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FTAA Packing List · Radio Pirates · A Glimpse Into the ELF · Pump Up the Volume

Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

Samhain/Yule November-December 2003

\$4.50 US \$7.00 Canada · Volume 24 #1





Ecology vs. **EMPIRE**

ECO BLOC

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BIOHAZARD

Earth First!

Samhain/Yule

November-December 2003

The *Radical* Environmental Journal

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Fauna Cabala:

Wee egret two tail ewe "Fauna Cabala" is on leaves
whilst deer Faith finishes her bloody dissertation.



Don't Bulldoze the Smokies: No North Shore Road!

In the heart of Katúah, Earth First!ers are actively fighting the proposed North Shore Road project. If built, the road would penetrate an otherwise isolated section of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (see *EF!* May-June 2003).

On September 15, the National Park Service held a public meeting at a Marriott hotel in Knoxville, Tennessee, to collect comments on the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The park service was hoping to gauge the public sentiment, and Katúah Earth First! was there to weigh in. "Angry Tree," a resident of the Smokies, traveled far to register his opinion on the matter:

"I had to be careful not to hit any of the business people in the lobby with my limbs. At the main desk, we demanded rooms since our habitat would be destroyed. The front desk woman laughed, but the dude asked for my credit card. 'Credit card?! We don't need no stinkin' credit cards! We are trees.'"

Earth First! Uncensored

The Guadalupe Mountains of western Texas are skirted by the northern edge of the Chihuahuan desert. Within the range's seemingly arid fold is a surprising burst of Fall color along the maple-lined creek of McKittrick Canyon. For Samantha and I, this hike was a necessary break on our long drive back from spreading the Earth First! gospel at a conference in Austin where we hawked our wares to fundraise for this issue's print bill.

When we entered the limestone canyon, the homogenous landscape of Spanish bayonet and alligator juniper gave way to rosy-smooth Texas madrones laden with orange berries. The trail became a metaphor for confronting ignorance. Our hike supported the necessity for not taking things at face value, for investigating and experiencing things for one's self.

On November 1, we will celebrate the *Earth First! Journal's* 23rd anniversary of getting to the root of the issues that affect this planet. We are proud to announce that this year, the *Journal* won two Project Censored awards, further proof that in these pages we will not let the dominant culture censor reality.

As you can imagine, publishing an independent, international magazine is not cheap. Like any nonprofit, we are dependent on donations and volunteers. While the collective is largely donating our time and energy, we are asking you to match us in spirit with a hearty donation. With your support, we will continue to produce a cutting-edge magazine that covers inspiring direct actions that put the Earth first. And we will continue not to fear reprisal for reporting on controversial topics like Earth Liberation Front (ELF) actions.



Unfortunately, a culture of censorship has been oozing not only throughout the media landscape, but in our own circles as well. Many environmental organizations—fearful of losing limited funding or public support—have publicly denounced actions by groups like the ELF or have avoided taking a public stand against the war on Iraq.

As more mainstream environmental and peace groups have been put under government surveillance for merely being dissenters, it is clear that anyone who cares about ecological or social justice has been lumped together, despite their choice of tactics. Recently, Sherman Austin was imprisoned for producing a controversial website. It is not hard to imagine that the *Journal* or any other form of independent media could be targeted for similar reasons.

Courage against censorship in our daily and political lives is necessary. As the Office of Homeland Security extends its reach, it is not only important to recognize who your true allies are, but also to ask yourself what you've done to try and stop the increased repression of dissent. Supporting independent media like the *Journal* is a counter step to that repression—please send in your donation today.

—SPRIG

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Earth First! 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, classism, 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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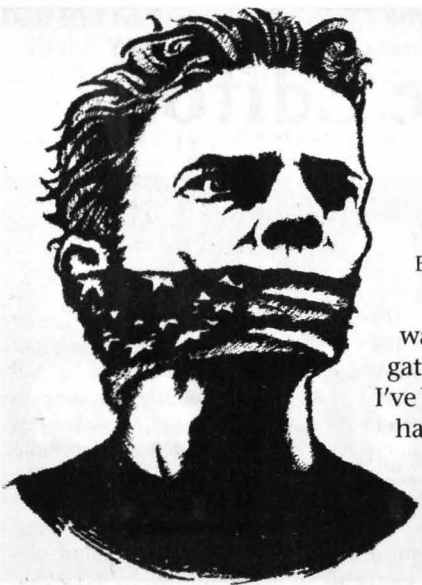
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Inside Front Cover: smartMeme

Back Cover: Bakers Without Borders





Against All Odds, We Must Win

BY FREE

On September 10, I was released from segregation. As of right now, I've been out for five days. I have been given my job back on the yard, and I'm working on getting back my old housing with the rest of the workers, which gives me a bigger cell.

Yesterday, I had an interesting conversation with a prison friend. He told me that I need to mellow out and just do my time—that I can't win against these people. I get that a lot from folks—even from supporters on the outs.

Revolution is a way of life. It is not one act of resistance. Who we are and how we live will decide the future. I play many roles in my life: I am a son, a brother, an uncle, a best friend and a prisoner. But before every one of those, I am a warrior. I live my entire life in resistance to society's mindless destruction.

In every role we play, we must be revolutionary. How can we change things if we do not change ourselves? We must rid ourselves of the oppressor within and that starts with our personal relationships. It starts with how we choose to live.

I came to prison as a result of the way I lived my life. I challenged the system and its allies in every fashion—from

dialogue to action. It is who I am. I will not cower before repression. I will not leave the side of our animal relations. I will not be silenced in my defense of Mother Earth. I am alive and strong, and I will fight because the spirit is with me.

I did not leave these beliefs at the prison gates. My spirit is as strong and defiant as ever. I will always struggle with every means available to me. And with my dying breath, I will cry for freedom if need be. As we all must.

It is our warrior spirit that makes us strong. It is our willingness to struggle to the end, never giving up, that will see us through. Against all odds, we must stand strong and united, courageous with the belief that our spirits cannot be broken. We stand with the strength of Mother Earth, with the strength of all our animal brothers and sisters and the web of life.

We are all descendants of ancient cultures that once lived in harmony and balance with the Earth. Yet, thousands of years of genocide and assimilation have brought us to where we are today. It is time each of us remembers our collective past. It is time each of us renews our oath to the web of life. We must rekindle the flames of our warrior spirit.

Each generation has a responsibility to make things better for the next. My sisters and brothers, it is time to unite. It is time to rise. It is time to fight like we've never fought before. We must challenge this system—and all of its sickness—on every front. And against all odds, we must win.

Free is serving a 22-year sentence for burning SUVs at a car dealership in Eugene, Oregon, in June 2000.

Gypsy Remembered

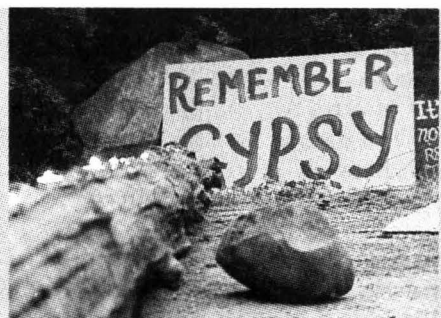
On September 17, 1998, an irate Pacific Lumber logger, A.E. Ammons, felled an old-growth redwood tree in the direction of nonviolent Earth First! activists, killing David "Gypsy" Chain. It remains a painful wound for Gypsy's friends and family still, but activists remain committed to protecting the forest.

At dawn on the fifth anniversary of Gypsy's death, friends and colleagues held a candlelight vigil at his memorial site near Eureka, California. People traveled to Humboldt County from as far away as Texas, where Gypsy grew up, to mark the occasion.

North Coast Earth First!ers have actively defended the surrounding Grizzly Creek watershed, an area containing old-growth redwoods and habitat for the endangered Marbled Murrelet. They hope to preserve the area as an expanded memorial to the slain activist and have been occupying a tree called "Aradia" since January 2002. All around the treesit, trees have been felled, but Aradia remains. Treesitter Turtle explained, "Maxxam/Pacific Lumber (PL) is still raining destruction on these watersheds, and people are still risking their lives to protect the trees while facing continued violence."

On the eve of the anniversary, PL made another entry into an active Grizzly Creek logging plan. Forest defenders locked down and blockaded the logging road, yet they were soon removed. After 11 trees were cut, PL contract loggers were forced to turn around when activists put themselves between tree and chainsaw.

For more information, contact North Coast EFL, (707) 825-6598; www.headwaterspreserve.org.



Dear SFB: Letters to the Editors



Dear SFB,

I found the article "Lessons from Biodevastation 7: Fight Repression with Organization" in your Lugnasadh issue by Heather Ajani to be uninformed, misleading, and, as an organizer of the conference, insulting (see *EF!* July-August 2003). The author makes numerous assertions criticizing "the organizers," but seems to have had little or no contact with the organizers of either the Biodev conference or the World Agricultural Forum action (and makes no distinction between the events or respective organizers).

Ajani states that when she arrived "a wave of paranoia had set in amongst the organizers following the police raids and arrests of activists," and suggests ambivalence amongst conference participants and organizers regarding the police actions. The atmosphere was chaotic, but not paranoid. What is expected? And Ajani ignores that within an hour of the arrests and raids, we had sent out press releases to hundreds of press contacts worldwide, spoken with several lawyers, spoken with the press, and posted phone numbers for the St. Louis police and Mayor's offices and encouraged everyone at the conference to call.

She says that "local organizers were quick to refer to

[those marching in the street, rather than the sidewalk] as rabble rousers." Knowing the organizers, this is a preposterous assertion. She then criticizes the "small numbers, lack of good planning, and access to information." For an event in this region, the numbers were very good.

As for good planning and access to information, Ajani did not inquire to organizers about the planning process or how having a significant part of the community arrested complicated plans. She did not bother to learn how both events were organized by a very small group of individuals. And she certainly did not report anything about the Biodev conference, ignoring how key activists and scientists from around the world came and discussed for three days the inter-related threats of genetic engineering, biowarfare, and environmental racism, what was learned, how the conference featured more people of color than other similar conferences, or how much emphasis was put into building bridges across racial lines in the community.

The greatest impediment in the process was lack of organizers. If there is a lesson to learn here, it is that more people need to share in the work of organizing. Spontaneity is beautiful and work sucks, but if we are to

maintain anything wild and beautiful in this world then more people are going to have to step up and work their asses off.

—JIM SCHEFF

To all fellow animal lovers,

I am writing to tell of my recent subpoena to testify before a Grand Jury. I was originally requested (told to) testify before the Grand Jury on Aug. 5 but for whatever reasons it was moved to August 19. This Grand Jury was the first (that I had heard of) to be convened in the state of Oklahoma that has to deal with animal rights issues. Reason? I was simply handing out literature on the atrocities that go on behind closed doors at Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). Apparently there was some vandalism that happened at HLS's Market Maker Legacy Trading Company located in Edmond, Oklahoma, prior to my lone demo. I was the only one at the demo, so the FBI saw it fit to pursue me.

At the Grand Jury hearing everything was just as everyone has probably read on these things. I walked into a room with approx 20 jurors sitting in front of me with the Assistant US Attorney sitting on my left. About an arms length in front of me was the stenographer. No client attorneys (which I had two very good ones, thanks guys!). No

privileges. Well, I did get a glass of water. No one else allowed in the room. An hour went by of reading over the actual subpoena and a few questions about what groups I belonged to, what my beliefs were and did I commit certain acts of vandalism. A few of the jurors asked some questions as well. One juror even asked where they could get more information and what the address was for Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC). Donation??

I guess my main reason for writing this is to thank each and every one of you that has supported me, given advice, the pro-bono attorneys, and continue to speak on behalf of the animals in HLS and anywhere cruelty can be found. Though I do not know if this will be the end of my investigation, I do know that I will always be a voice for the voiceless. I stood out there in Edmond on a cold wet day because I care. Alone, cold, and FBI agents watching, the only thing that went through my mind was to educate as many people as possible. This needs to be in everyone's mind. *Educate to liberate!* The more people we tell each and every day the closer we are to victory. It's coming sooner than you may think.

Thanks,

—CHRIS GREEN, NORTHEASTERN
OKLAHOMA ANIMAL HELPERS

Dear Shit fer Brains,

Thank You! for your July-August 2003 article on Vandenberg Air Force Base.

I was one of three arrested at the front gates during your back-country action. I went over the blue line with a Catholic nun and brought my favorite Spirit Guide, Jesus, with me. As we said our prayers, we were taken away and placed in a van. Dr. Sanderson Beck, author of the *Nonviolent Action Handbook*, went across a little while later, then crossed again two days later. The Sister and I received a ridiculous punishment of three years supervised probation, and Dr. Beck is currently serving his second jail term, three months. Still yet to come is Peace Camp owner and Vandenberg Action Coalition Co-Founder Bud Booth's October trespassing trial.

While in this quiet non-resistance phase, I have taken time to watch Ground-based Midcourse Missile Defense and ICBM Minuteman III activities. Our good environmental steward, the California Coastal Commission, approved 6 GMD silos and 11 launch facilities—"without a hitch"—for action (not testing, but the real thing) during their Huntington Beach meeting. They feel that it's obvious that shooting missiles doesn't harm water or living creatures. They know this because the military tells them so. Even more interestingly, the so-called peaceful, beneficial space exploration and "environmental" data collecting launches are now sending up missile defense booster equipment. Hardly an outcry out of anyone since everyone really appreciates the goods that the military delivers in these corporate commercial launches, even if they do contain a bit of weaponry equipment. Next year, the brain-dead Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo County folks will no doubt sleep through the 25 high energy chemical oxygen iodine laser tests over the ocean.

Anyway, thanks for giving a care and super love to you back-country Actioneers!

—SHEILA BAKER, VANDENBERG

WATCH

Dear SFB,

In Humboldt County we deal with private property not public (see *EF!* May-June 2003). This makes property destruction a very unwise and dangerous decision and not to mention unwanted. If Rod really cared about the lives of activists, he would consider what the backlash of this tactic would be. If you add a strong dislike for activists, a declining rate of employment, destruction of someone's property and a possibility of speed addicted loggers, you end in a very dangerous situation.

David Gypsy Chain was killed by a logger that was

Dear SFB,

In accord with the wishes of the Pierce County (Washington) Superior Court, I just attended my first Narcotics Anonymous meeting, and it gave me an idea. With all due respect to those who have found Narcotics Anonymous/Alcoholics Anonymous helpful, I would like to suggest the formation of "Consumers Anonymous" groups. These would support persons who are ready to admit that they have a consumption problem. Hello, my name is David, and I'm addicted to consumption.

—DAVID G.

Hi,

I'm reading the new *Earth First! Journal* right now, and so far, I think it's one of the best I've seen (see *EF!* September-October 2003). The cover's great, and what I've read so far

very much the "Bible Belt"—no denying that. But it's also its own hotbed of resistance. That's the history a lot of people don't understand. Many folks there supported the underground railroad, fought against the confederacy, opposed the carpet-baggers and skalawags, and opposed Jim Crow. African-Americans, Cherokee, and Choctaw have a long history of resistance there, in particular. When I travel back home, I am convinced that there is a growing environmental consciousness. We can very much thank folks like the *EF!*ers there for bringing these issues to the foreground.

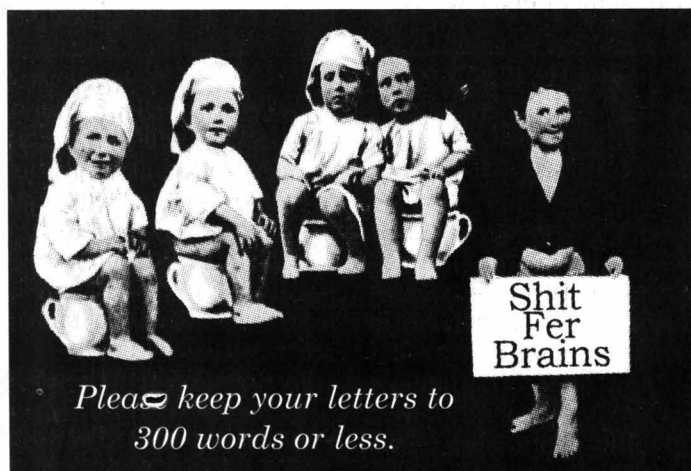
The articles about sexism make me want to argue with and dismiss them—which is great, because I'm just full of it, sexism-wise!

"Burn, Baby, Burn"—what can you say? I mean, the main importance of an action like that just may be that it gives inspiration and hope at a time when it is so easy to be defeated and rendered useless by despair. And the setting—San Diego is such a beautiful and depressing place. It has all these incredibly unique and varied ecosystems bordered on all sides by sprawl and encroachment.

Hey—all this praise is heartfelt! I often get pissed off at the *Journal*!

Keep up the good work,

—JAMES



using speed. We must remember how people will retaliate whether or not they are using drugs. Property damage provokes violence especially when it is personal property, which is the case in Humboldt County.

Also, I'd like to add that this tactic makes framing activists much easier. We in the forest defense of Humboldt County do not use the tactic of property destruction for very good reasons. Rod is undermining and discrediting what people in our community have been working so hard to achieve.

—ANONYMOUS

is very thought provoking.

I really appreciate the inclusiveness in "Wilding the Revolution by" Strider Longshanks. Having been on both sides of being excluded, and bone-headedly excluding, I was moved enough by the piece that I considered typing and sending it to my list.

Reading about Katúah *EF!* on the inside cover is very heartening. I am from around Chattanooga as is my family for generations, indeed, some of my ancestors have been there for as long as people have inhabited the place. I love the area. It's very conservative and

Dear SFB,

The last issue's cover with the naked older woman on the front was totally offensive (see *EF!* July-August 2003). If there was a naked young woman on the cover, the shitstorm would never have died down, but this cover mirrors mainstream society's attitude that older women have no sexuality, images of their bodies are intrinsically non-sexual, and thus it is not exploitative to show them nude. Editors, please include ageism in your pantheon of society's ills to avoid.

Love 'n' Rage,

—ROTTEN LEAVES

Taking Back

Revolution is based on land. Land is the basis of all independence.

BY STACY PETTIGREW AND SKOTT KELLOGG

The *Movimiento Sin Tierra* (MST), or the Landless Workers Movement, is one of the most powerful grassroots movements in the world. Beginning in Brazil more than 20 years ago, the MST is now more than one million members strong throughout Latin America and has won land equivalent to half the area of Ohio.

Frustrated by the elite's monopoly on land ownership, as well as extreme poverty and unresponsive governments, members of the MST form small groups to occupy and create settlements on idle land. Land occupations, of which the MST has carried out tens of thousands, play a key role in the *mística*, the moment of collective theater and mythmaking that kicks off all MST events.

Brazilian MST leader João Pedro Stédile recognizes that it is a huge step for a poor rural family to take part in an occupation. "The vehemence of this action means that no one can sit on the fence," he says. "You have to have a position, either in favor or against." Another MST leader, Jaime Amorim, says it is the decision to risk all in a dangerous and arduous land occupation that sparks off a process of change in the individual: "Rural workers can learn more on the day of the occupation than during a whole lifetime."

The settlers often face violence from landowners, agribusiness and governmental armed forces. Yet despite these obstacles, MST settlements are creating alternative models of living and are securing physical spaces where hundreds of thousands of families can live decent, independent lives instead of having to submit themselves to the degradation and poverty of city slums.

Today, local MST groups are springing up throughout the Americas, including in Peru, Mexico and Bolivia.

Bolivia: The Epicenter of Agrarian Conflict

It is no surprise that people have embraced land occupations in Bolivia, one of the poorest countries in South

America. In 2000, the MST Bolivia formed in Gran Chaco, an area described in the Bolivian newsweekly *El Pulso* as "the epicenter of agrarian conflict, where *latifundistas* and huge tracts of land contrast with the exploitation of sharecroppers and farm laborers living in conditions of semi-slavery." Established during the Spanish conquest, the economic system of *latifundismo* is based on huge, export-driven plantations, called *haciendas* or *latifundios*.

The Bolivian revolution enacted sweeping agrarian reforms in 1953, stating that idle land should be given to those who would work it. However, power quickly left the hands of the people who fought the war, and the land was distributed to friends of the ruling regime instead of the poor.

In 1996, the National Institute of Agrarian Reform (INRA) was created to verify that the titles to all of the farm land in the country were legally obtained and whether land was being excessively monopolized. *Campesino* (farmer) organizations, including those that would later form the MST, refused to participate in the negotiations leading up to the INRA because they felt it violated their constitutional right to the free endowment of land.

"Our struggle began with marches, protests and land takeovers," explains Wilfor Colque Caceres, secretary of the MST Bolivia National Coordinating

Committee. "We no longer ask the authorities to give us the land, because when we do that, they cut us off. We go directly to lands... We enter, we work, we occupy the lands."

He describes the MST as "an organization of men and women fighting for the recuperation of land that has been usurped by national and international businessmen." They form in local, autonomous nuclei that identify and occupy abandoned or unproductive land.

"The National Coordinating Committee is a collective (egalitarian) body, there is no hierarchy. We are all equal—that helps us to be a stronger body. In order to decide on a matter, we make our decisions amongst all of us." He explains that the MST is organized in each of Bolivia's nine departments (states). There are 4,250 families living

There is little that will stand in the way of the wave of devastation except the success of those who are making their stand in place. Again and again, the people of the MST have tried to make this point to us, fully aware of the shortcomings in themselves and in their communities.

The MST has made impressive progress against the terribly powerful forces thrown against them, and they have built stable communities where it had seemed impossible to do so.

—ANGUS WRIGHT AND WENDY WOLFORD

the Land

Inside Bolivia's
Landless Workers
Movement

Land is the basis of freedom, justice and equality. —Malcolm X

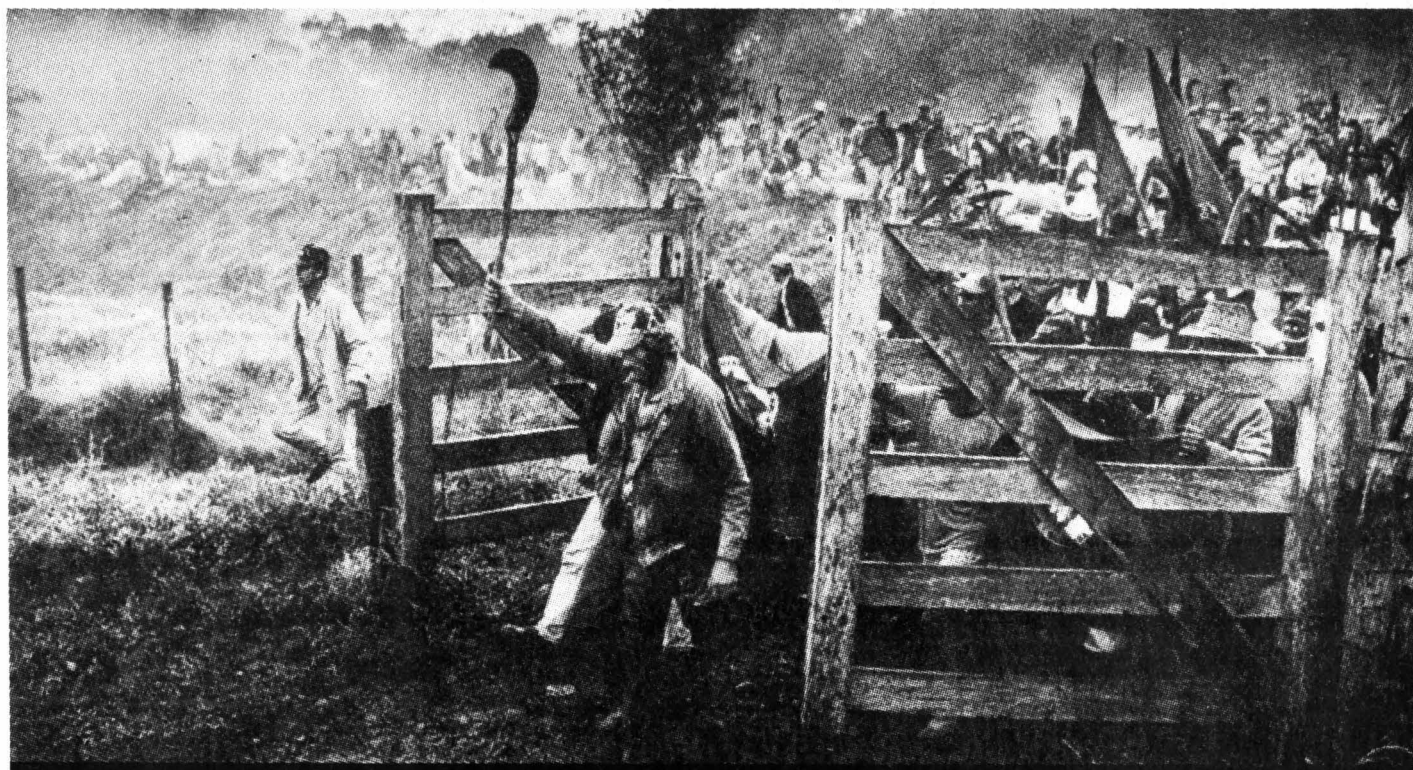
on occupied land in the department of Santa Cruz. "Some are on plantations, others are on forested reserves." The MST firmly states that it won't touch productive or Indigenous lands.

"It's not that we look for people to organize," says Colque. "People that organize themselves come here and say to us: 'Look, we want to form part of the MST, and we found land to takeover.' So what we do is talk, share experiences, tell them what problems they can anticipate.

Every day, organizations arrive here asking for information. Communities invite us to their meetings."

Colque describes the solidarity among MST groups in different countries: "We have mutual support. Not only with Brazil, but with Peru and Mexico also. We have a coordination in which *compañeros* from here, Bolivia, go to train in Brazil. Recently a Brazilian *compañero* visited us, sharing experiences."

continued on next page



One of the most celebrated MST conquests was the reoccupation of the 200,000-acre Giacometti plantation. On the triumphal moment of entry into the latifundio, photographer Sebastião Salgado wrote:

It was impressive, this column of 12,000 landless peasants, made up of 3,000 families, marching into the cold night in the beginning of Winter in Paraná. The peasant army advanced in almost complete silence. The only thing you could hear was the regular breathing of people accustomed to making an effort, and the dull thud of feet on the asphalt.

When we arrived, day was breaking. The early morning was wrapped in a thick mist from the Iguacu River that runs close by. The mist slowly began to lift. And the river of peasants, which had flowed down the asphalt throughout the night, finally stopped as it reached the gate of the estate, and then spread out, like the water of a dam.

But the small army protecting the *latifundio* did nothing, so the men on the front line broke the padlock, opened the gates and entered. Behind them, the river of peasants began to move. They raised sickles, hoes and flags in an unrestrained avalanche of hope in this reencounter with life—and the repressed cry of the people without land rang out with a single voice in the clarity of the new day: "Agrarian reform! A struggle for us all!"

The MST on Globalization

According to Colque, the MST doesn't isolate the issue of landlessness from other national concerns. Bolivians are wary of continuing attempts to privatize water after successfully resisting the US-based Bechtel Corporation's privatization plans in 2000. The US-imposed war on drugs against the traditionally used coca plant has resulted in the forced eradication of the crop, violence and deep resentment amongst *campesinos*. The proposed sale of Bolivian natural gas to the US has boiled over with strikes and roadblocks. Protesters have been reported injured and dead at the hands of governmental armed forces.

Closely tied to all national concerns is the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), which would open up Bolivia's natural resources to the international market, as well as decimate local farmers. "The FTAA is a matter that is very worrisome. They are trying to silence us. For us, this is a genocidal law," says Colque.

Not surprisingly, MST settlements in Bolivia have been violently repressed within months of their beginnings, as landowners use every means

The Complexity of Bolivian Forest Reserves

Among the complex issues accompanying Bolivian national forest reserves, ecological priorities often compete with corruption, extreme poverty and unequal land distribution. While the well-intentioned North American environmental attitude would be in defense of the reserves, the *Movimiento Sin Tierra* (MST) views these areas as government rackets to keep the poor from having land to live off of. The MST maintains that the land is not being protected, while logging companies are allowed to continue reaping profits.

"All of this is a trick, with a wink and a nod from the government, so that lumber companies can continue to operate without paying the license fee," says Wilfor Colque Caceres, secretary of the MST Bolivia National Coordinating Committee. Colque adds that there is not much public knowledge about the logging companies destroying the forested reserves. Three trees are supposed to be planted for each one cut down, yet this has not been enforced.

Wealthy landowners and petroleum and lumber companies have

been known to join forces to start "environmental" campaigns, which accuse *campesinos* of destroying the environment. Such campaigns have gained the distrust of *campesinos* and Indigenous groups, as they are used as fronts to drive poor people from the land and exploit its resources.

According to Colque, "The protected areas provide a profit for non-governmental organizations, the environmentalists. That is to say, they take the land from us by designating it a 'protected area.' Indigenous people and *campesinos* can't enter, can't even set foot inside. Meanwhile, those from outside come; the tourists, they enter and remove plants to study. They do all that, but we don't receive any benefit."

The MST is organized and ready to seize lands in several states in Bolivia. "This Summer, there was a meeting in Cochabamba where it was said that if the government doesn't solve the restitution of land, we will enter the protected areas. We are not going to be concerned with whether they are protected areas or forested reserves," said Colque.

It is not through resignation but through rebellion that we affirm ourselves as human beings. —Paulo Freire

available to stop them. Throughout the MST, several hundred landless workers have been killed since the movement was formed. In many cases, the title-holding landowners enlist the help of other poor, landless *campesinos* by promising them a piece of land.

On November 9, 2001, six Bolivian MST members were murdered at the settlement of Pananti, outside the city of Yacuiba. The 7,000 acres of land encompassing Pananti had been given to a family in 1974 in return for their cooperation with the military dictatorship. By 1993, it was abandoned. More than 100 families occupied the empty plantation, and six months later, six *campesinos* were killed and 16 wounded on their way to work in the fields. The gunmen fled, but a local anti-MST landowner was caught by the *campesinos* and beaten to death.

MST leader Pablo Ruben Martinez Padilla recounted, "They were fighting for something just. They wanted a piece of land, so they could survive, because there isn't money, there aren't jobs."

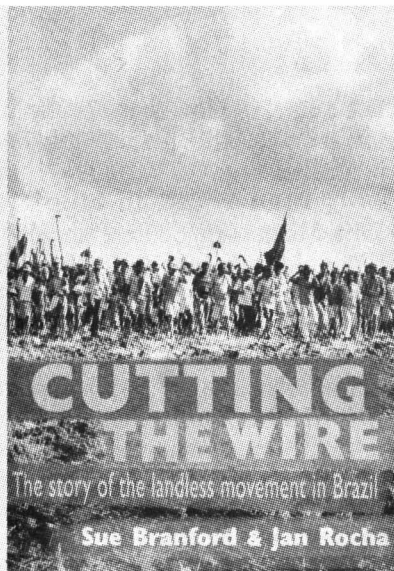
When asked what message he would like relayed to the American public, Colque replied, "The poor people are always against the government because the government applies the stipulations of the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank of Development and the World Bank. We are

almost nine million inhabitants; we owe US\$900 per person, from when a child is born until death." According to the World Bank, Bolivia's per capita annual income is US\$950. "It is a very large debt for us. We see that the beneficiary of the loaned money is never the poor people. It simply stays among the government's inner circle."

It is very clear to the MST and other *campesino* and Indigenous groups throughout Latin America that free trade policies hurt them while directly benefiting international and US-based interests. Activists in the US can most effectively support the MST, and groups like them, by organizing in their own backyard against these global powers.

Colque concluded, "The struggle continues, and it will be a fight—it is not simply on a national level, but a South American level and also global. We will continue because it is worth more to die for the land than to be on one's knees to the government and before this system that they are imposing."

Stacy Pettigrew is a radio journalist for the Women's International News Gathering Service, while Skott Kellogg is an ecological designer, permaculture teacher and a sustainability consultant. This story is based on interviews conducted in Bolivia this past Summer.



Cutting the Wire: The Story of the Landless Movement in Brazil, by Sue Branford and Jan Rocha, Latin American Bureau, 2002.

"When the pliers cut the wire, and it snaps like the strings of a violin and the fence tumbles down, the *sem terra* lose their innocence," says the poet Pedro Terra. In *Cutting the Wire*, we see how people, such as Terra, have found not only land to work but knowledge, self confidence and hope through the MST.

We read how this landless rural workers movement and its acts of land occupation have become the baptism of fire for new members. Once the fuse is lit, a profound process of personal and political transformation takes place.

MST settlements are also places where people can experiment with new forms of alternative agriculture, education and health care, places where profit is not the only measure of success.

Cutting the Wire is comprehensive in its mixing of history, politics and economics, as well as its comparisons with social struggles in England in the 1600s and recent movement building in the US.

The book clearly demonstrates that in a region where so many movements for change have been co-opted, corrupted and absorbed by the dominant political system, the MST has obstinately refused to compromise.

—MARCEL IDELS

This past September 11 marked the anniversary of the 1973 US-backed military coup against the democratically elected socialist government of Chilean President Salvador Allende. To memorialize the 3,200 Chileans who were brutally tortured and disappeared, the Freedom Archives and AK Press have released a CD compilation of testimonies from the survivors.

Chile: Promise of Freedom is required listening for anyone unfamiliar with US imperialist policies practiced in Central and South America. It is especially relevant in light of continuing US foreign policy that favors military intervention to open the door for the global marketplace and US corporations.

"It was a time when the worst and the best came to the surface. People who were very outspoken leaders went into hiding, and people who were very quiet—priests or workers that no one had ever noticed before—became heroes," says Isabel Allende, niece of Salvador Allende.

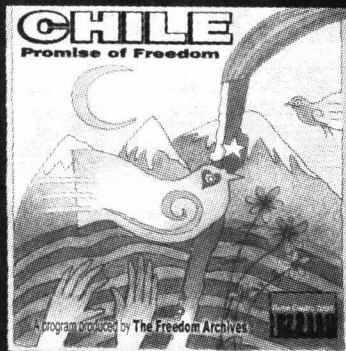
Artists, labor organizers and common citizens were rounded up daily by secret police. The arrested would shout their names as they were being dragged away, hoping to be heard and not become one of the "*desaparecidos*" or disappeared.

The CD relates how sports stadiums became concentration camps. Each morning, bodies would be found of those who, fearing torture, jumped from the stadiums' high walls to their deaths.

For those who have never heard the names Allende or Pinochet, this CD will leave you angry one moment and crying the next, especially where testimonies are interspersed with beautiful Chilean music by torture victims like Victor Jara, whose guitar-playing hands were crushed by Pinochet's torturers. With the US fast approaching the level of totalitarianism that it helped to create in Chile, *Chile: Promise of Freedom* is a chilling reminder of the lengths governments will go to in order to protect their power and privilege.

For more information, visit www.akpress.org.

—ROD CORONADO



To Inherit the Earth, by Angus Wright and Wendy Wolford, Food First Books, 2003.

An informative and enjoyable book written about Brazil's landless workers movement, *To Inherit the Earth* tells a detailed story about how the MST has used nonviolent means to secure access to more than 20 million acres of farmland for thousands of formerly landless and jobless people.

Written from interviews and research done across the span of several years, the book gives an in-depth history of the movement. Additional chapters review the MST's relationship to the environment and give assessments of its successes, shortcomings and influences.

This is a book for anyone interested in the complex relations between land owners, landless people, governments and environmentalists.

—SKOTT KELLOGG



BY LESLEY ADAMS

In a significant blow to the economic colonization of the planet, the fifth ministerial of the World Trade Organization (WTO) ended in failure in Cancún, Mexico, on September 14.

As people from around the world gathered in the streets of Cancún to share their resistance to the WTO, ministers from more than 20 poor countries formed an alliance to stand up to the richest countries in the world. The global South demanded that contentious agricultural issues be resolved before moving on to the new trade regulations being pushed by the European Union and the US. The global North would not budge, so the global South walked out. No deals, no agreements. Millions of dollars were spent to secure a meeting that completely failed, the second time in four years for this illegitimate global government. The ministers from Swaziland and Brazil commented that without the actions of resistance on both the inside and outside of the meeting, they would have never stood up to the European Union and the US.

A Tapestry of Resistance

On the first day of the ministerial, when *campesinos* (farmers) led more than 10,000 protesters toward the hotel zone where the meetings were being held, police stopped the march six miles from the convention center at a spot that became known as "Kilometer Zero." The site became a focal point for outrage.

"The WTO kills farmers" was the chant Korean farmer Lee Kyung Hae screamed from the frontlines before stabbing himself and falling to his death on the opening day of the talks. This act of sacrifice set a tone for the rest of the week. That same chant continued throughout the ministerial in street theater, banners, 24-hour vigils and demonstrations carried out by non-governmental organizations inside the convention center.

Large and small affinity groups took action around the fortified hotel zone. These included marches, a building squat, disruption of the opening ceremony, a pagan spiral dance outside of the convention center, an evening *caserolazo* (Argentinean-style street drumming and marching) and the dumping of genetically engineered

We Won This Round

The Cancún WTO Ministerial Summit

corn at a press conference. Three protesters hung a banner from a 300-foot-tall crane that read "*Que se vayan todos*" ("They all must go").

On September 10, women from Mexico and around the world marched to Kilometer Zero, determined to break through the barricades using bolt cutters to dismantle the wire. The Koreans tied ropes to the remaining metal, and hundreds of people pulled it down. Less than 24 hours after the fence came down, the talks also collapsed.

Strengthening the Fabric of the Grassroots

Many people found strength in the diversity of groups gathered in the streets of Cancún. We were challenged by the integration of different cultures with different tactics, organizing methods and social relations. The language barrier was also challenging. People who came with a working knowledge of Spanish had an easier time and perhaps were ultimately more helpful. Some who did not speak any Spanish felt isolated.

Direct-action planning meetings started early, but they lacked attendance by the majority of people who would be in the streets. *Campesinos* traveling during harvest season and students who caravanned from Mexico City faced time constraints, which left internationals as the majority who came early to help set up.

Ultimately, the attempts to integrate Mexicans and internationals into concerted, pre-planned direct action failed. Once the Mexican students arrived, many felt unfamiliar with the spokescouncil model used by the US activists at the organizational meetings. Activists from the US, although experienced in mass mobilizations (due largely to privilege), needed to observe and assist rather than emphasize an organizing model that would unfortunately waste time. However, creativity, flexibility and the integration of new information allowed ideas, processes and actions to succeed in modified form.

Direct action that incorporated different communities unfolded in a decentralized and spontaneous manner—two attributes that became our greatest strengths. Another asset to this mobilization was the Koreans' militancy, although their gender dynamics were challenging for many.

In the weeks preceding the ministerial, the Green Bloc constructed an eco-village to demonstrate a sustainable model of living. The village helped to diffuse the harm done by the local media, which had labeled the protesters as "*globalofobicos*" who were coming to destroy the town. Through our creativity and transparency, the local media changed its tune and gave the protests favorable coverage throughout the ministerial.

The patriarchal foundation upon which the WTO was built affected many within the mobilization as men often took the stage, the microphone and the decisions. Yet several actions challenged this dynamic. Commandante Esther of the *Éjército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional* issued a statement that addressed the struggle of women:

"Clearly, we say that when we demand respect for women, we do not only demand it of the neoliberals. We are also going to demand it from those who say they are revolutionaries while acting like Bush in their homes."

Lee's suicide generated feelings of respect, honor, confusion and disappointment. One group from Europe communicated that suicide is not an appropriate form of

collective struggle, citing their philosophy that rebellion is an expression of life. While many may agree with this sentiment, this criticism is also an example of the misunderstanding that often surfaces between cultures that are learning to work in solidarity despite differences in social or political constructs. Lee's death symbolically fell on Chusok, the most important Korean national holiday where family and friends gather to give thanks to their ancestry and for the food that sustains life.

Although people worked to unify a voice against the WTO, there was still a lack of an Earth-centered critique among the majority of protesters. As environmentalists, we must continue to infiltrate the masses and articulate an Earth-centered message that connects the differing strands of resistance to corporate globalization.

Ultimately, the success of our collective struggle in Cancún manifested as a living process of imaginative improvisation in the face of militarism, pessimism and intimidation.

Where Will the WTO Go from Here?

With the failure of the Cancún ministerial, many WTO members are questioning the feasibility of such a global institution. The original 2005 deadline for the Doha round of negotiations is highly unlikely given the outcome in Cancún, since significant progress was needed on these issues in Mexico. According to WTO Deputy Director General Roderick Abbott, "The Cancún episode has already cost us three to four months." Abbott estimates that the Doha negotiations may not be completed until 2006. The WTO General Council is scheduled to meet in Geneva by December 15 to determine the next course of action for the organization.

Some people speculate that the US actually wanted the Cancún talks to fail. US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick made it clear that the US would pursue bilateral trade agreements with countries that played a "constructive" role in Cancún. These agreements may be easier to slip past the defenses of global resistance, which could result in a more fragmented global justice movement. To divide and conquer is an old and trusted method of the conqueror.

This is reason to focus on the upcoming meeting of the Free Trade Area of the Americas in Miami, Florida, from November 20-21. The events in Cancún derailed the global trade agenda, and progress during the negotiations in Miami will be more difficult. While the WTO sits stunned and retreats to Geneva, we must go on the offensive. Revolution is a process, not a moment to wait for.

There is, and should continue to be, a constant critique of the efficacy of mass mobilizations, especially in the face of increased military repression. However, just as the world that we envision fits many worlds, our activities should manifest both large and small, quiet and loud. Standing up together against the oppressors should never be dismissed. Building alliances and solidarity between struggles is vital to counter the ways in which the current power structure is connecting our global community. The world is being globalized whether we like it or not. They choose to globalize capital. We choose to globalize resistance.

Lesley Adams works in the Siskiyou Mountains where she is investigating the behavior of non-native invasive species to determine if they can teach the radical activist community methods of proliferation.

Radio Pirates Sail the World

BY EL PICO

For a technologically enabled resident of a wealthy country, the work of creating and distributing alternative media can take numerous forms: print, video and web, to name a few. But for the five billion people living in a different economic reality, world news media generally originates from only one source: radio.

In places where daily newspapers have never been delivered, where television signals have never been received, where DSL, cable, phone or powerlines may never reach, short-wave radio signals bounce down from the ionosphere and become battery-powered news and music. Short-wave radio, also called world band,

is the media that travels around the globe to every camp, village and town. It is heard daily by hundreds of millions of people.

So when an organization as hell-bent on global domination as the World Trade Organization (WTO) met in Cancún, Mexico, in September, it seemed fitting that a voice of the people should be broadcast to the entire world. The dream was pirate radio, planet-wide, via short wave.

Rigging the Topsail

Start 45 feet up a guy-wired fir pole. Follow the wire 200 feet over to the top of a tall ponderosa pine. Trace the thick,

hemlock in Washington's Olympic National Forest during the Seattle round of WTO negotiations in November 1999. The FM signal—transmitted from station Y2WTKO—was heard throughout the Seattle metropolitan area during those five historic days of protest. When federal agents tracked the signal to the base of the hemlock, they endured a thorough taunting and left empty-handed.

Despite an impressive resumé of actions in its five-year history, the jump from RFC to RFC-International was hardly guaranteed. But the theory made sense. With enough three-phase power, used equipment rewired for unimagined new purposes and a properly tuned, end-fire dipole antennae pointing toward Cancún, the signal

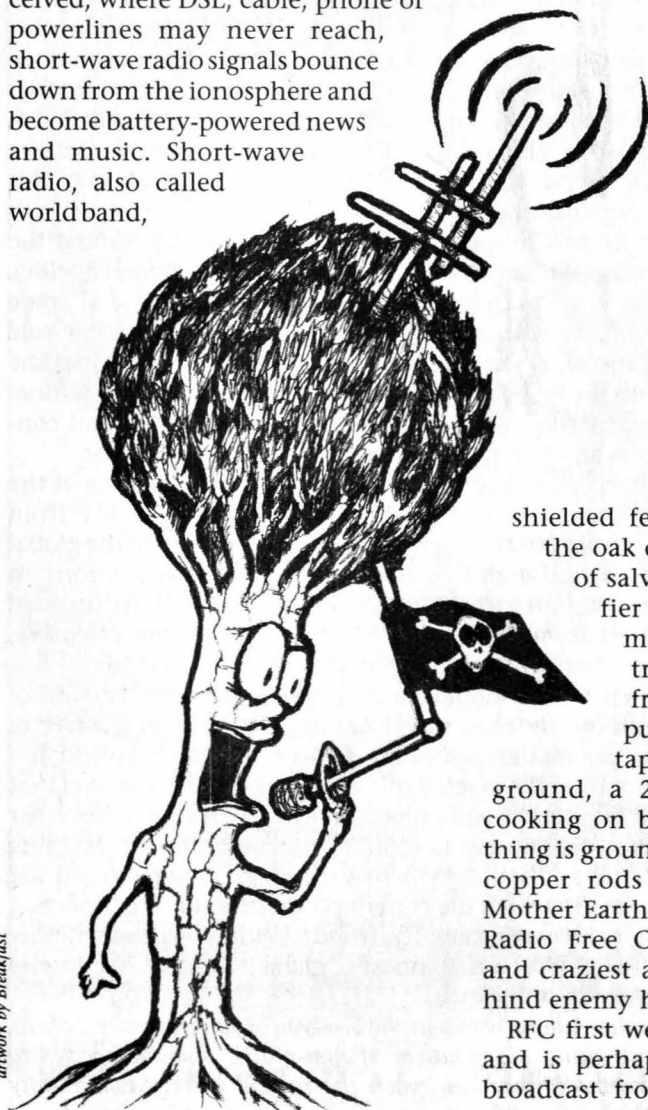
You are at the site of Radio Free Cascadia's latest and craziest attempt to operate behind enemy headlines.

shielded feedline down through the oak canopy to the half-ton of salvaged industrial amplifier and then back to the modified amateur-radio transceiver. Inputs come from microphones, computers, compact discs and tape players. In the background, a 25-kilowatt generator cooking on biodiesel hums. Everything is grounded with six-foot-long copper rods firmly planted into Mother Earth. You are at the site of Radio Free Cascadia's (RFC) latest and craziest attempt to operate behind enemy headlines.

RFC first went on the air in 1998 and is perhaps best known for its broadcast from high in a western

would travel up out of Oregon, bounce off of the outer atmosphere and come down into Mexico. The hope was that any of the millions of short-wave radio listeners in Mexico could tune to 15045 KHz and hear a whole different story about the WTO.

Some great storytellers were ready to go. An Indigenous man from South America was onsite with an extensive collection of Indigenous and revolutionary music from the Americas and a strong understanding of globalization as it affects people on the ground. A Mexican woman and a woman from the US had agreed to provide correspondence from the streets of Cancún. A bilingual woman with years of Central American short-wave programming experience rounded out



artwork by Breakfast

the principal on-air team. Half of the programming would be in Spanish and half in English.

When the switch was thrown, the first sign of non-disaster was the lack of smoke or fire coming from amp or wire. "Thank you for tuning to RFC-International, broadcasting from an organic farm in the mountains of Cascadia. We are broadcasting in solidarity with the people in the streets of Cancún. We modulate the air as freely as we breathe it, in opposition to those who seek to control it."

Something positive seemed to be happening when speakers in a farmhouse nearby were found playing the program without turning the radio on! Good try, but not quite.

Measurements indicated that the system was throwing out a signal with strength above 8,000 watts—the largest AM stations in the US produce 50,000 watts. But was anyone listening?

Out went the live interviews from the streets during actions. Out went the latest news on the ever-failing negotiations. Out went programming on the repression of Indigenous people and people of color, as well as interviews with Starhawk and a local Latino labor organizer. Programs were broadcast about the September 11, 1973, US-sponsored coup in Chile and the on-going, US-sponsored war in Colombia. Another program reported on the mysterious disappearance and ritual killings of hundreds of young, Mexican women working in *maquiladoras* on the US border during the last 10 years. And out went an amazing collection of songs of resistance: everything from Rage Against the Machine to Incan flute; from Latin punk to Johnny Cash.

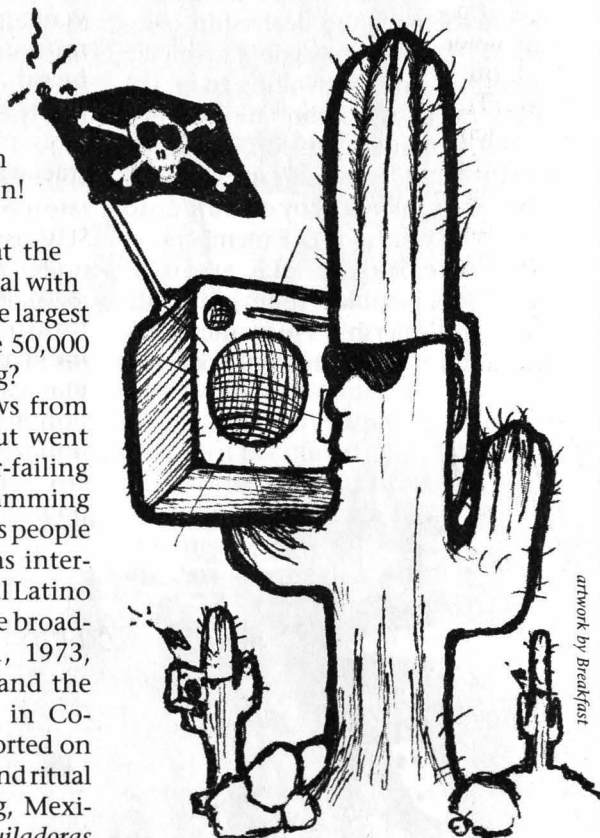
Then, in came the reception reports. The signal was strong all over Florida. The signal was received in Mexico City. But wait, email reports said they were hearing RFC-International all the way down in Argentina and Ecuador, backward up into Alaska and Nova Scotia, and on the other side of the world in China and Indonesia! The dream had become real—pirates of the airwaves had gone global.

Scuttling the Scurvy Dogs

After five days and approaching 50 hours of programming, the bigger dream came true. RFC-International

proudly broadcast to the world that the WTO had again collapsed, demonstrating a global movement of growing power and sophistication. A call went out that we all redouble our efforts to pull down the global system of repression in the days, months and years ahead.

The numerous low flybys from surveillance helicopters not withstanding, and despite the danger of working with seven kilovolts of



potential energy, as well as the sacrifice of time and \$10,000 of personal funds, this was a media action of unprecedented success. *¡Sí se puede!* Yes, we can be the media. Yes, we can give voice to the otherwise unheard. Yes, we can stop the powerful, sometimes with just our words.

To learn more about RFC-International, contact rfci@riseup.net; www.riseup.net/radiofreecascadia.

For information about pirate and micropower FM radio, visit www.diymedia.net; www.radio4all.net. To order a compilation CD of the Seattle WTO broadcasts, send \$10 to the Cascadia Media Collective, POB 703, Eugene, OR 97440.

El Pico is the mountain peak, the bird's beak and the pickaxe.

BARE BONES

Endangered Mexican Gray Wolves Shot

Four dead Mexican gray wolves were located in September—representing the greatest rash of mortalities since the species was reintroduced to the Southwest in 1998. The wolves were found in the Gila Wilderness of western New Mexico and in southeastern Arizona. Area residents and environmentalists suspect all four wolves were shot.

Twenty-two Mexican gray wolves have been killed since the reintroduction program began.

A New Mexico rancher speculated, "People may be aggravated that they can't get an elk anymore. They pay big bucks for a permit, and there is not much elk in the Gila because there is pretty stiff competition from the wolves."

Twenty-seven radio-collared wolves and an estimated 10-15 offspring, not including pups that were born this year, currently live in the wild.

Longliners Violate ESA

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on August 21 that the National Marine Fisheries Service had violated the Endangered Species Act by authorizing longline fishing off the coast of California without analyzing the related impacts to endangered sea turtles and seabirds. The ruling came in response to a lawsuit brought by the Center for Biological Diversity and Turtle Island Restoration Network. "The time has finally come for this illegal and highly destructive fishery to be closed," said Brendan Cummings, an attorney for the Center.

The California longline fishing fleet uses mono-filament lines up to 30 miles long, each carrying thousands of hooks. In addition to the targeted fish, these lines are known to ensnare the endangered leatherback turtle, marine mammals, seabirds and sharks.

THE SMOG MONSTERS VS. THE ELF

Burning for a Better World

BY ROD CORONADO

When Jeffrey "Free" Luers and Craig "Critter" Marshall torched three SUVs at Romania Chevrolet in Eugene, Oregon, in June 2000, they set in motion a new era of monkeywrenching. While Luers awaited trial, 36 more SUVs burned at the same dealership. Luers' 22-year prison sentence is a reflection of a society that values corporate free enterprise, consumerism and property above the environment.

The communiqué following the second Romania fire announced: "Gas-guzzling SUVs are at the forefront of this imperialistic culture's caravan toward self-destruction. We can no longer allow the rich to parade around in their armored existence, leaving a wasteland behind in their tire tracks. We must strike out against what destroys us before we all choke on smog."

As many urban drivers replace passenger cars with SUVs, carbon dioxide levels in the air have increased three-fold. The Surface Transportation Policy Project (STPP) in August reported that two million tons, or 57 percent of all air pollutants in Los Angeles, California, come from tailpipe emissions. Whether an oil tanker spill in Karachi or the proposed oil exploration in the caribou breeding grounds of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, America's consumption of 25 percent of the world's oil is killing the environment and people alike.

While SUVs have become a legitimate anti-pollution target, does torching them make a difference?

Since the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) began attacking SUVs, General Motors has alerted its dealers to beware of the eco-saboteurs. Kroll, Inc., a "global threat management" company, has been advising SUV dealers in security strategies and has recommended that they establish contact with FBI terrorist specialists to share information. All

American Pontiac-Buick-GMC in Houston, Texas, hired 24-hour security and installed a \$100,000 video surveillance system in response to an incident on September 3, when eco-vandals damaged two-thirds of the SUV inventory. The president of the dealership commented, "It's definitely going to impact our bottom line." Unwilling to accept any responsibility for the nation's growing levels of auto-emission pollution, automakers and dealers are instead practicing a siege mentality by offering up to \$100,000 rewards for ELF members.

After the August ELF arson at Clippinger Chevrolet-Hummer in California, the dealership's insurance company raised its premiums by 25 percent.



photo by Jasco

The National Automobile Dealers Association reported that additional insurance costs for SUV dealers will likely raise the price of SUVs for consumers. If insurance companies consider private SUV ownership a greater risk, higher premiums may also be on the way for the individual. One communiqué from the ELF stated its determination to "take the profit motive out of killing" the environment. If the ELF's intent is to make owning a SUV more cost prohibitive, it is on the right path.

Some argue that targeting SUVs galvanizes the opposition and creates an

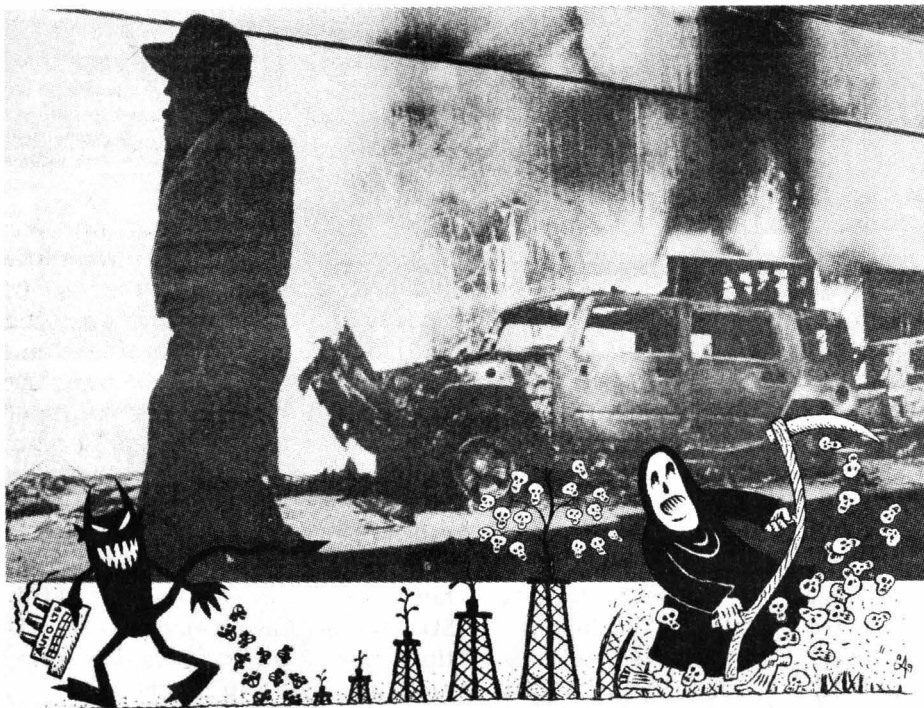
image of auto dealers as innocent victims, making it difficult for the public to accept the ELF's message. In several communiqués, however, the ELF has reminded us that the land and citizens of oil-producing countries are the victims of US automakers who profit from an environmentally and socially irresponsible car-culture lifestyle.

While the environmental crisis caused by the oil and auto industries apparently is not a story for the corporate media, attacking SUVs is. The ELF's SUV actions have generated international media attention toward automobile pollution in the US.

Most articles following the California SUV actions mentioned the words painted on the SUVs, including slogans such as "Fat Lazy Americans;" "American Wastefulness;" "I (heart) Pollution;" "Gross Polluter" and "SUV = Pollution." These slogans make it clear that the acts were not pointless vandalism, but a legitimate response to an increasingly worse environmental problem. Citing the STPP report, which revealed that southern California faces a public health crisis linked to air pollution, the Reuters news agency reported that SUVs are "vilified as gas-guzzlers and polluters."

After recent SUV attacks, a firefighter claimed that burning SUVs creates more pollution than the vehicles' exhaust. An ELF spokesperson responded that without the ELF drawing attention to SUVs, the media rarely reports on the environmental consequences of the auto and oil industry. Feigning concern for the environment while criticizing the ELF, the auto industry and media say nothing about the pollution caused by pumping, drilling, exploring, transporting and burning billions of barrels of oil every year so that we can drive our cars.

Liberal environmentalists argue that the media that accompanies arson and vandalism portrays the anti-SUV



position as extreme. Yet, those opposing the US auto industry can hardly compete with the multi-million-dollar advertising budgets of corporations that convey SUVs cruising the wilderness as a First World status symbol. Since the ELF began its SUV attacks, every major news network has requested interviews from ELF spokespeople, giving environmentalists a chance to convey an anti-car culture, pro-environmental message to millions of people, for free.

Industry front groups like the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise are arguing that the ELF's recent attacks warrant harsher repression against the environmental movement. They even go so far as to compare the ELF to Al Qaeda, while the Sierra Club's president, Carl Pope, says of the ELF, "They're not environmentalists, they're arsonists."

Environmentalists fearful of supporting the ELF should respond to such accusations with a "neither condone nor condemn" position and instead take full advantage of the attention to talk about the issues at hand.

The ELF is usually most effective when its actions directly cut into the profit margin or disrupt the research projects targeted. It's unlikely that the ELF will be changing its tactics anytime soon. However, it is likely that the ELF is being more pragmatic in recognizing the limits of its SUV campaign. In an interview with the *Los*

Angeles Times, a self-identified ELF member who claimed responsibility for burning SUVs said, "Even if this does turn people off, it still gets them talking and debating the issues. This is all we really want." He also hoped that opponents of auto pollution would join in the struggle themselves.

Like urban sprawl, auto pollution is an environmental crisis faced by a growing number of US communities. First World lifestyles are becoming less environmentally responsible. Coupled with the Bush administration's environmental rollbacks, sweetheart deals for industry and Environmental Protection Agency exemptions, auto and oil pollution will not only result in growing rates of respiratory illness and degradation of air quality, but also hopefully, acts of resistance against them. The ELF offers one example of how we can empower ourselves to strike back.

With a 22-year sentence for SUV arson as precedence, is burning SUVs worth the risk of such repression? As radical environmentalists, we can instead ask ourselves whether preserving anything we fight for is worth the growing repression our movement faces. Such a question would best be answered by those who are literally dying to provide our oil—whether an Ogoni tribeswoman in Nigeria or a sea bird smothered in oil. The real question remains whether we, as First World Americans, are willing to accept the consequences of our consumer ways.

BARE BONES

Oil Spilled Near Pakistan

On August 14, a 24-year-old Greek oil tanker, *Tasmin Spirit*, spilled 15,000 tons of crude oil across a nine-mile stretch of the Karachi coast, threatening the coastline of Pakistan and neighboring countries.

The spill killed thousands of sea animals, including hundreds of lobsters, seahorses and jellyfish. Turtle hatcheries on the southern coast and myriad aquatic life in the region were also threatened by the chemicals being used to contain the spill.

While cleanup began immediately, the ecosystem is expected to take decades to recover.

Prominent Grazing Permit Revoked in Wyoming

On August 26, the US Forest Service (USFS) canceled Kane Land and Livestock's grazing permit in Wyoming's Big Horn National Forest. The Kane family is one of the original permittees in the area and began livestock grazing in 1905. The action is only the third cancellation of a grazing permit on the Big Horn National Forest since the USFS was created.

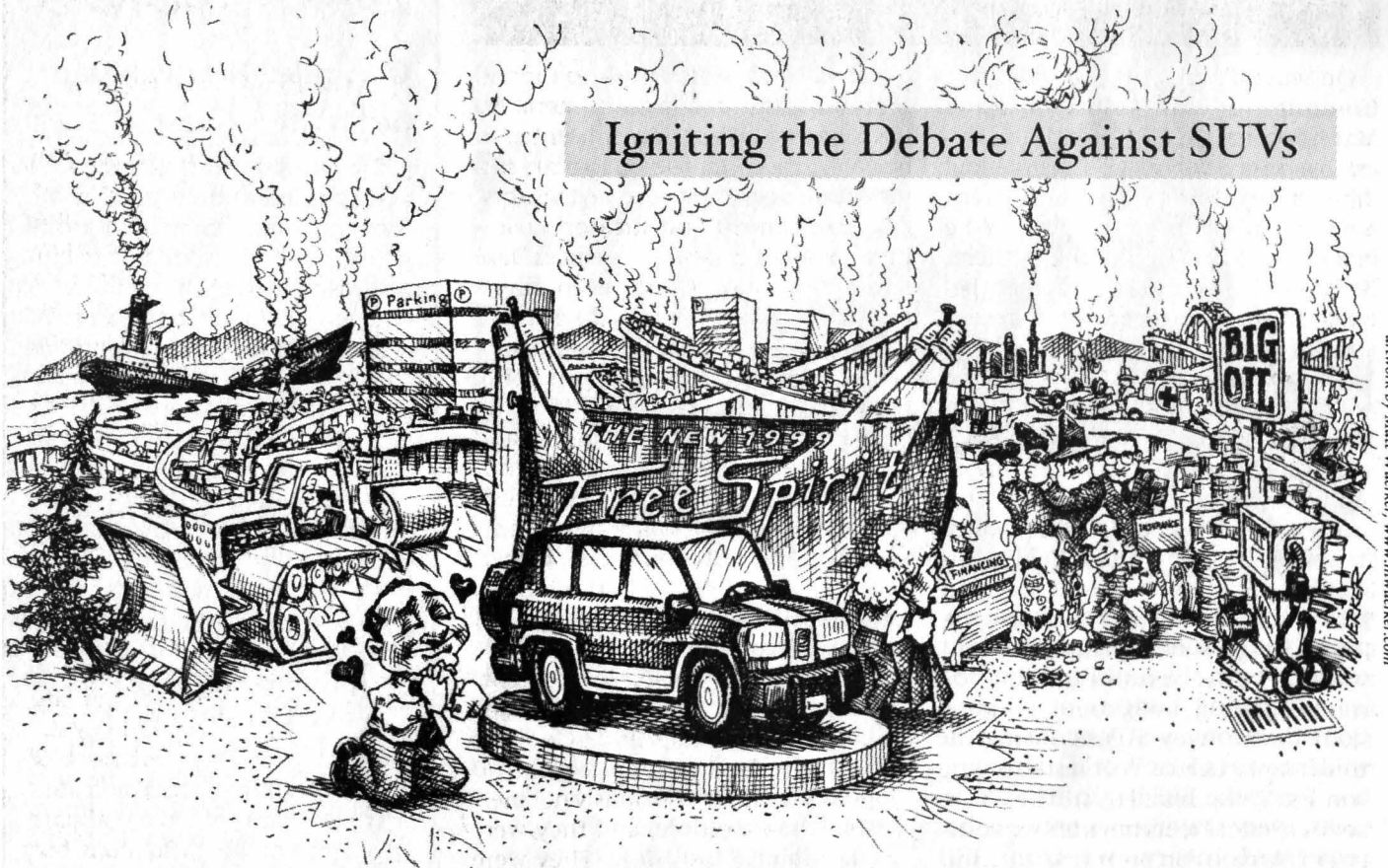
"We began documenting Kane L&L's grazing practices in 2000," reported a USFS spokesperson. "The operation was cut by 40 percent before the 2001 grazing season, and then again before the 2002 season, for exceeding allowable use standards."

Until he came under scrutiny from the USFS, Charles Kane maintained a high profile in the livestock industry. He resigned as president of the Big Horn National Forest Grazing Permittees Association when the USFS began to take action on his grazing permits.

Livestock grazing on public lands has led to soil erosion, the siltation of rivers and the destruction of habitat vital to endangered plants and animals.

A Glimpse into the ELF

Igniting the Debate Against SUVs



artwork by Matt Wuerker, www.mwuerker.com

In September, the *Los Angeles Times* claimed to have conducted a phone interview with "Tony," a member of the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), about the recent attacks on SUVs in southern California (see *EF!* September-October 2003).

From a pay phone in Los Angeles, Tony acknowledged that the August 22 actions were meant to draw attention to the pollution caused by SUVs and to spark discussion, reported the *Los Angeles Times*. Tony also said that his ELF cell agreed to contact the newspaper in an effort to clear Josh Connole, stating that Connole was not involved with their action as the FBI alleged when Connole was arrested.

"We all agreed it was necessary, initially, for the sake of rescuing Josh, but more importantly to try and get some of the message across and hopefully to bring more people to our cause," said Tony.

During the interview, Tony was reported to have described specific details from the actions. He authenticated his involvement with the ELF by

quoting a previously unreported math formula that was spray-painted on a SUV at a dealership in Duarte.

Beginning at midnight, Rusnak Mercedes-Benz in Arcadia was the first to be hit when nine SUVs were spray-painted with anti-pollution slogans. "We wanted to try things out and see how long it would take," said Tony. Passing a private SUV in a Monrovia neighborhood, the ELF smashed its window to determine how difficult it would be to break into a SUV. Next, they tried throwing a molotov cocktail made with a beer bottle into the smashed window of yet another SUV. The car caught fire.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, a surveillance camera allegedly caught Tony and another ELF member on tape while they were darting between SUVs at Advantage Ford Lincoln Mercury in Duarte, spray-painting nearly 50 SUVs with slogans in the "patriotic colors" of red, white and blue. Tony said that he was not alarmed by the tape, adding that he has since cut his hair.

Clippinger Chevrolet in West Covina was struck next. Tony was said to have described the dealership as having "very low security with a nice wall guarding the view from anyone." In just 15 minutes, 20 \$50,000 Hummer H2s were spray-painted, and 10-15 molotov cocktails were prepared and set along an exit route. While the front windshields of the Hummers were shatter resistant, the side windows were not. The ELF smashed them and threw in the lit molotovs. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Tony told the interviewer that the five dollars of gasoline their cell purchased did more damage than even they had expected.

"We support destruction of property as a means of bringing attention to important issues and to directly hurt the profits of those who gain wealth at the expense of all others living on this planet. The ELF is opposed to harming any form of life, much less human life. No one got hurt. It's one of the reasons why explosives weren't used. They're dangerous," stated Tony.

Of Golf Carts and SUVs...

On September 12, peace activist Josh Connole and his girlfriend, Katie McMillan, left the Regenerative Cooperative in Pomona, California, and drove in an electric golf cart to go rent a movie. At once, Connole noticed a black Ford Mustang following them. Believing he was being targeted because he was an organizer of recent anti-war protests, Connole dialed 9-1-1 and drove in circles as he awaited the police. Suddenly, he and McMillan saw four additional Black Mustangs.

Pushing the golf cart to its maximum speed of 25 miles per hour, Connole high-tailed it to the police station. When he arrived, a police officer put Connole in a head-lock and told him that federal agents were in the cars following him and that he should go home. So Connole left, and 20 minutes later, an FBI agent stood in his doorway with a gun pointed at him and placed Connole under arrest. Connole was booked at the West Covina Police Department for investigation of felony arson and vandalism.

During the course of events, an FBI agent told Connole that he was believed to be one of the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) members caught on a surveillance videotape during the August 22 SUV arson in West Covina (see *EF!* September-October 2003). Secure in his innocence, Connole cooperated with the FBI—until an agent called him “a fucking liar. He warned me not to fuck with him.” At which point, Connole refused to cooperate.

While Connole was in custody, the FBI laid siege on the Regenerative

Cooperative. It sealed the area off and prevented the cooperative members from leaving unless they consented to body searches. Plainclothes agents surveyed the house and searched visitors.

More than 50 investigators, complete with a mobile forensics lab, scoured the house for seven hours until they finally departed with two SUVs full of property. “I asked one of the officers how the search was going to work,” said a resident. “He said, ‘The FBI isn’t going to come in and take all your things and trash your room,’ but that’s exactly what they did.” Among the belongings confiscated were several computers, an anarchy patch, a 22-ounce bottle of fuel, hair brushes, bed sheets and a pair of women’s underwear.

During the FBI’s interrogation, agents showed Connole the surveillance tape from the SUV dealership. Connole pointed out that the image held no likeness to him: “It’s obviously not me.”

“They had a profile, and they were trying to make Josh fit it. They were trying to make a square peg fit into a round hole,” said Connole’s lawyer. At the conclusion of the 48-hour period that a suspect can be detained without being charged, the FBI was forced to admit that it lacked evidence and released Connole.

“The FBI was doing everything it could to intimidate me and make me confess to something I didn’t do,” said Connole. “The only thing I’ve done is stand on a corner with a sign, and as far as I know, that’s free speech.”

For personal accounts of the raid and information on how to support Connole, contact the Regenerative Cooperative, (909) 469-5100; www.regen.org.

BARE BONES

Final Ruling Ordered for Headwaters Forest

On September 26, Judge John Golden reversed his previous decision and rejected the Environmental Protection and Information Center’s request to order Pacific Lumber (PL) to cease almost all of its logging operations (see *EF!* July-August 2003). Golden said that such a move would damage the company and the local economy.

Golden’s decision put a stop to all Timber Harvest Plans (THP) filed by PL since June, but all previously filed THPs will stand. “He’s basically rewarding PL for its illegal acts,” said activist Naomi Wagner. “Anyone who wants to rob a bank should plead economic necessity so that they can keep on doing it.”

Golden issued a statement of decision in July. He had indicated that the court would invalidate PL’s Sustainable Yield Plan but deferred a decision on the specific remedy pending additional hearings. Six hearings were held between July and September.

Industry vs. Clean Air

A new regulation that was approved by the Bush administration exempts thousands of industrial plants and refineries from part of the Clean Air Act. The administration settled on the “clear skies” rule in September after more than two years of internal deliberation and intense industry pressure.

Constituting a sweeping victory for industrial plants, the rule allows older power plants, oil refineries and factories to renovate and upgrade their equipment without installing air pollution controls.

The Clean Air Task Force predicts that these changes will yield greater pollution and contribute to negative health effects, including 20,000 additional premature births, 400,000 asthma cases and 12,000 additional cases of chronic bronchitis.



La Marea Negra

The Black Tide

On November 17, 2002.....

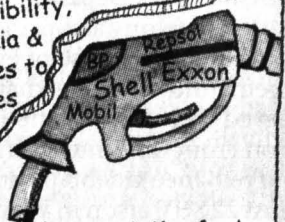
200 km off the coast of Spain, an oil tanker was caught in a deadly storm. It collided into a barge. The hull cracked in two & sank with 77,000 tons of oil destined to slowly leak into the ocean and stain the coast of France, Spain, & Portugal for 4 yrs.

PRESTIGE

CHAPAPOTE

GALICIA

At least 100,000 migratory birds have died as a result of the Prestige oil spill, along with fish, crustaceans and other marine animals. The effects of the oil spill will remain for decades, continuing to destroy fragile ecosystems & the local economy. The Russian-based oil company, Crown Resources, owned the cargo, but denies responsibility, leaving the people of Galicia & other coastal communities to suffer the consequences of the spill.



An OIL Re-DEFINERY:

Rustbuckets- poorly maintained oil tankers used as cheap transportation for low quality petroleum products. Despite the high risk to the environment, an oil spill represents no monetary risk to oil companies because the cargo can be insured for more than 100% of its value. Thus, oil companies can profit from an oil spill.

Flags of Convenience- tax free countries (tax havens) which allow ship owners to register foreign tankers. Ship owners benefit from a cheap and easy registration process that allows them to exploit cheap labor and avoid environmental and safety standards. "Flags of Convenience" countries account for only 0.4% of world population but they register over 50% of oil tankers.

Externalization- oil companies hire foreign owned tankers which are brokered, crewed, captained, and registered in different countries. The web of international paperwork makes it impossible to hold anyone accountable when accidents occur.

International Maritime Organization (IMO)- The United Nations formed the IMO in 1958 to regulate the international shipping trade. In the last 25 years political influences from international oil interests have pushed for lowered environmental and safety standards for cheap overseas shipping. Currently less than 25% of oil tankers are inspected before leaving international ports.

"Chapapote" - describes a thick black gummy substance floating in the water. After the Prestige spill it has been used as an outcry to bring attention to the oil coating the Spanish coastline.

What a mess! Free Trade makes it easy to transport cargo without regulations

Now we Spaniards are supposed to freely volunteer to clean up this wake of destruction!

And now for an in-depth analysis of this terrible incident from our special correspondent, Slik Sanders: "Well, it's very complicated, and in order to understand it, we'll need to take a look at the big global picture. (see Earth Map above). The Prestige was a single-hulled tanker built in Japan (1) over 25 years ago. Its owners and the captain are from Greece (2). The Prestige was registered in the Bahamas (3), which is based in Russia (4), but registered in Liberia, in Africa (5) and maintains its corporate offices in the British colony of Gibraltar (6). Its cargo of low grade fuel oil was from St. Petersburg and Lithuania (7), it was destined for Singapore (8), and the ship's crew was comprised of workers from the Philippines (9). Whew! Global oil corporations sure know how to get around."



Who is Responsible? The Suspects...

Who is Responsible? The Suspects...



Partido
Popula



WTO and EU- defenders of free trade and global markets; they have let companies continue to use aging tankers and dump waste oil on poorer nations rather than enforcing stricter shipping regulations.

Consumers- we increase the demand for the black blood of the earth by everyday driving cars, flying in planes consuming plastics...

The Gvymnt. of Spain was disorganised and unprepared. They continually underplayed the extent of the damage from the Prestige spill and waited a week to send help to affected communities.

And the scapegoat is...
**the captain, a slave to
the free Market.**
He was the only person
jailed as a result of the
accident.

NUNCA MAS NUNCA MAIS NEVER AGAIN

NO WAR

BOYCOTT

STOP the black tide of PETROLEUM from new

10 times more oil is spilled every year from cleaning boats, pipeline

G. K. Smith

NO
WAR
FOR
OIL!!

DEMAND
CORPORATE
ACCOUNTABILITY

STOP
the black tide of
PETROLEUM
from new
pipe lines in
Alaska
Colombia &
Afghanistan

10 times more
oil is spilled every
year from **cleaning**
boats, pipeline
leaks, and the
day to day
transfer of oil
cargo, than
from accidental
oil spills.

*2 Hulls

Alternative Technologies Exist & They Work!

Together We Can Change Our Habits & Implement Alternatives.

Together We Can Change Our

AUTOGESTION

COMPOST

GMD
AEE

More Info: nuncamais.org, waterissweet.org, beehivecollective.org, risingtide.org.uk

Move Over ALF, Here Comes

"Who are the Revolutionary Cells? It is an anti-GMO activist destroying a crop. It is a Basque youth driving a car packed with explosives destined for a Spanish politician. It is a queer bashing back, a rape victim putting a bullet in the rapist, a Corsican nationalist planting a bomb at a French bank. It is an animal liberationist shooting a vivisector dead on his doorstep. In short, it is the spirit of resistance realized. It is moving from politics to praxis."

—REVOLUTIONARY CELLS COMMUNIQUÉ,
SEPTEMBER 30

A new group of animal liberationists has claimed responsibility for two blasts at the Chiron Corporation's world headquarters in Emeryville, California, on August 28. Chiron, the nation's third largest biotechnology firm, has come under attack because of its affiliation with Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). In 1997, an undercover investigation exposed Chiron as a customer of HLS, where it sponsored primate experimentation involving gross animal abuse.

The two pipe bombs left at Chiron's headquarters detonated an hour apart



from each other and caused no injuries, breaking only a few windows and damaging two doors.

The Revolutionary Cells-Animal Liberation Brigade claimed responsibility for the action stating, "If you choose to continue your relations with HLS, you will no longer be subject only to the actions of the above-ground animal rights movement, you will face us."

Chiron officials responded to the action by arguing that only mice and rats are experimented on at the Emeryville location.

In an official statement, Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) responded to the blasts: "SHAC-USA does not support terrorism—neither ideologically nor materially. It is precisely for

this reason that we lend our vocal support to acts of property destruction—compassionate acts aimed at combating the daily terrorism committed by HLS without causing harm to any life."

SHAC has repeatedly requested that Chiron attend meetings with scientists who have reviewed HLS's research, ex-employees of HLS who can testify to broken procedural protocol and Animal Welfare Act violations. Chiron has ignored all requests.

On September 25, the Revolutionary Cells struck again, detonating a 10-pound bomb outside the Pleasanton, California, offices of Shaklee, shattering windows and tearing stucco from the building. Shaklee is a subsidiary of the Japanese conglomerate Yamanouchi Holdings Group, another business associate of HLS.

While not mentioned in their guidelines, the Animal Liberation Front has yet to use explosives, which are considered to be less predictable and more likely to cause injury. A SHAC activist commented, "We don't support violence against people. I think that if anything, the people who are abusing animals should be concerned."

Frontlines

What Would Elves Drive?

In late August, the tires of six SUVs were slashed in Richmond, Virginia, less than 48 hours after a similar incident left 13 SUVs vandalized just miles away.

In Houston, Texas, 20 SUVs were targeted at a car dealership on September 1. Approximately \$60,000 in damages was caused when windows were shot out with a pellet gun, paint was scratched and tires slashed. The sales manager believes the attack to be the work of radical environmentalists, saying, "They didn't hit anything but the big SUVs."

On September 5, 12 SUVs at a Land Rover dealership in Sante Fe, New Mexico, were spray-painted with the words "Gluttony," "Excess" and the other seven deadly sins. Expanding foam was sprayed into the tailpipes, and "Hayduke Lives!" was also found painted on the SUVs. The action caused thousands of dollars in damage.

In New Zealand on September 22, the Earth Liberation Front slashed the tires of multiple SUVs at a Wellington car dealership, promising more actions in the future.

Massasauga EF! Supports Arson Attempt

On September 21, the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) attempted to sabotage Ice Mountain, a controversial water bottling plant owned by Perrier in Mecosta County, Michigan (see *EF!* January-February 2003). Four unignited incendiary devices were found inside a pumping station.

According to an ELF communiqué: "The people of Michigan have stated very clearly that we do not want a Perrier bottling plant. Clean water is one of the most fundamental necessities, and no one can be allowed to privatize it, commodify it or sell it back to us."

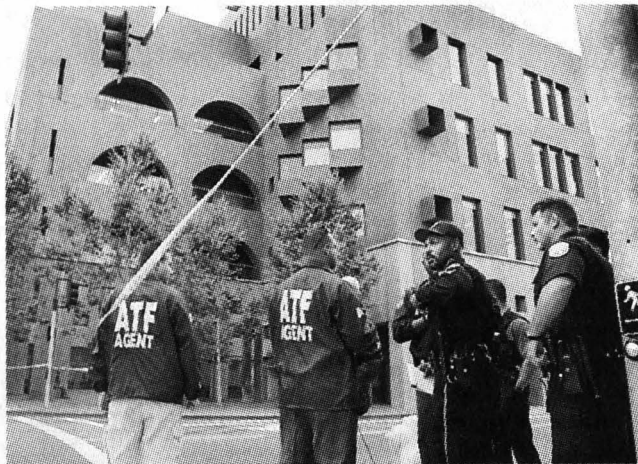
In response to the action, Massasauga EF! said it endorses and promotes all public and nonviolent actions to shut down the plant. "We recognize the need for an underground resistance that will take action to destroy the profit motive for environmental devastation. Every day that Ice Mountain is allowed to operate, the precedent is set that a corporation has more legal rights than members of the community."

the Revolutionary Cells...

In a communiqué, the Revolutionary Cells explained, "We have given all of the collaborators a chance to withdraw from their relations with HLS. We will be nonviolent when people are non-violent to the animal nations. Now you all will have to reap what you have sown."

On October 8, the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms raided the Schellville, California, home of 25-year-old Daniel Andreas San Diego who has been charged with planting all three of the Revolutionary Cells pipebombs. San Diego, who faces 10 years in prison for each bomb if convicted, is considered a fugitive. The FBI claims to have physical evidence connecting San Diego to the bombings, but that information has been sealed by a federal judge.

Police say they stopped San Diego in Pleasanton an hour before the Shaklee blast on September 26. San



Federal and local police at Chiron on the day of the blast

Diego is the only suspect in the bombings, but animal rights activists in the San Francisco area report increased surveillance and harassment from the FBI. The FBI has warned activists of the penalties for harboring a fugitive. Activists say San Diego is being unfairly targeted, citing an August FBI all-points bulletin that named three people as bombing suspects, which the FBI now admits was incorrect.

For more information on Chiron, visit www.shacamerica.net/cc.htm.

From PETA's Undercover HLS/Chiron Investigation:

Wednesday, 1/22/97: The Chiron primates had sponges implanted in their backs today. These primates have been used in many different studies, and each now has three tattoos and at least one ear tag.

Sunday, 1/26/97: The cardio primates (Chiron) are very fearful now after the surgeries. Before the operation, there were always eight who would take treats from my hand. Now, only two trust me enough to get that close. Even the friendly ones not only shrink back from me, they strike out.

I went to the necropsy room after surgery and watched Brian finish the necropsy of one of the four primates. The primate was split wide open in a pool of blood. I could see her heart still beating. He brought in another primate wrapped up like a baby. They put her on the wet and bloody necropsy table and began hacking at her arm. I was so shocked, I couldn't even ask what he was doing—the primate was still very much alive.

Foie Gras Ducks Liberated

On September 16, activists with the animal liberation group GourmetCruelty.com rescued four ducks from Sonoma Foie Gras near Stockton, California.

In the US, nearly half a million ducks are slaughtered annually at two farms—Sonoma Foie Gras in California and Hudson Valley Foie Gras in New York. Three times a day, workers shove a long, thick metal tube down each duck's throat while an air pump shoots a pound of corn into the animal.

Sarahjane Blum, one of the rescuers, said all but one of the ducks were able to be nursed back to health, taught to eat on their own and given workouts on a water treadmill. "I haven't done anything wrong. The people who are torturing animals day in and day out and selling their corpses on the market, they're the criminals," said Blum.

ALF Raids Louisiana Lab

The Animal Liberation Front (ALF) splashed red paint on Louisiana State University's (LSU) Inhalation Toxicology Research Facility on September 24 and destroyed three gas chambers, a cigarette-smoking machine and other equipment. The facility focuses on cardiovascular and respiratory research, including studies forcing mice to inhale cigarette smoke and other pollutants.

An ALF communiqué stated, "These gas chambers of suffering subject animals to daily doses of cigarette smoke and industrial pollutants, causing pain, suffering and death. The ALF will continue to target animal killers until the day compassion replaces cruelty and exploitation."

The FBI is investigating the break-in, which destroyed hundreds of thousands of dollars of research equipment.

Europe's Arms Fair Protested

On August 21, Campaign Against the Arms Trade activists occupied the headquarters of Spearhead in New Malden, England. Spearhead organizes the Defence Systems Equipment International (DSEI), Europe's largest arms fair. Simultaneously, 15 protesters hung a banner from the front of the office building and staged a "die-in." In September, the actions continued as 40 activists blocked both roads leading to DSEI using a tripod and lockboxes.

One of the protesters said, "We believe Spearhead's involvement in the promotion of armed conflict is a crime against peace. This arms fair is a hideous marketplace of weapons of mass destruction, and we're not prepared to stay at home and ignore the trade in death that's going on right under our noses."

England is the world's second largest weapons dealer behind the US, with worldwide sales topping \$13 billion.

SPLAT! call



more than a mass of potential consumers—nothing but elements in their system of buying, selling and profit-making. The intended effect of corporate propaganda is to persuade us to buy market commodities. But at a more profound level, the purpose is to produce and condition a thing called a “consumer”—something that is incompatible with being truly human.

Capitalism cannot afford to let you decide for yourself what your interests and desires are—not when profits are at stake. You must be unwilling and unable to think critically and therefore unable to see through the illusion. When all of our media sources are funded primarily by advertising, the over-riding aim is to attract our attention, put us in a state of mind that is receptive to the propaganda of corporate sponsors and, of course, to deliver that propaganda.

In fact, when you sit down in front of your television or on a public bus that is plastered with ads, it is your consciousness that becomes a commodity. It is your attention that becomes the object of commerce in the economic relationship between the media and the advertiser. It is your mind that advertisers pay the media to deliver, and the more passive, the more uncritical and the more homogeneous it is, the better.

The most damning testimony of how far this has gone is the content of the advertising being fed to us: soda that makes you “cool,” beer that gets you sex, shampoo that gives you beauty and automobiles that bring you spiritual communion with nature. This content addresses an audience already devoid of critical reflection.

The pervasiveness of advertising makes it an influential part of our cultural ecology. We tend to adapt ourselves to it. We unconsciously change to let it become “normal,” and we thereby internalize the values that advertising promotes.

It is not in our interest to destroy the environment with the biggest,

BY SPLAT-MONTRÉAL

SPLAT-Montréal is a group of individuals who are concerned with issues of social justice and who are willing to take some risks. We engage in direct action as a means to oppose practices we see as destructive. Our actions are meant to send a message and provoke reflection on issues of freedom and conscience in the context of our times.

Join the action of SPLAT-Montréal! Make some paint bombs. Go out, throw them at any of the thousands of billboards out there. Plaster advertisements with stickers. Design your own

forms of action to target the cultural propaganda of capitalism. Imagine what would happen if dozens more SPLAT crews went out and targeted billboards. We *can* make a difference.

Advertising has completely saturated our cultural space. Ads scream out to us at every turn and from every direction. But it is not merely the presence of advertising that we at SPLAT-Montréal object to. We oppose the overall “culturation” of our society.

We ought to be human beings, each with our own sense of values, principles, tastes, opinions and ways of reasoning. But in the eyes of capitalist corporations, a society is nothing

photos courtesy SPLAT-Montréal

to action

Dear Ned Ludd

Dear Ned,

Climbing up billboards and altering them by hand seems like a lot of work. Do you have any other ideas on how to deface these monuments to thieves?

—VAN "GETUP AND" GOUGH

Dear Getup and Gough,

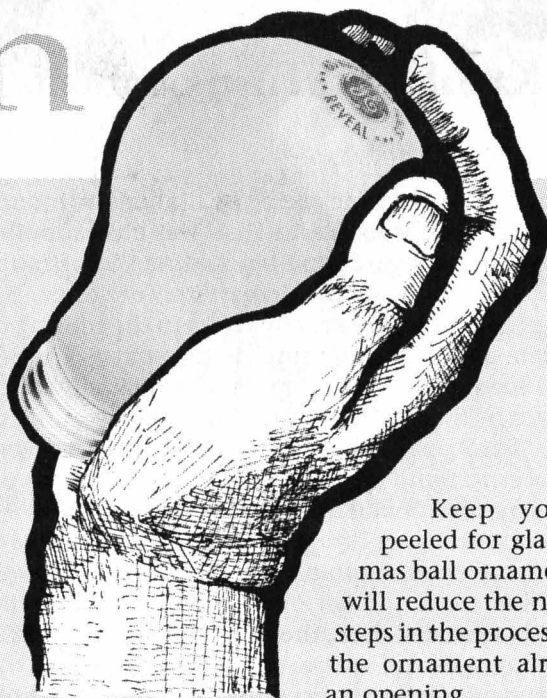
An alternative to climbing up onto a billboard is to launch a projectile filled with paint. Light bulbs and glass Christmas ornaments are the most appropriate vessels used in this process.

First things first. House paint will work, but it is too thick and will confine itself to a small splat. You'll want to water it down just enough so that the paint is still opaque but less viscous, ensuring that it will drip and run freely. Two parts paint, one part water should do.

Your standard incandescent light bulb acts as a good projectile. Lighting stores should have extra burnt out bulbs. They'll probably save some for you if you ask. The main obstacle here is making an opening to pour the paint into. A hole can be made in a couple of different ways.

Using a hacksaw, cut a half-inch off the metal end of the bulb, making sure not to sever it completely. You'll want to leave the end hanging by just enough metal so that it can be bent open and closed again. