sometimes responses to what you have to say may be the best guide for learning what you shouldn't do next time. When you know who you are speaking to, you can craft your message accordingly. By knowing your audience you can personalize the issue so that is not some abstract cause that no one can compare to everyday experience. If you are talking to some kids on the street about how fucked up McDonald's is, don't just dwell on the facts that they kill millions of animals every year and use beef grown on former rainforest land. Many people can relate to the fact that McD's pays bad wages and long, grueling hours. This is called "cutting" the issue, and it may make all the difference.

4a. Ditch the highfalutin' lingo! If you insist on "deconstructing the privileged hegemonies of socioeconomic systems," then don't expect much of a response. Talk to your audience at their level, not Foucault's. Besides, those big words are a privilege of those lucky enough to have been college educated and can set up an uncomfortable power dynamic. What's the use of promoting social change when you speak in an elitist fashion?

## 5. Stop screaming all the time!

Yeah, we're pissed off, but if we are always screaming at people instead of talking to them, they won't listen (would you?). So before you go to a protest, go work out or jog or something. You'd be surprised how people respond when you just talk to them. So think before you scream.

## 6. Single-issue activism can be problematic.

While we all have certain issues that are closest to our hearts, we shouldn't close our minds to the possible interconnections between these issues or stop from examining how they may have similar historical roots. Sometimes single issue activism can be very detrimental, such as how some environmentalists echo fascistic anti-immigration propaganda.

## 7. Having progressive politics does not exempt you from being an asshole.

There are more than a few "progressive" people who are sexist or hold some pretty questionable ideas about race and class. And activists can be just as clique-ish and backstabbing as anyone. The re-

deeming thing is that at least by getting involved the door is open for talking about these issues, right?

## 8. You can't save the world via email.

Your computer is a product of the techno-capitalist system and whatever good you do with it does not equal the power it has given corporate America. No matter how efficient, technology can never replace the power and intimacy of human communication and contact.

The Internet itself was designed by the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency as a way to decentralize communications in the advent of nuclear war. And over 98 percent of the Internet's usefulness has been to speed up commerce for speculative investment by the fat cats. Admittedly, the Internet can be helpful; the Zapatistas may have been crushed if not for the email updates they sent out during their uprising. But we can't rely on techno-activism: remember, Y2K.

## 9. Leave the labels at home.

"So that's nice. You are a (insert typical social change label here)." To most people who do not share these beliefs, these labels are loaded with media stereotypes and corporate propaganda that demean the positive aspects that these labels carry for you and me. So before you label yourself, consider what may be going on in someone else's head. Just what did you think a "communist" or "anarchist" was before you became so enlightened? Let your actions define you, not your labels.

## 10. Lifestyle fascism sucks.

A major problem with many activists is instead of personalizing the political, they politicize the personal. Finding flaws in other people's lifestyles seems more important than identifying and deconstructing the institutions that are the root of the problem. By pinpointing certain aspects of Western lifestyle, we are forgetting that it is the whole system that is wrong. To make real change we need to find what we have in common. Let people decide for themselves what they

## 11. Ha! Ha! Ha! You're gonna burn-out!

Few things hurt our causes as much as exhaustion and the implosion of those who have just "had enough." You make bad decisions, you alienate friends and family, your personal hygiene takes a nose-dive. You know what? You need a break! Activism is tough and victories can be few and far between so learn to take it easy. Even Assata Shakur says that the most important thing is to grow personally, to maintain relationships and hobbies.

## 12. Stop the sectarianism!

The movement has fractured and fragmented into so many little cliques and ideologies that I wonder what many of us have in common anymore other than mutual dislike. As dismaying as this is, there are still so many people working for change that I must ask: Can't we agree on certain vital things? Can we actually work toward some sort of consensus so that we stop shooting ourselves in the feet? If you are new to activism, stay above the pettiness and concentrate on the issues at hand. If you are from the old school, then us young folks need your experience, not your gripes and grudges.

## 13. Redefine activism.

Activism is an accepted cultural niche in our society. We all know the stereotypes: bad dresser, self-righteous, screaming and chanting, holding up signs, getting dragged away by cops, etc. By becoming a part of this "activist" culture we alienate those whose side we are supposedly on. But more and more people who are fighting for positive change are "regular" people, schoolchildren, steelworkers, urban gardeners—people whom we don't identify as belonging to the "activist" culture. They're responding to the basic stimulus that they are oppressed or exploited and are not going to take it any longer.

This is how revolutions come about. People who consider themselves "activists" have to listen to what people are really talking about. Until then, activism is going to be this small, accepted, ineffectual cultural niche that alienates everyone with whom it is supposed to be in solidarity with.

# SAFETY IS No ACCIDENT

BY EBOLA

Like moths around a REI candle lantern, Earth First!ers were inescapably drawn to the emerald lake at last summer's Round River Rendezvous. My friends jumped right in, submerging their bodies in the frigid water all at once. My footsteps found only soft, squishy muck, but on the last day of the rendezvous, somebody else's foot landed on a fishhook. The barbs were deeply impaled, resulting in a trip to the emergency room. Even peaceful settings can harbor dangers.

We can learn about dangers from direct experience or, if we are more fortunate, from stories of other people's experiences. Sure, we have a few instincts to keep us out of harm's way, like fear of heights and a fear of people in authority, but Earth First!ers regularly ignore those basic instincts. In fact, if there is one universal trait that we all share, it's a propensity to place ourselves directly in harm's way. We dangle from ropes far above the ground as high winds turn banners into sails. We lock our necks to bulldozers with irate operators in the driver's seat. We sit atop wobbly tripods as deputies shake the legs. Compared to the many dangers facing us on the frontlines, a little fishhook protruding through flesh is minor (unless, of course, you are a fish). Worse can happen and, indeed, has happened. It is time we got serious about learning from our mistakes and mishaps.

Improving safety awareness was one of the first topics to come up at this year's Organizers Conference and the idea of creating a publication that details accidents and how they could have been prevented was suggested. Accident reports are a primary means for improving safety standards in any field. So start sending in reports about edited for clarity and compiled into a booklet. Names will not be included. Send any suggestions for how best to distribute the booklet. If at all possible, include a way to contact you to ask clarifying questions. Take appropriate security measures based on what you are describing, such as speaking in the third person and not mention any names. If it is about a monkeywrenching mishap, be absolutely sure there's no way to trace it back to you, like the old 'saliva on the back of the stamp' trick.

Also, send in reports of "near misses"—situations that almost resulted in an injury. I know that most of you have at least one story to share. The incident can be from any type of direct action, basecamp, rendezvous or training session, stretching back for the last twenty years, and they can be from any group involved in direct action, not just EF!

Describe the accident and all the contributing factors and include suggestions for how to avoid this situation in the future. Include the name of the campaign and the location (city, state or name of the national forest). Also, include the date, time of day, weather conditions and level of experience of those involved in the accident. If you don't know the exact date, then give the month or at least the season.

Not everything has to be related to ropes, harnesses and falling out of trees. We can improve the safety of our campaigns by examining events that have led up to hypothermia, twisted ankles, getting lost in the woods and so on. We might even uncover some amusing stories, like the person who helped dig a six-foot-deep trench behind the Warner Creek basecamp, only to fall into it a few nights later when he went out to pee. This apparently happened to several others until a makeshift fence was placed around the trench.

Reports of police brutality are also being collected. What will happen with police brutality reports depends on the number of submissions and finding volunteers to help with the work. Mail in submissions now and look for updates at the rendezvous. Mail to Accident Reports, POB 51564, Eugene, OR 97405, [accidentreports@mailcity.com](mailto:accidentreports@mailcity.com).

# WHADDAYA WAITIN' FOR?

## WALK FOR THE WILD PELICAN BUTTE

August 6, 7 and 8, 1999

Oregon Natural Resource Council (ONRC) and Northwest Trails Archive and Restoration Project (a project of League of Wilderness Defenders) are sponsoring an event to hike and canoe at Pelican Butte. Please help us save this 11,000 acre unprotected wilderness area by showing your support for its protection. Day-long walks will be offered Saturday and Sunday to broaden the opportunity for folks to see the area. Camping and other recreational opportunities will be available (first come first serve) on Saturday, August 7, at either Malone Springs (Westside Road, below Pelican Butte or Odessa Campground (just south of Pelican Butte off Hwy. 140). Both are non-fee campgrounds on the Winema National Forest.

