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# Earth First!

Litha  
June - July 2002

*Victory for  
the U'wa!*

\$4.00 US \$6.00 Canada



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Justice for Judi Bari

# Justice

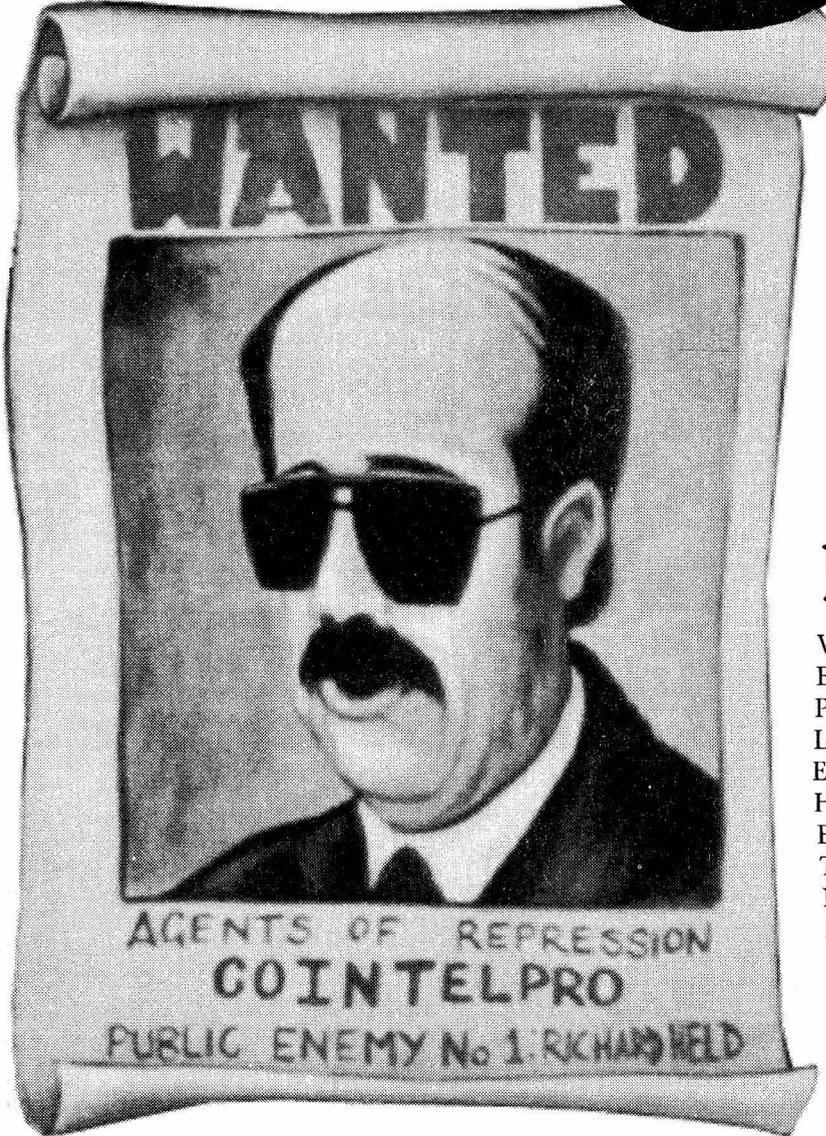
No Compromise in the Defense of  
Imprisoned Earth



# for Justice for Judi Bari

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Litha  
June-July 2002



## The *Radical* Environmental Journal

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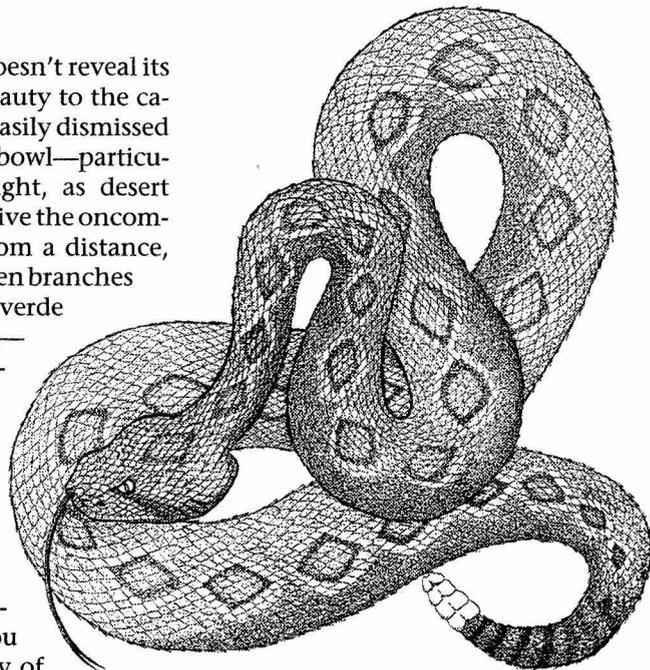
# Lips to the Land

The Sonoran desert doesn't reveal its strength and diverse beauty to the casual observer. It can be easily dismissed as gnarly bits in a dustbowl—particularly in times of drought, as desert plants go inward to survive the oncoming solar onslaught. From a distance, the sleek and sinewy green branches and trunk of the palo verde tree look practically dead—its leaves dried and falling to the ground like straw. But truly it's alive, shedding its sensitive vegetation to prepare for the intense heat, relying on its chloroplast energy grid.

As the sun sets, the colors and shadows take you deeper into the mystery of how the lowland mesquite bosque stays so green in sandy soil. The mystery is solved when you learn that most desert trees are nitrogen fixing, living in symbiosis with the nurturing bacteria on their root systems. Desert plants also make use of every bit of water that comes their way. You can see a saguaro swell in the hour after rainfall. Later in the Summer, you can taste the concentrated sweetness in its fruit that comes from those crazy prolific white spring blooms.

The intense shapes and colors of the desert are lost from the distance. Dry barren mountains with dark patches, up-close reveal canyons with pine forests and wildflowers. Turning a corner on a rocky outcrop, you may be blasted by the riot-red flower of a cactus growing in its granite nook. And just when you think you can't take the heat anymore, the sun begins its nightly performance—reflecting color combinations never to be seen again. A time for reflection on this desert ecosystem's great strength in the face of adversity. A rumination on how nature adapts and struggles with drought conditions

—SPRIG



exacerbated by human greed so great that it effects the weather.

I also see our own adaptations to the global crisis reflected in the articles in this issue of the *Journal*. The milestone victory of the U'wa people in Colombia won through their blood, sweat and tears. The quest for truth in the momentous legal challenge in the historical Judi Bari bombing trial. The strength of the residents of Mindo, Ecuador, who are persistent and committed to protecting the cloud forest, and the defenders of the Cabo Rojo garden in New York City fighting for urban green spaces. Strength and diversity in the midst of adversity. Like the desert, we too must go on in this struggle for life. From the distance this movement may be easily dismissed, but up-close, we are like the desert shifting and adapting to present conditions. Perceived periods of dormancy are not signs of weakness but a sign of strength, as we prepare for the right moment—it's a restorative tactic. A rumbling underneath the surface, like a monsoon stormcloud in the distance.

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The *Earth First! Journal* is a forum for the no-compromise environmental movement. Responsibility rests with the individual authors and correspondents. The contents do not necessarily represent the viewpoint of this magazine, the Earth First! movement, local Earth First! groups or individual Earth First!ers.

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

Article submissions should be typed or clearly printed. Art or photographs are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. We encourage submissions on Macintosh disks or via email. Send a SASE if you would like submissions returned. If you want confirmation of receipt of a submission, please request it.

All submissions are edited for length and clarity. If an article is significantly edited, we will make a reasonable effort to contact the author prior to publication.

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Please direct all correspondence to:

**Earth First! Journal**  
POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702 USA  
Phone: (520) 620-6900  
Fax: (413) 254-0057  
collective@earthfirstjournal.org  
www.earthfirstjournal.org

Bean Counter: Sky  
Quitting after four damn years: Frog  
Editorial Collective: Dug, Samantha, Sprig, Turtle  
Poetry Editor: Dennis Fritzing  
Volunteers: Joey, Debbie, Bill, Almond, Hidro, Chimp, Acasia and others  
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BY FAITH WALKER

*Fauna. n. animal life.*

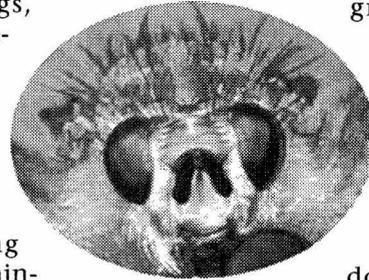
*Cabala. n. an esoteric, secret matter or mysterious art.*

Among dung flies (*Sepsis cynipsea*), copulation can be deadly. In the heat of the Summer, females of this European species descend upon fresh cow pats, where they oviposit and eat poo protein. Awaiting their arrival at the feculent cradle is a horde of grasping males, who attempt to mount them and clamp onto their wing bases with specialized forelegs. If a male successfully resists the female's vigorous attempts to shake off his advances, he

proceeds to fight off rivals but doesn't mate until she's finished laying her eggs, which were fertilized previously. When this task is complete, the female trundles off the pat to the grass beyond, where she again tries to dislodge him. If he can ride this bucking bronco for about 20 minutes, she'll agree to mate, an act that requires her assistance because she's larger and must elevate her ab-

domen to him. Females exhibit such strong reticence because there's a high risk of a male's armored genitalia shredding her ovipositor, causing bleeding and eventual death. The spiny organ engenders such a grip that should the male fly die while copulating, his mate will be unable to shed his bobbling carcass. When he finally does succeed in mating, he's selective about how much sperm he imparts. A male's sperm has

greater competition with that of others in older females, who have had more mates. So if his mate is older, and therefore sperm competition likely fierce, he copulates longer and donates more sperm.



This small manure connoisseur thus exemplifies both conflicting gender agendas and male sperm wars.



Dear SFB,

First of all, thanks for being there.

Next, in order to be effective (and to continue to be effective) the environmental movement (including EF!) must attract young people, not just old fogies like me (activist since the '60s). I am presently employed as a teacher in a public school, and I would like to leave copies of the *EF! Journal* lying around my classroom—not pushing them on the students, just making copies readily available, so that students can read them in spare moments. I don't, however, because if I were found to have magazines at school containing the phrase "shit fer brains," I would find myself in deep poop. Is it really necessary to be intentionally offensive? I'd like to see that one thing toned down—I definitely do *not* want to see the EF! activist message toned down, only the offensive (to some—I personally don't give a rat's ass) language.

## Errata

On page 18 of the Beltane issue, the first full paragraph of the third column begins with the sentence: "Water pollution from lumber mills pits downstream communities against their neighbors." The author originally wrote, "Water pollution from mills..."—meaning pulp, paper and engineered wood mills. Lumber and chip mills do not, in the author's words, "contribute that much point source pollution" to that particular area.

Page 29 contained an incorrect contact address to find more information about tunneling. The correct contact is Manchester EF!, c/o Dept. 29, 22a, Beswick St., Manchester, M4 7HS England; 0161-226 6814; mancef@nematode.freemove.co.uk. The website given was correct and additional information can be found at [www.discodavestunnelguide.co.uk](http://www.discodavestunnelguide.co.uk) and [www.eco-action.org/ef](http://www.eco-action.org/ef).

In the Wolves and Poodles section on page 32, we gave a poodle to the BLM for reopening 49,300 acres of California's Imperial Sand Dunes to off-roaders, when in fact the BLM has so far only *proposed* to reopen the area. The paragraph also erroneously stated that the desert tortoise only exists in the Sonoran Desert when it actually also lives in the Mojave. See page 18 for the latest on the struggle to protect Algodones Dunes from motorheads.

The *Journal* collective regrets these errors.

Another thing, when I entered your URL into my browser today, I received a page that appeared to be from your ISP rather than from EF!. I just thought you might want to know.

By the way, are there any other Earth First!ers who are also ham radio operators?

Again, thanks for being there—keep up the good work.

Best regards,

—BOB JONES

[BJONES@SPRAY.K12.OR.US](mailto:BJONES@SPRAY.K12.OR.US)

*Editors' Note: Some of us agree with you, but around here tradition is tradition. We try to keep the rest of the Journal clean, and if there was a groundswell of feedback and/or suggestions on a new name for our letters section, we'd consider it.*

*Also, just to make sure you have our correct website address, it's [www.earthfirstjournal.org](http://www.earthfirstjournal.org). Check it out!*

*continued on page 36*

# Victory for the U'wa!

BY PATRICK REINSBOROUGH

*"We are seeking an explanation for this 'progress' that goes against life. We are demanding that this kind of progress stop, that oil exploitation in the heart of the Earth is halted, that the deliberate bleeding of the Earth stop... We ask that our brothers and sisters from other races and cultures unite in the struggle that we are undertaking... We believe that this struggle has to become a global crusade to defend life."*

—STATEMENT OF THE U'WA PEOPLE,  
AUGUST, 1998

When the story of Colombia's indigenous U'wa people first hit the world stage, it was an all too familiar tragic tale: A ruthless multinational oil company invades the homeland of a traditional culture, threatening their way of life and the fragile ecosystem. It was a new twist on the same 500-year-old story of conquistadors, invasion and genocide that has shaped the Americas—only this time, the gold

which the invaders were willing to kill for was black.

To the U'wa (a name which means "the thinking people"), oil is *Ruiria* meaning "the blood of Mother Earth," and to extract it violates their most sacred beliefs. To the Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum (OXY), oil is the lucrative drug of choice for industrial society and the fast track to record profits. With both the Colombian and US governments backing the project, it seemed inevitable despite the uncompromising resistance of the U'wa, that eventually OXY would develop oil operations on U'wa land.

But on May 3, at the Occidental shareholder's meeting, the story of U'wa resistance turned a triumphant page. OXY made the historic announcement that it is returning its oil concessions on U'wa land to the Colombian government and abandoning its plans to drill in the region. OXY has suddenly decided there is no oil under U'wa land despite eight years of assuring investors of a major oil strike and only pursuing one drill site in the vast area. In other words, when you strip

away the corporate face-saving, the resistance of the U'wa and the pressure of the international solidarity campaign helped to force OXY to abandon its efforts to drill on U'wa land! The slogans that so many of us have written on banners and chanted in the streets—*OXY Off of U'wa Land!*—are coming true.

The significance of this victory cannot be overstated. It is a victory not only for the U'wa and their thousands of allies, but for all impacted communities fighting the devastation of resource extraction around the world. Although it is not the final victory for the U'wa, it is a major milestone in their decade-long struggle to defend their way of life and to teach the world the simple message that, "If we kill the Earth, then no one will live."

The announcement comes nearly a year after OXY retreated from the Gibraltar 1 drill-site, which thousands of U'wa, local *campesinos*, trade unionists and students had occupied to prevent oil drilling. After using the Colombian military to brutally evict the protesters and militarize the region, OXY was unable to find oil at the site. This came as no surprise to the U'wa whose *Werjayas* ("wise elders") had spent months doing spiritual work to "move" the oil away from OXY's drills.

But as with all victories, this one has come with its share of losses. As we celebrate this victory, remember the spirits of those who have given their lives as part of the struggle to defend the U'wa land and culture. Remember Terence Freitas, Ingrid Washinawatok and Lahe'ena'e Gay, three indigenous rights activists who were kidnapped from U'wa territory and murdered by *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia* guerrillas in March, 1999. Remember the three indigenous children who were killed in February, 2000, when the military attacked U'wa blockades. Remember the 20 non-combatants who are murdered in Colombia's war every day as well as the numerous cultures,

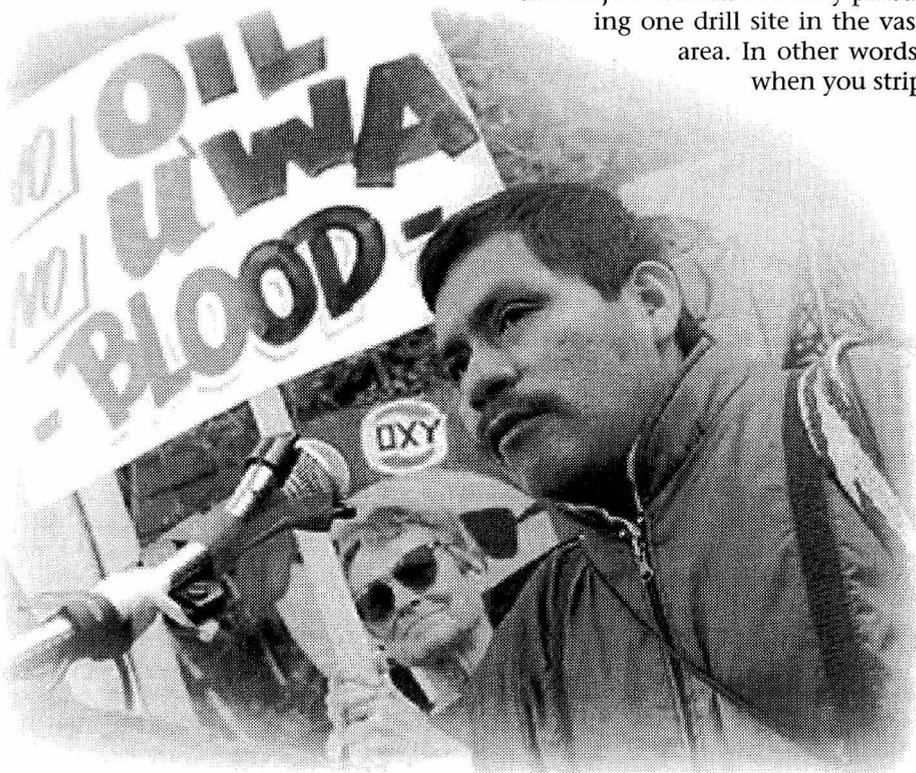


photo courtesy Amazon Watch

species and ecosystems that have already been lost across the region.

Celebration also gives us pause for introspection as we analyze our victories and draw some lessons from this amazing campaign. The U'wa struggle for survival has become a symbol of resistance to oil exploration, corporate-led globalization and American militarism. During the last five years, the U'wa resistance inspired a massive international solidarity movement that captured headlines around the world with hundreds of peaceful demonstrations and actions. U'wa supporters confronted OXY's most important shareholders—former Vice President Al Gore and mutual fund giant Fidelity Investments—and forced them to dump more than 60 percent of their holdings. Activists raised tens of thousands of dollars to support U'wa organizing on the ground and made links with numerous local campaigns.

The U'wa struggle is the embodiment of the clash of worldviews that defines the globalization era. Across the planet, traditional cultures with ancient spiritual traditions of living in balance with the Earth are under attack by multinational corporations capable of seeing the Earth only as a commodity to exploit and extract. It is up to all of us to show the public that they must choose sides—either with those who fight to defend the Earth or those who would destroy it for personal profit.

The U'wa campaign has shown that times are changing. Increasingly, activists from the global North are aligning themselves with the voices of frontline resistance and weaving our struggles for peace, justice and ecology into a broader vision of people's globalization. As we work to globalize solidarity, dignity and ecological sanity, we must look to indigenous resistance to help us relearn and articulate Earth-centered values. Let us learn from the examples of people like the U'wa and place being in solidarity with all the planet's besieged indigenous cultures at the center of our strategies for transformative change.

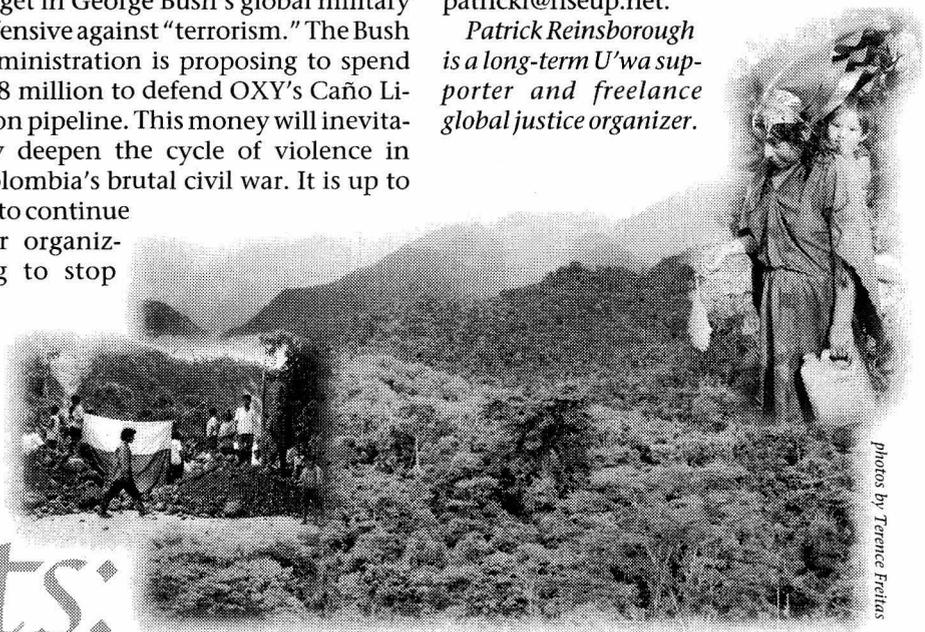
The U'wa will continue to need our support. Despite this major victory, the U'wa and all the people of Colombia are in danger of becoming the next target in George Bush's global military offensive against "terrorism." The Bush administration is proposing to spend \$98 million to defend OXY's Caño Limon pipeline. This money will inevitably deepen the cycle of violence in Colombia's brutal civil war. It is up to us to continue our organizing to stop

Bush's latest oil war in Colombia. Likewise, the Colombian government or another oil company could invade U'wa land and continue where OXY left off. Ultimately, no culture or ecosystem will be truly safe until we drive the oil barons from power, kick our global fossil fuel addiction and begin to restabilize carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere.

Celebrate the U'wa victory and let it fuel your passion to defend the Earth. Our work is far from done—but with each milestone, each victory, each action and each celebration, we are getting closer. Another world *is* possible!

To keep updated about the U'wa struggle or to collaborate on efforts to create a biocentric voice within the global justice movement, contact Patrick Reinsborough, (415) 722-1846; [patrickr@riseup.net](mailto:patrickr@riseup.net).

*Patrick Reinsborough is a long-term U'wa supporter and freelance global justice organizer.*



photos by Terence Freitas

## Excerpts:

### U'wa communiqué on the withdrawal of OXY from U'wa sacred territory

We invite all of our brother and sister children of the Earth to tell the world that Mother Earth is alive, that the U'wa are alive, that the coming together of many voices, hands, cries, writings, meditation, feet, thoughts, etc. make people free from aggressors and destroyers.

We all belong to the divine creation SIRA [the god of the U'wa; the creator of all life], and as such, we deserve respect. Mother Earth, despite being violated, silently continues feeding us, sustaining us. She doesn't feel envy. She talks, but very few listen to her voice. She insists through cries, but everything continues the same. This worries us, but we the U'wa and friends of the U'wa of Colombia and the world will continue to defend her with our voice, our sacred fasts, our songs, our faith.

Our brothers and sisters—the air, water, sun, moon—are contaminated and they are being destroyed. This too

worries us because if humanity wants to continue to live, we should start to make decisions to prevent our self-destruction. No one destroys man. Man destroys himself. We want to continue reflecting to avoid the destruction of the world because the U'wa want to continue to live.

The money king is only an illusion. Capitalism is blind and barbaric. It buys consciences, governments, peoples and nations. It poisons the water and the air. It destroys everything. And to the U'wa, it says that we are crazy, but we want to continue being crazy if it means we can continue to exist on our dear Mother Earth.

Brother and sisters of the world, the U'wa will continue defending Mother Earth. We invite you to continue accompanying us. Thank you for believing in us.

—U'WA TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES

# Earth First! Takes the FBI to Court

Judi Bari and Darryl  
Cherney's Case  
Heard after 12  
Years

BY KAREN PICKETT

During closing arguments of this six-week trial, attorney for the plaintiffs Tony Serra called the unholy union between the Oakland Police and the FBI's anti-terrorism unit (Squad 13) the "KGB of the FBI." His voice became hushed and conspiratorial as he hunched over the podium before the rapt jury and spoke of "the inner sanctum of the FBI... the terrorism squad... Squad 13."

Thursday, May 24, 1990, is fresh in my memory. Shortly after noon, a pipe bomb exploded in Earth First! activist Judi Bari's car as she drove through Oakland, California, with Darryl Cherney. They were organizing for Redwood Summer: a season-long campaign modeled after the 1960s civil rights campaign Mississippi Freedom Summer. We hoped to build a resistance that could stand up to the corporate timber beast and rising animosity toward forest activists.

Everything changed the moment the bomb went off. The explosion nearly killed Judi, leaving her disabled for the rest of her life. The time-delayed, motion-triggered, nail-studded bomb was meant to kill her. Within minutes of the explosion, the FBI and Oakland Police Department (OPD) were on the scene, branding Judi and Darryl as terrorists and Earth First! as a known terrorist organization. Within hours and in defiance of all evidence, the cops arrested Judi and Darryl, claiming they were knowingly transporting the bomb.

The bombing followed months of COINTELPRO-style [the FBI's counterintelligence program] disruption of Earth First! organizing efforts: phony press releases calling for violence; fake terrorism manuals; false media stories; continuous death threats, harassment and surveillance. Even if the FBI had nothing to do with promulgating the threats, slander and violence, they certainly treated what should have been seen as solid leads in the bombing with cavalier indifference, if not a hostile cover-up.

Squad 13 kept a file on Earth First! as well as about 300 other Bay Area groups. Collaboration and conspiracy aside, the co-defendants pointed fingers at each other throughout the trial, the FBI saying the OPD made the arrests and signed the



photo by Xiang Xing Zhou

Judi Bari after winning a round in her lawsuit against the FBI and OPD, March 3, 1995

search warrants, the OPD asserting that the feds supplied the information for the warrants and were the "experts." Regardless of which version you believed, the contradictions did nothing but grow, grow, grow (like Pinocchio's nose), the more defense testimony we heard.

The civil lawsuit filed in 1991 was finally presented to a jury. The lawsuit charges violation of Fourth Amendment rights of the US Constitution for false arrest and illegal search and seizure; violations of Judi and Darryl's First Amendment rights to freedom of speech by falsely painting them to the public as bomb-carrying terrorists, thereby discrediting the nonviolent Redwood Summer anti-logging campaign; and a conspiracy between FBI and OPD to violate Judi and Darryl's constitutional rights. The defense strategy was carried out with reckless disregard for the truth, maintaining that the defendants, as law enforcement, are beyond reproach. As the trial opened, the defendants were literally lined up against the far wall of the courtroom—that image was worth a lot in itself.

"You probably noticed a difference between the two tables in the courtroom," said Serra to the jury in his closing remarks. "You may have noticed that the plaintiff's table fairly seethes with enthusiasm." Indeed. The plaintiff's table also exuded the smell of roses and other Spring flowers into the stuffy federal courtroom. This was quite a contrast to the pork-bellied, fat-necked government attorneys sitting at the defense table. Our table overflowed with people, many under 30, along with gray- and white-haired attorneys. Besides the jars of flowers, each of the legal team got a tiny pink rose daily, which sometimes was inserted into a button hole, but more often was employed for aromatherapy, to be raised to the nose at opportune times in the tense proceedings as salve to the brain.

The people at this aromatic table, from Judi's daughter Lisa to plaintiff Darryl Cherney to Bill Simpich, the attorney who first filed the lawsuit in 1991, were happy and proud to finally be in court. The scowls at the defense table reflected the failure of their numerous challenges, motions and appeals to try to vaporize this case. The fact that the case survived

through it for 11 years speaks volumes to its strength.

## COINTELPRO, Richard Held and Earth First!

It wasn't the first time the FBI tried to associate EF!—a biocentric movement that employs civil disobedience as its primary tactic—with explosives. After Peg Millett, Mark Davis, Marc Baker, Ilse Asplund and Dave Foreman were arrested for monkeywrenching in 1989, we learned that the FBI had spent more than two million dollars to infiltrate

and set up Earth First! in a sting operation in Arizona. Mark Davis and Peg Millett spent several years in prison after the sting, which was designed, in the FBI's words to "send a message" and disable EF! by taking out a perceived leader of the organization. The FBI's efforts to convince the Arizona activists to use the incendiary chemical thermite were key, but the activists declined.

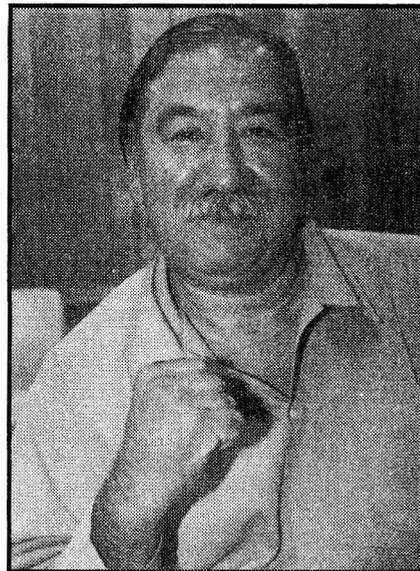
The FBI and police response to the bombing followed classic COINTELPRO patterns. First, they

*continued on next page*

# PELTIER SUES FBI

At a time when the FBI is already on trial in the Judi Bari bombing case, attorneys for imprisoned Native American activist Leonard Peltier named former FBI Director Louis Freeh as a defendant in a lawsuit filed on April 4 in US District Court in Washington, DC. Freeh, along with the FBI Agents Association and a long list of active FBI agents, is accused of violating Peltier's constitutional rights by making false and unsupported statements to the public, Department of Justice, US Parole Commission and former President Clinton. The complaint alleges that the FBI "engaged in a systematic and officially sanctioned campaign of misinformation and disinformation" designed to prevent Peltier from receiving fair clemency and parole reviews.

The lawsuit follows an FBI campaign aimed at dissuading former President Clinton from issuing Peltier a grant of executive clemency during his last days in office. FBI agents across the nation sponsored major newspaper and radio ads, submitted letters to the editors and marched by the hundreds in front of the White House to discourage clemency. Freeh wrote searing letters to Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno that urged against Peltier's release. The campaign, which gained national attention, characterized Peltier as a cold-blooded killer who brutally shot two FBI agents at point-blank range. Peltier's attorneys and supporters



*Photo by Dick Bancroft*

assert that this characterization is not only false but intentionally deceptive given the government's long-held position that it cannot prove who shot the agents. Furthermore, they say it cost Peltier, now 57 years old and in poor health, his long-deserved freedom.

Peltier has served more than 26 years in prison for the deaths of two FBI agents killed in a 1975 shoot-out on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Peltier's supporters claim that the FBI terrorized witnesses, utilized false testimony and withheld a ballistics test that proved Peltier's innocence to gain his conviction.

For more information, contact the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, (785) 842-5774; [lpdc@freepeltier.org](mailto:lpdc@freepeltier.org).

*continued from previous page*  
portrayed Earth First! as terrorists to the local police force and the media. They destroyed physical evidence, refused to investigate leads, lied in search warrants and falsely arrested Darryl and Judi.

The use of false charges to frame and discredit activists recalls the dark days of J. Edgar Hoover, initiator of the infamous COINTELPRO launched in 1956 against the Communist Party-USA. After propagandistic and often violent campaigns to neutralize the Socialist Workers Party, Black Panthers and others, COINTELPRO was outlawed by Congress' Church Committee in 1975, which concluded that, "The American people need to be assured that never again will an agency of the government be permitted to conduct a secret war against those citizens it considers threats to the established order." But COINTELPRO-style FBI operations continue to this day, and

in fact, some outlawed practices are being reinstated in the post-September 11 hysteria. Two of their best known victims are Black Panther leader Geronimo jiJaga (Pratt), who spent 25 years in prison as a wrongly-convicted political prisoner, and framed American Indian Movement leader Leonard Peltier, still in prison after 26 years. COINTELPRO was designed to foment internal discord in activist groups, isolate, terrorize and discredit them, and assassinate their leaders.

### The Big Lies

The crux of our case was showing that police agencies conspired and collaborated to violate civil rights. We exposed the three big lies they put forth to support search and arrest warrants against all evidence and logic.

Lie # 1: "The bomb was in the back seat in plain view." It was hidden under the driver's seat. This is proved by the

police's own crime scene photos.

Lie # 2: "The nails matched." The nails in the bomb were finishing nails—long, with no heads. The nails found in Judi's car were roofing nails—short, with large heads—and sinkers—thick with heads—both used in her work as a carpenter.

Lie #3: "These people are terrorists known for violence." Earth First!'s record of nonviolence speaks for itself.

### Testa-Lying: Faux Facts, Lies and Videotape

Not only was much of the OPD's and FBI witnesses' testimony riddled with contradictions and lapses of memory as to critical facts, but their views on EF! bordered on fantasy. An OPD defendant thought it was a "bizarre type of ethics" that would allow one to violate laws in defense of ecology. To him, it's a short leap from nonviolent civil disobedience

## Who's Who in the Judi Bari Case

### Judge:

US District Court Judge **Claudia Wilken**

### Plaintiffs:

Estate of **Judi Bari**, Earth First! and labor organizer in Mendocino County, died of breast cancer in March 1997.

**Darryl Cherney**, Earth First! organizer and musician

### Defendants:

#### FBI:

**Special Agent (SA) Frank Doyle**, taught FBI bomb school at a Louisiana-Pacific clearcut 30 days prior to the bombing, including blowing up cars with pipe bombs. Came to bomb scene with some of his students, took charge, told a lie that the bomb was in plain view on back seat floorboard.

**SA John Reikes**, head of terrorist squad. At inter-agency meeting on May 24, claimed that Judi and Darryl's goal was to bomb the Moss Landing Power Plant in Santa Cruz County and that they were known terrorists.

**SA Phil Sena**, teamed with Santa Cruz Sheriff's Department to investigate/spy on EF!. Reported fake "tip" about "heavy hitters" coming to Santa Cruz to plant a bomb.

**SA Stockton Buck**, assisted Doyle at crime scene. Traveled to Mendocino and Humboldt counties to investigate environmentalists' letters to the editor.

#### Oakland Police Department (OPD):

**Sgt. Michael Sitterud**, Homicide Division. Chief investigator for Oakland at bomb scene, drafted phony second search warrant claiming that nails in Judi's home and nails in bomb were from the same batch of 800-1,000 nails.

**Sgt. Robert Chenault**, Homicide Division. Second assigned investigator at bomb scene, drafted initial warrant. Claims Doyle told him that bomb nails matched nails in a bag in Judi's car and that the blast hole was behind the seat.

**Lt. Mike Sims**, head of homicide squad. At televised press conference shortly after the bombing, claimed Judi and Darryl were the only suspects.

### Plaintiffs' Legal Team:

**Dennis Cunningham**, lead counsel. San Francisco civil rights/criminal defense attorney, was on Black Panther Fred Hampton's case after he was killed by FBI in Chicago. On Judi Bari case since January 1992.

**J. Tony Serra**, counsel. San Francisco criminal defense attorney, has conducted thousands of jury trials in Bay Area, including many Native American political trials.

**Bob Bloom**, Berkeley criminal defense attorney. Once represented Black Panther Geronimo jiJaga. Joined case in 1993.

**William Simpich**, Oakland civil rights attorney. Filed original case in May 1991.

**Ben Rosenfeld**, counsel with Dennis Cunningham's office.

**Michael Deutch**, **William Goodman**, counsel with the Center for Constitutional Rights.

**Alicia Littletree**, paralegal and EF! organizer.

### Defendants' Legal Team:

**Joseph Sher**, Department of Justice (DOJ) lead counsel. Seen as "heavy hitter" in legal circles; defended government agents in Branch Davidian case in Waco, Texas.

**Dennis Barghaan**, Assistant US Attorney, DOJ counsel.

**Maria Bee**, City of Oakland lead counsel.

**William Simmons**, City of Oakland counsel.

to bomb throwing. FBI counsel threw around references to "Earth Night" like it was a nationally recognized holiday and characterized the Arizona action to the jury as an attack on a nuclear facility. (The transmission tower the FBI was helping the Arizona activists take down supplied power to the Central Arizona Project, which provides water for Phoenix's golf courses.) Several defendants were very combative on the stand, challenging even the court's right to hold them accountable. I expected them to blurt out, "You can't question us—we're the FBI!"

Innuendo, rumors, a sprinkling of bald-faced lies and *copinions* (opinions of cops) characterized what was admissible into the trial regarding Earth First!'s reputation. But we were not allowed to mention COINTELPRO or the FBI's bad reputation... unless the other side opened the door by broaching the topic. Stalwart lead attorney Dennis Cunningham (well aware of the FBI's nefarious history, having fought the government on Fred Hampton's case) kept looking for that glimmer of a crack in the door and tried to push it open. Shut down by their objections and reprimanded by the judge several times, he persisted nonetheless, since COINTELPRO-type operations are at the heart of this case. With the dismissal of Richard Held from the case—a tragic miscarriage of justice—this became more difficult to assert because Held is the link, being a principle architect of COINTELPRO and agent in charge of the San Francisco FBI office in 1990. Held lathered himself up in a qualified immunity argument and slithered out of this case in 1997.

The OPD and FBI also collaborated in searches of EF!ers' cars at a tow lot after a Golden Gate Bridge banner hanging on Earth Day 1990. At the time, we were puzzled by the response to a simple banner hang, which included confiscation of files and address books. We later found out through FBI documents Judi obtained through discovery that they did a "phone sweep" on people whom the 14 arrestees had called over a period of a couple of months. On the witness stand, FBI Agent and Terrorist squad head John Reikes confirmed that the names of the bridge action participants went into the terrorism resource file, and the agency gath-



photo by Nick Wilson

*On day six of the trial, the jury took a short field trip to view the bombed car. Note large hole directly under driver's seat, disproving the FBI lie that the bomb was in the back seat.*

ered information on 634 people whose crime was getting a phone call from an EF!er. The 634 ended up in the FBI files.

### Suspension of Reality

The search warrant quotes Agent Frank Doyle saying, "A separate bag of nails was discovered in the vehicle that are identical to the nails taped to the explosive device." OPD Lieutenant Mike Sims made the decision to arrest, and although he was relying heavily on information received from the FBI, he continued to insist he saw matching nails even as he sat on the stand looking at finishing nails and roofing nails, saying that someone must have given him a bag of finishing nails. Perhaps one of his officers ran to Orchard Hardware while they were collecting bomb debris off the street. His other defiance of spatial reality came when he testified that the guitar case in the back seat of the bombed Subaru was "shattered" and "shredded." When confronted with a police photo of the guitar case before the jury, fairly intact but for two dings about an inch long and a damaged bottom, he continued to use the term "shredded."

Agent Phil Sena, another very hostile and combative defendant, was the vehicle for the so-called "tip" received from a Santa Cruz informant about "heavy-hitters coming down from the north to do an action at the end of May." This was twisted around to implicate Judi and Darryl—though as it turns out, the original "tip" de-

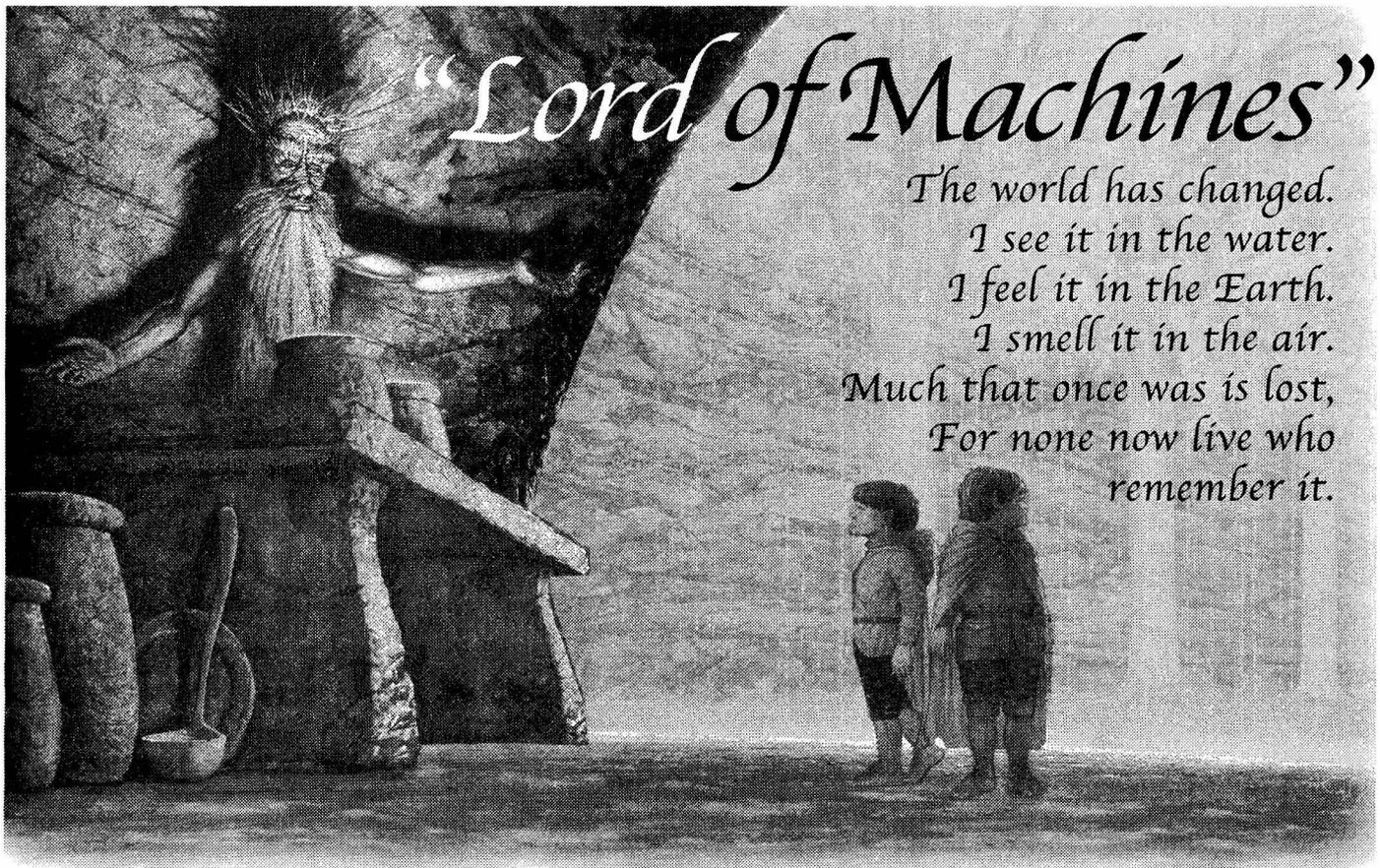
scribed people coming from Canada and the Northwest—and to suggest that explosives were involved. Sena's outrage at having to testify as a defendant when he is accustomed to the world of intrigue where anything goes, brought him to yell, interrupt the judge and try to fire questions back at the questioning lawyer. Since he had previously done significant work investigating Nazi groups and was the case agent, he was asked whether he had looked into the Nazi groups identified by Judi as having issued overt threats. He blurted out, "I didn't know what was going on, and furthermore, I wasn't all that interested."

### Dueling Bomb Experts

Doyle, a truly scary guy who taught an FBI "bomb school" at a Louisiana-Pacific clearcut site one month prior to the car bombing, arrived at the bomb scene within minutes. OPD defendants have testified that Doyle falsely stated that the bomb was in plain view on the back seat floorboard.

Agent David Williams, a forensic bomb specialist from the FBI Crime Lab in Washington, DC, was questioned in the middle of Doyle's testimony and provided conflicting testimony. Williams testified that every aspect of the bomb's placement indicated that it was well-hidden: the obliterated underside of the driver's seat, the undamaged back of the seat, the blast pattern damage to the floor, the end cap impact points and the booby-trap motion device on the bomb.

*continued on page 44*



# “Lord of Machines”

The world has changed.  
I see it in the water.  
I feel it in the Earth.  
I smell it in the air.  
Much that once was is lost,  
For none now live who  
remember it.



BY JAMES BELL

These words, spoken against a black movie screen, conjure forth images of our own world just as much as they set the scene for the opening of the fantasy film *The Lord of the Rings—The Fellowship of the Ring*. This epic myth resonates on many levels with the changes our world faces, from global warming to war. It is this ability to tap into universal archetypes that has propelled its popularity today. After being nominated for 13 Academy Awards and winning four, we can be sure that wizards and hobbits will be part of our popular culture into the foreseeable future.

It was the same when *The Lord of the Rings* first gained mass appeal in the US as a paperback. The book sold three million copies between 1965 and 1968 coinciding with the worldwide student demonstrations of the late '60s. It gained an underground following among hippies and anti-war protesters, as the story seemed to speak directly to their causes for social justice and the environment. If anything, the book's appeal to environmental activists has grown over the years, with its author, J.R.R. Tolkien, becoming a sort of patron saint of neo-luddites. Tolkien, at first glance, seems an odd choice for the storyteller favorite of the luddite and revolutionary—yet an examination of Tolkien's epic sheds light on why these stories resonate with the rebels of our technologic times.

## Tolkien the Messenger

Tolkien, who lived from 1892 to 1973, was a stuffy Oxford don who grew up in the Warwickshire countryside during the turn of the last century. He moved with his widowed mother when he was eight to the dirty industrial

city of Birmingham. Years later when he finally returned to his childhood stomping grounds in his treasured hamlet of Sarehole, it had been overtaken by urban sprawl. This “loss of paradise” inspired Tolkien's outspoken lifelong hatred of cars, roads and machinery.

Tolkien never owned a television or a washing machine. He was a confirmed luddite, rejecting refrigerated food and cars. “How I wish the ‘infernal combustion’ engine had never been invented,” he said. When asked about his life, he responded, “I am in fact a hobbit (in all but size). I like gardens, trees and unmechanized farmlands; I smoke a pipe and like good plain food... I go to bed late and get up late.” In an enlightening letter written to his son, Christopher, in 1943, Tolkien vented his frustration with government and the industrial age, “My political opinions lean more and more to anarchy (philosophically understood, meaning abolition of control not whiskered men with bombs)... There is only one bright spot and that is the growing habit of disgruntled men of dynamiting factories and power stations.” It is this last statement and others like it that lead one to wonder if Tolkien would have approved of today's “elves”—those of the Earth Liberation Front. It is a fact that Tolkien was deeply troubled by the impact of modern industry and technology on the world's environment, especially “the lunatic destruction of the physical lands which Americans inhabit.”

In his letters, Tolkien considered technology a kind of “black magic.” The machines of our world, and the dark magic of Mordor, were both expressed in Tolkien's words by a craving for “speed, reduction of labor and reduction of the gap between idea or desire and the result or effect.” The magic of creative enchantment was opposite that of

technology's black arts. Tolkien saw enchantment as the artistic construction of "Secondary Worlds," like his own creation of Middle Earth. Tolkien thought of his enchantments as introducing new fantasy worlds and wonderlands into our own, making the Primary World a better place to live. In particular, Tolkien believed that words held power. Professor T.A. Shippey in *The Road to Middle Earth* wrote, "[Tolkien] thought that people could feel history in words, could recognize language styles, could extract sense from sound alone... It was like him to think, Bombadil-style, that beneath all this there might be a 'true language,' one 'isomorphic with reality'..." Enchantment through words was Tolkien's ultimate elfish craft and the primary reason behind his creation of Middle Earth.

Tolkien started enchanting us in 1937 when *The Hobbit* became the *Harry Potter* of its day. Tolkien was a philologist—one who studies words and researches their origins and histories. In Ancient Egypt, the name "Hob" meant "messenger." It is the name most commonly given to the Egyptian god Thoth, the messenger of Ra. Thoth was the god of writing and language. Tolkien coined the word "hobbit" and created the main hobbit characters Bilbo and Frodo to be his "messengers." In doing this, Tolkien was drawing a parallel between the god of words and himself. More importantly, Tolkien believed that these old words held power, and thus he used their ancient meanings to give his enchantments life.

### The Fellowship of the Monkeywrench

Tolkien would take years to craft a "sequel." *The Lord of the Rings*, published in 1954, would become a sort of epic anti-quest where Tolkien's heroes seek to rid the world of a great evil. This was the opposite of mythical quests throughout history where heroes set off to find something to bring back and aid their people. Tolkien's heroes turn the tool of the enemy against itself, tossing it into the fires of the Cracks of Doom like a monkeywrench thrown into the gears of a machine. Our society's growing desire to rid itself of runaway technologic progress resonates with this anti-quest element of the story. Tolkien would agree, "If there is any contemporary reference in my story at all, it is to what seems to me the most widespread assumption of our time: that if a thing can be done, it must be done. This seems to me wholly false."

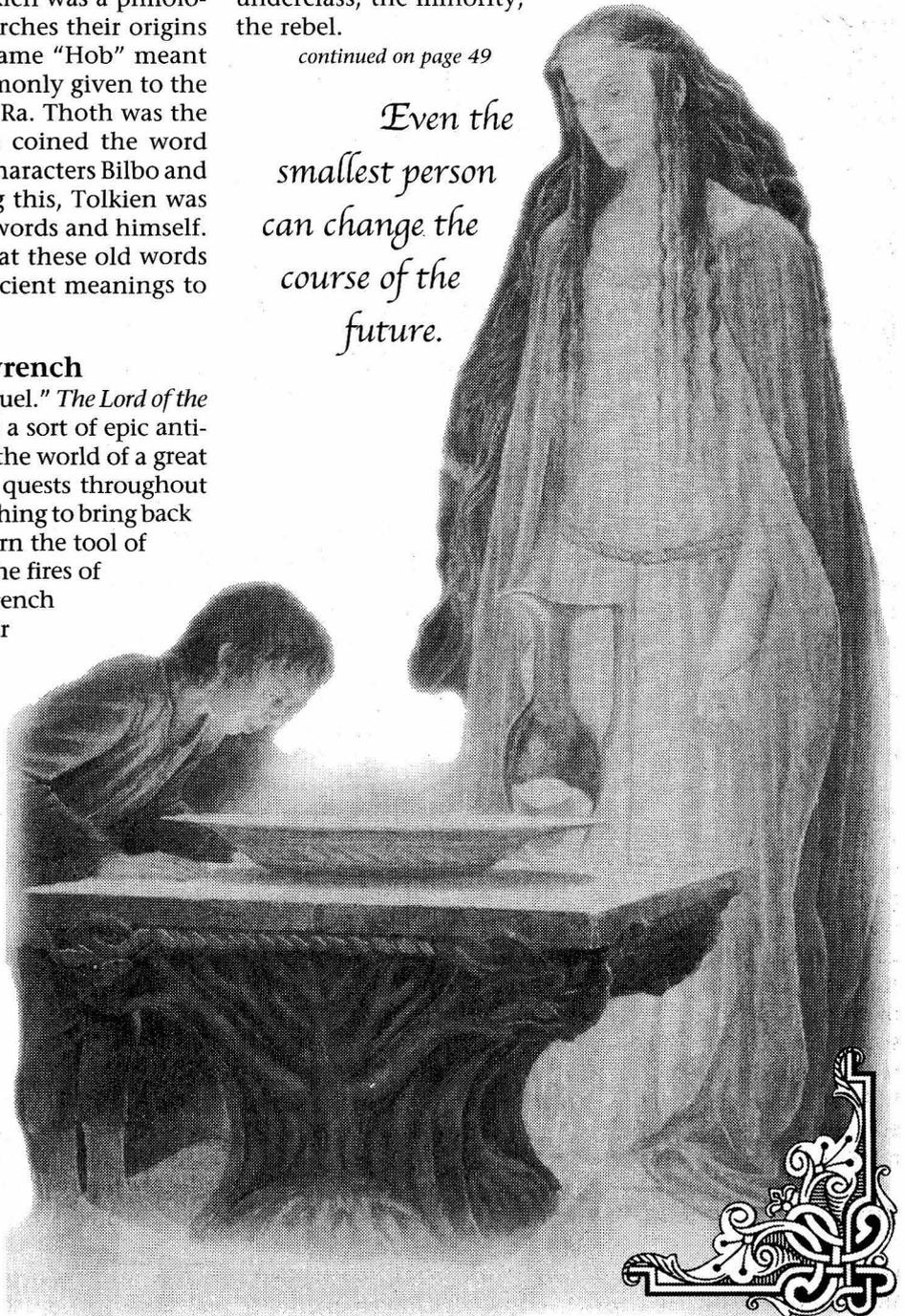
The science fiction author Gene Wolfe, who corresponded with Tolkien, described the secret behind the epic's inspiration. "He uncovered a forgotten wisdom among the barbarian tribes who had proved (against all expectation) strong enough to overpower the glorious civilizations of Greece and Rome; and he had not only uncovered but understood it. What he did, then, was to plant in my consciousness and yours the truth that society need not be as we see it around us." Tolkien's goal was to create a new mythology for England and a modern myth for "everyman."

England's mythology was forgotten, buried around the countryside. The Arthurian legends, Tolkien believed, were an imported French myth. He knew that the Anglo-Saxon metalsmiths of old were storytellers, forging their epics in their work. He reached back into the archeological and linguistic roots of England to resurface a lost mythology.

Tolkien found inspiration elsewhere as well, like from the rune singers of Finland and their oral histories contained in the historic text of the *Kalevala*. He recognized that the existence of the *Kalevala* gave an identity to Finland that helped it exist as a nation separate from Sweden. He wanted to fill his stories with such power and meaning. Tolkien captured all these various tendrils of mythology in his novels, creating a modern mythology for the "little guy"—the peasant, the worker, the student, the underclass, the minority, the rebel.

*continued on page 49*

*Even the  
smallest person  
can change the  
course of the  
future.*



# The Earth Charter:

## Transition to a Sustainable World?

BY ECO SOLIDARIDAD-ANDES

We are taught to perceive the avalanche of global crises as isolated from one another, as separate problems that can be dealt with individually—one crisis at a time. This mindset keeps people from seeing the root causes of this troubled world—the dire and complete lack of participatory democracy that leads to an unequal distribution of land, wealth and income.

At the heart of all problems is the economic system that has gripped the world since 1980: “Global Free Market Capitalism for Corporate Profits.” This economic system separates consumers from producers, alienates people from the natural world and favors mega-corporations and institutions over the will of the people and their local governing bodies.

The Earth Charter, on the other hand, opposes a future whose primary goal is economic growth and money.

It challenges the assumptions of the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) free market position, and it is about to be endorsed by most world leaders.

### A History of Earth Summits and Earth Charters

Back in 1982, when Earth First! was founded, Ronald Reagan, James Watt and ol’ George Bush, Sr. were busy threatening to drill and mine public lands across the West (just like now), and US environmentalists were too busy fighting nationally to fully challenge the Reagan regime. Soon the US had pulled out of the UN Law of the Sea Treaty and refused to sign onto restrictions on trade of hazardous materials.

That was also the year of the UN Conference on the Environment where the US cast the only vote out of 130 nations against the World Charter for Nature, a precursor to the 2002 Earth Charter.

Ten years later, Al Gore made a name

for himself as a “green Democrat” in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The occasion was the first Earth Summit. In the weeks leading up to the summit, George Bush, Sr. had vetoed an agreement on limiting carbon dioxide emissions (like George, Jr. would veto in Kyoto nine years later), and on the opening day of the summit, Bush managed to embarrass the US by clumsily scuttling the World Treaty on Biodiversity.

The only significant output from the Rio Earth Summit was

Agenda 21, a list of specific assignments that every participating nation agreed to complete. Agenda 21 led to the engagement of civil society in environmental policy debates in most countries. The US drew away from the UN at this time and few of its citizens have ever heard of Agenda 21—let alone participated in its issues and forums. Mikhail Gorbachev and Maurice Strong (Secretary General of the Rio Earth Summit) kept working on the Earth Charter along with the millions of people plugged in from Agenda 21.

Principle Three of the 1992 Rio Declaration states, “The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet development and environmental needs of present and future generations.” This statement captures the heart of the Earth Charter vision. It was approved over the objections of the US.

### Johannesburg: World Summit on Sustainable Development

From August 26-September 4, the largest-ever gathering of world leaders will attend the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in South Africa. The three main issues to be addressed are: a review of progress made on commitments to sustainable development since 1992, the Earth Charter and an action program for implementing sustainable development and the principles enshrined in the Earth Charter.

The current draft of the Earth Charter was presented in Rio de Janeiro in 1997. The following interpretation is the vision that civil society is fighting and dying to establish as a new way of living.

The Preamble to the Earth Charter identifies the parameters by which the world must address critical issues:

1. Urgency: “We stand at a critical moment, a time when humanity must choose its future... it is imperative, that we declare our responsibility to... future generations... production and consumption are causing environmental devastation... the foundations of



global security are threatened... these trends are perilous. We urgently need basic values of an ethical foundation for the emerging world community... a global partnership to care for the Earth or risk destruction of ourselves and... When basic needs are met, development is about being more, not having more."

2. Respect for the Earth and the health of all ecological systems requires major changes in our ways of living that reduce damage to the environment and support all people and future generations.

3. Caution: Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach.

The Earth Charter preamble states, "We affirm the Earth Charter as the principles for a sustainable way of life and a standard by which the conduct of *all* individuals, organizations, businesses, governments and transnational institutions are to be guided and assessed."

The Earth Charter clearly requires that all human activity must utilize the least harmful processes and that potential environmental, social and economic impacts on future generations must be important criteria. Prioritization is given to ecological restoration and endangered species.

The burden of proof is placed fully on those who propose an activity, and if there is uncertainty, then caution requires that a project or technology be delayed until enough information is available.

According to Earth Charter guidelines almost all corporate activity would be illegal and few countries would be considered democratic, since very few meet all of the criteria: "just, sustainable, participatory and peaceful."

It requires all countries to eradicate poverty and guarantee the right of all to potable water, clean air, food security and education—and to allocate sufficient national and international resources to fully assure and protect these rights.

The Earth Charter concludes with a section titled "The Way Forward," that calls for an international, legally binding instrument on environment and development.

The Earth Charter will be approved despite US objections, but the action program will not receive sufficient



commitment or funding. The importance of the WSSD will be seen in the debates over alternative economic structures and the declarations that come out of the parallel World Sustainability Hearings that Earth Island Institute, non-governmental organizations and international civil society are holding during the WSSD.

Instead of the WTO, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, the UN should establish a tax on developed countries that would be used to subsidize poor rural areas. Education, health care and support for subsistence agriculture should be priorities. Sustainability guidelines, research and education can help keep this new economic structure on target. Existing models of successful programs in India, Cuba, Bangladesh, Brazil and elsewhere can be adapted to fit unique cultural situations around the world.

The key to this program will be a new type of participatory local democracy, like the examples from Porto Alegre and other Brazilian communities. Also relevant will be the evolving knowledge people are gaining from the collapse of Argentina and the organizations of civil society—the unemployed *piqueteros* and the popular assemblies of neighborhoods, communities and regions.

In Johannesburg, we will hear a lot of complaining about how poorly the rich

countries have done in meeting their commitments to sustainability since 1992. The Earth Charter and other resolutions will be passed and a few action programs will be drawn up as partnership-initiatives between government, the private sector and citizen groups for sustainable development.

Little that will break the stranglehold of the WTO and its corporate clients will come of the Earth Summit. The value of the Earth Summit and the Earth Charter is that they lend validity to the rising tide of anti-corporate and anti-US actions sweeping the world. National interest and protest groups in the US are fast becoming irrelevant or marginal as international civil society asserts itself. Civil society—the people—are already beyond the Earth Charter. They demand a "New World" of ecological possibilities and sustainable options—a world that they will control.

All the power that rests in Wall Street and international banks is nothing compared to the force of millions of people taking to the streets to demand sensible change now.

That day is coming.

For more information, visit [www.ifg.org](http://www.ifg.org), [www.oriononline.org](http://www.oriononline.org) and [www.foodfirst.org](http://www.foodfirst.org).

*Eco Solidaridad-Andes investigates corporate and US threats to rural people and the environment. Contact them at [bolivarno@hotmail.com](mailto:bolivarno@hotmail.com).*

# Hate Civilized

## Derrick Jensen Explores the Culture of Make Believe

BY TIM REAM

Derrick Jensen is a writer after the hearts of EFers and radicals of all stripes. His books include *A Language Older Than Words* and *Railroads and Clearcuts*. His critique is broad and personal, intellectual and down to Earth.

The title of Jensen's new book, *The Culture of Make Believe*, suggests the revelation of some pretty big blind spots. How does one find a legitimate entry into discussing the very context of all discussion: culture? How does one attempt to look past or even at the "code" that has governed all that our society has built? Where might one find a mirror that reflects across continents, history and into the abstract world? Jensen begins with hate.

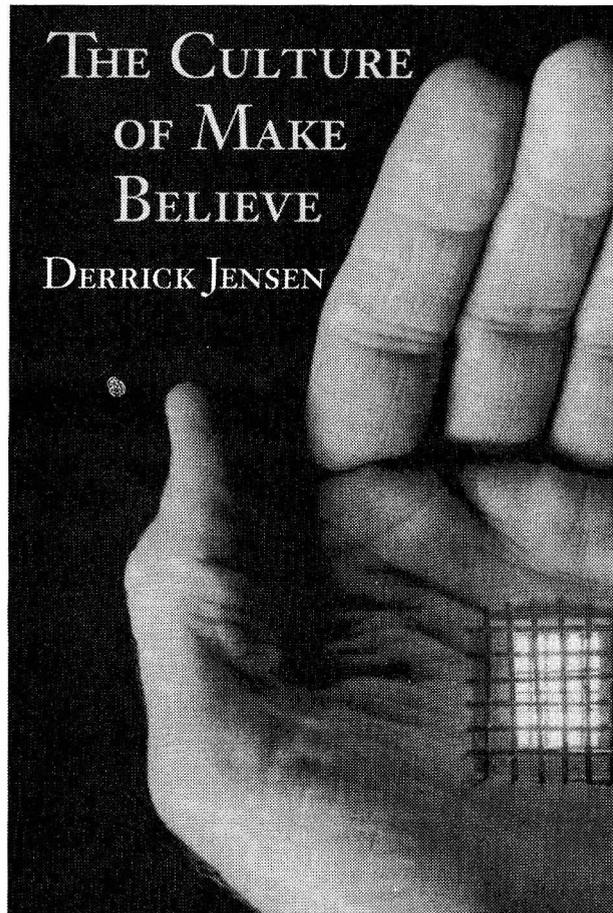
A large part of the book is given to listening to the victims and survivors of hate. Jensen's case is well-built. Bearing witness in words to the acts of our ancestors is almost unbearable, but bear it we must, for through these stories we begin to understand some of the texture and complexity of hate.

Jensen insists we open our eyes to a few aspects of our culture: the history of lynching in the US, genocidal acts and corporate disregard for life in the search for profit. One might resign oneself, in the face of such atrocities, to simply declare such behavior "human nature" and thus not worthy of attention. Jensen won't let go so easily.

Few writers today are able to bring history, politics and the Earth together without blinking in the face of the planetary crisis. In May, while Jensen was in-between book tours, I had the opportunity to speak with him about our civilization, its mistakes and our collective liberal dream.

TR: What has the reception been out there in the "War on Terror" America? What's it like being a radical speaker, and how do you assess the mood of the country as far as your audiences are concerned?

DJ: Well, I've just gotten back from one tour. I'm leaving on another one in a couple of days, and I'm pretty much



speaking to standing-room-only crowds in venues that are both big and small.

One of the things I say that has been very well-received is that the most common words spoken by any environmentalist I know are, "We're fucked." People will say, "Well if that's the case then why don't you just kill yourself," and the answer to that is that "life is good." There are so many people out there who refuse to acknowledge how terrible things are because they think that means that their own life is going to be bad because life is going to hell on the planet. Those are the people who are at the periphery. The people who are actually working on these things say, "Well, of course, that just makes us work all the harder."

The other thing that is being received very well, that I'm actually a little surprised about, is that the next-to-last chapter in my book is called "Holocausts," and that arose because my publisher said that if you are going

to write about hate you need to write about "The Holocaust." I objected to that very strongly for two reasons. One because there has been so much good stuff written about it, that I'm not sure what I could write about it.

The second is that I objected to the word "The" because at the same time Nazis were killing six million Jews, they were killing Romani, Slavs, homosexuals, intellectuals and Russians. At the same time, Japanese were killing Chinese. Twenty years before that the Turks were killing Armenians, and 20 years later the Americans were killing the Vietnamese. It's all kind of exemplified by a friend of mine who is a great activist, a Jewish woman who was down in Florida when *Schindler's List* came out. She went to it, and she said as she walked out that there were all these elderly Jewish women shaking their fists and saying "never again." What my friend said is that these women have never heard of the U'wa. I mean they've never heard of the Seminole, and they are living on Seminole land.

So I've been saying this, and I sort of expected that there would be some sort of a backlash for going after that sacred

cow—capital “The” capital “H”—Holo-  
 caust and saying that this is the  
 endpoint of civilization: assembly line  
 mass murder. Instead, at one place the  
 audience interrupted me with ap-  
 plause—everyone is generally nodding  
 in total agreement. This is one of those  
 things we don’t talk about.

So to finish this story about the  
 way I tried to write about the Holo-  
 caust... I remembered something a  
 friend of mine said about 10 years  
 ago, which was that Hitler’s big mis-  
 take was that he was about 100 years  
 ahead of his time. The endpoint of a  
 utilitarian worldview is what we see  
 around us: the final turning of the  
 living into the dead. Hitler didn’t  
 have a national identity card system  
 like social security cards, he didn’t  
 have facial recognition software, he  
 didn’t even have fingerprints for the  
 most part.

the very least, I think we can be hon-  
 est about the fact that our way of life  
 from the very beginning has been  
 unsustainable. I asked a friend of mine  
 years ago, “If you could live at any  
 level of technology that you wanted,  
 what would it be?” He said, “That’s a  
 really stupid question, Derrick. We  
 can fantasize about whatever we want  
 but the only level of technology that  
 is sustainable is the Stone Age. And  
 the only question there is, really, is:  
 What will be left when we get there?”

Any way of living that is based on  
 non-renewable resources and—as you  
 know from my work—any way of liv-  
 ing that is based on the perception of  
 the world as resources is by definition  
 unsustainable. The central question  
 of my work from the beginning has  
 been, “If the destruction of the natural  
 world isn’t making us happy, then  
 why are we doing it?” All these things



**Any way of living that is based on non-renewable resources is by definition unsustainable. The central question of my work has been, “If the destruction of the natural world isn’t making us happy, then why are we doing it?”**

*TR: Let me ask a couple of questions from what I would consider a more main-stream audience’s point of view. They would be something like, “Well, you are only looking at the bad stuff, and gosh there has been so much amazing stuff from civilization. What about all the great art and miracle cures and so on? Why is it that you only want to focus on the bad?”*

DJ: You know, I love Beethoven. I love baseball, except for the designated hitter and the New York Yankees. However, as much as I like the Seattle Mariners and Beethoven, they are not worth killing the planet. At

are not really making us happy. We can go with whatever statistics you want on suicide, valium use or anything else.

*TR: What about the argument that would say, “Can’t we find a way to keep some of the good aspects of civilization without returning all the way to the Stone Age?”*

DJ: Well I have two things to say. The first one is that if your way of living is based upon non-renewable resources, it’s not sustainable by definition. What this means is that if you are going to have solar photovoltaics you’ve got to

*continued on page 50*

## BARE BONES

### Work is as Deadly as War

According to a recent United Nations (UN) report, work brings about more death and suffering than wars or drug and alcohol abuse combined. The UN’s International Labor Organization (ILO) announced in early May that more than two million people die from work-related accidents or diseases every year—equivalent to one death every 15 seconds.

The ILO named agriculture, construction and mining as the three most dangerous occupations in the world, where exposure to dust, chemicals, noise and radiation causes cancer, heart disease and strokes. Some 350,000 people die from fatal workplace accidents every year, and hazardous substances claim 340,000 lives. Asbestos was responsible for 100,000 deaths. The ILO accused wealthy countries of exporting the problem. “Industrialized countries are exporting their hazards to developing countries,” said the ILO’s Jukka Takala.

### Milk Contaminated in NY

Unknown individuals have been sneaking onto dairy farms at night in western New York, contaminating milk in storage tanks with antibiotics and injecting cows with the drugs. According to state police, an estimated 44,000 gallons of milk have been contaminated since the Fall, causing farmers to lose nearly \$50,000. The last cases were reported in late May. Authorities are looking for suspects in the 14 cases under investigation in any number of places, from animal rights groups opposed to dairy farm practices to disgruntled farmers or employees.

With no claims of responsibility, anxiety among farmers is high. Senator Hillary Clinton has urged the FBI to help local officials in New York, calling the actions “an insidious and dangerous form of terrorism.”

# Bureau of Reclamation

## 100 Years of Destruction

BY JOHN WEISHEIT

The Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec) will be celebrating its centennial on June 17, at Hoover Dam, which straddles the Arizona/Nevada border southeast of the glittering casinos, opulent swimming pools, fountains and green grass links of Las Vegas. On that day, 100 years ago, Congress passed the Newlands Reclamation Act, the legal foundation for BuRec's gigantic empire of river destruction now totaling more than 600 dams across 17 western states.

BuRec's festivities will commence with closing Highway 93 across the dam for eight hours beginning at 3:00 p.m. Buses will depart Las Vegas with 2,400 private party goers. Gale Norton, Dick Cheney (invited) and other Bush administration planet destroyers will accompany villains from water, power, agribusiness and real estate who helped put them in office. The exclusively catered dinner for the river-mangling elite will occur in the cool and humming bowels of the dam's power plant. After dinner, official speeches will be heard on the transformer decks outside, with listeners serenaded by the sweet lullaby of crackling high-voltage wires. Later, aerial killers from the Air Force Thunderbird Squadron will perform, and finally as the roiling sun settles below the desert horizon, a laser light and fireworks display will pollute the night skies above Black Canyon in patriotic fashion.

At noon on June 17, Living Rivers and representatives of a number of other groups will be arriving at Hoover Dam to convey a different message—down with BuRec and down with dams. The theme will be a wake to mourn the submergence of pristine river canyons, the de-watering of thousands of miles of critical riverine habitat and the loss of the cultural heritage of a number of indigenous tribes.

From the Columbia to the Rio Grande, BuRec has been wasting taxpayer money by subsidizing low-value crop production for cattle feed. Nearly half of the water taken from western rivers is used to grow alfalfa, the most water-consuming and least revenue-generating crop. Merely switching to less water intensive crops, or better yet the elimination of large-scale irrigation altogether, would free up huge amounts of water to restore the West's dying river habitat.

A tough battle, however, as BuRec is under the control of irrigation districts which have no interest in altering the arrangement that brings their members cheap water and huge bank accounts. The irony of this is that the 1902 Reclamation Act was designed to support the

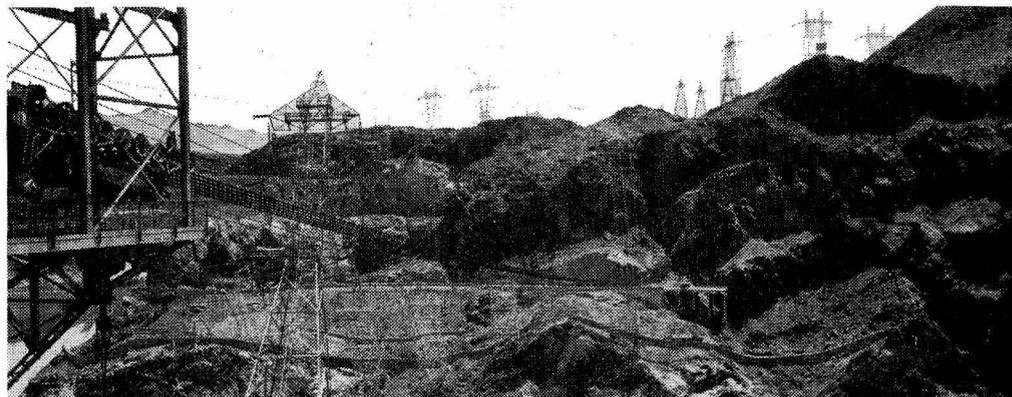
creation of small family farms of not more than 320 acres. BuRec, however, has allowed a host of loopholes to enable large-scale agribusiness to get ahold of the land and water such that many farms now exceed 15,000 acres.

The Reclamation Act required federal irrigation projects to pay for themselves, both in terms of total repayment costs for construction and all costs associated with regular delivery of the water. This has never occurred. On average, only 30 percent of the costs are presently recovered. Today, BuRec requires \$750 million annually from taxpayers to help keep these farms—and the agency—in business.

Although spiraling construction costs, growing environmental concerns and dwindling numbers of dam sites, has dramatically reduced BuRec's dam building, it has not come to an end. BuRec has plans underway to construct a dam and water diversion project on the Animas River near Durango, Colorado. Not only would this inundate ancient burial grounds and cost federal taxpayers another couple hundred million dollars, it would contribute to the de-watering of the San Juan River downstream—critical habitat for endangered fish, the razorback sucker and Colorado pikeminnow.

Lack of instream flows is both making national headlines and bringing increased criticism on BuRec for de-watering rivers—from the San Juan to the Rio Grande to the Klamath. But this has so far been marginalized by BuRec's entering into the usual partnership arrangements with environmental groups to study the problem and conduct experiments until such time as the habitat is too far gone to recover.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the world-renowned Grand Canyon, just upstream of Hoover Dam, where the big party is planned. Twenty percent of the Grand Canyon was inundated by Hoover Dam, but of key concern now is how the remaining 80 percent of the canyon's river corridor is dying a slow death as a result of Glen Canyon, 370 miles upstream of Hoover. Sandwiched between these two dams, the Grand Canyon's mighty Colorado River corridor has been transformed into the Grand Ditch.

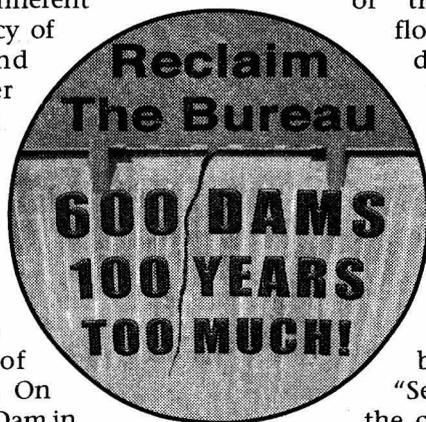


Hoover Dam

The temperature of water released into the river from Glen Canyon Dam is too cold for the native fish to spawn. The sediment and nutrients that used to feed the Grand Canyon's ecosystem have for 40 years been trapped behind Glen Canyon Dam. The critical natural flow conditions necessary to properly distribute the sediment load are non-existent. As a result, the canyon's entire food web has been dramatically altered. For example, three of eight native fish species are gone and two more are on their way. The beaches, so revered by the canyon's river runners, are vanishing as well and all at the hands of BuRec.

But there is more to contemplate than just BuRec's ecosystem destruction that is inherent in its 100-year legacy of dam building and consumptive water conveyance systems that pump water uphill. Dams can and do fail for such reasons as poor design, old age, catastrophic natural events and the accumulation of impacted sediment. On June 5, 1976, Teton Dam in Idaho failed soon after its initial filling. The wake of this dam failure killed 11 people and caused \$400 million dollars worth of damage to the communities downstream (see *EF!* June-July 2001). In 1983, Glen Canyon Dam's spillways nearly failed during a normal 25-year flood cycle. Other design flaws were also realized in the 1980s that include the Fontenelle Dam on the Green River in Wyoming and Navajo Dam in New Mexico on the San Juan River. Questions about the lack of confidence in BuRec's dam designs draw logical conclusions when considering the effects of a soon-to-appear 100-year flood cycle. Living Rivers is currently in a Freedom of Information Act battle to acquire the inundation maps BuRec possesses that would detail the extent of damages caused by a failure at Glen Canyon Dam. The seriousness of a potential dam failure is obviously such a concern to BuRec that it won't let the information out.

Should Glen Canyon Dam fail, a 500-foot wall of water will go racing through Grand Canyon toward Hoover Dam.



Even if Hoover survives, a 75-foot-high wall will pass over its crest and destroy the communities downstream; not to forget the catastrophic cost to the downstream environment and the loss of human life. In the aftermath, the Colorado River plumbing system will be completely destroyed. How is BuRec going to explain their unwillingness to share such information with the 25 million people that will be directly affected?

The June 17 counter-rally at Hoover Dam will be the conclusion of a five-day roadshow designed to highlight the damage BuRec has caused, especially to the Grand Canyon. Beginning on the banks

of the relatively free-flowing Colorado River downstream of Moab, Utah, a kick-off rally and music festival will provide background fun as a dump truck will be filled with sediment for transport to the Grand Canyon and beyond. Known as the "Sediment-al Journey" the caravan will travel to events at: "Lake" Powell reservoir and Glen Canyon Dam with Navajo activists; Lee's Ferry, with wilderness advocates for the No-Fee Demo day of action; and the amphitheater near the South Rim at Grand Canyon National Park for a major rally with a host of long-time river activists, Native Americans and former National Park Service personnel. According to Dave Haskell, former science director for Grand Canyon National Park, lack of sediment is the number one problem that needs to be dealt with if we are going to save the canyon. This of course further amplifies the need to get rid of Glen Canyon Dam—just one of many dams that need to go—a key message for the final event at Hoover Dam.

For more information, contact Living Rivers, (435) 259-1063; [www.livingrivers.org](http://www.livingrivers.org).

*John Weisheit is the conservation director of Living Rivers and lives in the Colorado River town of Moab, Utah. He is a longtime Colorado River boatman who has seen the river's devastation above and below Glen Canyon Dam.*

## BARE BONES

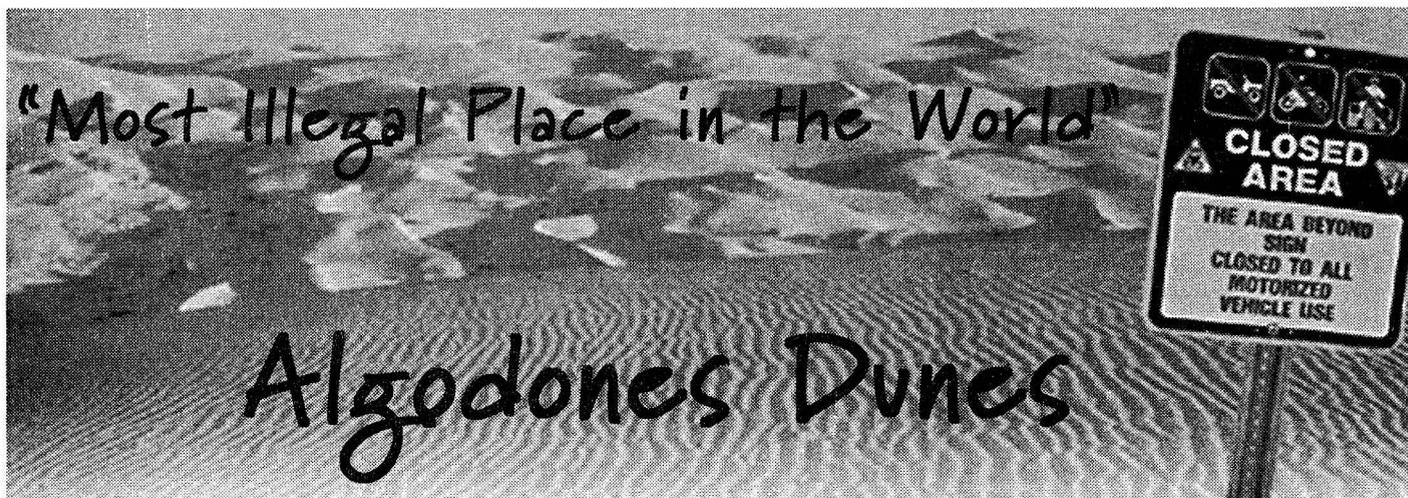
### Farm Bill Threatens Bison

National Park Service officials and environmentalists say that the Animal Health Protection Act, a provision in the farm bill, could lead to the slaughter of bison and elk in Yellowstone and other national parks. The provision was added to the bill to broaden the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) authority to manage animal disease. The contention comes down to the word "animal" in the definition of the "pests" that would give the USDA control over any animals that threaten livestock.

Based on past studies, up to 80 percent of bison in Yellowstone could test positive for brucellosis. Under the proposed legislation, these bison could be shipped to slaughter, even though there have been no documented cases of brucellosis transmission to domestic cows in the wild. Steve Torbit, senior scientist for the National Wildlife Federation in Denver, Colorado, said the proposed legislation would also usurp a state's authority to manage its own wildlife. "It would," Torbit said, "give authority to kill wildlife to a single special interest, the livestock industry."

In late April, the Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) suspended brucellosis testing for captured bison and enacted a zero-tolerance policy toward any bison found outside of Yellowstone. More than 100 bison have been sent to slaughter since then, with only a single one being tested.

Activists were able to document the extremely cruel treatment of a newborn bison calf in the Horse Butte capture facility by DOL agents. The calf was hit with a piece of lumber, dragged by the neck and finally pinned behind one of the large steel swinging doors. The footage from this incident was picked up by the Humane Society of the US, as well as by national television networks.



BY DANIEL PATTERSON

The Algodones Dunes, a scenic active dune system within the Sonoran Desert of southeastern California which harbors many rare, threatened and endemic species, may be condemned to become an off-road vehicle sacrifice area. On March 22, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) published its proposed Land Management Plan, which would open up more than 49,000 acres that are currently protected from off-road vehicle damage. Meanwhile, conservation organizations are fighting to preserve more acreage in the dunes to ensure the survival of endangered plants and animals such as the Peirson's milkvetch and desert tortoise.

With the knowledge that the Algodones Dunes are a unique and amazing natural area, the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) has vowed to fight this special-interest scheme to remove balanced dunes management.

The BLM plan's preferred alternative would reopen all currently protected dunes and adopt an "adaptive management" program that would attempt to limit the number of off-road vehicles present at any time in designated areas to 525. Even if off-road vehicles could be effectively limited, with such a small enforcement staff at the dunes, monitoring the number of vehicles present in these sensitive areas would be as much of a problem as it has been in the past. Currently, BLM limited-use areas are closed to off-road travel, and conservationists are concerned that this new plan will set a bad precedent.

"The new leadership at the Department of Interior is undoing even the fragile progress made in the dunes during the past two years," stated Dan Meyer attorney for Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility in Washington, DC. "BLM's retreat means more money devoted to litigation rather than preservation."

The Algodones Dunes, stretching more than 40 miles northward from the US-Mexico border in eastern Imperial County, California, have been a topic of controversy for

some time. National media coverage has documented the off-roader violence toward BLM Rangers and extensive off-road vehicle abuse in the area that has destroyed habitat for endangered species. Last year, a *New York Times* headline declared the dunes "The Most Illegal Place in the World."

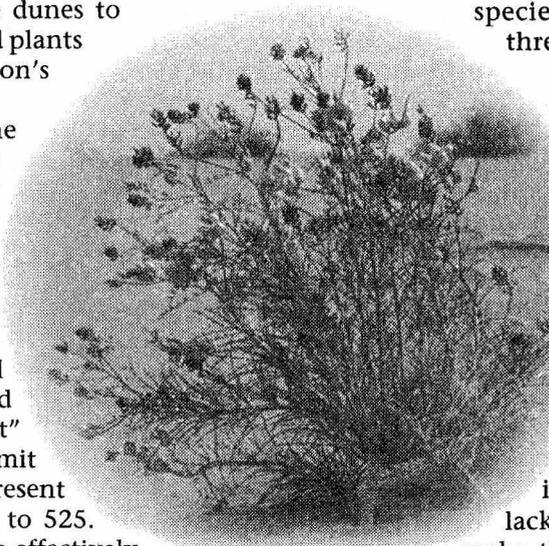
Historically, the BLM allowed off-road vehicles to dominate 77 percent of the 150,000-acre dune ecosystem, leaving only the 32,240-acre North Algodones Dunes Wilderness closed to off-roaders. The National Park Service has designated these dunes as a National Natural Landmark. More than 80 animals and 60 plant species call these dunes home and are threatened by off-roaders.

In November 2000, the BLM and five off-road groups agreed to ban off-road vehicles from an additional 49,310 acres of the Algodones Dunes as the result of a lawsuit filed by the CBD, the Sierra Club and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. The agreement, which leaves half the dunes open to off-roaders, is to remain in effect until a permanent solution is developed to save the Peirson's milkvetch from extinction. However, the BLM's plan is wrought with incorrect and misleading studies. It also lacks an appropriate analysis that would make the Environmental Impact Statement complete and accurate.

In November, the CBD and the California Native Plant Society sued the US Fish and Wildlife Service over its failure to designate critical habitat on the dunes for recovery of the Peirson's milkvetch. Habitat has not been designated, and this lawsuit has not yet been settled.

The Desert Protective Council (DPC), a national organization with a long history of plant monitoring at Algodones Dunes, thinks the new management plan should protect the portions of the dunes that have been closed to protect rare and endangered plants. DPC also wants the large central closure area designated as wilderness.

"After 50 years of intense off-road vehicle abuse, many of the plant and animal species that have historically inhabited the dunes have declined or been eliminated,"



said Terry Weiner, conservation coordinator of the DPC in San Diego. "Full protection for the remaining diversity in the fragile Algodones Dunes system is not even an alternative in the draft dunes plan... That's a shame."

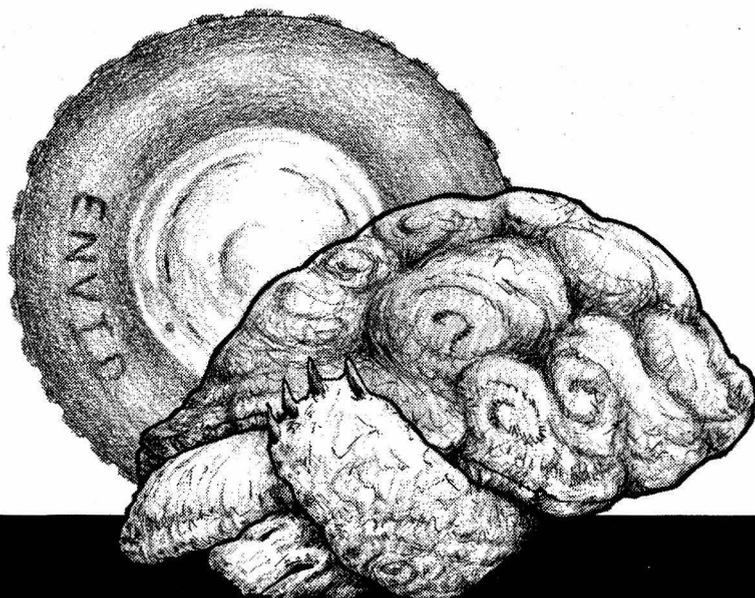
Another concern regarding the Land Management Plan is that the dunes are located in an air quality non-attainment area, meaning that clean air considerations regarding particulate matter must be part of the monitoring. According to Roxie Trost, the plan manager at the BLM in California, the agency has done no air quality testing at the dunes, nor does it plan to.

"With the Algodones Dunes being located so close to a non-attainment area, I find it hard to believe that the BLM would not monitor air quality," said Alix Rauschman of the Natural Trails and Waters Coalition, an organization which represents more than 90 US conservation groups. "Failure to include this required analysis calls this proposal immediately into question."

The BLM is taking comments on the plan until June 28. For more information or to express your opposition to the BLM plan, contact Greg Thomsen, BLM El Centro Field Office manager, (760) 337-4410; gthomsen@ca.blm.gov. The plan may also be viewed at [www.ca.blm.gov](http://www.ca.blm.gov).

For more information on how you can help, contact the Center for Biological Diversity, (520) 623-5252 x.306; [dpatterson@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:dpatterson@biologicaldiversity.org); [www.biologicaldiversity.org](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org).

*Daniel Patterson is a desert ecologist with the Center for Biological Diversity.*



## marine convoy threatens to crush tortoises

Only one thing could have halted 2,000 Marines on their mission to traverse the Southern California desert in 600 military trucks: a tortoise crossing the road.

The purpose of the 200-mile trek at the end of April was to test communication capabilities, logistics and vehicle movement in terrain similar to the Middle East.

Environmentalists were concerned for endangered desert tortoises, which emerge from their burrows in the Spring to eat and to mate. The Marines received permission from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management, even though the convoy

passed through three areas considered critical for tortoise survival—Chuckwalla Valley, Chemehuevi Valley and Pinto Mountain.

To ensure the safety of the tortoises, everyone received a tortoise briefing before the trip. Fifty "tortoise monitors" were required to sit at the front of different sections of the convoy, and the drivers had stickers on their windows to remind them: "Look under your vehicle! Notify monitor if you find a tortoise." Two tortoises were encountered during the mission, but the federally approved biologist who was on hand determined that they were not in the way, and the convoy rolled on.

## BARE BONES

### Appeal for Predators

On April 30, the US Department of the Interior granted an appeal filed by the Escalante Wilderness Project (EWP). The EWP had appealed a Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument decision that approved a Utah Division of Wildlife Resources proposal to kill predators for 12 years while reintroducing bighorn sheep and pronghorn antelope into the monument.

The monument had refused to consider a no predator-control alternative, arguing that predator control falls under the authority of the state. The Office of Hearings and Appeals concluded, however, that the federal government has authority to override state regulation of wildlife on federal property. The April 30 decision also noted that Capitol Reef National Park has successfully reintroduced bighorn sheep without predator control.

### Diseased Deer to be Killed

In early April, Colorado officials announced chronic wasting disease, which causes deer and elk to become emaciated and die, had crossed the Continental Divide for the first time, endangering the state's multimillion-dollar big game hunting industry. Forty Colorado wildlife agents and a dozen volunteers will shoot deer and elk wandering within a five-mile radius of where the diseased animals had roamed. So far, at least 600 deer have been killed.

On May 7, Wisconsin Governor Scott McCallum and legislative leaders granted the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) broad authority to attack chronic wasting disease in deer. At least 14 deer with the disease have turned up, prompting the DNR to call for eradicating all deer in the area for five years. The plan calls for killing about 15,000 deer, although officials acknowledge no evidence that chronic wasting disease can spread.

# Dene Suline of La Loche— a Call for Support

BY TINTIN JONES

*"Somebody has got to fight for freedom from the government. We can't trust our leaders, we send them to Parliament for us, but then they turn around and sell our land away. We will fight for the people."*

—SKIP DANIEL MONTGRAND

The wheels of colonization and genocide continue to roll into the 21st century and communities such as La Loche in Northern Saskatchewan, Canada, are its current victims. The Dene Suline of La Loche have been fighting the encroachment of capitalism and the Canadian state on their traditional territories. For years they have struggled as mining companies took their land for uranium to feed the nuclear industry and as the government took their land to create a provincial park, displacing Dene people in favor of tourists.

The Dene seek freedom from the control of the government and recognition of title to their traditional territory. In meetings with the government, as recently as May 24, little progress has been made.

## Mining Devastates the Community

The Cluff Lake uranium mine began operating 64 kilometers outside of La Loche in 1974. Since that time, people in the community have gotten sick and more than 60 percent of all deaths have been linked to the uranium mine. Uranium mining is one of the most destructive types of mining and often occurs on Native territories, especially in Saskatchewan. The mine has had devastating effects on the environment, killing animals, plants, trees, fish and berries—the lifeblood of the community. Skip Montgrand says, "Lots of rabbits, lots of animals are dead. We're seeing green fuzzy stuff on the tops of ponds. Young guys are dying from cancer. Guys 26, 27 years old."

Like most mines, this one has not benefited the local community. All the profits go to wealthy owners elsewhere, and only two percent of the people working at the mine are from La Loche. Trucks from the mine travel through La Loche, further spreading radioactive pollution directly into the air the Dene people breathe everyday.

## Provincial Park on Stolen Lands

In 1984, the Saskatchewan government and the Ministry

of Environment decided to make a provincial park in the traditional hunting and trapping grounds of the Montgrand family, who are Dene Suline of La Loche. The government claimed to have consulted the family and the Dene, but as usual they went over the Dene heads and stole 890 square miles to make the Clearwater Wilderness Provincial Park. Since that time, the Montgrand's have lobbied the government in an attempt to regain control over their

land. In 2000, the Montgrands asked the government to bring forward documents that would prove that the land was taken legally from the family.

Numerous deadlines were graciously given by the Montgrands, but each time the government came to the meeting empty handed. "They could never bring us documents, because they never had documents. They stole our land away from us, the first people of this land," said Skip Montgrand. The Montgrand family granted the government a final deadline of May 1, 2001, but the government again failed to produce any documents.

After this meeting, the Montgrand family and others from

La Loche established a blockade on the road leading into the park and the access road for the Cluff Lake mine. All industry, government and Royal Canadian Mounted Police vehicles were blocked from proceeding. A government sniper team was preparing a siege on the blockade with automatic weapons. "They were going to come in and kill us and make sure that nobody saw what happened," says Skip Montgrand. A dog alerted the blockade to the snipers, and the Dene people confronted and surrounded the snipers and took their weapons away. The Dene stood their ground and continued to assert title to the land. The government said documents would be produced in two weeks if the Dene took down the roadblock. But the government had once again lied, so the Dene went back and blocked the road again.

Eventually, the roadblock came down, but a camp was established and people stayed there throughout the Summer, building a cabin for the Winter. More than 75 percent of the community members are supportive of the occupation. However, as is typical, the government-controlled Band Council has not been supportive and



has been actively working against the Montgrands and their supporters. On June 21, 2001, National Aboriginal Day, the Band Council chief from La Loche, spoke on NBC radio in Saskatchewan against the Montgrand family.

The government has not relinquished any control over Dene territory, and just this year gave permission to Mystic Forest Products to log between La Loche and the Clearwater Park. This has reinforced the Montgrand's stand to protect their trapping and hunting grounds from Canada and the uranium industry.

Colonialism is not dead in La Loche. It is a daily reality the Dene feel every time a uranium truck drives through town and when tourist dollars are considered more important than their homes and hunting grounds. Colonialism, and its latest incarnation of globalization, has reached its tentacles to the

*...globalization has reached its tentacles to the furthest ends of the planet, asserting increasing control over all indigenous cultures.*

furthest ends of the planet, asserting increasing control over all indigenous cultures. Indigenous territories are taken away piece by piece, to feed the white power structure and its insatiable appetite for control and profit. The indigenous people are left dispossessed of their land, dying from industrial pollutants and poverty.

The people of La Loche need support from around the world. The struggle of people in remote communities such as La Loche often goes unnoticed in the



“outside world.” It is important to inform ourselves and others about the struggles of all indigenous peoples. The Montgrand's promise more blockades and continue to rebuild their community on their traditional territory. They welcome any visitors to come and help them in their struggle.

“If we stop right away, what's the worth living? You'll be controlled all your life. I'm fighting so that my people can be free. We use the land, we don't take more than we need, we don't pollute, we use animals. We are the land. We are the law. We are the first peoples of this land,” stated Skip Montgrand. “It's time for them [the government] to settle down, keep their mouths shut and let the people who live on the land decide what should happen. We can get our land back and get freedom from the government!”

For more information, contact Skip Daniel Montgrand, POB 359, La Loche, Saskatchewan, S0M 1G0 Canada; (306) 822-2550.

*Tintin Jones is an artist, activist and cook involved in supporting indigenous struggles in Canada.*

## BARE BONES

### The Hole in the Reactor

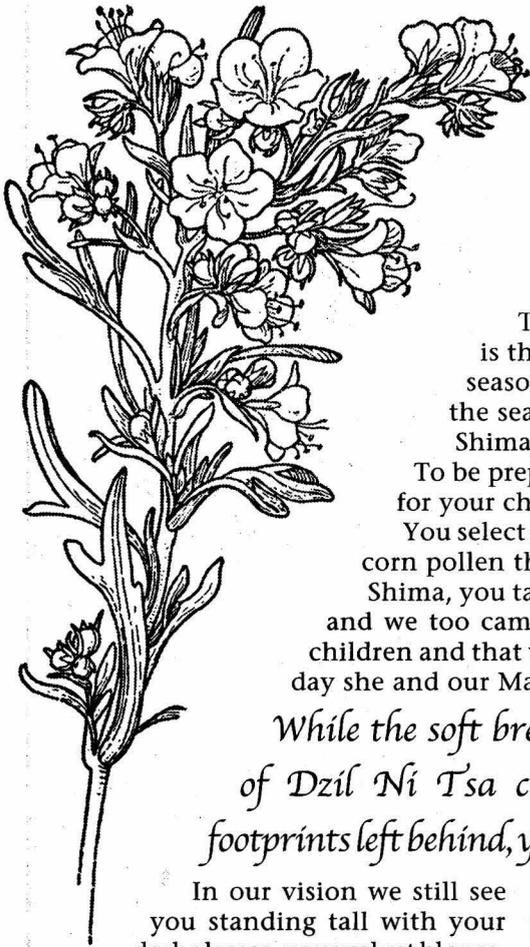
A hole of almost unbelievable proportions was found in mid-March at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station in Oak Harbor, Ohio, a unit similar in design to the Three Mile Island (TMI-2) plant in Pennsylvania that had a partial meltdown in 1979. Earlier this year, technicians fixing a cracked control rod nozzle discovered that boric acid had eaten a hole right through the six-inch-thick lid of the reactor vessel. But for this chance discovery, the stage was set for the hemorrhaging of cooling water and a possible meltdown of the reactor.

Davis-Besse has a history of close calls. Eighteen months before the 1979 partial meltdown at TMI-2, there was a similar incident at Davis-Besse in which a relief valve failed to close. No serious damage was done because the plant was only operating at nine percent power, compared with 97 percent at TMI-2. In 1985 it happened again, although this time the relief valve was shut after a minute. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has ranked Davis-Besse as one of the most susceptible nuclear plants to nozzle cracking, and it requested that the problem be rectified by last December. Yet First Energy, the plant's operator, kept pressing for a time extension. After initially threatening to order a shutdown, the NRC backed down and allowed the plant to continue operation.

Daniel F. Ford, former executive director of the Union of Concerned Scientists, said, “Davis-Besse's underlying problems were legendary, yet nuclear safety officials did little to rectify them. Today we have dozens of aging nuclear plants operating close to our major cities. The reactor with a hole in its head at Davis-Besse is proof that the reforms and safety upgrades promised after Three Mile Island and Chernobyl have not, to put it delicately, had full success.”



# Ha goo na Shima Roberta



This is the season you see the pretty flowers sprout and bloom. This is the season you hear newborns cry out for their mothers. It is also the season when the first thunder is heard and you can smell the rain... It is the season for a new beginning.

Shima, you taught us this is the season to plant and prepare for the future. To be prepared for all things, good and bad. And to make sure there is enough for your children.

You select only the finest seed that would bring you the finest product, the best corn pollen that will help you talk to your Maker.

Shima, you taught us that all things in Mother Earth are part of her living organs, and we too came from her. You taught us that all living things on Earth are her children and that we all belong to her. That we must care for her and respect her. Some day she and our Maker will call us to return to her.

*While the soft breeze and drifting sand  
of Dzil Ni Tsa cover your last set of  
footprints left behind, you will not be forgotten.*

In our vision we still see you standing tall with your dark glasses, your velvet blouse, slightly ragged traditional skirt, in your tennis shoes and wearing your scarf. You are sun and wind-burned but wearing your big smile.

Shima, you tried very hard to teach us conviction. Conviction to your religion, your culture and language, your land and home, your dignity and pride. You talked to us about the supernatural laws that must be respected. You showed us that in spite of all adversities, your conviction must be unwavering.

If we are to remain a strong Diné Nation, we will try to follow and teach your convictions, it will be very difficult. You are truly the finest, and you upheld your Maker's expectations.

Shima, only you and your Maker knew it was time to be replanted. You are now with your Maker and Mother Earth, in peace.

You are now gone but your spirit and memory will always be in the air on Diné Land. Your legend will live on. Your Maker has received you well, with comfort and peace, you earned it. Ha goo na Shima.

—PERCY DEAL  
BIG MOUNTAIN, ARIZONA

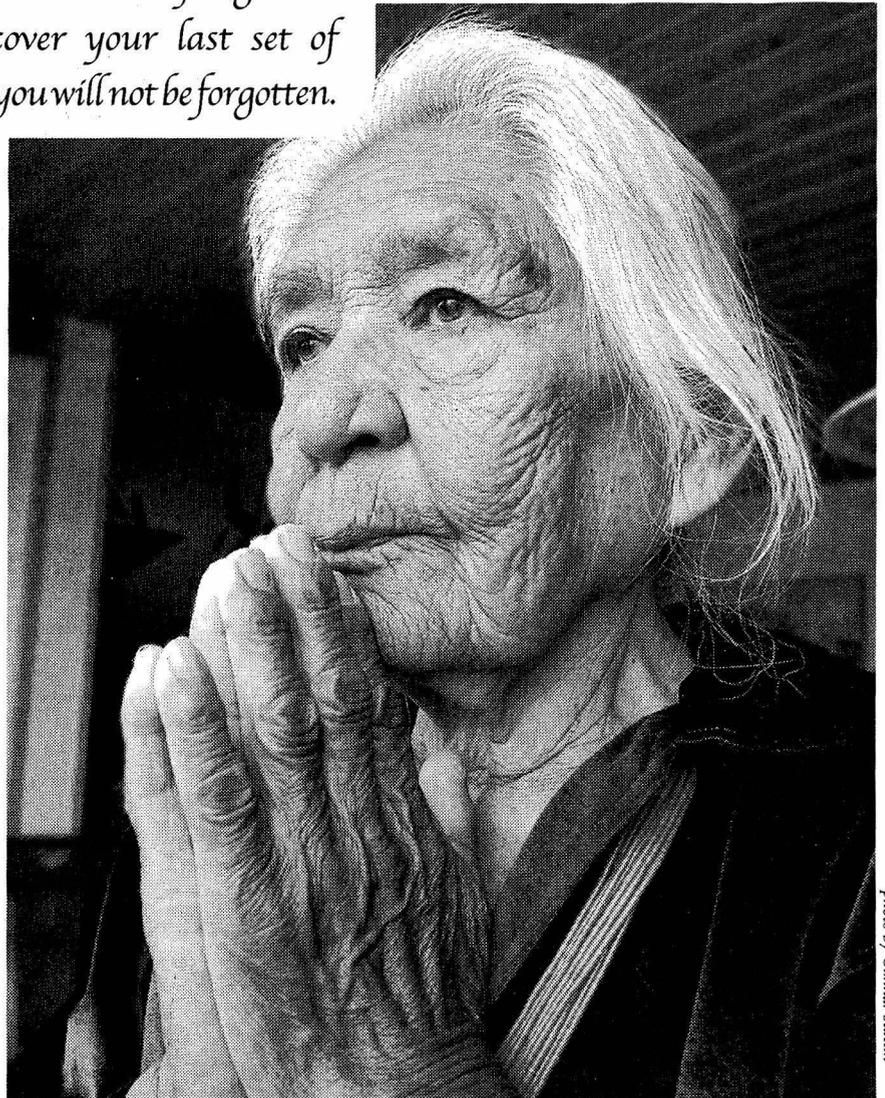


photo by Gunnar Starlin

Roberta Blackgoat, 1917-2002

# Roberta Blackgoat

1917-2002

Roberta Blackgoat was born and raised at her home near Thin Rock Mesa, 15 miles west of Big Mountain, Arizona. For the last 27 years, she fought the government's efforts to move the Diné off their ancestral lands to pave the way for a massive mine operated by Peabody Coal. The mine has aimed to strip away the soul and resources from this cherished homeland.

As a Diné warrior, matriarch and resister, Roberta proclaimed, "The Creator is the only one who's going to relocate me."

On April 23, at the age of 84, Roberta passed away while in San Francisco, California. She was a powerful warrior who will be remembered for not hiding or faltering when the government came knocking. She wasn't afraid to go on the offensive in her campaign for freedom, justice and the protection of the land that the Creator entrusted to her care.



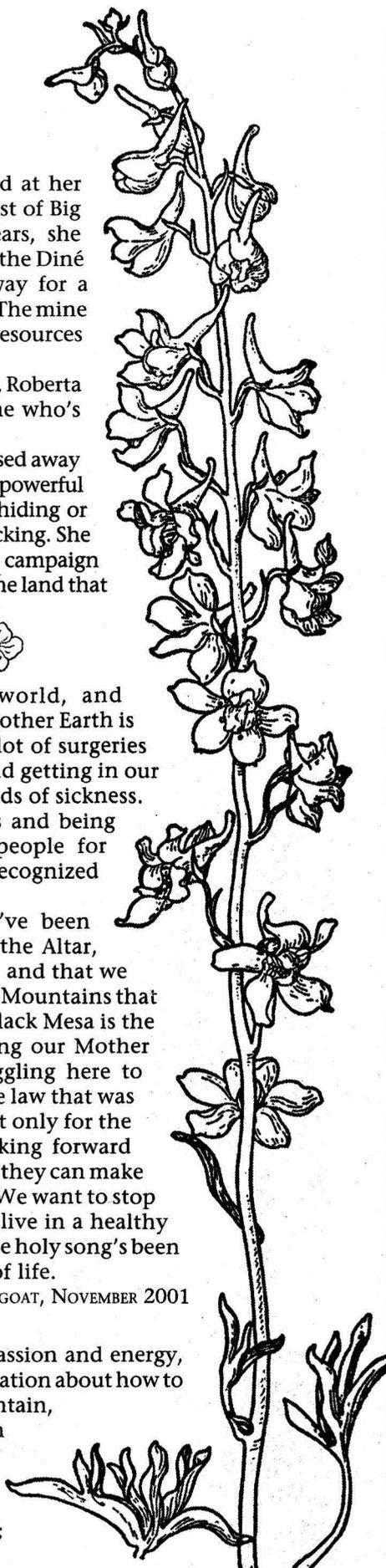
I've been traveling all over the world, and everywhere I find the same thing. Our Mother Earth is like a human. It is as if she is getting a lot of surgeries everywhere, and the dust is going out and getting in our lungs. It causes the cancer and these kinds of sickness. Our youngsters are being sent overseas and being used for their language and to kill people for Washington. Besides, we are not even recognized as humans. We need to be known.

The most important thing that we've been mentioning in this area is that here is the Altar, that was given to us by the Holy People, and that we Diné living here between the Four Sacred Mountains that are like a hogan, and where we live on Black Mesa is the Altar. It is right here that they're mining our Mother Earth's liver, the coal. So we are struggling here to protect our Altar these days. That was the law that was made for Diné people. We're not doing it only for the present human beings now. We're looking forward and on and on for generations to come so they can make a good life for themselves on the planet. We want to stop these pollutions so our young ones can live in a healthy way after us. That's how the prayer and the holy song's been set—that's our path, for a healthy way of life.

—ROBERTA BLACKGOAT, NOVEMBER 2001



Now, as people remember Roberta's passion and energy, the resistance continues. For more information about how to support the people and land at Big Mountain, as well as to help fight Peabody's expansion of the mine, contact Black Mesa Indigenous Support, POB 23501, Flagstaff, AZ 86002; (928) 773-8086; [blackmesais@yahoo.com](mailto:blackmesais@yahoo.com); [www.blackmesais.org](http://www.blackmesais.org).



## BARE BONES

### Ant Supercolony Found

A supercolony of ants was discovered in mid-April, stretching thousands of miles from the Italian Riviera along the coastline to northwest Spain. The largest cooperative unit ever recorded, at 3,600 miles, the colony consists of billions of relocated Argentine ants living in millions of nests. Normally, ants from different nests fight. But researchers concluded that ants in the supercolony were all close enough genetically to recognize each other, despite being from different nests with different queens. This cooperation allows the colonies to develop at much higher densities than normally would occur, eliminating some 90 percent of other types of ants that live near them. However, in the long run this cooperation could lead to the supercolony's self-destruction. The altruistic behavior the workers display in raising queens may decrease as more become genetically unrelated, because their efforts are not helping to transmit copies of their genes via related queens.

### Animal Rights in Germany

Germany has become the first European nation to guarantee animal rights in its constitution. A majority of lawmakers voted on May 17 to add "and animals" to a clause that requires the state to respect and protect the dignity of humans. The vote is expected to be approved by the Bundesrat upper house this Summer.

Article 20a of the German Basic Law may soon read: "The state takes responsibility for protecting the natural foundations of life and animals in the interest of future generations." With the new measure, the federal constitutional court will have to weigh animals' rights against other entrenched rights. The main impact of the measure will be to restrict the use of animals in experiments.

# LUSH AND LIVID

## New Efforts to Protect Ecuador's Forests

The campaign to stop the crude oil pipeline project, *Oleoducto de Crudos Pesados* (OCP) in the Mindo Nambillo Cloud Forest Reserve of Ecuador has taken a new turn. Local and international environmental activists bought a share of the Esperanza family farm—a patch of rainforest where the OCP was to be built. It is also their basecamp and was the site of a three-month-long treesit (see *EF!* March-April 2002.)

The government has allowed the OCP Ecuador Limited consortium to lay the pipeline through private property. However, one of the three owners of the property, César Fiallos of the local environmental organization *Acción por la Vida*, said, "No one has purchased the land from us, no one paid for any right of way and the state has not reached any agreement with the owners to expropriate the property. The company is thus invading private property." In the early hours of May 12, in response to

a complaint filed by the OCP consortium, three activists were arrested. They were released from jail on May 14 on charges of obstructing construction of the project.

Local activist Giovanni Patiño said, "We own the property, they will not move us from

the area, and we will not allow the pipeline to pass through." *Acción por la Vida* filed a *habeas corpus* petition to place the burden of proof on the government to justify its reasons for detaining these activists. Fiallos also said they would sue the OCP consortium for invading private property.

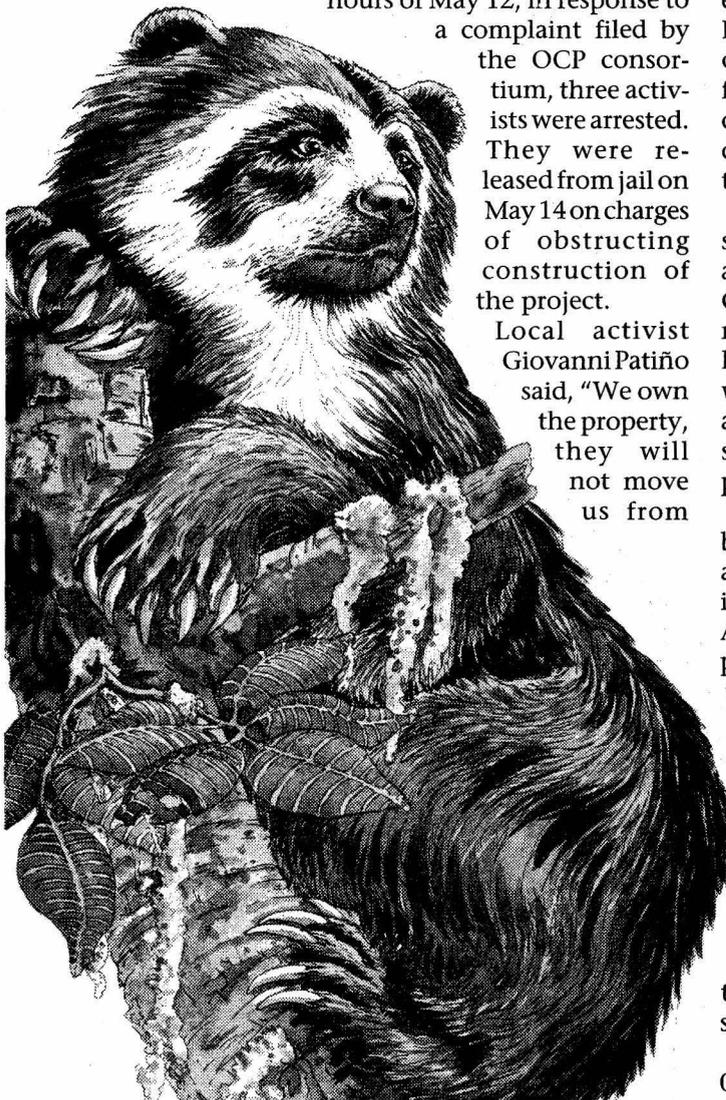
On the weekend of May 18, 30 Mindo residents attempted to hike to the Esperanza farm on a public footpath between the towns of Nono and Mindo. They were met by 30 national policemen and 20 private OCP guards. A tense standoff ensued and police threatened to use tear gas and immediately arrest anyone who continued questioning the authorities. The Minister of Energy and Mines, Pablo Terán, had said the government would expropriate the land, but no declaration had been rendered. "The law allows us to expropriate property and even extremist environmentalists must obey the law," Terán said. In May, Ecuadorian President Gustavo Noboa said he would declare "war" on the environmentalists if they continued to fight the pipeline. Given the fraudulent and arbitrary charges that have led to recent illegal detentions of residents and activists, the group returned to Mindo, vowing to continue the fight in the courts and in the trees.

Locals know that the OCP will lead to the destruction of some of the country's last remaining old-growth rainforest and isolated territories that are home to indigenous peoples. OCP construction has faced resistance throughout its 300-mile route—from indigenous people, farmers and labor leaders in the Amazon to Afro-Ecuadorian communities who live alongside refineries on the Pacific Coast. In addition to the devastating impacts of the pipeline construction, the pipeline is a catalyst for the doubling of oil production from the Ecuadorian Amazon.

Scientists say that in the 30 years since oil exploitation began in Ecuador, more oil has leaked into the ground as a result of accidents or sheer indifference than was spilled in the Exxon Valdez super tanker disaster off the coast of Alaska in 1989. In the Amazon, oil waste collects in vast pools, often on agricultural land, making further cultivation impossible. Gas is burned off, giving the impression of giant Bunsen burners lighting up the sky. And small spills are shoveled up, put in plastic bags and buried. The whole area of Lago Agrio, in the Amazon Basin, reeks of oil, and local farmers talk of how the groundwater is contaminated. Large black drops form on the vegetation when it rains.

Local people also know that the vast amount of money made by the oil industry does not trickle down to them. Their struggle to protect this amazing rainforest—home to 3,000 types of orchids, the spectacled bear and other rare species—needs your support.

For more information, contact Amazon Watch, (510) 419-0617; kevin@amazonwatch.org; www.amazonwatch.org.



Spectacled bear

# Philadelphia Activists Sued by Developers



photo by Al Chernoff

*Developers want to destroy this pristine area.*

When Wendy Troester and Al Chernoff moved to the Rhawnhurst section of Philadelphia three years ago, they discovered that the vacant, 11-acre lot behind their house contained an underground spring, more than an acre of wetlands and numerous plant, tree and animal species. They also made another, less uplifting discovery: Developer Tom Clauss, of Bethany Builders, intended to turn the plot of undisturbed nature into a 32-single-home development, and according to a realtor representing Clauss, Wendy and Al just had to accept it. They *didn't* just accept it. Now, after three years of resistance, they are being sued for nearly four-million-dollars by Clauss, who alleges they caused him lost profits due to their blocking and interfering with his contract to develop the land.

Wendy and Al, both coordinators of the Allegheny Defense Project, also have the attention of the Fairmount Park Commission (FPC). After being alerted to the problem, the FPC made an evaluation of the land and declared it pristine. In the Summer of 2000, the FPC began plans to purchase the land, yet the purchase was effectively blocked by a lawsuit brought by the developers. However, to establish infrastructure, Clauss would need for City Council to pass an ordinance.

City Councilman Brian O'Neill stated his intention to not introduce the necessary legislation that would authorize building new streets on the land. "To

disagree with the people in the neighborhood on an issue like this, I would have to believe they were unfounded in their opposition," said O'Neill. "This doesn't come close to it."

Early this year, Wendy and Al discovered that Clauss' rights to the land had expired. Soon after, they received a complaint filed by Clauss which accused them of infringing upon Clauss' right to petition the government. The complaint also claims the two "are fraudulent and corrupt and have an inside track with the government." (Wendy and Al point out that if they did have an inside track with the government, they would have saved the land a long time ago). The complaint is a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP), a legal tactic commonly used by developers and builders to scare and intimidate their opponents.

High-profile lawyer Robert Sugarman has taken the case. "Courts have made it crystal clear that it's inappropriate to sue citizens for exercising their First Amendment privilege to speak to their public officials and attempt to persuade public officials to take action," Sugarman was reported as saying.

The court case drags on, but in the meantime, Wendy and Al are continuing their fight to save the land. If anyone is interested in supporting or helping Wendy and Al, contact (215) 742-6454; chernoff@comcast.net.

—WENDY TROESTER AND AL CHERNOFF  
CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ARTICLE.

## BARE BONES

### EPA Dumps Mining Waste

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has drafted new rules that would let mining companies dump waste from mountaintop coal mining operations into rivers and streams. Mountaintop coal mining has been limited by federal rules and court challenges aimed at restricting how much of the waste from these operations can be dumped into waterways. According to a draft "final rule" prepared jointly by the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers, the administration would eliminate that "waste exclusion."

Proposed changes could undermine efforts by environmentalists and community groups to fight mountaintop mining operations that they say cause unacceptable damage to rivers and streams. The Natural Resources Defense Council and Earthjustice, who obtained copies of the final draft rules late in April, described them as a major departure in policy that could significantly weaken their legal case fighting mountaintop mining operations in West Virginia and Kentucky.

### Water Undrinkable in CA

According to a March 25 *Time* magazine article, half of the water supply in Santa Monica, California, is undrinkable and contaminated with methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE). The Southern California city faces a \$300 million cleanup that could take as long as 30 years.

MTBE is an additive that makes gasoline burn cleaner, but it is classified by the Environmental Protection Agency as a potential carcinogen. California has ordered a phase-out of the chemical, and a dozen other states have followed suit. However, Methanex, the Canadian company that makes a key ingredient of MTBE, is challenging California's ban by claiming that it is a barrier to free trade under NAFTA.

# Climate Change

## *People-Powered from Pacific to Atlantic*

# Caravan

BY S (YCLING FOR CLEAN) AIR (SO WE CAN BREATHE AND EXCLAIM) "AH!" BOOTHROYD

It was the Summer of Spandex for myself and the other 29 members of the Climate Change Caravan (C3). Members of C3 couriered climate change awareness from town to town, all the way across Canada from Tofino, British Columbia, to Halifax, Nova Scotia, between May 7 and September 20, 2001. Our mission was to enable as many of the 30 million Canadians as possible to put a cap on energy consumption. With Summer approaching and people pulling their bicycles out of the garage, let this story inspire you to take action.

This legwork for climate change awareness was accomplished with more than 10,000 kilometers worth of bicycle travel. Locomotion on two wheels proved the best way to get through the Pacific coast, Cordillera, Prairies, Canadian Shield, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Lowlands and Atlantic provinces. The bicycle is a highly efficient, fossil fuel free, people-powered form of transport. Covering ground by this mode of travel was an embodiment of the ethics that



propelled the C3 project, and it exemplified the human capacity to accomplish something sizable by simply working at it consistently and diligently, one day at a time.

C3 was a perpetual motion machine: a roving oasis of sweat, grumbling, grease and laughter composed of environmentalists and cyclopaths of various ages (13 to 44 years), from different provinces, who joined the undertaking for assorted lengths of time. An important member of this chain gang for change was our support vehicle: a revolution-red school bus equipped with a kitchen, solar panels, a wind turbine and the capacity to run on canola oil.

With fish-and-chip-scented exhaust, our mother hen on wheels would dole out lunch at the side of the highway, about halfway through a day of cycling—the sum of which was between 70 and 186 kilometers per day.

Between four and 12 hours each day would generally be spent spinning wheels along a shoulder of highway to the sound of vehicle-voices that would crescendo, diminuendo and repeat. We chased the white line east, steering clear of semi-truck tire-husks as well as carcasses of frogs, dogs, ravens, raccoons, deer, moose and bears. The mandated simplicity of cycle-touring meant that my pannier contents were like a haiku: measured, simple,

## Frontlines

### **Earth Firsters Protest Nuclear Power Plant**

Two dozen environmental activists, including members of Katúah Earth First!, observed Earth Day outside Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) offices while protesting the restart of a damaged nuclear reactor in Alabama.

TVA, the country's largest public power producer, recently approved spending more than one and a half billion dollars to restart the Unit 1 reactor at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant, site of the 1975 fire that was the worst commercial nuclear accident in the US before Three Mile Island. Other TVA-operated plants, including the Sequoyah and Watts Bar projects, have also experienced accidents.

According to Earth Firster John Johnson, "This Earth Day protest marks the beginning of a new campaign against TVA and its plans to irradiate the Tennessee Valley. We cannot sit idly by and let TVA make bad business and environmental decisions by reactivating out-of-date nuclear plants."

Katúah Earth Firsters denounced TVA's safety record and called for TVA to decommission all of its reactors and to store the remaining nuclear fuel rods and radioactive waste products on-site, in structures designed to guard against terrorist attacks. They proposed that TVA redirect its funding toward the implementation of energy conservation measures and

the development of solar, wind and fuel cell generating systems that will slow the rate of global warming and reduce threats to public health and safety.

### **College Students Demand Eco-Paper**

On April 4, student activists across the US demonstrated to demand that their school administrations cancel their contracts with Boise Office Solutions.

Boise has come under increasingly intense public criticism for failing to join more than 400 companies, including Home Depot, Lowe's and Kinko's in a pledge to stop selling products made from old-growth forests.

Boise actively logs old-growth forests throughout the US, distributes wood products from endangered forests throughout Canada, Central and South America and Southeast Asia, and it has been linked to human rights abuses in Guerrero, Mexico.

The demonstrations, which took place at 30 college campuses and Boise facilities, were part of the national Tree Free Paper Campus Campaign to kick Boise and other companies guilty of old growth logging off college campuses. The campaign was also designed to pressure colleges to switch to 100 percent post-consumer, chlorine-free paper.

nothing extra—proving that what we often regard as necessity is merely convenience.

In a vehicle without walls, I became entwined with the slant of the land, the thrust of wind, the white blink of lightning, the texture of asphalt, the humidity and temperature of the wheel-spun air. A kilometer became a concrete entity, a familiar increment measurable by effort spent, food and fuel eaten, perspiration lost, water consumed, bugs gulped. The rhythmic pumping of pedals became preconscious as the days and hours lost their numbers: Keeping track of time was often akin to reading a sundial at night.

We became aware of the places between populated areas, aware of the spectrum of space, of the before and after of highly populated loci. We became physical elements, dependent on our bodies and somehow primitive: biped(dlar)s of a bygone era. To the farm animals in Wild Rose Country and Land of the Big Skies we were a never-before-seen beast: a hybrid of sentience, wheels, rubber and metal. Docile bovine grazing in the pure horizontality of the prairies would swing their wide foreheads toward us, and horses would often gallop alongside the highway next to us.

In Watrous, Saskatchewan, foam rolled along the shore like tumbleweeds as the ice cream vendor there scooped cones of Chocolate Chip Mint. She had heard all about us through televised media, as had the many folks we chatted with during our pit-stops at truck stops and cafes galore. During our road-side conversations about our mission to reduce emissions, they often shared their own observations of radical weather occurrences. All in all, 3,000 Canadians committed to significantly reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions.

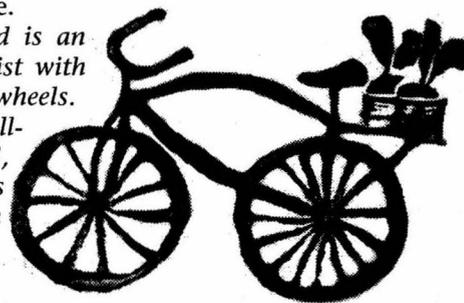
When our 30 saltyselves in anti-camouflage reflective gear pedaled our politics and 70-pound panniered bikes into town, we had the affect of stimulating praise, contro-

versy and open-mouthed wonder. Some Canadians reacted as if we hadn't a scintilla of sense, while others expressed gratitude for our enduring a colossus of calluses in order to spread the word about sustainability.

As panniered pariahs in practically painted-on pantaloons, C3 was sometimes portrayed by the media as a group of uberactivists. Sure, we endured hail, heat waves and the ultimate *seat* of discomfort in order to engage in radio, television and newspaper interviews, to host presentations, to lead critical masses and to perform street theater—all to raise awareness about climate change. However, in so doing we came across many Canadians to whom it is second nature to put nature first. Turning off unnecessary lights, using a clothesline instead of a dryer and taking as few airplane trips as possible are common practices to many Canadians who don't begin their day with C3's tongue-in-cheek wake up call: "Get out of your sleeping bags everybody and get on your tights—it's time to save the world!"

Having completed some five million tire revolutions for the sake of the Véloration, C3ers are enjoying comparative stillness after the constant transience of being on the g(r)o(w). The project was an enlightening hands-on/feet-on study of both the science of trans-Canada biking and the art of communicating environmental action to a country-sized audience.

*Sarah Boothroyd is an activist and artist with two arms and two wheels. She is currently dwelling in Montréal, where she relishes sculpting oddities out of words, fabric and sound.*



## Frontlines

Since the launch of the Tree-Free campaign one year ago, several schools have canceled their contracts with Boise.

### Earth Week Actions Against Citigroup

On April 15, Citigroup shareholders were greeted by demonstrators chorusing "Not With My Money!" at the annual general meeting in New York City. Citigroup is the largest financial institution in the world and the top financier of fossil fuel projects. Students from New York University and activists from dozens of organizations held a protest outside of Carnegie Hall as shareholders lined up to go to the meeting. An orangutan, a giant puppet of Chief Executive Officer Sandy Weill, radical ballerinas and a "not with my money" umbrella drill team got the attention of the hundreds attending the meeting to vote on shareholder proposals, including the Rainforest Action Network-sponsored resolution requiring Citi to take responsibility for its role in global warming and deforestation.

Amid drumming and chanting, speakers addressed a number of issues from Citi's predatory lending to their violation of indigenous rights. The resolution received enough votes to ensure its place on the ballot at next year's meeting.

On April 16, six students from Grinnell College locked down at Salomon Smith Barney offices, a subsidiary of Citigroup, in Des Moines Iowa. The students were cheered on by more than 50 supporters holding a rally challenging Citi's investments in global warming. The activists successfully shut down the office and issued a statement calling for Citi to cease investments in the destructive fossil fuel industry and to meet the social and environmental standards set by top European banks to end the funding of deforestation, global warming and the displacement of indigenous communities. Police were finally able to cut them out of their locks, but not before local newspapers, networks and CNN covered the action.

### ALF Claims Sims Poultry Fire

The Animal Liberation Front has claimed responsibility for a May 3 arson that heavily damaged a Sims refrigerated truck in Bloomington, Indiana. Sims Poultry processes and delivers poultry for restaurants and Indiana University fraternity and sorority houses. Although it is not a slaughterhouse, the ALF communiqué explained that Sims was targeted because of its role in the industry of animal exploitation and murder.

# Activists Turn Up the Heat During World Week for Animals in Laboratories

World Week for Animals in Laboratories (WWAIL)—held from April 20-27—was a period of intense actions to call attention to the plight of animals in labs. Protesters sought to encourage the public to question the legitimacy of animal experimentation, as well as to challenge our consumption of toxic chemicals, drugs and consumer products.

On April 24, a communiqué from the Animal Liberation Front revealed that they had placed 38 bottles of Procter & Gamble's Pantene Pro V shampoo contaminated with ammonia and hydrogen peroxide in 13 supermarkets throughout New Zealand. The bottles were not identifiable in any way and were randomly mixed with unlabeled bottles. The ammonia solution was diluted to make sure it would not harm human or non-human animals. An estimated 50,000 animals suffer and die at the hands of Procter & Gamble every year in product testing.

On April 25, members of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)—minus their clothes and holding a banner that read: "The Naked Truth: EPA Poisons Animals"—converged on the headquarters of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, DC, in recognition of WWAIL. Their goal was to "expose" the suffering of animals used in the agency's cruel and wasteful high production volume (HPV) chemical-testing program. As an ongoing campaign, PETA's giant "rabbit," with open "wounds" and toxic "burns," has been following EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman wherever she goes.

Despite being armed with scientific data, animal rights activists have repeatedly been denied the right to be included in EPA-convened panels to discuss animal tests. The EPA has also reneged on a commitment obtained from Al Gore in 1999 to vastly reduce the number of animals it kills in chemical toxicity tests. More animals—including dogs, rabbits, birds, fish and rats—are injected with toxic substances, burned and blinded in chemical tests by the EPA than by any other federal agency, yet it refuses to spend any of its \$600 million annual research budget to develop reliable and humane non-animal tests.

Students for Animal Liberation at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) marched through the campus on April 25. Richard Abbott, a retired high school teacher whose wife recently died of cancer, spoke out during the march and summarized the position of many anti-vivisectionists: "You cannot, by violent means, induce a condition in animals artificially which occurs spontaneously in humans and expect animals to be a replication of the human condition. I certainly have no faith in cancer research." Traffic was briefly halted when the marchers spilled from the sidewalks and into the streets on their way to the office of Chancellor Albert Carnesale. The group stood outside of the chancellor's door chanting, "Nothing to hide? Let us inside!" They demanded that he produce documents detailing the nature of animal research at UCLA. Carnesale had no comment on the protest.

## Frontlines

### New Zealanders Engage in Road Resistance

For the past 35 years, the city council in Wellington, New Zealand, has been proposing to build a \$32 million bypass through Te Aro, a vibrant inner-city, working class community. Since February, residents and businesses on the proposed route have been evicted, but many have chosen to resist by reoccupying their buildings.

On March 8, security guards evicted the Freedom Shop, an anarchist bookstore in Te Aro. They cut the locks, entered the shop, hung a trespass notice in the window and then placed new locks on the door. A protest was organized that day, and in front of TV cameras, Freedom Shop activists cut the police locks and re-opened the shop. Since then, the shop has operated without trouble.

On May 1, more than 70 activists re-occupied the Te Aro Community Center and held a "Reclaim the Building" party. Around 7:00 p.m., security guards issued a trespass warning. Two police officers arrived a half hour later and issued a five-minute warning. After the police left, the occupiers barricaded the front door and chained themselves to parts of the building.

The two police officers returned and told all occupants that they could remain in the building until 9:00 a.m. the

next morning with the permission of the city council. Shortly after 10:00 a.m., 20 officers in full riot gear smashed a ground floor window and forcibly entered the building.

Most of the remaining occupants had handcuffed themselves to parts of the building in the main room and one person handcuffed himself to the roof. The police cut their chains with bolt cutters, and eight people were arrested and charged with willful trespass. The occupation received a lot of publicity and the arrests were featured on several TV, radio and Internet media sources.

### Scottish GMO Crop Pullers Plead Guilty

The UK Earth Liberation Prisoners (ELP) support group reported that five people were arrested on April 27 in connection with a genetically modified crop-trashing action at a farm in Munloch, Scotland. All five appeared before the sheriff's court where they entered guilty pleas to charges of vandalism. They admitted using scythes to cut down the mutant oilseed-rape. After entering their guilty pleas, all five activists were released on bail. Their sentencing was deferred for six months.

The ELP also reported that 24 hours after the arrests, the same GM crop site was hit for a third time in one week.

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) took the days of WWAIL to turn up the heat against Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). HLS is one of the largest animal testing laboratories in the world, where 500 animals are killed every day (See *EF!* June-July 2001). HLS researchers admit that animal research is "only reliable five to 25 percent of the time."

On April 18, activists rigged dumpstered computers to dial HLS's internal phone lines repeatedly. Left in colleges and office buildings for four days before they were found, the computers made a total of 34,640 calls to HLS. In the UK, hundreds of people marched to the HLS labs in Suffolk on April 24, storming the fields around the lab and cutting the perimeter fence before the police arrived and scattered the march. At a two-hour-long demonstration at the HLS lab in New Jersey on April 22, protesters harassed the employees using the constant noise of sirens, yelling and whistles.

Throughout the week, SHAC groups in different cities targeted Marsh, Inc., HLS's insurance provider, with protests at offices and employee homes across the country. In New York City, visits to the homes of two Marsh executives on April 21, left their glass front doors and lobbies smashed, with reports of lamps flying in the air, tables and chairs flipped and vases left in pieces. Nine people were arrested and released the next morning. They were charged with felony riot and criminal mischief.

More than 100 people attended a march and rally in downtown San Francisco on April 22. Stops were made at the offices of Marsh, E\*Trade and Quick and Reilly (the latter two acting as stockbrokers for HLS shares). Each destination saw activists furiously attacking the buildings and property. A window was smashed at Marsh, people broke inside of Quick and Reilly and an activist scaled the side of an E\*Trade office and held a rooftop demonstration.

On April 26, demonstrations in Houston and Chicago were met with contingents of police, FBI agents, private investigators and Marsh lawyers who tried unsuccessfully to stop them from marching.

In Los Angeles, 50 activists effectively shut down Marsh's offices when they rushed and circled the building on April 26. Police refused to let anyone in or out of the building for 20 minutes. Next, activists stormed the offices of Quick and Reilly and then E\*Trade through the front and back doors. They turned the workplaces into chaos "parties," trashing them with confetti, silly string and popcorn as they blew earsplitting whistles and horns, waved signs and covered the offices with literature and stickers of a mutilated beagle from HLS.

At E\*Trade, nothing was left standing amid the putrid stench of stink bombs, forcing it to shut down its office for the next day and a half.

For more information, visit [www.shacusa.net](http://www.shacusa.net), [www.peta.org](http://www.peta.org) and [www.animaliberation.net](http://www.animaliberation.net).

## Unlock the Labs



## Frontlines

### 2,000 March Against FTAA in São Paulo

Protesters in São Paulo, Brazil, gathered on April 20 to protest the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and in remembrance of last year's April 20 FTAA protests in Quebec. They also expressed solidarity with the International Monetary Fund and war protests in Washington, DC.

Police presence was light as the crowd of more than 1,000 people took to the streets and marched past the headquarters of the major banks of Brazil and transnationals toward the Central Bank of Brazil. Attempts by the police to secure a lane for traffic were overwhelmed as the crowd grew to almost 2,000. At one point, police tried to arrest a protester, but the crowd pulled their friend back, held their ground and the police backed off.

When they reached the Central Bank of Brazil, they delivered a letter denouncing the FTAA to the head of the bank. After a short speech and a raucous dance party in the street, the march headed back toward a huge park where marchers watched the film *It Didn't Start in Seattle and It Won't End in Quebec* about last year's FTAA protest in Quebec. The police force doubled, and the riot cops were called in. A brief stalemate ended when the protesters left

together, waving goodbye and leaving the police with no heads to crack.

### Brazilian Peasants Occupy President's Farm

At the end of March, 450 members of the radical Landless Workers Movement (MST) occupied a farm belonging to Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, saying the government had failed to respond to the MST's demands for more land, agricultural credits and the elimination of judicial actions against some of their members. The MST regularly squats unused land to draw attention to the unequal distribution of land in Brazil in which a few wealthy people own huge sections of the most arable land.

The government deployed more than 200 troops to join federal police at the farm. The MST threatened to fight if police forced them to leave. The standoff ended after the MST was promised a meeting with Minister of Agrarian Development Raul Jungmann. After occupying the farm for more than 24 hours, the peasants peacefully left the property under the watch of armed soldiers. Despite promises that no one would be detained if they left peacefully, 16 peasant leaders who had stayed behind to negotiate with the government were arrested.

# What do you think of when you see the golden arches?

According to Jack M. Greenberg, chairman and chief executive officer of McDonald's Corporation, "Social responsibility is not a project or program. Acting responsibly is the way McDonald's does business."

On April 15, McDonald's issued its first "Social Responsibility Report." This beautifully constructed piece of corporate propaganda highlights McDonald's record of (apparently) promoting animal welfare, protecting tropical rainforests and hiring disadvantaged workers. "We are committed to doing what is right," reads the report, "to conducting our business with the environment in mind. To being a good neighbor and partner in your community." Generic statements follow from a smattering of environmental, labor and animal rights "experts" who work in "partnership" with the corporation. McDonald's "has ushered in a new era of responsibility and accountability for animal welfare,"

claims a professor at the University of California at Davis.

Not everyone is greeting the report with enthusiasm. Paul Hawken, founder of the Natural Capital Institute, states that, "Nothing could be further from the idea of sustainability than the McDonald's Corporation." He cites McDonald's efforts to Americanize trade through representatives at the World Trade Organization, its

use of sweatshop labor, its history of union-busting, its opposition to a living wage and its detrimental effects on land and water. The report "carefully avoids the corporation's real environmental impacts," writes Hawken. "It talked about water use at the outlets, but failed to note that every quarter-pounder requires 600 gallons of water. It talked about recycled paper, but not the pfisteria-

laden waters caused by large-scale pork producers in the Southeast. It talked about energy use in the restaurants, but not in the unsustainable food system McDonald's relies upon that uses 10 calories of energy for every calorie of food produced. 'Sustaining' McDonald's requires a simple unsustainable formula: Cheap food plus cheap non-unionized labor plus deceptive advertising equals high profits."

For more information, visit [www.mcdonalds.com](http://www.mcdonalds.com).



## Frontlines

### Anti-Nuclear Activists Beaten in Russia

On April 25, activists from 30 Russian cities gathered in the center of Moscow on the Red Square to protest nuclear waste shipments to Russia and nuclear energy development. The action marked the 16th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, the largest nuclear catastrophe in history.

Activists dressed in special uniforms, marked by the "radiation danger" sign, crawled across Red Square—one of the most heavily guarded areas in Russia—up to the Kremlin gates. This symbolized the bringing of the nuclear waste right to the Kremlin, where the chief decision-makers sit.

The action lasted for approximately 10 minutes, at which point police arrived and without any warning began beating people. More than 20 activists were arrested. International journalists, including a reporter from Reuters, were also beaten and arrested.

In 2001, the nuclear industry, despite opposition from 90 percent of Russian citizens, successfully lobbied the Russian parliament to remove the ban on import of nuclear waste. The Red Square demonstration was part of an ongoing campaign by environmental groups to stop nuclear waste import legislation, shut down

dangerous nuclear reactors and to advocate for sustainable energy development.

### Greenpeace Protests Deforestation in Chile

On April 10, Greenpeace activists in the port of Calbuco in Chile chained themselves to the anchor chain of the Japanese ship *Iwanuma Maru*, which was carrying wood chips from Chile's last remaining ancient forests. Other activists climbed onto the conveyor belt, preventing it from loading chips from the sawmill onto the ship, and they hung a banner with the message: "Cease the Destruction of the Native Forest." Almost all of Chile's remaining ancient forests are under immediate threat from logging for the wood-chip industry and clearing for plantations.

The action in Chile was one in a series of actions by Greenpeace to highlight the immediate threats facing the world's ancient forests and to call attention to the April Ancient Forest Summit in the Netherlands. The summit took place during the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was billed as the most important political meeting on forests and the world's biodiversity in the last 10 years.

# Earth First!

Litha

\$3.50

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THE RADICAL ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL

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## BLAST FROM THE PAST

### Now You're Cookin' with Gas!

#### *How to Grab Ronald McDonald*

#### *by the Balls*

BY JEBEDIAH

*This article originally appeared in the June-July 1998 Earth First! Journal.*

This little gem of a trick is a quick way to really screw up a fast-food joint for awhile. The beauty is that it only takes a second, can be performed with no real preparation and is totally safe. You can do it on your way to grandma's house, the store, work or church. The only tool you need is a 12-inch crescent wrench.

Walk up to the fast food slop-shop with your crescent wrench. Locate the gas meter behind the building (usually near the back door). It looks like R2D2's little brother. It will be a medium gray color and will have either a few gauges or a digital readout in a plastic case on top. There will be one pipe coming in and one going out. Examine the pipes, and on the incoming one (usually the left one) there will be a little valve. It looks just like any other fitting except there is a circle about the size of a 50-cent piece in it. Coming off this circle is a rectangular tab with a hole drilled in it. That's your baby. Just grab the tab with your Stanley drop-forged crescent wrench, turn it 90 degrees and watch greasy tears roll down the faces of all those sad people in the drive-thru. Orders will quit going out within five minutes.

Since I know, I'll give you a quick rundown on what is going on inside. Jim Bob just dropped his last load of fishsticks into the fryer for today's lunch rush. The safety valves on all the fryers and grills just closed, and the grease is quickly coagulating. The manager is having chest pains as her

labor-to-profit ratio plummets before her eyes. One honor student gives a damn. The rest of the crew snicker and give each other looks while they get a well-deserved break. Dozens

of sorry souls are denied their chicken-mikwhopperwithfrize. For you tree huggers, that means a ream or two of paper bags, napkins and boxes don't walk out the door. For you animal lovers, that means that Bambi's cow cousin stays on ice for another day with the chicken parts and fish pieces.

The best part is it's just plain fun to grab a corporate fast-food joint by the nuts and twist. I like to wait until the lunch rush is hopping and the drive-thru is full, then cool cruise up and shut off the gas while tying my shoe or whatever. Then walk to a good hideout to watch as the drivers screech away pissed off. You can laugh over a sprout

sandwich or a jug of Jim Beam. The fun will be over in 40 minutes when the gas repair guy comes rolling in and figures it out. But by then lunch is over, three or four hundred bucks in profit are gone, lots of customers are pissed and McSchmuck owes Jebediah, the gas repairman, \$60. So all in all, it has got a pretty good result-to-effort ratio. Plus, it's funny as all hell!

Here's a quick rundown of the most vulnerable chain restaurants: Boston Market, McDonald's, Burger King, Taco Bell, Skippers, Jack Off in the Box, Kentucky Fried Chicken, supermarkets with delis and any pizza joint. These places not only rely on gas equipment, they intentionally hire employees who will never figure out how to fix it.

*Back issues of the EF! Journal are available for \$5 each or \$500 for our near-complete 21-year set.*



Dear Ned Ludd is an irregular feature for discussion of creative means of effective defense against the forces of industrial totalitarianism. Neither the Earth First! movement nor the *Earth First! Journal* necessarily encourage anyone to do any of the things discussed in Dear Ned Ludd.

# Wolves and Poodles

**A wolf meditating with a monkeywrench in its mouth to Craig T. Miller** for spending Earth Day morning sitting atop Spencer's Butte in Eugene, Oregon, beneath the tail rotor of a helicopter interrupted in its mission to spray local clearcuts with herbicides.

As he began his day with his usual workout, Miller spotted the helicopter sitting on the only flat spot on the butte, grounded by fog. After a friendly discussion with the pilot whereupon he learned of the craft's mission to poison the local watershed with toxic chemicals, he sat down in his usual spot to meditate, which just happened to be beneath the copter's tail rotor.

After awhile he noticed that the cloud ceiling had risen, but the pilot didn't ask him to leave so he continued to do yoga, still in harm's way should the pilot fire up the aircraft's motor. After an hour or two, a sheriff's deputy huffed and puffed into view to inform Miller that he would be arrested for kidnapping the pilot and for grand-theft helicopter.

During the next half hour, a crowd of incredulous onlookers saw Miller escorted away by 10 to 15 local law enforcement officers, many of whom had made the hike up the slope in full SWAT combat gear. His charges were eventually reduced to Criminal Mischief Three.

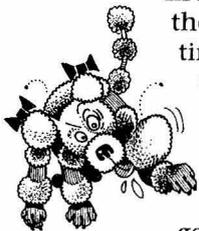
**A wolf who blew Monsanto's house down to Percy Schmeiser**, the Saskatchewan farmer sued by Monsanto because patented, genetically altered pollen had blown into his fields without his knowledge.

Two years after losing a legal battle with the biotechnology giant, the 71-year-old grandfather has taken his story—and his message about farmers' rights—all around the world. Farmers groups, environmentalists and United Nations policymakers all want to hear Schmeiser's tale of being taken to court over the kind of canola found growing in his fields four years ago.

"Monsanto couldn't have picked a worse person to get into a fight with," said Pat Mooney, the executive director of the Winnipeg-based technology watchdog group ETC, who has seen Schmeiser speak at international forums.

"He's articulate and emotional, and he always creates a stir when he tells his story."

**A prejudiced, gangrenous poodle chewing its leg off in an Audubon-sponsored leg-hold trap** to the National Audubon Society for continuing to pursue a 1998 lawsuit against California's voter-approved ban on animal leg-hold traps. The group contends that the ban should be weakened so that government trappers can kill foxes, feral cats and other predators that eat endangered and migrating birds.



Although Audubon won the case at the district court level in 2000, animal rights groups appealed in April, and the case is now being heard before the Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals. By pursuing the case aggressively, animal rights proponents contend Audubon risks weakening trapping laws across the state. This may potentially allow trapping by the US Department of Agriculture's Wildlife



Services, which kills mountain lions, bears, coyotes and other animals at the request of cattle ranchers operating on public lands.

The National Trappers Association has joined Audubon in support of the lawsuit.

**A just-when-you-thought-it-was-safe-to-go-back-in-the-water, a-bunch-of-yuppies-invade-your-habitat poodle** to the human residents of Central Florida's Stone Island who murdered an 11-foot alligator named Wally in April.

The area near Lake Monroe has long been home to one of the larger populations of gators in the state, but in recent years the area has become a human-infested "upscale waterfront community" of nearly 300 homes. When one of the area's rightful residents approaches too close to a swimming human, or when poor little Fluffy wanders too close to the canal for a drink, some people call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to report a "nuisance alligator," whereupon a trapper is dispatched to kill the poor critter.

So far this year 1,050 complaints in Central Florida alone have resulted in 570 gators sharing Wally's fate by becoming deep-fried nuggets and fancy briefcases. In 2000, 7,279 such "nuisance" animals were "harvested" statewide.

**A corporate-ass-kissing, junk-food-vegan poodle** to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) for praising one-time archnemesis, Burger King, for its new "BK Veggie" meatless burger. "It's a winning proposition for animals, people and the planet. We hope everyone will give the veggie burger a royal welcome," said PETA's Vegan Campaign Coordinator Bruce Friedrich.

Composed of a nightmarish list of 48 ingredients, the nutritionally deficient, industrial pseudo-food contains such scientific wonders as sodium acid pyrophosphate, hydrolyzed corn gluten and "grill flavor" mixed in with a few grains and frozen vegetables.

# Pies

BY AGENT MEDIA TART

*"At this rate, civilisation will not end with a bang, or even a whimper, but the squishy splat of a pie."*

—IRISH EVENING HERALD, FEBRUARY 5

It's nearly four months since I pied the *Taoiseach* (Prime Minister Bertie Ahern) in Sligo, and I still get the giggles every time I think of it. The gasp of horror from the crowd of lackeys when they saw the cream hit his gob, people ringing radio stations whinging about the lack of respect for our democratically elected leader, the big front page splash of said leader with pie dripping down his face.

Really funny articles in the paper, with quotes from neighbours saying, "She seemed like such a quiet girl..." I got to say completely true things live on the radio about our water table being poisoned by Coillte—the Irish Forestry Board (just before I was cut off!). Coillte's monocultures are mostly in the uplands, and the toxic sprays they need to keep their alien plantations alive seep into the waters below. There is less wildlife in their "forests" than in the town centers. As prime minister, Ahern is responsible for the actions of this semi-state company.

I can feel Spring in me bones. Blossoming all around, bursting into life.

There are two yellow wagtails nesting in the bush outside the front door. Any day now, their babies will be cracking through. A curious robin flew in yesterday for a peek at the funny nest the two-legged ones live in. A fallen tree we begged the landlord not to chop up has, to his surprise, blossomed full-leaved. Dandelions, tadpoles, red beetles... it's all exploding.

This might be the last Spring this copse sees. They're building a road

through here. The compulsory purchase is done, the route marked, all the locals brainwashed into thinking it's necessary. And of course it is necessary, for them. For their civilisation. For their religion of progress.

The Irish are slowly throwing off the shackles of Catholicism only to embrace an ideology equally as destructive. Old women on the bus nod, "It's

## for Their

great to see the country doing so well." And the young cling to their mobile phones and Nike sweatshirts. It's all wonderful, this European Union money bringing us up to date, inline with the rest of Europe. Who's laughing at us backward paddies, now that we've got cafes and cable TV?

Meanwhile, for those with eyes, the misery and destruction goes on. After years of the Common Agricultural Policy, where farmers are given huge subsidies to cram loads of sheep onto every bit of land, there is nothing growing on our mountains. Herein the North-

fun. Now I've to ferry my kids to other kids' houses, plan everything for them like I'm a military commander and watch them in case they make a mad dash for freedom. I don't like living where I have to order my children around and decide what they do with their days.

My hometown sprung up around a river, and until about 10 years ago, it was relatively unspoilt. But a big timber merchant expanded all the way down the river, ripping up hedgerows, blocking off access to the river and erecting huge steel fences. The river died a slow, ugly death, but the townsfolk don't care since they've got

# Lies

river-view apartments and a health food shop now.

They've well and truly swallowed the lie of progress alright.

Most of them were delighted at the pieings—politicians are easily scapegoated for all the unpleasant things

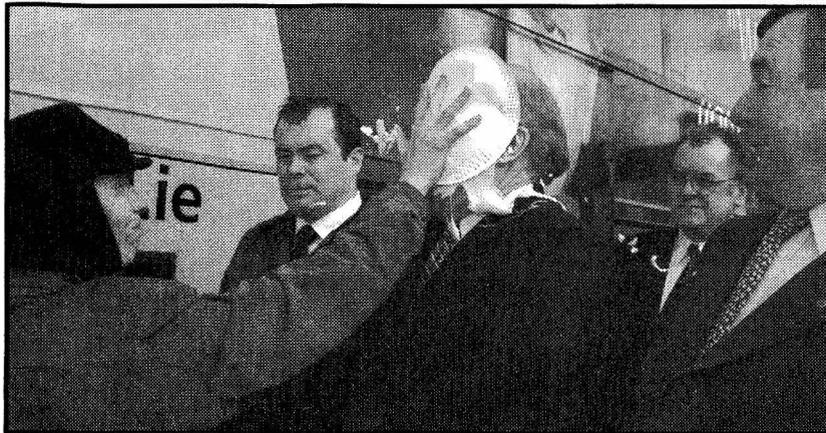
the moral majority doesn't want to face up to—like bin charges, incinerators and super dumps. They want all the baubles, but none of the mess. Few of them seemed to get the real point of the pieings—that the politicians are just front men for big business and so deserve no respect.

If it even just "sows the seed in slavish

men" (as an Irish activist from a century ago put it), then it was worth it.

Or as John Mitchel, a 19th century revolutionary said, "Let the canting-fed classes rave and shriek as they will—where you see a respectable, fair-spoken lie sitting in high places, feeding itself fat on the Earth's sacrifices—down with it, strip it naked and pitch it to the demons... resting never till the huge mischief come down, though the whole structure of society come down along with it."

*Agent Media Tart is an operative of the Irish Division of the Biotic Baking Brigade.*



*The Irish prime minister gets his just desserts.*

west, the hills stand stark and bald, apart from the large swathes of sitka spruce monocultures. Although once common land, these are now "owned" by Coillte (ironically this means "forest" in Irish). Coillte has poisoned our water table and reduced all our common land to arid, toxic tree farms.

Across the country you see nothing but cows and sheep. Hardly any wild patches, few woodlands, ever-decreasing birds and animals. A real wet desert.

When I was growing up, we roamed around the fields and village streets to our hearts' content, and we had such

FOR YOU

HEART OF FIST

Damn, my Head's in stitches,  
and it seems I forgot the  
punch line,  
know it was something  
'bout a tree and my car,  
but the alcohol  
or the concussion or both,  
washed the memory away.  
Wow, my Heart's been laughing,  
ever since that distant night,  
cause I've been running clean,  
like the land should be,  
and my belly's not rank,  
it's a flower,  
and the bees tickle, the sun shines,  
my heart had the  
revolutionary power.  
My Industrial Mind took a hard blow,  
my lungs and liver  
laughed and cheered,  
and there was no bitterness,  
the headaches went away, eyes focused.  
Can the world heal itself?  
Are we the Heart of the Fist,  
striking down these electrical addictions,  
this lack of moderation,  
these chemical habits and  
destructive tendencies,  
and should we let the World hit a tree,  
or maim itself or finally O.D.?  
Should we intervene now,  
and just how far are we to go,  
we, the warriors for peace,  
to save our selves, brothers, sisters?  
We can't cut off our head,  
and we can't hate ourselves.  
The Circle of Life's made of  
dots,  
and the Circle seems to ripple,  
goin' round to come again,  
and it will,  
but everybody must see,  
that every Body is the world.

Rob Boley

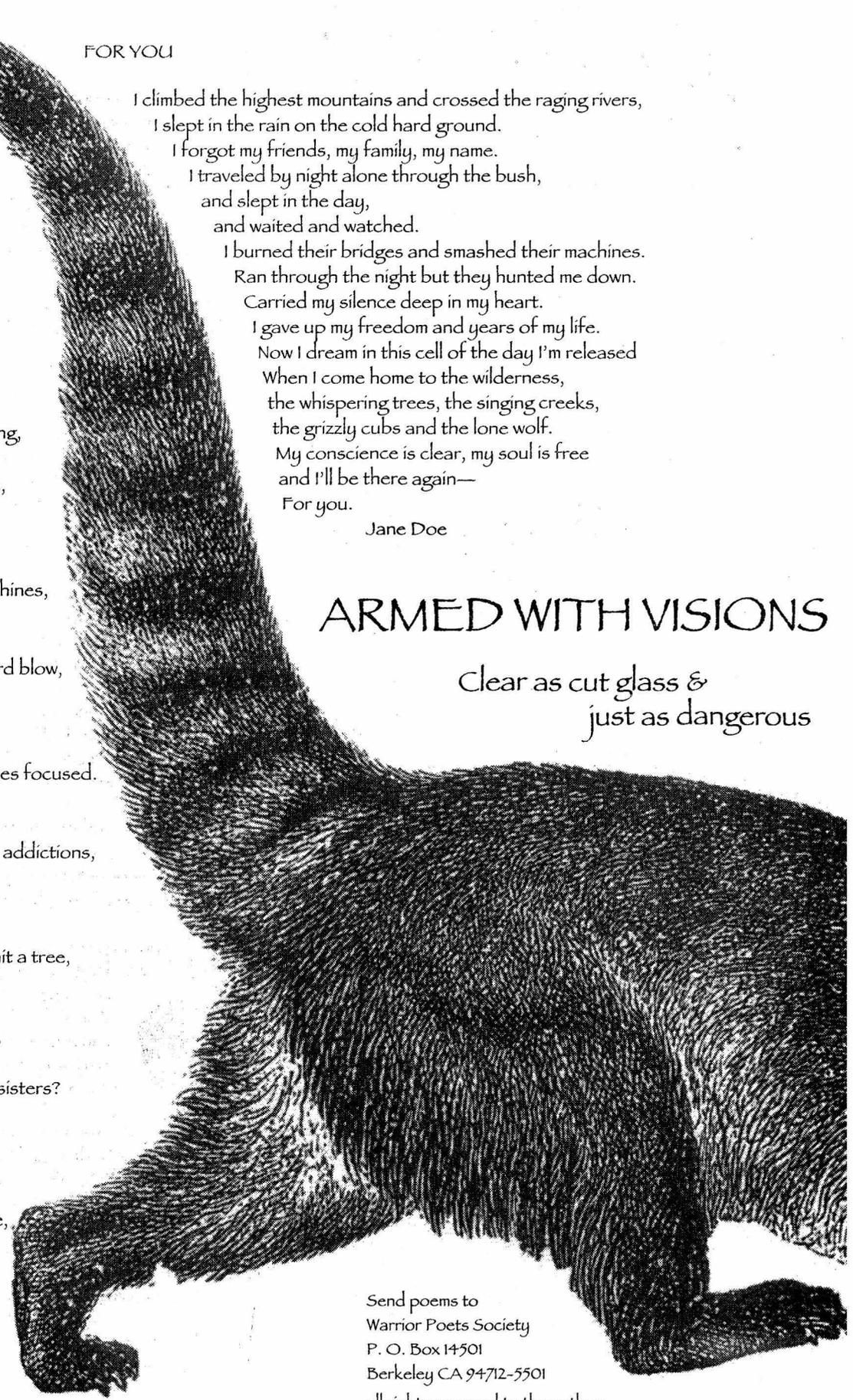
I climbed the highest mountains and crossed the raging rivers,  
I slept in the rain on the cold hard ground.  
I forgot my friends, my family, my name.  
I traveled by night alone through the bush,  
and slept in the day,  
and waited and watched.  
I burned their bridges and smashed their machines.  
Ran through the night but they hunted me down.  
Carried my silence deep in my heart.  
I gave up my freedom and years of my life.  
Now I dream in this cell of the day I'm released  
When I come home to the wilderness,  
the whispering trees, the singing creeks,  
the grizzly cubs and the lone wolf.  
My conscience is clear, my soul is free  
and I'll be there again—  
For you.

Jane Doe

## ARMED WITH VISIONS

Clear as cut glass &  
just as dangerous

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

Rather than behold or respect  
The vast reaches of nature,  
The chain of wings  
Between ground and treetop  
They blast the tree with poison gas  
And count and catalog  
All the insects and poisoned lives  
That rain down from their toxic fog  
"It's just one tree," he cried,  
"In a vast forest."

That's like  
Just one child molested.

With that attitude  
We'll never get out of this mess.

Jenny McBride

## THE BIRDS GAVE WAY

High in the alpinas a bomber  
screeches past at the speed of sound  
drowning the calls of the jays  
and setting my teeth on edge.  
The blast sounds  
loud enough to fell a fir tree,  
alien enough to make a cow elk lose her calf.

A lump rises in my gut. I'd understand  
if someone's patriotic ya-ya  
inspired this display but it's August,  
miles from any town,  
and the ground beneath  
the feet of every creature  
here just rumbled,  
the air that the buoys the birds gave away.

Paul Lindholdt



## DARRYL'S DILEMMA

Traded my backpack for a briefcase to please the powers that be.  
Now I sit in a courtroom instead of hugging a tree.  
Cut my hair and got a shave.  
Been told time and again not to misbehave.  
All this law and order has sure got me down.  
The woods call me, but I've got to stay in town.  
I'm tired of lawyers, depo's and all that stuff  
playing it straight sure can be tuff.  
But one day soon this will all be history.  
And I can be happy again sitting in a tree.

DWK Jr.

## UNDER OUR FEET

"I want to leave the city and go live on the land," I said.  
"Where do you think you are living now?" he asked.  
"What do you think is beneath your feet?"

We say concrete is dirt,  
beneath dirt is rock,  
beneath rock is molten fire.  
We forget it is the skin and bones and  
blood of our mother  
buried from light and air.

Is she asleep and dreaming?  
Is her sleep like death?  
Is she mourning days of tidal marsh?  
What is her secret life?

What if she is slowly simmering anger?  
What if her pain is the fury of a woman scorned?  
What if suddenly her blood boils  
and fire pours from her veins?

Fire pouring through fissures  
cracking the surface  
with radical change.  
Basalt, bedrock, river rock,  
sandstone, shale, drifting dust,  
erupting lava,  
our own rage released.

For we ourselves are made of this earth.  
Her body is our body.  
Her love bursts in us.  
Her beauty is blinding.

We are waiting for it.  
We are longing for it.  
We are calling for it.

The knowledge of earth  
under our feet.

Amie Diller

# Dear SFB: Letters to the editors



continued from page 3

Hello Good People,

I am ashamed to say that, although I am painfully aware of the peril that faces our world, I have not been actively working to help. Recently, I sent an email to off-road.com suggesting that, since some oil profits are funneled to Osama and other terrorists groups, they might show their patriotism by conserving gas.

Well... I'm sure that you can imagine the responses. Everything from veiled threats to misspelled profanity. So be careful out there. Gotta go, it's time to stand up and get to work... for the planet.

—KEVIN FOISIE

Dear Shit fer Brains:

I am writing in reference to Heather Moore's article "Designer Animals" in the Beltane issue. Many people are probably wondering where these sadistic, amoral scientists are coming from—most people wouldn't be caught dead experimenting on animals or creating genetically altered monsters. I know where these sado-scientists are coming from, because I have seen it happen.

What is taking place in our educational system is a kind of unnatural "natural selection" process. Beginning in high school (sometimes earlier), if a kid wanted to take a biology class he/she had to be willing to dissect a songbird and tear apart a cow's eye. In college, it was worse. If you wanted to study biology or pre-med, you had to dissect living animals—dogs (pets that had been stolen from people's

houses and sold to the university or had come from shelters) and cats from the same sources. Then comes more of the same, and worse, in graduate or medical school—even more bizarre and horrible animal experiments, atrocities against terminally ill humans and the joking and tossing around of human and animal body parts.

Anyone who completes such an "educational" program and does not drop out at a very early stage is likely to be a pervert, a sadist, an egotist and totally devoid of ethics and morals. This unnatural "natural selection" produces doctors who don't give a damn about their patients, veterinarians who don't give a damn about animals and geneticists who are willing to create monsters and untold suffering.

The public is told that all this will cure diseases, when all it really does is enrich these perverts, who often become excessively wealthy and create new and more virulent diseases (e.g. antibiotic resistance).

Don't depend on these sadists to find an answer to cancer. The preventative is already here and available to everyone: a vegetarian diet. If men don't want prostate and colon cancer,

then don't eat meat. If women don't want breast cancer, then don't get near any dairy products or meat.

Ninety-nine percent of medical and genetic research is a fraud. These sadists want your money, not your good health. In fact, the sicker you are, the more money they can make, because sick, frightened people want help.

Stay healthy, go vegan (non-dairy vegetarian). Don't support the sado-scientists.

—ANNA BELLA

Dear *Earth First Journal*,

Glad to see Judi/Darryl trial finally underway.

Just a quick comment about nuclear transfer technology from a long-time environmental activist, hemp activist, Green Party member, organic food consumer, Redwood Summer participant. I don't think there is anything inherently "evil" about the nuclear transfer technology. Like all technologies it just depends on what you do with the tool. Someone will always be there to exploit it for greedy profits, but others will find appropriate uses that are socially just, environmentally sound and biocentrically compatible.

The biotech industry as a whole should not be trusted to regulate themselves. However, I believe that there is enormous potential in stem cell research and nuclear transfer technology to heal some of the most devastating illnesses, and alleviate unimaginable suffering for living beings. With new innovations there are always risks, but I don't buy the "slippery slope" argument. That's the same rationale used by the government to keep marijuana/hemp illegal. It's just common sense for a company

spending millions of other people's money on research, to make a return for their investors. They ain't going to do it for free—they have to pay the bills too. That's how innovation happens.

There are some bills before the US Senate, which ban human cloning, yet allow the medical research to continue. I think these are worthy of support. Naturally, I am opposed to genetic engineering of the food supply, or cloning of human beings. And, I think we should continue to proceed with calmness, consider the impacts on the next seven generations and remember that what we do to the web of life, we do to ourselves, as the guiding principles.

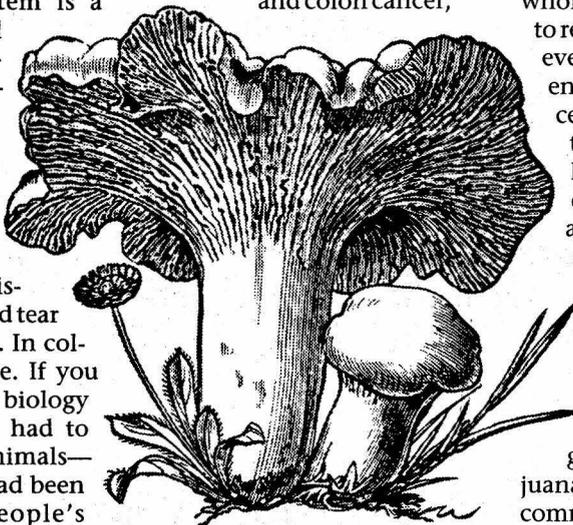
Sincerely,

—BOB SCHWARZ

Dear *Earth First! Journal*,

I am writing this letter with regards to an interview published in the British animal rights magazine *Arkangel* #26, with the former "North American Earth Liberation Front Press Officer." In the interview, *Arkangel* asked Craig Rosebraugh what he felt the most effective ELF action was, and he stated that he felt that arson was the most effective tool. He gave this as a personal opinion. However the way the interview was published it made it appear that the majority of ELF actions are arson-based and that non-arson-based actions have no merit.

The majority of the ELF actions in Britain and across Europe are non-arson-based. The cell I am involved with specialises in wildlife protection. One of our favourite tactics is tree spiking where we hammer 150 mm metal spikes into trees. We then issue a warning to alert everyone of the spikes. The result of this is



that sawmill owners are less keen to buy the felled trees if they know there is a possible spike in the timber that will damage their sawmill blade. And because the sawmills won't touch the wood, there is no profit involved in felling the trees in the first place. Consequently there is a much greater chance of the woodland habitat being left alone, in tact, which benefits all the animals and plants that are part of that ecosystem. Tree spiking is easy. Anyone can do it. Its also highly effective and it does not involve the use of any arson.

Another of our tactics is ecotage (cause economic damage) to the property of those who seek to kill wildlife. Be it badger killers, anglers, hunters, hare-courers, etc. All are legitimate targets. Our tactics vary according to whom we are targeting but can involve everything from nailing shut gates used to access paths to kill wildlife, to directly destroying the property of those who engage in wildlife murder.

Our ELF cell has also, in the past, targeted the Forestry Commission hitting their monocrop woodlands, leaving messages for them to "plant oak," spiking their gates shut, glueing their padlocks, ecotaging their buildings, etc. You see we strongly believe that as well as protecting the last remaining habitats of woodland and other wildlife areas, we should also be actively helping to encourage the re-creation of woodland and other habitats. The timber monocrops of the Forestry Commission need replacing with a range of broad-leaf trees, and our cell regards all Forestry Commission property as legitimate. However naturally we would never start a fire in a woodland area.

The Earth Liberation Front is a vibrant movement that uses a range of actions, each

uniquely designed for the task in hand. For example, the first GM crop trashing to occur in Ireland was carried out by the "Gaelic Earth Liberation Front." The Elves involved trashed the field, achieved international media attention and managed to ensure there was no danger to any animal hiding within the crop. A fire could easily have killed animals and spread to destroy other plant species other than the one GM crop that was being targeted.

In the mid '90s, Elves raided and ecotaged the London Government offices of the Department of Transport, whilst leaving the offices of the Department of Environment (which is housed in the same building) unharmed. An arson attack on the building would have not achieved the same results as this very brilliant and daring raid achieved.

Don't get me wrong. Where arson is the best tool available it will be used, e.g. the Whatley Quarry action, the Sainsburys supermarket action in the Southeast of England, etc. But certainly, under no circumstance, is arson always the best tool to use.

The Earth Liberation Front is 10 years old this year! Long live the Earth Liberation Front! Here's to the next 10 years!

—MERRYMEET THE ELF

Hi,  
I am a member of an ALF cell

in a highly populated city on the East Coast. Though our clandestine actions

are often done with black masks in the dark of night, many of our actions are done in the middle of the day without any masks to hide our identity. One great example of one of our unmasked—or urban camouflage—campaigns was when we targeted grocery and hardware stores in our town that sold mouse and rat glue traps. Not only are these traps unnecessary, but they are extremely cruel and inhumane. Our goal was to prevent consumers from purchasing these devices and to stop stores from selling these devices. All live and humane traps would remain on the shelves.

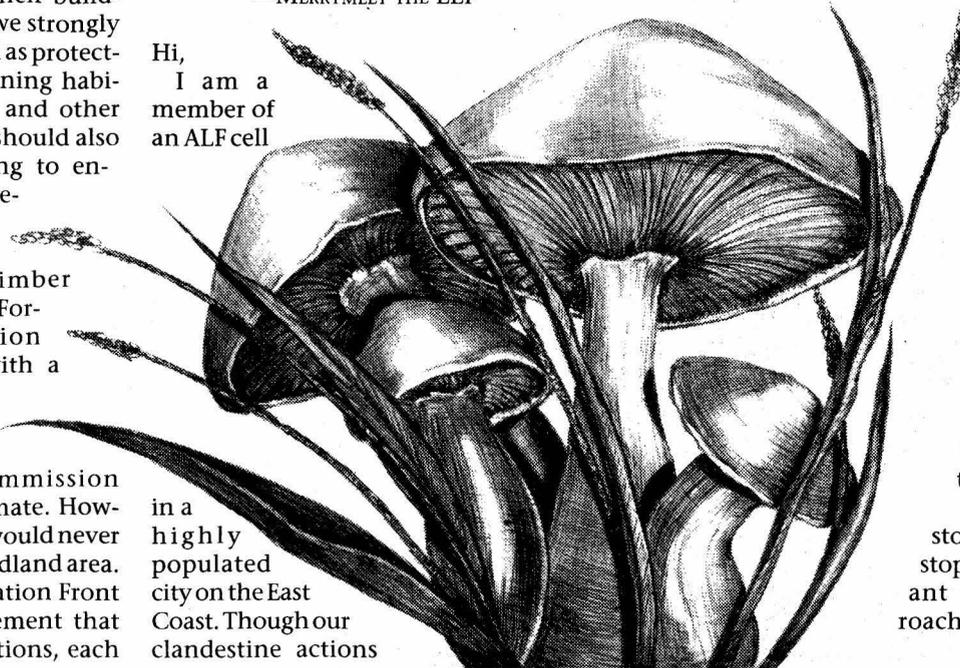
Our "urban-camo" consisted of very nice clothes. Remember, people *do* judge you based on your appearance. Now is not the time to show off that "Meat is Murder" or "ALF" t-shirt. Also make sure you've walked up and down some aisles and that you have some groceries in your cart. Nothing will catch management's or security's attention more than someone pushing around an empty cart for an hour or so.

Once we began our "shopping," we would fill our carts with all the rodent glue traps on display and then snap or break off the UPC bar code

that management usually scans when it's time to reorder. Next, we would push our carts toward any in-store garbage cans (the deli or cafeteria sections having the most). When nobody was looking we would throw all the traps into the garbage bags making sure to cover the traps with real garbage. (Make sure your garbage can is not directly visible to any security cameras where you may be monitored from!) Though this tactic was often successful, it was not 100 percent effective. We would often find the damaged glue traps replaced on the shelf the following day. We quickly solved this problem by filling our carts with veal, chicken, turkey, cow, fish, eggs, etc. Then, after getting all of the glue traps we would browse the aisles, as we opened up the glue traps and permanently affixed them to the dead animal parts, thus insuring that if found, they could not simply be placed back on the shelves the following day. This tactic also causes hundreds of dollars of damage to the animal products themselves! And again, we would always remove the UPC bar codes that are used for reordering.

This is important as we found that without removing the UPC bar codes, there would soon be a fresh order replacing the shelves. Without the UPC bar codes most stores would simply forget, or just not know, to reorder more. After about three to four weeks of this *continually* and *persistently* happening the stores would quit selling the glue traps!

Be creative! Get stores in your area to stop selling glue traps, ant traps, wasp-killer, roach-motels, bee traps, *continued on next page*



# Dear SFB: Letters to the editors



continued from previous page  
mole traps, etc... Creativity and persistence are the keys. The last time I was at one of the main grocery stores we had targeted, they still were not selling glue traps! A successful action! Even without a mask.

A suggestion:

This is just one example of many unmasked actions that individuals and groups can participate in. We encourage your publication and web page to run a regular column entitled something like "Unmasked Actions," "The ALF/ELF Unmasked," etc. You can then simply solicit and encourage readers to participate by sending in *their* unmasked actions for publication. This way many others will be able to learn some successful actions they can take part in in their areas!

Thank you.

—ANONYMOUS

Well Guys:

This is our letter of divorce. We've been with EF! from the very start—as supporters, co-conspirators, site surveyors, subscribers and generally doing what needed to be done—including direct actions to prevent logging as far back as 1977. We make our living as restoration ecologists, and in our spare time we litigate to protect what's left.

Here's what has us pissed enough to withdraw our support. The fire at the Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH) in Seattle a year ago, and the *Journal's* refusal to look seriously at what happened there. We expect, when people use strong measures (such as fire), that they accept the responsibility to do some serious research into the actions

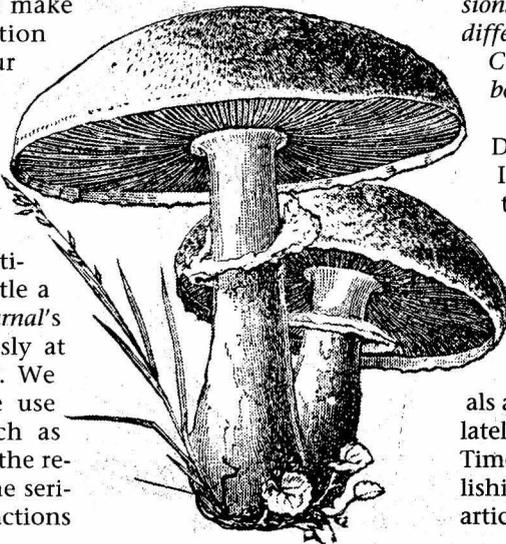
of the intended target and the likely damage to other people and/or projects. What happened at CUH in no way deterred work in genetic engineering—which I abhor, but wasn't happening at CUH—and did a whole lot to wipe out an endangered species. Were the perpetrators even aware of the Rare Care program?

A whole program devoted to propagation of plants too rare to survive without intervention was incinerated. Not cool. The Miller Library, complete with books, journals and reports dating back hundreds of years and altogether irreplaceable was destroyed.

From where we sit, it looks like some gung-ho cowboys went off half-cocked and hit the wrong target. Instead of setting back genetic engineering, they incinerated a major center for ecological restoration.

At the time, we and other conservation organizations asked the *Journal* to do the responsible things—to say that this time a mistake was made. Didn't happen. Instead, we got smug self-congratulation.

What we (and a whole lot of others) would like to see, even at this late date, is:



1. an apology to the people who were working on native plant protection, propagation and restoration for the unnecessary destruction of their work. (I know, EF! has no knowledge of the perpetrators—so instead of an apology, perhaps a statement of condolence and support).

2. major discussion in the *Journal* about targets, how one researches what's really going on at a proposed target site, the importance of having one's facts straight, the importance of thinking through the various possible/probable outcomes of the action, etc.

3. a clear statement from the *Journal* that the editorial collective does not support random, un-thought-out, counter-productive actions, and that "collateral damage" is not acceptable.

This is not intended as a letter to the editor, but you're free to use it as you choose. We really would like a response.

—MARIANNE AND STEVE

*Editors' Note: In response to your second request, the Journal collective is certainly interested in publishing any articles that discuss such responsibilities and any thoughts about strategy. Send us your submissions. For two articles featuring different perspectives on the CUH arson, see EF!J December-January 2002.*

Dear SFB,

I know I am a little late with this response, but since there has been so much hysteria lately over Mitch Friedman's Yule 2002 article, I feel the need to say something.

Right wingers and liberals alike in this country have lately begun equating me with Timothy McVeigh by republishing a small portion of an article that the *Seattle Post-*

*Intelligencer* wrote over a year ago. In that article a reporter by the name of Paul Schukovsky suggested that I saw the actions at UW as "collateral damage." I want to point out that despite Mitch Friedman's assertion that I used that term, I was never actually quoted in the *Seattle-PI* article as having said those words. The author simply attributed my feelings on direct action to that terminology. In fact, I refused to talk about the action at UW since I had so little information about it. Mr. Schukovsky pulled those words straight out of his ass in an attempt to discredit me.

What I actually said, in regards to actions which may harm operations outside of their immediate target, was "Revolution is a learning process, and none of us are born knowing exactly how to create revolution without making mistakes. But simply because a mistake is made does not mean that an action or tactic should be dismissed. It's all part of figuring out how to make change."

Kiss my ass Mitch,

—JOSH HARPER

Dear Friends,

Just finished the Eostar issue and enjoyed it immensely! Keep up the good work! *A Return to the Wild Life* was especially inspiring. After spending nearly 11 years in prison—one of society's biggest current for-profit industries—the thought of withdrawing from modern civilization appeals to me more and more each day. I'm more than a little disgusted with this tendency to let capital take precedence over life; how can we strive for some plush, comfortable existence for ourselves and say "to hell with everything else?" We don't even seem to care that the Earth we're

destroying is the same Earth that our offspring will be stuck with! Reading "Why George W. Bush" only served to reinforce my conviction that civilization is geared toward this catastrophic self-destruct mode. It doesn't take a college education to see that when you fight nature, nature retaliates; environmental statistics (rampant spread of diseases; rising temperature extremes; birth defects; etc.) verify this. And yet people like George W. Bush—who actually has a college education—refuse to acknowledge the facts...

I am interested in making contact with groups or individuals who share a devotion to the preservation of the planet. I don't get much mail these days, but I'd like to correspond with some environmentally conscious people.

Take care,

—JAMEYSON MACDONALD  
#619181  
3060 FM 3514  
BEAUMONT, TX 77705

Earth First! Comrades,

The other day I got the beautiful Eostar March-April 2002 issue of *Earth First!* and was infatuated with *A Return to the Wild Life: from civilized to more primitive living* by Red Wolf Returns. I would like any other information you could send me about Teaching Drum outdoor school or any other schools like that, and also contacts. Primitivism is the emphasis of this letter as I write this like a capitalistic compulsion to transform all my feeling and experiences into object... Spoken language/words are merely incarcerated thoughts. There is no question that primitive peoples were at a higher state of consciousness and probably used some form of telepathy. Any form of work/labor is still a form of oppression even if there are no bosses. In my opinion, as long as there is technology humans will still be alienated from Earth and outside of nature. In a zero-work hunter gatherer society you would

be in balance with the Earth and other animals. The same thing about language can also be applied to art. The need for "self expression" is a reaction to living in a conformist authoritarian society. In a free society (hunter and gatherer) your everyday life would be "creativity" and there would be no need for external self expression. The earliest primitive people had no art. Art only started showing up at the same time as agriculture, hierarchy, centralization, linear time, etc. People were losing their freedoms and had to find some external means of relief. This is pointed out in depth by John Zerzan in his essay "Case Against Art." Well my comrades, thank you for showing me your solidarity by mailing me *Earth First!* in this lonely industrial prison.

Peace, love, resistance,

—WILLIAM MARTINEZ  
#259840  
POB 1400  
ENFIELD, CT 06083

Dear Editor,

Let me begin by stating how grateful and appreciative I am for receiving *Earth First!*. My commitment to the cause is strengthened with every issue I receive. Upon release from prison (three years?), I vow not to neglect the Earth. Thank you and good work!

I am baffled by what has occurred in the previous two issues of *Earth First!*; the Yule and Eostar issues have both been missing the prisoner support pages. They have been torn out!

I've inquired with the prison mail room, and they claim no knowledge of missing pages. They

suggested this may be taking place at the US Post Office.

I tend to believe the prison mail room, as their procedure is quite clear; they have the right to reject the whole magazine/journal etc. and issue a Notice of Intent, Contraband Removal. Is this possible that the US Postal Service has a hand in the removal of the prisoner support page?

Any suggestions as to how I may inquire without opening the proverbial worm can? Is any one out there experiencing this example of government paranoia?

In solidarity,

—PATRIC CONWAY

*Editors' Note: Well, the conspiracy is a simple one. We have been tearing out the prisoner support pages before mailing the Journal to our subscribers in prison. Alas, prisons frequently reject and return mail to us that will provide prisoners with information about other inmates or facilitate communication between prisons. Alas, as a compromise, and a way to still get our materials to you, we've made the decision to remove this section preemptively.*

Dear SFB,

The problem I have with the Earth First! organization

is... I think it is a detriment to your organization (as the premier grassroots organization) to picture yourselves as (pardon me) sloppy, unkempt, unshaved, neuvo-hippies, singing and dancing during your media-taped rallies.

If you're trying to change public opinion, then the way you act and dress creates a barrier, therefore preventing the real message from getting through. I guarantee, if there was a congressperson fighting for you on the House floor, wearing tie-die and beads, no other congressperson would pay much attention.

I don't seem to have a solution.

—RANDY LEIFER

REDRABBITLOSANGELES@YAHOO.COM

Hey,

I am an occasional reader of your magazine and enjoy reading it and share many of the expressed views.

However, I do not think advocating (or implying advocacy of) the terrorization of Huntingdon, etc., employees is a positive thing. I doubt that any of the employees enjoy their work, and I doubt that they are paid well.

These abusive companies are part of a larger pattern, and I do not think that that pattern can be broken by

frightening or hurting a

few people with

no power. It

is important

to strategize

how to damage

the overall corporate

infrastructure in

a way that causes as

little damage to workers

as possible.

Destroying Huntingdon

would mean another

company

jumping up to

fill its place.

What is

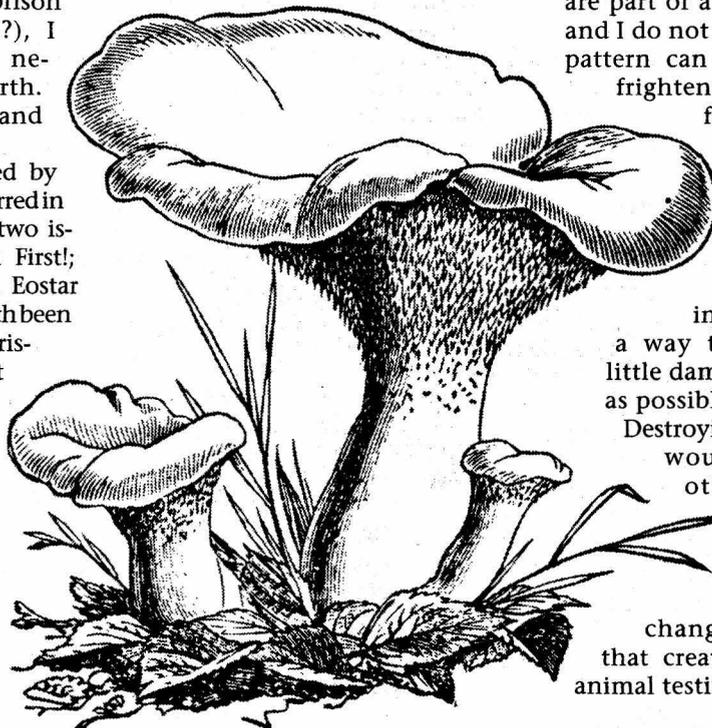
needed is to

change the pattern

that creates a place for

animal testing at all.

—BEN REGENSPAN



# Evolution of the Offensive

## *Using everything we've got!*



BY LESLIE JAMES PICKERING

More than any other event in my life, the actions of the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) have been the most eye-opening, inspirational and empowering. The actions of the ELF have restored a hope in me that had otherwise been beaten into submission by the oppressive cycle of daily life within contemporary American civilization.

When I was a teenager in suburban New York state, I, like many of my peers, would do almost anything thinkable to break the mundane reality of my existence. One of the activities that drew my attention was attending loud, angry, independent music events. These events appealed to me because they were welcoming atmospheres for me and my peers to vent our legitimate frustrations with the social and political situations we had been born into and forced to swallow. At one of the first of these shows I attended, I was handed some literature about an organization called the Animal Liberation Front (ALF).

At first, I didn't think much of it—a souvenir to bring home—and I stuffed it in my backpack. It wasn't until I had the time to look it over that I realized the implications these stapled photocopies would have on my life. It turned out that the ALF was an underground organization that struggled for the freedom of animals by "liberating" them from factory farms, vivisection labs and other abusive institutions. The ALF was a group of fugitives who broke the law to fight for freedom, much like many of our cultural heroes: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, the Boston Tea Partiers, Robin Hood, etc. I was fascinated.

At this point, I naturally had an appreciation for nature, but I was not especially what one would call an "animal lover," nor have I ever been. I had never considered being a vegetarian and had no awareness of any popular movement for animal rights. The tactics of the ALF simply made sense to me on a honest and fundamental level, based on my natural instincts for self-defense and the little that I had learned about revolutionary/social movements from school

and conversations. My fascination with this sensational organization soon led me to learn of the popular movements for the freedom of animals and environmentalism and later to study any and all revolutionary/social movements that I could scrounge up information on.

In 1997, the ELF began taking "direct actions" similar to the actions of the ALF. From the onset, the direct actions of the ELF were causing millions in damages to corporations and government agencies that were profiting from destroying the Earth. The actions and existence of the ELF created an enormous wave of attention across the US as authorities fruitlessly scrambled for evidence, often barely beginning one investigation before the ELF would strike again.

**More than anything, I simply recognize the right and, at times, the necessity and duty of all people to defend ourselves when taking a beating, to fight for our very lives. This right is not only extended to those being crushed by the hands of this beast, but also to those of us being digested in its belly.**

I have been privileged to be in the position of spokesperson for the North American Earth Liberation Front Press Office (NAELFPO) since the Spring of 2000. The press office has been referred to by the media as a "clearinghouse" for the anonymous communiqués of the ELF. For me personally, it has been an opportunity to publicly speak

my belief in direct action and to help the movement gain the public's attention and support.

I support the actions of the ELF and the ALF wholeheartedly. I unwaveringly support revolutionary action to bring about the liberation of the Earth and its animal nations, including the liberation of the human race. I feel that illegal actions, like those of the ELF and ALF, are 100 percent necessary for liberation, and I hope to see the continuation and the rapid escalation of their activities until the Earth and all of us who live here are free of institutionalized oppression.

That being said, shortly after co-founding the NAELFPO, I vowed to speak the truth about the ELF. I have since done the best job I could with limited resources and opportunities to fulfill this promise, and I will continue to do so. However, I have come to realize that being in the position of spokesperson for the organization has presented me with difficulties in speaking this truth.

There is an existing diversity of opinions among those who support the activity of the ELF on the manner in which the underground organization should be represented. I am only able to honestly represent the movement in the light in which it appears to me, which is not necessarily the same light in which all others who support the ELF view it.

As I see it, the ELF is a loose network of clandestine guerrilla groups that are a part of a larger movement struggling for global revolutionary change. The tactics that they engage in, which many consider nonviolent sabotage, are a direct result of their analysis of the oppression they struggle against and the level of activity they perceive to be effective within the particular context of their actions.

I see, and personally hope, that there is no proof that the movement in general should view the tactics of the ELF as the end-all of action taken for liberation. I see absolutely no logic in a judgment that struggle perceived as nonviolent is the only legitimate kind to be waged. In addition, I have no problem admitting that I personally do not consider the actions of the ELF and ALF as nonviolent, as any dictionary will clearly spell out.

Again, this does not mean that I do not wholeheartedly support all of these actions, only that I do not consider

them nonviolent and do not believe nonviolence is the only legitimate means by which to struggle for liberation.

Any dictionary will tell you that violence is, more or less, any act that aggressively harms or threatens harm to anyone or anything. Therefore, if actions were truly nonviolent, they would fail to even threaten harm to anything, which I certainly do not consider to be the case with the ELF. The entire intention of the ELF is to bring about liberation through engaging in effective acts of sabotage against oppressive institutions. To not even threaten harm to these institutions would therefore be failure.

But regardless of what the dictionary says, I believe that attaching the nonviolence label to these actions is based on a misguided understanding of public opinion and fear of a liberal backlash that comes anyway. I also believe the blind endorsement of this label is counterrevolutionary. Any notion that alleged nonviolence is the only way by which to achieve liberation is ill-informed and condemning of the many other effective tactics that have, can and must be put into practice in successful revolutionary movements.

Throughout history, liberation has been achieved through a healthy balance of a variety of tactics, many which have been considered nonviolent and many which have been considered violent. Even the most popular examples of

*continued on next page*



artwork on these pages by Dawg

*Coyote vs. the Range Rover*

*continued from previous page*

nonviolent resistance were far from existing in a vacuum. During the same periods that Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. were waging their nonviolent struggles, numerous other organizations were struggling for the same liberation through what were considered violent means—undeniably having a massive effect on the progression of the overall movements. In fact, I've yet to find a historical example of a successful revolutionary movement that consisted strictly of nonviolent activity, and I do not believe that one is possible in our contemporary setting.

Recently, I appeared on a short television spot regarding the February 12, Congressional Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health. Also on this clip appeared an

**And as I see it, the liberation of the Earth and the liberation of all species of the Earth is the goal of the ELF. I do not see the organization as simply an environmental group satisfied with the economic damages it inflicts and attention it draws from each of its individual actions.**

unnamed representative of an unnamed organization allegedly from the mainstream environmental movement. Among other less-interesting things, he said, "Violence, when used in this country, is simply wrong." I have found that a lot of the ideological basis for nonviolence in the US is fundamentally nationalist.

Why is it that when it comes to clearly violent struggle outside the borders of the US, such as that waged by the Zapatistas in Chiapas, Mexico, the majority of liberals are quick to lend their ideological support, while those same liberals adamantly condemn the actions of the ELF and ALF here within the borders of such a powerful and oppressive government? I believe this is because they have been brainwashed by the system into buying the line that within US borders somehow revolutionary change can magically be achieved through reformist activity. I think we need to wake up and realize that the US is a global power, force-feeding its suicidal capitalist American Dream down the throats of everyone on the face of the planet. Revolutionary change has never been achieved through reformist activity and is certainly not going to be handed to us on a silver platter by the US government.

I have also found that almost all of the popular cheerleaders of nonviolence are/were strongly religious people who endorsed the tactic because of their religious beliefs, not necessarily because of its effectiveness in bringing about revolutionary change. Recognizing the connection of nonviolence to religion was important to me, because it helped me realize the larger intentions of the philosophy.

The belief that one species, the human race, can somehow live an entirely nonviolent existence on this planet, when it is perfectly clear that no species throughout all of nature is capable of this, is blatantly anthropocentric. The belief that humans are separate and somehow exempt

from the laws of nature is a major cause of the disastrous imbalance that our species now suffers from.

Often it seems that blind adherence to nonviolence philosophy is based on a reactionary denial of the level of resistance that it'll take to bring about revolutionary change. When many begin to comprehend the level of oppression we face today, nonviolence philosophy gains appeal as a very comfortable heaven/fairyland where liberation can be achieved strictly through personal changes. I consider this state of denial a kind of psychological illness common among liberal North Americans. I strongly feel that anyone hypnotizing the people with the nonviolence-as-gospel dog-and-pony show is a criminal, disarming us in a time when we desperately need to defend ourselves.

This denial of what really needs to happen to liberate the Earth and ourselves from the deadly path that the system is leading us all down is a major factor in our inability to achieve that liberation. The outright condemnation of violent revolutionary action in America needs to come to an end before a true revolution can effectively take place. The system knows this, and its pigs are working

harder than ever to brainwash the public by calling the ELF "terrorists" and the Pentagon a "force for freedom."

More than anything, I simply recognize the right and, at times, the necessity and duty of all people to defend ourselves when taking a beating, to fight for our very lives. This right is not only extended to those being crushed by the hands of this beast, but also to those of us being digested in its belly.

In addition to the nonviolence issue, I do not believe that the actions of the ELF are strictly environmental in their scope. It has probably already become clear that I recognize the actions of the ELF as acts of revolution, not reform. I have attempted to express this in every piece of literature, interview, public presentation and conversation that has occurred as a result of my participation in the NAELFPO—and increasingly so in recent months.

I cannot perceive the Earth without conjuring up images of all life taking root within this atmosphere. The liberation of the Earth equals the liberation of every one of us. And as I see it, the liberation of the Earth and the liberation of all species of the Earth is the goal of the ELF. I do not see the organization as simply an environmental group satisfied with the economic damages it inflicts and attention it draws from each of its individual actions. I do not see the ELF only caring about the oppression caused by Vail Resorts, Inc. and Boise Cascade. These are just platforms for a much larger message to get out on a global scale, and that message is, "We're not taking anymore." I see the objectives of any revolutionary movement for liberation being to off the oppressor, to smash the system of oppression and to create a free and just society in its place. I see no exception to this in the case of the ELF, and I certainly do not hope that I am wrong.

Currently, the FBI considers the ELF and the ALF the "number one priority" among domestic terrorist threats. This is nothing new, the same thing has been said about

revolutionary organizations in the past that the system perceived as a threat. This is, however, a noteworthy point in the struggle for liberation: It is recognition from the oppressor. The system does perceive this movement as a threat and is using an increasing amount of its resources to stomp it out. This is a point at which the struggle needs to evolve in order to survive, so as not to suffer the same fate as revolutionary struggles of previous generations.

This system has clearly proven itself to value its "progress" above and beyond anyone and anything. It represents a pursuit of profits and property at the expense of the people, the natural elements of the Earth that sustain our lives and of the planet as a whole. This "American Dream" is a death wish, and we cannot allow it to nail our coffins shut.

The struggle must constantly assess and reassess the oppressor and the oppressor's perception of the struggle. New tactical directions must evolve with these assessments. I, for one, have begun to question the power and use of any official press office for an autonomous organization or movement. If the purpose of a press office is to draw much needed attention to a movement, then is there a point at which that press office is no longer needed or practical? Where is the point at which, within the context of an existing movement, the direct actions of the movement are able to speak for themselves?

I recognize that all forms of institutional oppression flow from the same source, the institution, the system that dictates nearly every facet of our lives under its twisted objectives. Therefore, I am not an environmentalist, I am not an activist, I'm not a reformist nor any form of liberal. I am a revolutionary. I advocate the return of all power to the hands of the people by any means necessary on a global scale. I see anything short of this as failure and as disastrous. And I'm not about to deny this reality because of any existing atmosphere of opinion within the popular liberal environmental movement. To deny this reality is to limit the ability of this movement to evolve into one that truly has the capacity to achieve the objective of liberation.

Arguing for a nonviolent, single-issue revolution has placed us in a position of hypocrisy and has allowed us to be backed into corners with our arguments. I believe that the movement hasn't gained the public support that it needs to be successful because the intelligent public can see these glaring holes in our arguments. I have found that public opinion is not as the media represents it, and it is far from what liberals perceive it to be. I recognize that the only way to build a successful revolutionary movement is to present a sound and powerful argument, backed up by effective action. I believe that once this movement is presented to the oppressed peoples of the Earth, public support will be powerfully behind it.

Nonviolence, economic sabotage and armed propaganda are tactics, not strategies, not gospel and certainly not the only effective actions to be

taken as part of a successful revolutionary movement. Like the tools of a toolbox, each has a specific use and specific results. Depending on the job you have, you choose a tool (or a set of tools) from your toolbox. You don't choose only the tools that fit most comfortably in your hand or that are the prettiest, you choose the ones that'll get the job done. Sometimes these tools do fit comfortably in your hands, but most of the time they give you blisters. No matter what though, at the end of the day, the objective is always to have the job completed. It's idiotic to shun the sledge hammer when you're working to knock down a wall.

Our arguments and actions need to be sound, thorough and brutally honest. We need to awaken from our coma and struggle for a realistic, not utopian, solution. No matter how uncomfortable this may seem to many of us, it's nothing compared to what will happen if we don't and what is happening already.

Long live the Earth Liberation Front! Long Live the Animal Liberation Front! Down with this insane system that plagues the Earth and its peoples! Revolution is liberation!

With this statement I officially resign from my role with the NAELFPO, but I am by no means silencing myself. I intend to continue with increasing effort to struggle for revolutionary change without being bound to any dogmatic atmospheres of opinions. I encourage and welcome communication of any kind and can be reached at [no-one@tao.ca](mailto:no-one@tao.ca).



The Buck Stops Here

# Earth First! Takes the FBI to Court

continued

continued from page 9

When the jury went to see Judi's bombed Subaru for themselves, it was clear where the hole created by the explosion was. The hole is huge and ragged, and the roof bows up to the sky above it. It was chilling to see it up close—it was also the first time Judi's daughter Lisa had seen it. After the field trip to the car, the intact back seat was brought into the courtroom—even the upholstery was in amazingly good shape after 12 years. Lamely, Doyle pointed to a discoloration in the foam, as if it could

support his contention at the scene that the bomb was in the back seat.

Other physical evidence included the front seat with the bottom part blown away, and the exploded pipe itself.

## Activists on the Stand

During my time on the witness stand during the second day of trial, the *EF! Journal* popped up in cross-examination several times, including a 1990 "Ned Ludd" column, along with numerous tree spiking questions. We also called as witnesses Betty and Gary Ball of the Mendocino Environ-

mental Center, Shannon Marr of Seeds of Peace, activist banjo player George Shook, the inimitable Utah Phillips and several other activists.

The highlight of the trial, however, was Judi's testimony, videotaped five weeks before she died of breast cancer in March 1997. Judi came to realize she would not be around in the flesh for the case she had spent the last seven years of her life working on, so she ensured her voice would be in court. Incredibly, the OPD and FBI attorneys present for the sworn deposition declined to ask her any questions, although they objected to nearly every response to plaintiff attorney questions. With the objections edited out, an hour and a half of six hours of testimony was played for the jurors.

Her testimony was hugely poignant, despite the tragic irony that her presence was limited to this one videotape. Even on tape, hers was the most compelling argument the court heard about the damage done by the smear campaign and civil rights violations. She offered as her first memory upon groggily waking—after hours of surgery on her shattered pelvis—that of two uniformed police at her bedside informing her she was under arrest for transport of explosives. That followed her description of the horror of the explosion itself and the pain so severe that she invited death. There were not many dry eyes in the courtroom as she told of being terrified of another attack as she lay immobilized by traction devices, and the additional terror she felt at the prospect of being framed for this violent crime, fearing "spending my children's childhood in prison and not being able to raise them." Many of the actual threats were shown to the jury, including the "Welcome Mississippi Summer" flyer with the drawing of a noose; the Stompers flyer saying, "If you want to be a martyr, we will be happy to oblige;" the rifle cross-hairs superimposed on Judi's face flyer; and the homophobic letter from the "Committee for the death of Earth First!."

With so much testimony the previous weeks about various pieces of

## PACIFIC LUMBER CEO CALLS FOR HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDS

In an April 23 address to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, Pacific Lumber (PL) President and CEO Robert Manne further fanned the flames of terrorist hysteria by warning that Internet information, as well as the presence of four new treesits on PL land, heralds an upcoming Summer of "possible confrontation and controversy" between his company and "those who oppose the cutting of any timber any place for any reason, radical groups such as Earth First!."

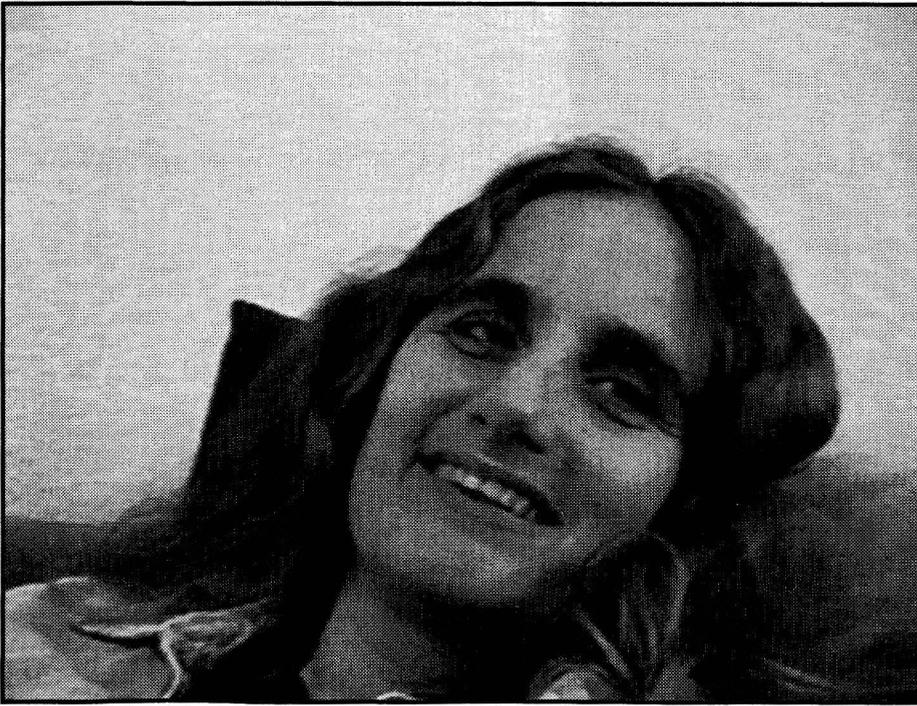
After a long, rambling speech which applauded PL's achievement of "economic and environmental sustainability" and exploited the murder of David Chain as the result of the "dangerous mix of illegal protest and legal harvesting." Manne closed by claiming that PL's critics "boldly proclaim themselves to be ecoterrorists." He strongly urged that the members of the board contact their congressional representatives to "ask if Tom Ridge's new Homeland Security Budget cannot be a source of revenue support which will minimize the impacts on this county's already strapped budget."

North Coast EF!ers (NCEF!)

immediately expressed outrage, stating that "such accusations are being raised as an attempt to obscure the actual harm that Pacific Lumber is causing the forests, watersheds and communities of California's North Coast."

A press release issued the following day reaffirmed NCEF!'s adherence to a strict code of nonviolence. Organizer Josh Brown declared, "North Coast Earth First! has an impeccable 15-year record of nonviolence. In fact, those who have committed violence have been employees of MAXXAM/Pacific Lumber and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department." Responding to PL's labeling of nonviolent activists as terrorists, NCEF! activist Sara March said, "It is a despicable exploitation of tragedy to try to make a comparison between those who would take thousands of human lives and individuals sitting peacefully in trees."

The press release goes on to say that "NCEF! has gone to great lengths to promote a sustainable timber industry, whereas PL's consistent policy of over-cutting without regard for its neighbors, employees or ecosystems has resulted in the loss of jobs and massive watershed destruction."



video still by K. Rudin

The highlight of the trial was Judi's testimony, videotaped five weeks prior to her death in 1997.

this complex puzzle, Judi's testimony brought it all together. She laid out what this case is all about: that the FBI's and OPD's baseless accusations and refusal to investigate were politically motivated, and that their agenda was to portray us as terrorists, to falsely associate us with bombs and to undermine and neutralize our political agenda and organizing work. She also made the point that to this day, despite the fact that charges were ultimately not filed in the case, people still think of Earth First! as terrorists and still see her as the person who blew herself up with her own bomb. Our enemies in law enforcement understand very well the power and compliance of the media.

Judi's daughter, Lisa, who was nine years old in 1990, took the stand to relate how her family was affected. Though she was shielded from much of the agony, she said she was "harassed about it all the time" at school. This bright and wry 21-year-old is a strong reflection of her mother.

Folksinger and political commentator Utah Phillips brought much-needed humor to the courtroom, even evoking a qualification to an FBI objection. The FBI attorney spouted "Objection—witness is narrating... not that we don't enjoy it..." But Phillips' satirical comments were the lighter side of his testimony that he had come to Judi's home two days

before the bombing to talk about the difficulty in waging an expressly non-violent campaign of mass civil disobedience in the heated landscape of Northern California's timber country. He explained that he became convinced, after hearing the rationales and plans, that we had a sound strategy.

Cecelia Lanman, longtime forest activist and an author of the 1990 Forests Forever initiative—Proposition 130—which crashed to defeat by a tiny margin after an aggressive campaign branded it the "Earth First! initiative," testified that the association with bombs not only scared voters away, but "shattered" the coalition between Northcoast grassroots groups and mainstream organizations.

Darryl spent four hours on the stand in the fifth week of the trial. He had a lot to answer for: the infamous *60 Minutes* quote ("If I had a fatal disease, I would strap dynamite to myself and take out the Glen Canyon Dam..."), the Earth Night poster (graphic from the book *Ecodefense*, urging "Go out and do something for the Earth... at night..."), his album covers (cartoons depicting downing of powerlines and burning bulldozers) and his hilarious song, "Spike a Tree for Jesus," which he sang under oath. How this musical interlude came to be was that Sher used several of Darryl's songs to illustrate his advocacy of monkeywrenching, including "Ballad of the Lonesome Tree Spiker" and "This Monkeywrench of Mine (I'm Gonna Let it Shine)." Darryl

*continued on next page*

## Cop Talk



courtroom drawing by K. Rudin

OPD Lt. Mike Sims (center) is questioned by Tony Serra, attorney for the plaintiffs.

BY UNCLE RAMON

Cop talk. It was all cop talk. So, here are those things you need to know...

A) It wasn't a bomb; it was a "potentially explosive device."

B) A maimed Judi Bari wasn't pried out of her mangled Subaru, a cop "initiated extrication procedures."

C) And FBI agents aren't "Agents;" they're "Special Agents." All of them. Apparently there are no "regular" agents or, presumably, any "Really-

Super-Extra-Special" ones either.

Finally, someone should have kept score on the number of times the defendants said "I don't recall," "I can't remember" or when vexed, "I really don't remember!" The best was saved for last when one blurted that, "I can hardly be expected to remember the entire panoply of events that occurred 12 years ago!" *Panoply?* Typical cop; if you can't add an extra word or three, at least add an unnecessary syllable.



FBI attorney Joseph Sher (standing) confronts the plaintiffs' legal team.

had wanted to sing part of his testimony to contextualize the irreverent political humor being brought before the jury out of context, but was monkeywrenched himself when his choices were limited to those three songs. So, the inflammatory "Spike a Tree" it was. Most jurors looked perplexed; two let small smiles escape.

Maria Bee, Oakland's sharp and elegant African-American attorney threw Darryl a zinger, pointing to the modeling of Redwood Summer after Mississippi Summer and the civil rights movement. She challenged, "You're not equating the destruction of the trees to the injustices done to Black people in the South, are you?" As the several people of color on the jury listened intently, Darryl gave his most cogent response, explaining that we sought to honor the civil rights struggle by striving to use similar tactics, ending with a biocentric spin about equal rights for all species. Bee pressed on during closing arguments, "How dare they compare themselves to those engaged in the civil rights struggle... What about the [fire]hoses, the German shepherds?... It's a charade."

Some of the most compelling testimony the jury heard during the closing week was the collection of media clips from the weeks after the bombing. The media had dutifully repeated the false accusations about terrorism, matching nails and the bomb location. Watching a sampling of the chronological clips was to witness the unfolding of an effective disinformation campaign.

### Other Witnesses

We had dueling doctors, as well as dueling bomb experts. We heard an excruciatingly detailed account of Judi's injuries, describing a pelvis broken so severely that some bones were broken "into hundreds of pieces—too many to count," supported by X-rays displayed on a big screen for the jury from Dr. Peter Slabaugh, Judi's attending physician on May 24, 1990. Though he treated Judi, he was never consulted by

the FBI's "medical expert" who offered his opinion about the location of the bomb after looking at only some of the X-rays. Just like the "biostitutes"—wild-life biologists who testify for timber companies—the feds had their medical "expert" prostitute (meaning no insult to those in the sex industry), served up at \$500 an hour at taxpayers' expense. It was enraging and painful to listen to this arrogant bastard who will be pocketing about \$10,000 for his testimony, discuss Judi's internal organs and external body parts in such an intimate way. He earned his fee by concluding that the bomb was in the back seat, as the feds asked him to do. In a surprise that sent chills down the spine of those of us in the audience (and likely the jury—particularly the women), attorney Bob Bloom displayed the shredded blue jeans Judi was wearing on May 24, while the doctor was on the stand blithely opining about the bomb being behind her.

After nearly six weeks, closing arguments were delayed by qualified immunity arguments coming back before the court. Qualified immunity is the vehicle whereby law enforcement personnel are relieved of responsibility for their actions, and those arguments have been argued, decided, appealed and argued again countless times in the past 11 years. Incredibly, they were back at the 11th hour and Judge Wilkin dismissed two FBI agents from the case—so on the final day, the defendants decreased from nine to seven.

Even the deliberation process was dramatic. The jury's first request was for the text of the First and Fourth amendments of the Constitution, to which the government objected.

### Memorable Quotes from the Trial

- "If I knew then what I know now, I would have said, 'I don't recall.'"—Frank Doyle, FBI
- "Isn't it true, Ms. Pickett, that in the *Earth First! Journal* on the music page, there is a picture of a large rodent playing a monkeywrench?"—Dennis Barghaan, FBI counsel
- "I have no recollection of anything I authored."—Phil Sena, FBI special agent
- "If I had to investigate every group in California that threatened violence, I'd have to investigate the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, the Sierra Club..."—*ibid.*
- "The horses would have fit right in."—Lisa Bari, when asked by FBI counsel if it couldn't have been the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that searched her house and demolished the interior.
- "I do not recall."—Sena, Doyle, Chenault, Sims, Riekes—oh heck, *all* the defendants, repeatedly
- "...Shitterud..." (combo Chenault and Sitterud)—Bob Bloom, EF! counsel

Wilkin then read the text of the amendments to the jury. Then, when our long-planned "Fiddle Down the FBI" rally marking the 12th anniversary of the bombing brought hundreds to the courthouse plaza, the FBI filed a motion to dismiss the whole case, charging that the departing jury was prejudiced by hearing Serra tell the assembled crowd to "pray for the jury... that they can come to an objective decision."

At print time, the jury in the *Judi Bari vs FBI* trial wrapped up its 11th day of deliberation without rendering a verdict. The outcome of this trial is hugely important, particularly in light of the current moves to expand the power and privileges of the FBI. It is likely that had the new FBI guidelines been imposed a decade ago, this lawsuit would not be possible. As important as the verdict is, as we sit on the edge of our seats waiting for it, it is the whole process that is so very important.

The fact that these FBI agents and Oakland cops were being held accountable, were being questioned on the stand by activist attorneys, were questioned at their depositions by Judi Bari herself, were having to answer the pointed questions and explain before the wide eyes of

the jury the contradictions in their testimony is a victory. It is a victory that many who have previously been knocked around by FBI heavy-handed tactics have been unable to achieve, since most legal challenges are swept away by their immunity protections and the conservatism of the courts. It is why I didn't want to miss a moment of the courtroom drama, and it felt like history being made—before the verdict. And it is why this case, as Judi always said, is not just about her, or Earth First!, but it is about the American Indian Movement, the Black Panthers, the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, the Puerto Rican Independentistas, the Wobblies, Leonard Peltier—in fact, all revolutionaries, activists and freedom-loving people.

To find out the verdict, which will undoubtedly come soon, call (510) 848-8724, (707) 923-4949 or visit [www.judibari.org](http://www.judibari.org).

*Karen Pickett is a long-time Earth First! organizer in California and was about as close to the car bomb explosion in 1990 as she could have been without being in the car. She is undergoing procedures to remove lies, slime and bugging devices from her brain after attending this trial.*

## NCEF! Takes to the Trees Again

Freshwater Creek, a 20,000-acre tributary to Humboldt Bay near Arcata, California, has received more than its share of abuse from Pacific Lumber Company (PL) during the last 14 years. PL owns more than 75 percent of the watershed, and since 1987 it has logged roughly half of those holdings. This logging blitzkrieg has radically increased sedimentation in the lower reaches of the river, filling Humboldt Bay with mud. Stripping the forest canopy has reduced the ability of the watershed to filter rainfall and buffer the effects of large storms. The result has been increased flooding with higher and more rapid peak flows, as well as degradation of fish habitat. In fact, recent reviews by federal scientists suggest that five-year floods now happen in Freshwater Creek every two years. Studies by the US Forest Service's Redwood Science Lab calculated that if all logging was immediately suspended, it would take 13 years for the watershed to recover to a mature condition. Yet the Department of Forestry plans to allow PL to log 500 acres per year, and it projects the recovery rate to be less than one percent annually.

That's why North Coast Earth First! and the Natural Guard have taken to the trees in the Freshwater watershed again. Two new treesits have been created: one in a tree named Everlasting Life and another one in a nearby tree named Jerry—the usnea lichen also known as "old man's beard" reminded a climber of Jerry Garcia. Remedy, who sits in Jerry, has remarked that, "I am sitting in a tree that is older than capitalism, it does not deserve to be cut for corporate profits." Another treesitter, Raven, recently left his perch in the tree named Zen at Grizzly Creek to make room for the marbled murrelet, an endangered seabird that nests in old-growth forests in the Summer.

The Freshwater treesits are near the local Greenwood Heights road thus enabling support from nearby residents. There is a rumor going around that PL may have

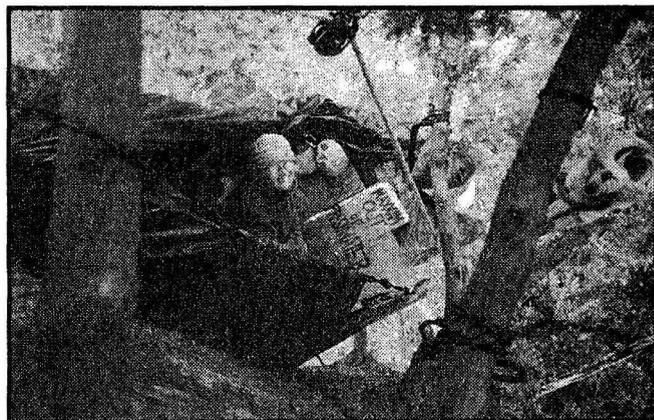


photo courtesy NCEF!

*Kickin' it, high in the trees of the North Coast*

logged its limit this year, but both treesitters report hearing chainsaws and trees falling in the distance. The Freshwater area was also the site of the more than two-year treesit by Nate Madsen in a 1,000-year-old redwood tree named "Mariah" (see *EF!* March-April 2000). Local support and persistence paid off, as he waited until the Timber Harvest Plan (THP) expired in April 2001, and Mariah was taken off the chopping block—hopefully for good.

At the site of the Gypsy Mountain campaign in nearby Grizzly Creek south of Fortuna, (see *EF!* March-April 2002), the treesit in Aradia is going strong. Activists there are seeking more committed long-term treesitters like Remedy and Raven. There is also support needed in the Mattole, as more THP's are approved and dry weather approaches.

If the Heritage Tree Preservation Act passes in California in November, old-growth trees like the ones occupied by Remedy and Raven will be protected. To help with this initiative, contact (213) 484-4474; [www.ancienttrees.org](http://www.ancienttrees.org). To support the Freshwater and Gypsy Mountain treesits contact North Coast Earth First!, (707) 825-6598.

# Lord of Machines

...continued



artwork by John Beske

*Every tree has its enemy, few have an advocate.*

here that we are introduced to the Ent known as Treebeard and his army of vengeful trees. Tolkien loved trees, and he was upset with their destruction most of all: "The savage sound of the electric saw is never silent wherever trees are still found growing. Every tree has its enemy, few have an advocate. In all my works, I take the part of trees as against all their enemies."

Indeed, it would seem that this would be a good time for activists in the service of trees to make themselves known. Earth First!ers discussed this very idea at this year's Organizers' Conference. Be on the look out for Middle Earth First!ers defending a forest near you. Harnessing Treebeard's popularity for saving wilderness is something that would have most assuredly made Tolkien smile.

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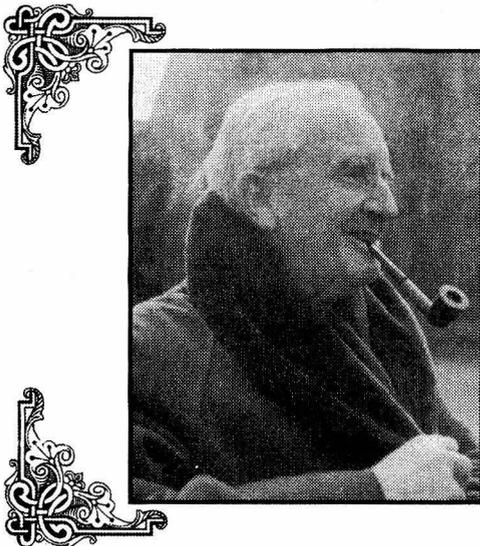
## Middle Earth First!

Today the success of the movie version of *The Lord of the Rings* continues to extend the reach of Tolkien's mythology. Galadriel, the elf queen of Lothlorien, sums up his message when she tells the Hobbit Frodo that, "Even the smallest person can change the course of the future." Cate Blanchett, who plays Galadriel in the film, comments on her character's purpose: "She's handing on the torch to humankind, she's challenging the viewers to say what are you going to do with the Earth, we've had this paradise, so now you men—you humankind—have the responsibility of the Earth."

*The Two Towers*, the second part of *The Lord of the Rings*, is due out in theaters around the world in December. Anyone who recalls the story will remember that it is

As Tolkien saw it—it's the trees and the rest of us versus the machines. "All this stuff is mainly concerned with the fall, mortality and the machine. By the machine, I intend all use of external devices or even the use of inherent inner powers, with the corrupted motive of dominating and bulldozing the real world. The machine is our more obvious modern form. The enemy in successive forms is always concerned with sheer domination, and so the Lord of Machines... As the servants of the machines are becoming a privileged class, the machines are going to be enormously more powerful. What's their next move?"

James Bell is a writer for Sustain, [www.sustain.info](http://www.sustain.info), a non-profit environmental communications firm. He recently launched [www.LastWizards.com](http://www.LastWizards.com), where one can find essays and interviews on eco-defense, culture jamming and occult philosophy.



My political opinions lean more and more to anarchy (philosophically understood, meaning abolition of control not whiskered men with bombs)... There is only one bright spot and that is the growing habit of disgruntled men of dynamiting factories and power stations.

—J.R.R. Tolkien

# ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD

## Turkey Attacks Movies at Video Store

When Nancy Arena arrived at her video store 30 miles east of Buffalo, New York, in mid-April, she found the front window smashed and feathers and movie cases scattered everywhere.

A police officer called to the scene discovered the culprit, a 12-pound tom turkey, wandering in the science fiction section.

Arena says the episode "was kind of weird" because the turkey bashed into the hunting videos first—and left some droppings on them.

## Never Mind the Bollocks, Here's Sue Wooldridge...

When Sue Ellen Wooldridge, a lawyer from the California attorney general's office, was appointed to the post of deputy chief of staff for Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, she had so little experience with Department of the Interior issues that she had to look up the website to see what the job responsibilities would be.

But in early May, when discussing her qualifications for the job, Wooldridge told 200 federal wildlife biologists, enviros and others gathered in Scottsdale, Arizona, that she was the only appointee who had ever castrated a sheep—with her teeth.

Wooldridge, who grew up on a farm north of Sacramento, said that the "bite-them-off method" was a common way in her area to castrate lambs every Spring.

"It does not appear to be particularly painful for the lambs," she said, adding that afterward, "You spit it out into a bucket and then someone will roll it in flour, and usually someone will cook them up to be eaten."

## Utility Buys Town to Avoid Lawsuits

Two years after the Environmental Protection Agency accused an American Electric Power plant in Cheshire, Ohio, of violating the Clean Air Act, the company is solving at least some of its problems by buying the town for \$20 million.

The General James M. Gavin Power Plant has two of the world's largest coal-fired generating units and burns 25,000 tons of coal per day. Its two 830-foot stacks periodically belch out a blue plume that leaves townspeople complaining of raspy throats, burning eyes, sore lips, mouth blisters and grime everywhere.

During the next few months, all 221 residents of Cheshire will pack up and leave. The 90 homeowners there will get checks for about three times the value of their houses, and in return, they have signed pledges never to sue the power company for property damage or health problems.

The deal, announced April 16, is believed to be the first by a company to dissolve an entire town to avoid the considerable expense and public-relations mess of individual lawsuits.

## Coming to a Supermarket Near You: It's Monster, the Featherless Frankenfowl

In their ever-expanding search for profitable designer animals, scientists have now come up with a chicken that never needs to be plucked. The new featherless, red-skinned "bird" is designed to grow faster and contains less fat than normal chickens.

This genetically modified monstrosity—the first of which was aptly named "Monster"—was created by Israeli genetics expert Avigdor Cahaner of the Rehovot Institute near Tel Aviv. He said it would grow faster in hot weather because it was not prone to overheating like



normal chickens, whose growth rate drops when they get too warm.

He also claims the birds produce leaner meat because a lack of feathers means less subcutaneous fat, and, "Farming them would be less damaging to the environment, because poultry farmers would not have to use ventilation to prevent chickens from overheating."

## Elephants Bite Back

On June 1, an Indonesian worker was trampled to death by five elephants. One of the elephants used its trunk to drag 23-year-old Sharifuddin Ghani from his home before the herd trampled him at a Malaysian oil-palm plantation in Temerloh.

Ghani, who worked at the plantation, died soon after arriving at a hospital.

Police said the elephants also tried to attack neighbors, but they escaped. The animals ran off into the nearby jungle.

# Exploring the Culture of Make

*continued from page 15*

have copper wire, which means you've got to have mining which means you've got to have the infrastructure. You can't separate one piece of technology and hope that things are going to work.

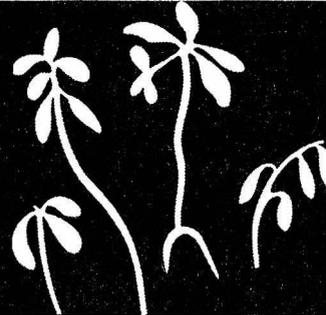
I ask people all over the country—and I think this a really important thing—if they think we are going to undergo a voluntary transition to a sustainable way of living, and everybody laughs. I had one person raise his hand and say “yes” and everybody looked at him, and he said, “Oh, voluntary? Of course not.”

It would be so wonderful if we weren't crazy and if we could actually try for some sort of soft crash. Yes, we'll be at the Stone Age, but we could sort of throttle down and come for a soft landing where we do things smart.

That's one of the things that's really central to my work. Most of the individuals in our culture are crazy, and the culture as a whole is certainly crazy.

One of the theses of *A Language Older Than Words* is that we have an entire culture suffering from complex post-traumatic stress disorder. We're incapable of forming relationships on both personal and social levels. If you've been traumatized, you come to believe that you've got to control your surroundings. You come to

**We have an entire culture suffering from complex post-traumatic stress disorder. If you've been traumatized, you come to believe that you've got to control your surroundings.**



“OK, talk to you later.” There is not enough time for me to waste. I'll present my position, and if they don't agree then that's fine.

One thing that I feel very strongly about is to approach people where they are. You can always find an angle. It's like a friend of mine says, “A lot of environmentalists begin by wanting to protect a piece of ground, and they end up questioning the foundations of Western civilization.” But it's not true that that is the only place you can start. You end up at the same place by asking the questions deeper and deeper. If you start questioning race issues you come down to the same place.

One of the reasons I ended up questioning the foundations of Western civilization was my father—if his violent behavior wasn't making him happy, why was he doing it? But another part of it was that I didn't want to enter the wage economy. I would go to a job I hated every day, and I would see my dogs lying on the grass. I'd come home from a job I hated, and they were still lying on the grass. I realized then that the entire reason for evolution was collies. They're the apex. I recognize that evolution is not hierarchical, but that's the apex. We all think that we're the top, but we're miserable. Ninety percent of the people I ask say they hate their jobs. That's

a perfectly appropriate way to dive in, to say, “OK, so why do we have to have jobs? Why do we have to have a situation where so few people control so much land?” You find out where people's concerns are, and then you see if you can relate the question of civilization to their concerns.

When they finally get the big picture, that the Stone Age is the only sustainable endpoint, the implications seem so overwhelming to most people that they seem to have a hard time coping. They just want to shut that off right away as some sort of wild-eyed, ridiculous fantasy. It's not that they don't agree with the logic that got them there, it's just that they can't handle the implications.

Well it's really hard to take in. I certainly sympathize with that position. The implications are huge. It's 6,000 years of history. It's big.

We're painted into a hell of a corner, and I don't see any good options. If I saw good options, I would take them. That's what a lot of the Europeans that came over here did. They saw the good option and became “Indians.” That's really not an option anymore.

It takes big people to admit that we made big, big mistakes and to try to set them right.

TR: *One of the high points of the book seems to be the realization that our collective liberal dream—that we would*

believe that all relationships are based on power, based on atomized individuals acting selfishly, as our economics would have us believe. Our culture has a fundamental death urge, and unless it's stopped its going to kill everything on the planet.

It would be wonderful if everyone was acting reasonably. If suddenly everyone woke up, we could throttle down and realize that instead of giving money to timber companies to cut down forests, we could give money to timber companies to reforest. Sure, but it ain't gonna happen.

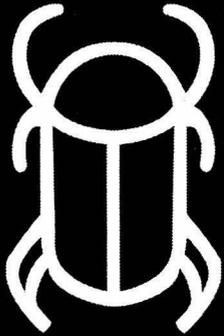
I certainly fantasize about a soft landing, but I think we need to face what's going on. We need to look at history. What happens to communities that live sustainably? They get destroyed every single time by the dominant culture.

TR: *With such a huge concept to relate to people, what advice do you have about how we can articulate this and bring it home to the much wider audience that needs to hear it?*

DJ: I don't believe in arguing with people. If somebody says, “You know what? You are full of shit.” Then I say,

# Believe with Derrick Jensen

## continued



**I have a friend whose brother demolishes buildings. One of the things he says is that when you take down a building you try to put the charges in just the right place to avoid taking down the surroundings. I think that's a wonderful metaphor. We need to figure out where the charges go to take down a place.**

*be able to make some adjustments here, better laws there, enforce them differently, and all of a sudden we have a healthy, happy, sustainable Earth free from genocide, slavery and rape—is completely ridiculous. Trying to work with that point and with the paradox that life is still good, how do we begin to take on dealing with things as particulars? What's the direction or the process that allows us to actually start bringing this down?*

DJ: When I ask how many people believe we are going to undergo a voluntary transformation and nobody ever answers yes, the next question should be, "What does that mean for our tactics?" The truth is we don't know because we don't talk about it. That's one of the things I want to do. We need to ask, "What do we want?" Do you want simply a place with fewer clearcuts, a place where the grizzly bears last another three generations before they go extinct? Do you want salmon to last another 20 years? Do you want to have three square feet of glaciers on the planet? What is it that you want? So one of the things I want to do is shift discourse.

The second thing of course is that I want to bring everything down. One of the things I think we need to realize is that the whole government-corporate entity, the whole culture, has been a culture of occupation. The first thing we need to do is to recognize and fully internalize the seriousness of the situation. Then we need to talk about it.

I think we need to talk our way through accepting that it needs to come down, and then we need to start making it happen. How do you do that? I don't know. I need to write my next book. I do know that I have a friend whose brother demolishes buildings. One of the things he says is that when you take down a building you try to put the charges in just the right place to avoid taking down the surroundings. I think that's a wonderful metaphor. I've got three metaphors for you here. That's the first one. We need to figure out where the charges go to take down a place.

Another one is Albert Speer, the armaments minister for the Third Reich, who said that the US carpet-bombing program of Germany in World War II was not as effective as it could have been because they didn't look

for bottlenecks. The example he gave is that they would blow up a tractor factory, which meant that they couldn't build tank engines. However, they didn't hit ball bearing plants, which would have meant that they couldn't have rebuilt the tractor factory. So I think we need to look for where the bottlenecks are in our culture, and we need to try and hit them.

The third thing is that every morning I wake up, and I ask myself whether I should write or blow up a dam. So in the next book I'm going to write about how to take out a dam or even whether it's a good idea. There have been some salmon activists who don't encourage anybody to do that, because there's so much silt behind that it will destroy the river below, scour it out. I was saying this on a radio program, and some guy called in. He said that the Toutle River near Mount St. Helens was not only scoured by silt, it boiled, but in 10 years it came back. I need to write about that.

It's a really important metaphor because no matter how you look at the future, it looks really bad. The options are that we continue with this destruction of the planet and the destruction of individual liberties, peoples and everything else. The people 50 years from now will say, "Where the hell are the salmon. I'm starving to death because you wanted cheap electricity for aluminum cans."

Another possibility is that we effect some sort of a breakdown which is going to be really nasty. There's no denying the fact that a breakdown of the US infrastructure will be unpleasant for many.

I used to have this metaphor: We're locked in a room with this psychopath, and what are we going to do? But I don't think that's accurate. I think it's much more accurate to say there are five or six of us locked in this room with about 15 psychopaths who have guns, and there are about 150 people who are asleep. What are you going to do? I don't know what to do, but that's the question.

The Culture of Make Believe, by Derrick Jensen, Context Books, 2002.

# Running on Emptiness

## A Book Review

BY MARCEL IDELS

Running on Emptiness: The Pathology of Civilization, by John Zerzan, Feral House Publishing, 2002, [www.feralhouse.com](http://www.feralhouse.com).

On the cover of *Running on Emptiness*, Derrick Jensen writes, "John Zerzan is the most important philosopher of our time. All the rest of us are building on his foundation—of unmaking civilization." Jensen's contribution to the book is a 27-page interview he did in 1998 where we get to know Zerzan the person in a relaxed conversational dialogue.

Zerzan has been a prolific writer on anarcho-primitivism, the problems of technology, the pathology of our modern culture and the Unabomber, Ted Kaczynski.

He spent 30 tumultuous years traversing radicalism in the US. Down and out for several years in the late '70s, Zerzan got back into writing when a friend told him, "I don't think the term revolution has meaning anymore."

*Running on Emptiness* is an accumulation of his talent and persistence. The world is catching up with Zerzan, and his writings assume new poignancy.

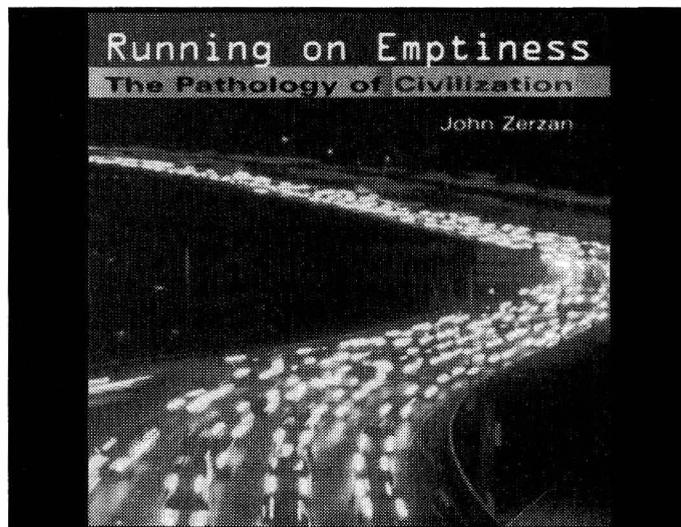
A tonic or a poison? Some of it is not easy reading. As Chellis Glendinning says, the book is "brilliant, stark, challenging, timely—a deliberate and delicious foreplay to nothing less than the erasure of civilization itself."

Whatever you think, you'll be impressed by the vast array of insight and reference that Zerzan uses to plow through chapters on "The Failure of Symbolic Logic and Thought," "Time and Its Discontents" (worth the price of the book alone), "Against Technology," "Why I Hate Star Trek" and "Who is Chomsky?" Anarchist disregard for democracy is held back until the final page of the book.

Zerzan argues that in understanding the primitive past we take the first step toward rejecting the pathological present and actualizing a future primitive. His main point is that humans lived pleasantly for a million years until they turned weird due to language, art, religion and agriculture.

Anarchist primitivist thought and action are intentionally provocative. Aspiring to inform and enlighten with regard to anthropological and archeological knowledge, the primary purpose is to exhort and incite revolutionary social change.

"I've thought a lot about how I can best serve—and I realize that at least part of



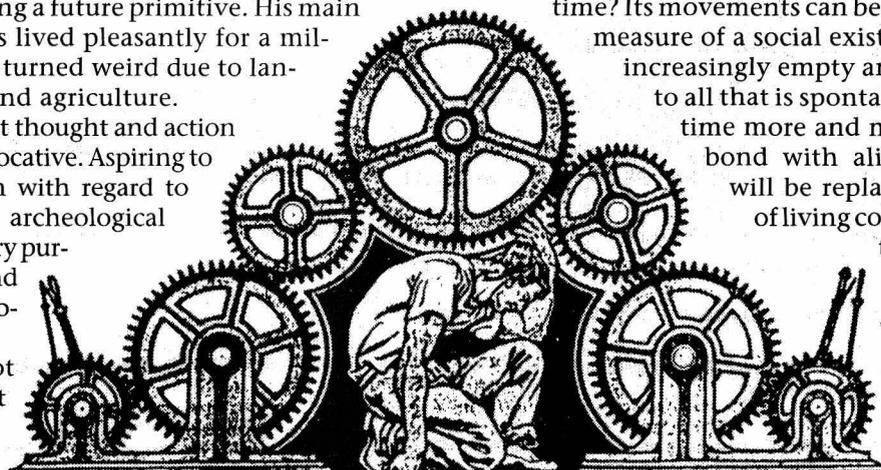
this answer is based on class privilege, on a wider set of options being open to me than to many others—but for right now I'm OK with my form of resistance, which is through cultural critique. For me, words are a better weapon to bring down the system than a gun would be," writes Zerzan.

He cites many useful examples of how language, shaman, memory and especially technology have driven us into alienation from one another, nature and ourselves. When we removed ourselves from direct experience of the sensual world through language, time and reification (ascribing thing-ness to everything—acts, thoughts, feelings), he says, "We became less stimulated by our senses. The symbols for reality triumphed over the reality of experience itself, and we now consume the image of 'living.' Life has passed into the stage of its representation, a spectacle."

Following Jean Jacques Rousseau and Paul Shepard, Zerzan argues that civilization and our disconnecting from nature retards the potential for human development and enlightenment. Not wholly a pessimist he writes, "Anti-civilization currents are growing in response to the psychic immiseration that envelops us. Thus symbolic life, the essence of civilization, comes under fire."

The chapter on time is mesmerizingly easy to read. At the end of the chapter he asks, "Can we put an end to time? Its movements can be seen as the master and measure of a social existence that has become increasingly empty and technicized. Averse to all that is spontaneous and immediate, time more and more clearly reveals its bond with alienation. Divided life will be replaced by the possibility of living completely and wholly—timelessly—only when we erase the primary causes of that division: civilization."

Zerzan begins his analysis of technology with its social implications: "I live in



Oregon, where the rate of suicide among teenagers has increased 600 percent since 1961." He writes, "I find it hard to see this as other than youth getting to the threshold of adulthood and society and looking out, and what do they see? They see this bereft place. We're seeing the crisis of our youth's inner nature, the prospects of complete dehumanization, linking up with the crisis of outer nature which is obviously ecological catastrophe... and it's so greatly urged along by the movement of technology."

Zerzan covers a wide array of history and subject matter. As you become familiar with his terminology, the reading gets easier, more compelling and draws one into reflection and discovery. These are the issues of our lives and times. And they are the issues that are so hard to find information on, so hard to talk to anyone about.

My question is: What good is it?

*Running on Emptiness* makes the possibility of real change seemingly impossible, since to get all the way to a non-symbolic world is far more difficult than to get to an ecologically sustainable world (be it socialist, agrar-

ian or post-apocalyptic). The goal of a primitive existence is ultimately worthy, but the goal is no more the tactic in this scenario than it is with recycling or food co-ops. Everywhere people hide in lifestyle delusions thinking that somehow the "big change" will happen everywhere peacefully, with little suffering and not much effort.

There is little in this book which is of use for the revolution that must happen. Nor is there enough on the transition to primitivism after the revolution—the period when armed masses could destroy the environment faster than industrialists did.

*A much longer version of this book review was originally published at [www.bluegreeneearth.com](http://www.bluegreeneearth.com).*

*Marcel Idels is a prolific, anonymous, pseudonymous writer on the topics that delineate cutting-edge radical warnings and prescriptions ranging from phony drug wars to the "Third Bush Coup" and the imminent military takeover of the world. He lives in northern California when not on a rescue mission against the lies of the Empire.*

## Primitivism—An Illusion with No Future

BY SNOWBALL

*Primitivism—An Illusion with No Future*, by Steve Booth, available for three dollars from *News from Nowhere*, POB 10384, Eugene, OR 97440.

*Primitivism—An Illusion with No Future* is part of a new critical look from anarchists on the ideas of primitivism.

Steve Booth has been involved with *Green Anarchist* projects since the early '90s and has written several other books, including *City Death*, *Even Eden* and *Into the '90s*. Booth was one of three writers involved with the *Green Anarchist* newspaper who was sent to prison for "conspiracy to incite persons unknown to criminal damage" during the infamous GAndALF trials in 1997.

Here he takes a look at what primitivism is and what a primitivist believes in, looking at their ideas on progress, their use of anthropology and the problems inherent in primitivist philosophy. Booth also looks at the Unabomber and the cult of personality surrounding Ted Kaczynski.

On the subject of primitivism's origins in modernism and post modernism Booth looks at its ideas of alienation and crisis, including Herbert Marcuse and his generally depressing look at the world. Booth also takes to task primitivism's lip service to the rejection of ideology in theory but not reality.

In "Twilight of the Idols," the author takes a very close look at the ideas of some of the more infamous writers on the subject. He examines John Zerzan's rejection of technology, language, art and symbols and its origins in the ideas of Marcuse. Then he turns his gaze on the Unabomber, and from there the views of John Moore and his move away from primitivism for his own ideas of anarcho-futurism.

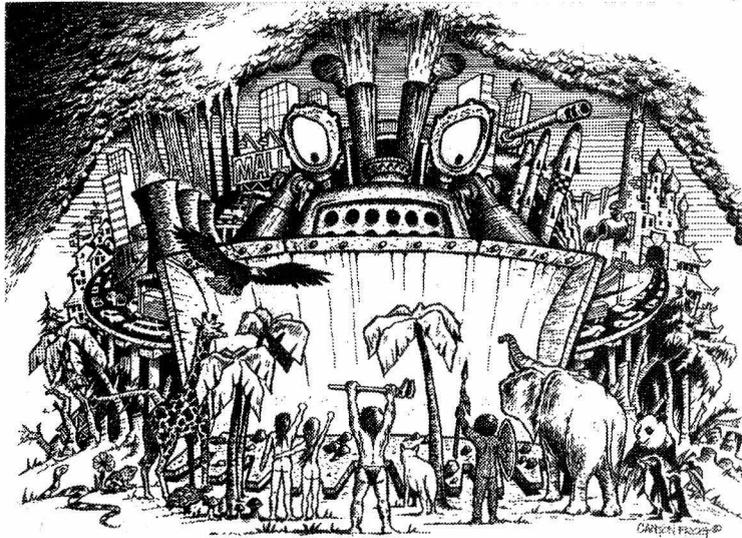
The chapter on the 10 principal themes of primitivism debunks some of the ideas such as civilization, anthropology, spirituality, mass society and leftism, zero work, technology and ideology.

Personally, I found this pamphlet very funny with its cartoons and Booth's style of writing. He makes many important points on the problems of primitivism, though I found some of the personal axe grinding a bit hard to take and rather unnecessary in this well-written and researched booklet.

This isn't going to put many people off their primitivist ideas, but I hope it will at least make

them think a little harder about what world they want to create. I'd recommend this booklet to anyone with an interest in the whole primitivist debate. It's important because it comes from a green anarchist and contains ideas that have too often been co-opted by primitivists.

*Snowball likes to garden and hates capitalism, misanthropy and identity pimps and is a green anarchist living somewhere in Cascadia.*



# COMPASSION IS A CRIME: FEDERAL GRAND JURY HARASSES ALLISON LANCE WATSON

BY ELLIOT GRASSLEY

Upon arriving in a California harbor on board the Sea Shepherd ship *Farley Mowat* on April 6, Allison Lance Watson was served with two subpoenas. The first ordered her to appear as a witness before a federal grand jury in Seattle, Washington, on April 17. The other subpoena ordered her to submit to fingerprinting.

Allison Lance Watson has been an outspoken activist for animals for many years—advocating the elimination of vivisection, opposing the fur trade and the abuse of animals. While the subject matter of this particular grand jury investigation has been kept a secret from Allison, she appears to be a target due to her political beliefs and activism.

Politically motivated grand juries have been used throughout US history to harass and intimidate social and political movements. Targets of grand jury repression include the Black Panther Party, American Indian Movement and the Puerto Rican Independence Movement, as well as the animal rights and environmental movements. Witnesses called to testify before federal grand juries do not have the right to legal counsel inside the proceedings nor the right to take the Fifth Amendment unchallenged. Witnesses who do rely upon their Fifth Amendment rights may be forced to take immunity, at which time they must answer all questions asked or be subject to imprisonment on contempt charges.

In the courtroom on April 17, Allison was served with a third grand jury subpoena which ordered her to provide a handwriting sample. Assistant US Attorney Susan Rowe informed Watson that since she had yet to retain counsel, her testimony in front of the grand jury would be delayed. Allison then hired Oregon attorney Stuart Sugarman to represent

her. Sugarman is the co-chair of the litigation committee for the Portland chapter of the National Lawyers Guild and a critic of the grand jury process. Recently, he successfully represented two other activists faced with grand jury subpoenas: Mary Fanelli and Craig Rosebraugh.

Allison returned to Seattle on April 25 as requested and was presented with yet another subpoena, which demanded that she return on May 8

who break environmental regulations and those who unlawfully abuse animals and ecosystems are ignored as the government targets peaceful opponents of these atrocities. This only makes sense if it is understood that these government agencies are representing not the people, not the environment and not the animals—but those who abuse the people, the animals and the environment. Compassion is a crime in a nation where profits dictate government action," stated Allison.

Her husband, Captain Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, believes that the only reason Allison is being harassed is because of the embarrassment that the opposition to the Makah whale hunt caused the government. He said, "They were very angry at not getting convictions on the charges against people for disrupting the slaughter of a whale. The publicity that this whale hunt generated was a real embarrassment for government agencies, especially the Coast Guard, National Marine Fisheries Service and the FBI. US Attorney Susan Rowe was directly involved in harassing those who opposed the whale killing."

Sugarman was able to negotiate a change of date and venue for Allison to give handwriting samples. She will provide the samples on May 30 in California, so she won't have to travel again to Seattle. After that, the

US Attorney does not plan to call her to testify, although the term of the grand jury investigation does not expire until next year. "This is just one more example of how the US government is abusing activists because they dare to speak out about what's right," said Sugarman.

Please send donations for Allison Lance Watson's legal defense to Stuart Sugarman, 3430 SE Belmont, Ste 101, Portland, OR 97214-4247.

*Elliot Grassley has followed grand jury harassment of activists for years from her forest lair in Cascadia.*



Allison Lance Watson

photo courtesy Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

for further handwriting tests. She did not appear before the grand jury that day; instead she provided a written statement saying that she was invoking her First and Fifth Amendment rights.

Allison refuses to accept that a grand jury should be allowed to question her without legal representation and without telling her the purpose. She did not know if she was the target of the grand jury, or if she was a witness in the investigation of another person. "In this country, terrorism against animals and against nature is escalating. Those

# Pushing Through the Pavement, Reaching for the Surface

## A VIEW FROM INSIDE

BY ANDREW STEPANIAN

I spent most of the morning curled over, sick to my stomach from last night's meal (or lack thereof) of pickled cabbage. Here in jail you lose many of the things you take for granted in the outside world. Here, happiness is as rare a commodity as natural light. To see the sky out of the jail's west window you must kneel down and look up past five stories of concrete before you can get a glimpse of blue. In here you cannot see any vegetation—no trees, no flowers, no grass—just concrete, steel and the 50 or so heartbroken men that inhabit this unit.

I write this as a prisoner to my convictions—my personal ideological convictions, not my criminal convictions. My charge of Obstruction of Governmental Administration is a charge that almost never carries a jail sentence and is an amorphous charge given to political protesters when other charges cannot fit the prosecutable jigsaw puzzle. Upon my sentencing, I was told by the judge that I participate in a level of activism not welcomed in our society, and due to this participation, particularly in the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) campaign, I was given the maximum sentence.

It is very hard to write this statement to my sisters and brothers in the struggle for liberation and not feel heartbroken. In writing this I have to rehash many moments I have tried hard to repress, particularly being beaten and hospitalized at the hands of detectives Rotherwill and Barrone of the Garden City Police. My stomach sours when I think that it is I, and not they, who sits in jail. At times I question my optimism, question if in fact I can take any more of this. I question if my spirit and mind have the strength to keep

pushing the envelope, and each day my questions have answers. Those answers are always yes!

Today's answer came as I looked out that same west window at the gray and black macadam and blacktop. The gray has been interrupted with a spot of green. With a closer look, I can see that a dandelion has pushed its way upward through some six inches of pavement to greet the surface.

Dandelions and weeds have been labeled the vermin of plant species, much like mice and other rodents have been labeled among animal species. Perceived as pests, humans take measures to eradicate these species from their urban settings with weed killers, rat poisons, etc. Yet, why do the

humans never win? Where does the "pest's" resilience come from?

As I look at this dandelion, I am amazed that it had found this flaw in the pavement, pushed with all its life upward, through the crack and toward the surface. I am amazed that it can live in what it must perceive to be an ocean of pavement—cold and devoid of life, nothing but black and gray. With the dandelion's growth, the crack will grow bigger and the seeds it will sow will yield a bloom of more.

To see that dandelion prosper in such harsh elements, makes me realize that my current situation in jail pales in comparison. While I look at the dandelion, a family in Honduras endures far worse conditions making garments in a starvation-wage sweatshop. This family is just one of thousands, guilty of no wrong doing, who are prisoners forever indebted to their employer. They do not run for fear

*continued on next page*



PHOTO COURTESY WWW.FEARTH1.ORG

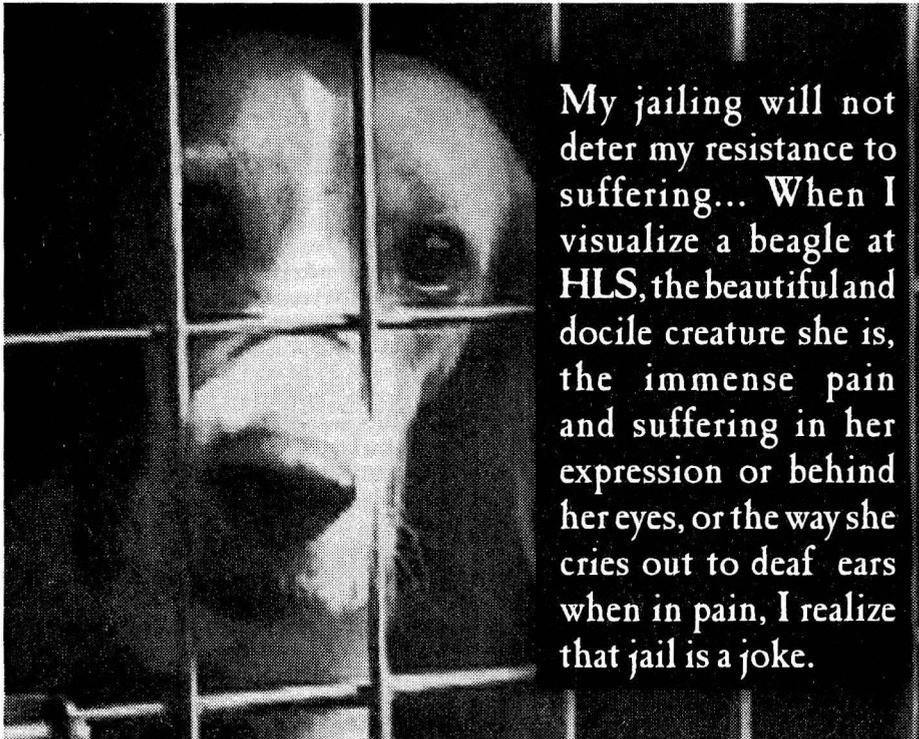
### Eagle Creek Activists Served with Grand Jury Subpoenas

June 4 will bring the next chapter in the continuing law enforcement attempt to disrupt and defame Portland's forest activist community. Grand jury subpoenas have been served to at least four Portland residents to testify on that date regarding the torching of a logging truck last year. On June 1, 2001, one of several incendiary devices ignited and a log hauler was ruined. No arrests in connection with the case have been made.

At the time of the fire, activists at the nearby Eagle Creek blockade and treesit denied any connection between their three-year public campaign and the arson. Nonetheless, at least three of the activists called to testify had been involved in the now successful Eagle Creek campaign. One of those called had served for years as a spokesperson for the campaign. One is a mother of four. Two of the people subpoenaed are a mother and son. The activists have decided to keep their names out of press reports at this time.

Some people have speculated that the grand jury hearings are largely a stunt staged by stymied law enforcement officials to satisfy media-hungry politicians. Said one activist familiar with the situation, "Senator Ron Wyden is considering supporting some half-baked forest legislation before this Fall's elections. His idea of balance is to spend an equal amount of press time deriding 'eco-terrorism.'"

With no investigation work visible on the case for nearly 10 months, the subpoenas seem out of place. In April, public pressure and direct action led by the Cascadia Forest Alliance culminated in the complete withdrawal of all units planned for the Eagle Creek Timber Sale (see *EF!* May-June 2002). Despite the overwhelming public support for protection, Forest Service officials have threatened to rework and resubmit some units for sale in the future.



**My jailing will not deter my resistance to suffering... When I visualize a beagle at HLS, the beautiful and docile creature she is, the immense pain and suffering in her expression or behind her eyes, or the way she cries out to deaf ears when in pain, I realize that jail is a joke.**

*continued from previous page*  
their children will starve. They do not organize for fear of being lynched by union busters. These families are prisoners, slave laborers to capitalism.

While I stare at this dandelion, the entire natural environment is being pillaged by capitalism. All life is being commodified, every resource, every plant, every animal, every humyn. The Earth itself is an organism and global capital is consuming its very organs—eating the fragile biomes that pump life to larger ecosystems.

While I stare at this dandelion, countless animals are tortured, enslaved and murdered for profit. Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) is a prime example of capitalism's wrath on the animal nations. As I write this, 70,000 animals are listlessly confined to cages, wading in puddles of their own blood and vomit, with no heat or enrichment, inadequate food and water, and no anesthetics to quell their immense pain and suffering. All of these atrocities make up the reality of an animal imprisoned at HLS, a reality all in the name of toxicology and biotech testing.

When I see the suffering that capitalism inflicts on our world's peoples, its enrichment and its animals, I see that in comparison I am very lucky. My jailing will not deter my resistance to suffering, nor will it deter

our movement's resolve to abolish suffering. When I visualize a beagle at HLS, the beautiful and docile creature she is, the immense pain and suffering in her expression or behind her eyes, or in the way she cries out to deaf ears when in pain, I realize that jail is a joke. Jail is nothing more than a hurdle in our struggle for liberation, and I will exit here this Summer with a resolve 10 times as strong as before to battle HLS.

That dandelion has taught me a valuable lesson. Never doubt the power one individual can have to conquer what appears to be unimaginable goals. I know that anyone who may read this is another person capable of bettering the world if they apply themselves.

Today's climate of activist repression makes us all feel like weeds beneath six inches of pavement. The government's repression is their attempt to suffocate our struggles for liberation. Our actions serve to break through the pavement they have laid down so we may breach the surface. Once there, we may begin to sow the seeds of compassion and grow more crops through the broken perforations of pavement, much like the dandelion has. With time, the lone weed can transform the black sea of pavement to a flowering garden.

Our actions breach the pavement and lead us toward liberation, but

without action, we will remain trapped under the pavement. Too often, people are concerned about leaving their "comfort zone" when taking actions for the Earth and its animals, but in order for there to be progress, we must learn to feel uncomfortable with the things we do.

A diversity of tactics will help our struggle advance and crumble this sea of pavement. I would encourage everyone to step up their involvement two times. If you only feel comfortable writing letters, then attend a protest or rally. If you only feel comfortable attending demonstrations, then take to the night and commit an act of nonviolent economic sabotage or liberate an animal from torture.

Too often I speak to friends and comrades who are enraged with my jailing and have prioritized my imprisonment as an issue they must take action against. Do not be enraged with my imprisonment—be enraged with the suffering in the world and take action against that suffering. I do not want to be viewed as a hero or a martyr to the movement, but rather as a regular kid who wants very much to accomplish his goals.

Each night before I fall asleep I think of my heroes, the people who give me the strength to take on another day in jail. The Plowshares, the Black Panthers, Mumia Abu-Jamal and the brothers and sisters of MOVE, Harriet Tubman, Nelson Mandela, the masked crusaders of the Earth Liberation Front and the Animal Liberation Front, the activists who penetrated HLS on April 1, 2001, and rescued 14 beagles, SHAC, the Modern Times Collective, Anti-Capitalist Convergence, Animal Defense League, my best friend, my beloved girlfriend and most of all the heroes who broke into Marshal Farms delivering 30 pups and 10 ferrets to freedom. They are all my heroes. They, by their very existence, are acting to tear apart the vast dead sea of pavement to sow the seeds of compassion and cultivate the garden of a better tomorrow.

For more information, visit [www.freeandy.org](http://www.freeandy.org). To send letters, write to Andrew Stepanian, B1A1, NCC 0200 1777, c/o Nassau County Corrections, 100 Carman Ave., East Meadow, NY 11554-1160.

# important stuff!

Remember several key points while you're planning for this year's rendezvous. First, we will be in the mountains at about 46° N latitude, so **it can rain at any time**. Be prepared with raingear, and wool and/or polypro clothing (cotton will stay cold and wet). **There will be mosquitoes!** Bring your favorite toxic (more effective) or non-toxic (less effective) insect repellent. Consider bringing a headnet and a tent (heavier) or bednet (smaller, lighter) to sleep under. **The site will be completely separate from parking; you will not be able to sleep in your car.** Expect to hike a couple of miles into the site. Make sure you bring warm things to sleep in and ways to keep off the rain. Finally, unlike previous RRRs you may have been to, **there will be no community kitchen** at this event. You must bring food for yourself and your affinity group and means by which to cook it.

#### Minimal personal items:

- Lots of insect repellent
- Sunscreen, hat
- Sturdy boots
- Wool or polypro, hat, socks, long underwear
- Rain-jacket or poncho, pants if you got 'em
- Tarp or tent to sleep on/under
- Bedding and ground cloth
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Food for yourself and companions for a week
- Camp stove (rocket, twig "zip" or fossil fuel)
- Cooking gear
- Personal cup and spoon
- \$25 to cover a great week of training and fun
- Bandana or mask for games
- Writing materials

#### Additional items that would be helpful:

- Compass for hiking, actions, games and learning
- Maps
- Extra tarps, picks, shovels for site setup and restoration
- Camo clothing (avoid cotton) for actions and games
- Basic first aid kit for yourself and others
- Work gloves and latex ones
- Condoms, dental dams, etc., just in case

#### What to leave at home:

- Your dog (dogs may be eaten by the really primitivist/abo contingent).

#### Directions:

Call 541-683-1645.

snips). We could use loans of safety glasses, welding gloves, brazing goggles (#5 or #6 lens) or other welding safety gear.

**Video Activism, 3-5 days:** Using a camera, various scenarios for video activism (security, documentation, research, archival, street, backcountry, conference/classroom, court, school/laboratory, alternative media/public outreach). Please bring video cameras if you can. May be limited to approximately 6 people.

#### Workshops in

**Development:** We don't have the space to list all the information people have sent about the workshops they're planning. Some workshops already in development: GE Trees, GE Foods, Creative Resistance, Jews Against the Occupation of Palestine, Domestic Violence in Radical Communities and Musical and Tactical workshops. There will also be a workshops center where folks who plan to teach at the rendezvous are invited to post information

about their tracks and workshops. **More info is available online at [www.earthfirstjournal.org](http://www.earthfirstjournal.org).**

Evening events and entertainment are also being planned. Expect a performance by the Infernal Noise Brigade, and a Crusty Old Time Fiddle/Banjo contest on Friday, July 5.

See ya in Cascadia!

## whoa, where's the map?

The section you are now reading is where you would normally expect to see a map to the rendezvous site. As you can see there is no map to the rendezvous site in the section you are now reading. That is because (pick one or more):

- a) The site is so secret, even we don't know where it is yet.
- b) Where we put our camp depends on where they want to log next month.
- c) The site is still under snow.
- d) The mosquitoes were so thick the person we sent to make a map has been reduced to a wispy husk of her former self.
- e) This collective eschews fossil fuels, so the person who's making the map isn't back yet.
- f) Choices, choices, choices, they make our little heads spin.
- g) EF!ers are suckers for secrets.

So when you get near SW Washington, call 541-683-1645. Give us the secret password and we'll give you the secret directions.

## just get 'yerself to cascadia and call us

directions:541-683-1645/directions:541-683-1645/directions:541-683-1645

# announcements

Are you organizing an event that you think people around the world should know about? Send your announcements to the *Earth First! Journal*. Deadlines: Lughnassadh-June 20/Mabon-August 5  
*Earth First! Journal*, POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702; [collective@earthfirstjournal.org](mailto:collective@earthfirstjournal.org).

## Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project Road Reduction Workshop

June 29-30  
Hotsprings, North Carolina

Come and learn the strategies and skills you need to challenge road construction and recreational vehicle use on national forests.

For more information, contact Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project, POB 3141, Asheville, NC 28802; (828) 258-2667; [info@sabp.net](mailto:info@sabp.net); [www.sabp.net](http://www.sabp.net).



## Anarchist Black Cross North American Conference July 26-28 · Austin, Texas

This conference will bring together organizers to network around issues of prisoner support, prison abolition and anti-authoritarian struggle, as well as founding an Anarchist Black Cross Network. We invite all those interested in creating local groups and in building a strong, autonomous movement.

There will be discussions, panels, teach-ins and workshops; ABC film series; social events for informal chatting and networking. Invited speakers include: Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin, former Black Panther and author of *Anarchism and the Black Revolution*; Chris Plummer, former political prisoner and anarchist; Ernesto Aguilar, Anarchist People of Color.

For more information, contact Austin Anarchist Black Cross, POB 19733, Austin, TX 78760: [www.anarchistblackcross.org](http://www.anarchistblackcross.org).

## G8 Activism Calendar

Alberta, Canada, will be hosting this year's G8 meeting from June 26-28. For more information and additional counter-summit event listings, visit [g8.activist.ca](http://g8.activist.ca).

*Global Justice Action Summit, June 20-23, Missoula, Montana:* [www.globaljas.org](http://www.globaljas.org).

*The People's Summit, June 21-25, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada:* [www.peaceandhumanrights.org](http://www.peaceandhumanrights.org).

*Global Knit-In: Day of Action to Challenge the G8, June 26:* [knitting.activist.ca](http://knitting.activist.ca).

## EF! UK Summer Gathering · July 10-14

Since 1992, the UK Earth First! Summer Gathering has been a space for everyone involved or interested in ecological direct action, from around Britain and abroad, to come together, learn new skills and discuss ideas and plans for action. This year's gathering is being held on a beautiful site in the Westcountry. We are a diverse community with a wide range of approaches to our action, and there should be plenty to interest and inspire you, whether you have been active for years or are completely new to it all.

For more information about this exciting summer extravaganza, contact Earth First! Summer Gathering, [summergathering2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:summergathering2002@yahoo.co.uk); [www.eco-action.org/gathering](http://www.eco-action.org/gathering).



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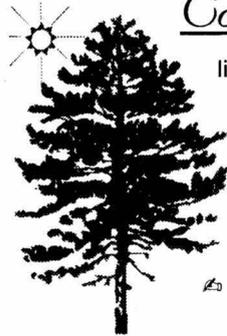
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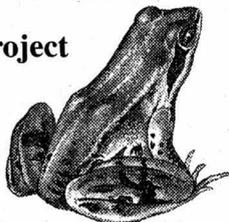
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## ALABAMA

University of Alabama EF!  
POB 860997, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486  
ua-earthfirst@antisocial.com

## ARIZONA

Arizona Wildlands Museum  
POB 24988, Tempe, AZ 85285  
Flagstaff Activist Network  
POB 911, Flagstaff, AZ 86002  
(928) 213-9507; flagact@infomagic.net

## Phoenix EF!

POB 5564, Phoenix, AZ 85010-5564  
phoenixef@excite.com

## Tucson EF!

POB 3412, Tucson, AZ 85722  
az\_earth\_first@hotmail.com

## Wildfire Infoshop

POB 23552, Flagstaff, AZ 86002  
wildfireinfoshop@yahoo.com

## CALIFORNIA

Bay Area EF!  
POB 83, Canyon, CA 94516  
(510) 848-8724

## Environmentally Sound Promotions

POB 2254, Redway, CA 95560  
(707) 923-4949; ensopro@asis.com

## Fairfax Action Team

POB 393, Lagunitas, CA 94938

## Peninsular Ranges EF!

POB 4738, Irvine, CA 92616-4738

## Santa Cruz EF!/EF! Radio

POB 344, Santa Cruz, CA 95061  
(831) 425-3205; cruzef@cruzio.com

## Slingshot

3124 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, CA 94705-0751  
(510) 540-0751

## Sonoma County EF!

POB 7544, Santa Rosa, CA 93107  
(707) 523-1229

## COLORADO

### Art Goodtimes

POB 1008, Telluride, CO 81435

### San Juan EF!

POB 3204, Durango, CO 81302

### Tim Haugen

POB 81, Gulnare, CO 81042

### Wilderness Defense

POB 1008, Telluride, CO 81435-0101  
(303) 385-3043;

wildernessdefense@email.com

## FLORIDA

### Alachua EF!

POB 1638, Alachua, FL 32616  
(904) 462-3374

### Big Bend EF!

POB 20582, Tallahassee, FL 32316  
(904) 421-1559

### CORE Infoshop

2235 Central Ave, St. Petersburg, FL 33713  
(727) 827-2673; core@core-info.org

### Gainesville/Ichetucknee EF!

c/o CMC, 1021 W University Ave,  
Gainesville, FL 32601

(352) 373-0010

### Stone Soup Collective

1020 S Orange Ave, Orlando, FL 32806  
(407) 999-7700

## GEORGIA

### Katūah Foothills EF!

POB 608, Athens, GA 30603  
foothills@katuah.org

## HAWAII

### Oceandream Media Foundation

POB 1440, Hanalei, HI 96714  
(808) 826-1711

## ILLINOIS

### Autonomous Zone

1573 N Milwaukee PMB 420, Chicago,  
IL 60622

azone@azone.org

### Red Gate EF!

3400 W 111th St #154, Chicago, IL 60655  
(773) 258-0575; friends@enteract.com

### Shawnee EF!

913 S Illinois Ave, Carbondale, IL 62901  
(618) 549-7387; harvest827@aol.com

### The Brokedowns/Elgin Food Not Bombs

308 South St #15, Elgin, IL 60123  
(847) 931-9054;

thebrokedowns@thebrokedowns.com

## INDIANA

### Boxcar Books and Community Center

310A S Washington St, Bloomington,  
IN 47401

(812) 339-8710; boxcar@boxcarbooks.org

### Buffalo Trace EF!

POB 3503, Bloomington, IN 47403

### Kekionga EF!

1015 W Creighton St, Fort Wayne, IN 46807

### Solidarity Books

860 Virginia Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46203  
(317) 822-8004;

solidaritybooks@yahoo.com

## KANSAS

### Tornado Alley Resistance

(913) 461-8583

## MAINE

### Maine EF!

5089 Fox Hill Rd, Athens, ME 04912

## MARYLAND

### Two Rivers EF!

POB 185, Piney Point, MD 20674

tworiversf@doityourself.com

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Jon Chance

72 Peterborough St Apt 31, Boston, MA 02215  
(617) 859-8155

### Lawrence Grassroots Initiative

POB 43, Lawrence, MA, 01642

(978) 687-2909; lgi@igc.org

### Mass Direct Action

POB 484, Somerset, MA 02726

## MICHIGAN

### Lost Cause Collective

POB 237, Marquette, MI 49855  
(906) 228-7074;

lostcausecollective@hotmail.com

### Popular Power

POB 374, Traverse City, MI 49685

## MINNESOTA

### Boundary Waters EF!

7908 Minnetonka Blvd, St. Louis Park, MN 55426  
(612) 719-7000; smgbecker@aol.com

### Church of Deep Ecology

POB 580407, Minneapolis, MN 55458  
(612) 362-3387;

churchofdeepecology@hotmail.com

### Forest Ecosystems Action Group

2441 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55405  
(612) 450-9178; paarise@mtn.org

### Loon Antics EF!

POB 666, Cass Lake, MN 56633  
wanderingaia@onebox.com

## MISSOURI

### Confluence/St. Louis IMC

POB 63232, St. Louis, MO 63163  
(314) 772-0322

### Pink Planarians

POB 7653, Columbia, MO 65205  
(573) 443-6832

### Ray O. McCall

Rt 1 Box 89, Mtn. Grove, MO 65711

## MONTANA

### Wild Rockies EF!/Wild Rockies Review

POB 1742, Missoula, MT 59806  
(406) 549-8863; wref@wildrockies.org

### Yellowstone EF!

POB 6151, Bozeman, MT 59715

## NEBRASKA

### Environmental Resource Center

205 N Mears, Chadron, NE 69337  
(308) 432-3458; buffalobruce@panhandle.net

## NEW JERSEY

### Green Vigilance

46 E Monroe, Mt. Holly, NJ 08060  
(609) 265-0392

## NEW MEXICO

### New Mexico Direct Action

POB 452, Las Vegas, NM 87701

## NEW YORK

### Foghorn

POB 889, Westhampton Beach, NY 11978  
(516) 288-2688

### Love Canal EF!

(716) 282-7777

### OFF!

SUNY, Binghamton, NY 13902-6000  
(607) 777-2050; offeditor@hotmail.com

### Project Harmony

216 W 122 St, New York, NY 10027  
(212) 662-2878; haja216@aol.com

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Croatan EF!

POB 872, Moyock, NC 27958

### French Broad EF!

POB 1485, Asheville, NC 28802  
(828) 253-1103; mountainfaction@cs.com

### Mountain Eco-Collective

Warren Wilson College, CPO Box #6238,  
POB 9000, Asheville, NC 28815

### Rustic Revolt

112 Barricuda St, Moyock, NC 27958  
(252) 662-2878

### Uwharrie Earth First!

POB 561, Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
(919) 942-5205; bison12@hotmail.com

## NORTH DAKOTA

### Unci Maka Uonihanpo (Honor Mother Earth)

POB 29, Ft. Yates, ND 58538

treeeyes@westriv.com

## OHIO

### Lake Erie EF!

2233 Parkwood, Toledo, OH 43620

## OREGON

### Blue Mtns. Biodiversity Project

HCR 82, Fossil, OR 97830

### Cascadia Forest Alliance

POB 4946, Portland, OR 97208  
(503) 241-4879; cfa@spiritone.com

### Cascadia Forest Defenders

POB 11122, Eugene, OR 97440  
(541) 684-8977;

forestdefenders@tao.ca

### Kalmiopsis EF!

POB 2093, Cave Junction, OR 97523  
(541) 592-3386; lukas@cdsnet.net

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Allegheny EF!

POB 81011, Pittsburgh, PA 15217

### Antoinette Dwinga

POB 495, Carnegie, PA 15106

## TENNESSEE

### Katūah EF!/Tennessee Valley Faction

POB 281, Chattanooga, TN 37401  
(423) 949-5922; johnjEF@bledsoe.net

## TEXAS

### Dallas EF!

POB 820872, Dallas, TX 75382

### EF! Austin

2900 Lafayette St, Austin, TX 78722  
(512) 478-7666

### East Texas EF!

Rt 1 Box 2120, Point Blank, TX 77364

### Houston EF!

PMB 413, 1302 Waugh Dr, Houston,  
TX 77019

## UTAH

### Rainbow Bridge EF!

rainbowbridgeef@aol.com

### Wild Wasatch Front

864 W 700 St, Brigham City, UT 84302

## VERMONT

### Biodiversity Liberation Front

POB 57, Burlington, VT 05402

## VIRGINIA

### Blue Ridge EF!

POB 1891, Charlottesville, VA 22903  
(804) 971-1553; earthfirst@biogate.com

## WASHINGTON

### Direct Action Network

POB 95113, Seattle, WA 98145

### Olympia EF!/Cascadia Defense Network

POB 11426, Olympia, WA 98508

wildcascadia@yahoo.com

### Shuksan Direct Action

POB 1327, Bellingham, WA 98227

shuksandirect@hotmail.com

## WISCONSIN

### Liberated Zone Infoshop

308 Nelson Hall-UWSP, Stevens Point,  
WI 54481

### Madison EF!

POB 1042, Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 262-9036

## WYOMING

### Teewinot EF!

POB 1588, Wilson, WY 83014  
krstnpnt@netscape.net

## Projects & Campaigns

### Bioengineering Action Network

ban@tao.ca; www.tao.ca/~ban

### Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers

POB 7941, Missoula, MT 59807  
(406) 728-0867; cmcr@wildrockies.org

### EF! Direct Action Fund

POB 210, Canyon, CA 94516  
tel/fax (925) 376-7329

### End Corporate Dominance

HCR 82, Fossil, OR 97830  
(541) 468-2028

### Warrior Poets Society

POB 14501, Berkeley, CA 94712

### Earth Liberation Front

www.earthliberationfront.com

### North American ALF Press Office

POB 3673, Courtenay, BC, V9N 7P1, Canada  
(250) 703-6312; (419) 858-9065 (fax);  
naalfpo@tao.ca; www.animalliberation.net

There is an international Earth First!  
website at: [www.eco-action.org/ef/](http://www.eco-action.org/ef/)

## AUSTRALIA

### EF! Australia

POB 1059, Maleney, Qld 4552

efoz@earthfirst.org.au

### Rainforest Information Centre

POB 368, Lismore, NSW 2480  
(066) 21-85-05

### EF! OZ-Jervis Bay

c/o Canopy, 7 Verge Rd, Callala Beach,  
NSW, 2540

(61) 2-44-466-477

## CANADA

### EF! Montreal & Diffusion Noire

c/o Librairie Alternative  
2035 St. Laurent, 2 e étage  
Montréal, Quebec H2X 2T3

### Elaho EF!

(604) 682-3269 x.6144

earth\_first@ziplip.com

## CURAAO

### EF! Curaçao

POB 4893, Willemstad, Curaçao,

Netherlands Antilles

599-9-4616256 (fax); falcone@fiberia.com

## CZECH REPUBLIC

### Zeme Predevsim

POB 237, 160 41 Prague 6

zemepredevsim@volny.cz

### Car Busters

Kratka 26, 100 00 Prague 10

(420) 2-7481-6727; 2-7481-6727 (fax);

carbusters@ecn.cz

## EIRE

### An Talmah Glas (Green Earth)

54 Avora Park, Howth, Co Dublin, Ireland  
353 (0)1 8324087; atgblue@yahoo.com

## ENGLAND

*More than 30 Earth First! and radical ecological direct action groups exist in the "United Kingdom." There are also a number of other anarchist/revolutionary groups and projects. For a list or for general news from the UK, contact:*

### Do or Die

c/o Prior House, 6 Tilbury Pl, Brighton, East

Sussex, BN2 2GY

doordtp@yahoo.co.uk

### EF! Action Update

POB 487, Norwich, NR2 3AL,  
0160-3219811; efactionupdate@bigfoot.com

### Leeds EF! c/o CRC

16 Sholebroke Ave, Leeds, LS7 3HB

0113-262-9365; leedsef@ukf.net

### Manchester EF!

A30, c/o Dept.29, 22a, Beswick St, Manches-  
ter, M4 7HS

0161-226-6814;

mancet@nematode.freemove.co.uk

## FRANCE

### Les Eco-guerriers

71 Av. Jean Jaurès, 92140 Clamart

01-40-95-09-06; contact@earth-first.org

## GERMANY

### EF! Germany c/o Manuel Lindinger

Europahaus, Rheingut Str 40/40, 78462

Konstanz

manuel.lindinger@uni-konstanz.de

## INDIA

## Anand Skaria

POB #14, Cochin 682001, Kerala

(009) 484-25435

## Bander Bagicha

Near Maurya Lok, POB 229 Patna-800 001 Bihar

## ISRAEL

### Green Action Israel

POB 4611, Tel-Aviv, 61046

972 (0) 3 516 2349

## THE NETHERLANDS

### Groene Front!

Postbus 85069, 3508 AB, Utrecht

tel/fax 31-84-8666018; groenfr@dds.nl

## PHILIPPINES

### EF! Philippines

44-20 Elenita Heights, Mintal, Davao City, 8000

## POLAND

### Workshop for All Beings

U. Jasna 17, 43-360 Bystra

tel/fax 48-33-817-14-68;

wapienica@pnrwi.most.org.pl

### In Defense of the Earth

Towarzystwo Ekologiczne

"W Obronieziemi" Dominika Baryla

ul. Limanowskiego 138/42 91-038, Lodz

48-42-653-38-16; goral@tevoz.most.org.pl

## RUSSIA

### ECODEFENSE!

POB 1477, Kaliningrad, 236000

(0112) 44-84-43; ecodefense@online.ru

### Rainbow Keepers (10 local groups)

POB 14, Nizhni Novgorod, 603082

(8312) 34-32-80

### Rainbow Keepers (Moscow)

(0959) 54-91-93

### Rainbow Keepers

POB 52, Kasimov, 391330

rk@lavrik.ryazan.ru

## SCOTLAND

### Glasgow EF!

POB 180, Glasgow G4 9AB

44 (0) 41 636 1924

### Fife EF!

c/o 91 South St, St. Andrews,

Fife, KY16 9Q

01334-477411

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Earth Action!

POB 181034, Dalbridge, Durban 6016

## SOUTH KOREA

### Green Korea United

110-740 #605 Korean Ecumenical Bldg. 136-56

Younji-Dong, Jongro-Gu, Seoul

82-2-747-8500; greenkorea@greenkorea.org

## SPAIN

### Environmental Workshop

IES Xelmirez I, 15701 Santiago

## SWEDEN

### Morgan Larsson

Lagmansgaten 9C, 46-37 Vänersborg

## UKRAINE

### Rainbow Keepers (5 local groups)

POB 322, Kiev 252187

7 38 (044) 265-7628; 550-6068 (fax)

rk@cci.glasnet.ru

## Wales

### Gwynedd & Mon EF!

The Greenhouse, 1, Trevelyan Terr

Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 1AX

01248-355821

*This is dedicated to all the animal and human companions that folks in our line of work tend to ignore a bit sometimes when we get entrenched in the battlefield. When you finish reading this issue take some time to remind your loved ones how much they mean to you. Dug, who has had the Journal come before Duster (his favorite feline) for more than two years, will be returning to full-time-cat-slave status after visiting the Northwest to remind all those up there how much he loves them. Myself, Frog, after four years here, will be happily joining him. Thanks y'all, it has been an honor.*

# ¡VIVA CABO ROJO!

On April 25, just when Cabo Rojo community garden in New York City had begun to come to life with Spring foliage and the children's tulips, the bulldozers arrived to tear it down.

For the past two decades, people in New York City's neglected areas have been taking back their neighborhoods by cleaning up the trash and rubble-strewn vacant lots and transforming them into gardens—places where the community can come together, grow food and relax from the busy city life. In the South Bronx, where people experience the highest asthma rates in the country, Cabo Rojo provided a breath of fresh air.

The fate of Cabo Rojo represents the precarious position of more than 300 community gardens administered by New York City's Green Thumb garden program. The bulldozers are revving their engines at the gates, eagerly awaiting the tiniest excuse to destroy these examples of community self-sufficiency. The only thing protecting the gardens from the developers is a tenuous, emergency temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by Attorney General Spitzer in 1999. At that time, former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani had put most of the community gardens on the auction block, and the bulldozing of Esperanza garden captured the city's attention (see *EF!* March-April 2000).

In the case of Cabo Rojo, the department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) forced the gardeners to move Cabo Rojo three times. Each time, the garden was re-certified under Green Thumb. However, last Summer, HPD discovered that, due to a bureaucratic error, Cabo Rojo was not protected by the TRO.

HPD was scheduled to bulldoze Cabo Rojo on December 10. However, More Gardens! activists and community members gathered the night before in the garden's *casita* and prepared to meet the bulldozers with banners, lockdowns and media.

The media arrived, hungry for a community focus after September 11. As a result of the garden defenders' efforts and HPD's reluctance to receive bad press at such a critical time, the bulldozers were delayed—for the time being.

The garden defenders, who expected the bulldozers at any moment, continued to keep a 24-hour vigil at the *casita*, bringing more attention to the garden. The garden was decorated with banners depicting food and other benefits that the garden provided to the community, and the barren Winter trees were enlivened with colorful cloth. Local school children planted flower bulbs for the Spring. A 27-foot-tall steel sunflower with a green stem and golden petals was constructed with a seat on top where someone could lock down. Hundreds of people participating in an Earth Day critical mass

bike ride rode from Manhattan to the Bronx to visit the garden. Local people began working their plots and holding social events.

On April 25, the garden defenders were outside of the garden when the bulldozers arrived but convinced police to allow them in to retrieve their belongings. Even with a dozen police escorts, two activists were able to climb up the sunflower and onto the roof of the *casita* to lock down.

It took the police two hours, using brutal tactics, to remove and arrest them. Two additional activists were arrested for trespass when they ran into the garden during the bulldozing.

These tactics stalled the bulldozers long enough for community members and the media to arrive and witness the destruction of Cabo Rojo. Through the campaign to save Cabo Rojo, the seeds of resistance were spread. Thousands more people learned about the plight of the community gardens, and the bulldozing only served to strengthen the garden activists' resolve to stop any more gardens from being destroyed.

The More Gardens! Coalition needs volunteers and interns throughout the Summer to help protect the community gardens in New York City. For more information, to donate money or to get involved, contact (917) 518-9987; [www.moregardens.org](http://www.moregardens.org).



LET'S GROW

**Urban Wilds:**

In a vacant lot on 8th street, a woman  
digs in the asphalt  
Crumbling it away to unveil the forgotten ground  
Broken bottles and shredded tires,  
used needles and gun shells  
With her hands she bears raw beauty,  
a fire you cannot quell

And the leaves grow greener in  
Emma's garden, and  
The roses grow redder in Emma's garden  
Impossible color... fed by impossible love.

—CASEY NEILL, EXCERPTS  
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