ONRC's Southern Oregon Field Representative Wendell Wood has a cabin at the Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge where he will host folks the night (and the Friday) before the Pelican Butte Saturday and Sunday hikes. Sleep indoors, in your sleeping bag or camp outside. Wendell's cabin is 11 miles off Hwy. 97 on the way down from the Willamette Valley (taking Hwy 58—the Willamette Pass). From here it is another hours drive south to Pelican Butte.

Bring a canoe to go on Wocus Bay at the Klamath Marsh on Friday, August 6, or on Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge (directly below Pelican Butte) on Sunday August 8. Also, there are good opportunities for hiking or mountain biking on national forest land around the Klamath Marsh. Wendell will show a slide show (at dusk) on August 6 and talk about ONRC's Pelican Butte protection efforts.

For more information on the hikes contact Northwest Trails Project at POB 842 Springfield, OR 97477; (541) 726-6154; ntar@efn.org; www.efn.org/~ntarp.

To camp at Wendell's cabin Friday or canoe on Wocus Bay Friday or Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge Sunday, contact ONRC at 943 Lakeshore Drive, Klamath Falls, OR 97601-9107; (541) 885-4886; ww@onrc.org; website WWW@ONRC.ORG. Rooms, meals and canoes are also commercially available near Pelican Butte at Rocky Point Resort (541) 356-2287 and Harriman Springs Resort (541) 356-233.

## Millions for Mumia Continues!

The next nine months will be critical for the life of Mumia Abu-Jamal. By the end of this year, Mumia will be in the federal courts. This will be his only chance to present the witnesses and obtain the evidence that were denied him by the Pennsylvania courts. The Effective Death Penalty Act, signed into law on April 24, 1996, was designed to make it almost impossible to have the federal courts review and overturn unjust and racist acts by state courts. History teaches us that justice does not come by the orderly workings of "the law," but through the actions and demands of the people.

Our movement must now grow in a series of leaps, beginning with this great demonstration today. From today forward, each day counts. Each of us must return home as organizers on a mission.

Here are the crucial next steps:

1. Be in Philadelphia for the July 4 weekend march and organizers conference, plus civil disobedience at the Liberty Bell at noon on July 3. On-going civil disobedience actions through the year. Young people: come to Philly Freedom Summer June 28 to July 11.

2. Build for the National Week for Justice for Mumia Abu-Jamal, September 19-25, a week of programs, teach-ins, and actions for Mumia throughout the country, ending with "100 Cities for Mumia" mass actions on September 25. Participate in the cultural events of "Mumia 911," a National Day of Art to Stop the Execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal on September 11.

3. Take these plans out to organizations, churches, and unions in your community. Get them to take it out to their people. Establish an emergency response plan in the event of a new death warrant.

4. Join and be active in a national or local group or coalition working for Mumia, and support the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal. For more information, contact the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal at POB 19709, Philadelphia, PA 19143; (215) 476-8812; 476-7551(fax); .

## RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK 11th ANNUAL RAINFOREST ACTION CHAUTAUQUA!

BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA, AUGUST 18-23

Come to a gathering of the grassroots rainforest protection movement in the beautiful heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains at the edge of Pisgah National Forest just 20 minutes from Asheville, NC. Join us for campaign strategy sessions, skills trainings, issue briefings, activist community building and of course plenty of fire pit fun and lakeside leisure. Chautauqua is a fun, rejuvenating and empowering forum for activists to share their skills, reflect on our work and identify the ways we can build stronger movements for ecological sanity and justice. Don't miss one of the biggest and most productive yearly gatherings in the international forest protection movement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK at 221 Pine, 5th Floor San Francisco, CA 94104; (415) 398-4404; rags@ran.org; www.ran.org

\$50- \$100 sliding scale includes all food, camping/cabin accommodation and workshop costs. For travel and work scholarships contact (573) 874-0692; amanda@igc.org. (Nobody turned away for lack of funds as long as you're willing to pitch in!) Hosted by The Chautauqua Council, EarthCulture and the Rainforest Action Network.

## 16TH ANNUAL TWIN OAKS WOMEN'S GATHERING



## Women: Celebrating Ourselves in Community

August 27-29 1999

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## Northwest Regional Rendezvous

July 9th-12th, Gifford Pinchott National Forest, Washington State  
For more information contact (360) 867-9054; kim2@chickmail.com

## Food Not Bombs Intertribal Gathering

July 18-25 1999. For more information contact 91 Albert Street, Winnipeg Manitoba, R3B1G5 Canada; (204)947-2220, 956-5105 (fax); fnbwpg99@hotmail.com

## RESISTANCE

A JOURNAL OF GRASSROOTS DIRECT ACTION

*Resistance, Journal of Grassroots Direct Action*, #1, is finally out and ready for distribution. Resistance was created for the purpose of unifying the like-minded yet isolated efforts towards positive social change so we can begin to recognize that all oppression stems from the same societal mindset, and begin to attack the oppression itself at its roots. We choose to represent the grassroots direct action struggles because we believe that this mindset cannot be changed by methods which practice and endorse the mindset themselves. We truly wish to see positive social change happen within our lifetimes and intend the networking created through this publication to help bring about that change.

Articles and columns include: Millions For Mumia, ALF, Zapatistas, Red Cloud Thunder updates, grand Juries, rBGH.

Individual Copies are available for \$2.50 from *Resistance*, c/o Liberation Collective, POB 9055, Portland, OR 97207. Bulk quantities are also available. Contact Craig Rosebraugh, (503) 525-4975

## WANTED:

## Short Fiction Submissions for The Edward Abbey Fiction Award

Sponsored by the Bear Deluxe Magazine  
**\$500.00 Reward! Deadline: September 7, 1999. Stories should include creative and original themes about wilderness, deserts, solitude, commercialization of natural spaces, rabble rousing, etc. 4000 word limit! Send double spaced, type-written manuscripts and \$5 entry fee to "Abbey Award," Bear Deluxe Magazine, POB 10342, Portland, Oregon 97296 or e-mail submissions to bear@teleport.com.**

# IT'S SUMMER TIME, DAMMIT!

**League Of Wilderness Defenders, Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project and End Corporate Dominance Campaign**

are taking applications for a paid office position. Skills needed are: manual typing (no electricity or computers), filing, scheduling, writing, knowledge of natural ecology, wildlife, federal environmental policy laws, activist existence and creative spirit. Position is June/July thru September/October and includes coordinating volunteer intern work. references are essential. Tipi housing provided. BMBP is also accepting self-sufficient volunteer interns who wish to learn the above skills. Work also includes gardening and living with the land. Contact us at: HCR 82, Fossil, Oregon 97830.

## STOP FEE-DEMO NOW!

The Forest Service is molting. Until their new shell hardens, they will be uncharacteristically vulnerable and will be making a concerted effort to keep the environmental community distracted with positive sounding rhetoric. The Recreation Fee Demonstration program is key to the survival of the Forest Service. If we kill the Fee-Demo this year, Forest Service Chief Dombeck can either seek cooperation from the environmental community or face Senator Murkowski's threat of dismantling the agency. If we kill the Fee-Demo now, we earn the right to participate in the process that will reshape the Forest Service as an agency. If we fail to act, then only corporate executives will assist Dombeck in determining the fate of our forests, deserts, mountains, rivers and streams. To learn more about ongoing efforts to commercialize, privatize and motorize America's public lands and how to stop this "Wreckreation," please contact Wild Wilderness, 248 NW Wilmington Avenue, Bend, OR 97701; (541) 385-5261; www.wildwilderness.org

## River Jam VI—A Benefit For The Buckeye Forest Council of Ohio

Join us on September 4, 1999 for a groovy all-day festival of music, art and food! Featuring Dakota Sid, R.J. Cowdery, Donna Mogavero, Gary Hall, Bob Sauls, Mary Hough and many others. Possum Valley Arboretum and Wildlife Preserve, 4504 Prospect-Upper Sandusky Road. Gate opens at 11:00, show starts at noon. \$20 advanced ticket sales only. Call (740) 528-3333 for tickets and information.

## Greetings from the Wild Rockies!

The days are getting longer rapidly and warmer much more gradually. We're gearing up for another hot season of direct action in both the urban and backcountry realms. One of the most important facets of our work is video documentation/processing and monitoring of rallies, demonstrations, actions, protests, blockades, conferences/hearings/meetings, guerrilla theater, data collection/analysis, bio-surveys/forest-watch... you get the idea.

We are looking for people who either understand videography/photography and monitoring/surveying in an activist context, or people who want to understand it. If you are interested in getting involved contact the following people:

Bob Clark, Alliance for the Wild Rockies: bobclark@wildrockies.org  
 Adam Horowitz, Wild Rockies EF: warpony@wildrockies.org  
 Gary MacFarlane, Cove/Mallard Coalition: (208) 882-9755; cove@moscow.com  
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 Billy Stern/Jake Kreilick, Native Forest Network: (406) 542-7343; nfn@wildrockies.org

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## TURNING THE TIDE Journal of Anti-Racist Activism, Research & Education

Copies Available For \$2 from People Against Racist Terror (PART), POB 1055, Culver City, CA 90232; (310) 288-5003. Also available: "White Lies, White Power" by Michael Novick. Send \$16.95+S/H \$2.50 (check) to Common Courage Press, POB 702, Monroe, ME 04851

## FOOD FOR LIFE In The New Millenium

Monday, July 12 through Sunday, July 18 at the Sequatchie Valley Institute (aka Moonshadow), 30 miles NW of Chattanooga, near Dunlap, TN.

On Monday, July 19 the gathering will close with a Pure Food Rally in conjunction with Food Not Bombs in downtown Chattanooga to educate the public about food issues. This gathering will offer skills building and networking opportunities that will cover a wide range of issues related to growing food, nutrition and health. The vision for the gathering is to offer a variety of workshops from gardening, food preservation, saving seed, different methods of cooking and diet choices, solar and cob oven construction, as well as important information on genetic engineering and biotechnology. FOOD FOR LIFE will be hosted by the Sequatchie Valley Institute and the Bioengineering Action Network (BAN). Please feel free to contact Moonshadow at (423) 549-5922; mediarights@bledsoe.net for more information.

## On Indian Land

On Indian Land is an American Indian issues newspaper covering topics of importance to indigenous peoples of North America, including treaty, land, and sovereignty rights, religious freedom, and political prisoners. Subscription rates for 1 year/4 issues are: \$12 (individual) \$20 (institution) Make check out & send to:

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## Casey Neill

With inspiring, earthy lyrics and Celtic/punk/folk guitar, Casey is an Earth First! favorite. **"Casey Neill" Another Point of View, Mayday, Double Dutch, From the Yardsarms** CD—\$17  
**"Skree" A Mighty Love, Okonogan County, Scrounge Around, Emma's Garden** CD—\$17

## Jim Page

A staple on the Northwest folk circuit for years and for good reason, the man can write. **"More Than Anything Else In The World" Valdez, Gays in the Military, Sinead, Bishop on the Run** CD—\$17  
**"Whose World is This" Take Our Culture Back, Righteous, Beautiful Tear, Right to be Wrong** CD—\$17

## Joanne Rand

Joanne's strong and versatile voice climbs and dances through her powerful songs. **"Choosing Sides" Privileged Class, Our Children's Children, I Love It** TAPE—\$12 • CD—\$17  
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Goofy, intelligent, country-western parody, Keeler's songs poke fun at everything worth poking fun at. **"Enquiring Minds" An Excuse to Go Drinkin', House Husband Blues, Planet of Morons "Post-Modern Blues" "Bad Science Fiction" "Talking Sweet Bye & Bye" "Songs of Fishing, Sheep and Guns in Montana"** TAPES—\$9

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Benefit album about saving the forest co-produced by EF!er Darryl Cherney, featuring John Trudell, Zero, Robert Hoyt, Joanne Rand, Bruce Cockburn, Hank Williams, Jr., Buffy Sainte-Marie, Dan Fogelberg, Jello Biafra and Mojo Nixon, The Tinklers, Alice Di Micele, The Wyrd Sisters, Ferron and Rumors of the Big Wave! TAPE—\$12 • CD—\$17

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# FROM THE EF! LIBRARY

## The Monkeywrench Gang

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edited by Dave Foreman and Bill Haywood. Extensively revised, expanded third edition of the mother of all how-to-fuck-shit-up books. 350 pages. \$20

## Grizzly Years: In Search of the American Wilderness

by Doug Peacock. Fiction or non-fiction, one can't really tell with this chilling account of tracking the grizzly in the wilderness of Montana. Re-

gardless of its true content, *Grizzly Years* is a soul jerking adventure story. 375 pages. \$13

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## Waste of the West: Public Lands Ranching

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## Concrete

by Paul Chadwick. A full-color illustrated comic novel about a group of EF!ers who contact Concrete (a mountaineer/writer trapped in a concrete body) to help with an old-growth forest campaign. Full of EF! history and philosophy. Fiction, 160 pages. \$17.95

## Ecological Resistance Movements: The Global Emergence of Radical and Popular Environmentalism

edited by Bron Taylor. A global look of case studies on the driving forces behind defending the Earth. Non-fiction, 422 pages. \$20

## Refuge

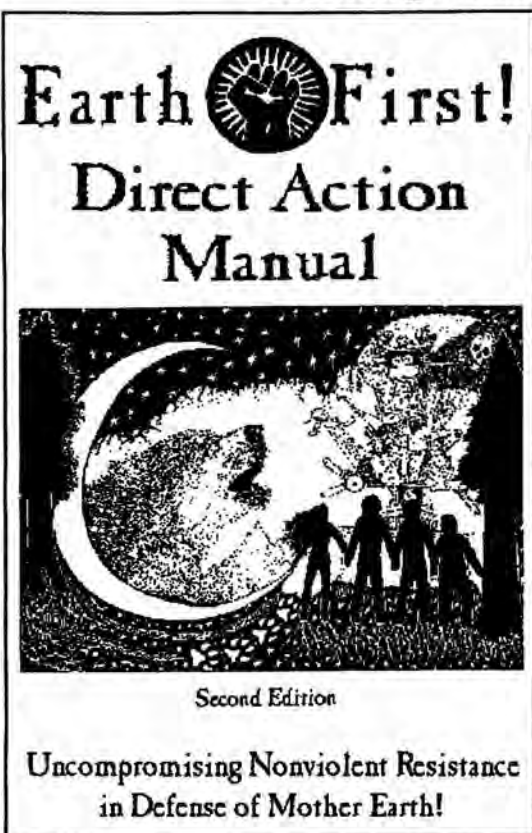
by Terry Tempest Williams. An unnatural story of life in the radioactive American West. Tempest Williams has created a masterpiece interweaving her mother's breast cancer and shorebirds threatened by the rise of the Great Salt Lake. Non-fiction, 304 pages. \$12

## Earth First! Campfire Poems

edited by Dennis Fritzing, Karen Coulter and Dwight Metzger. A cruise through EF! history, this compilation will surely move you. Some poets included are Rod Coronado, Karen Coulter, Darryl Echt, Dennis Fritzing, Peter Galvin, Mathew Haun, Lone Wolf Circles, Asante Riverwind, Snaggletooth, Faith Walker and Phillip Wright. 237 pages. \$10

## Do Or Die: Voices from Earth First!

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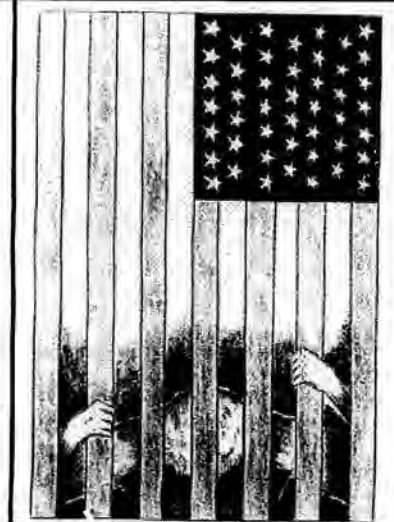
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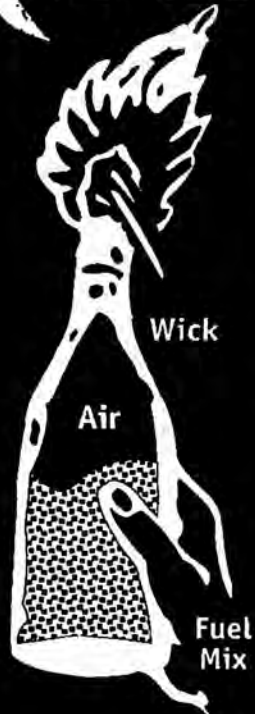
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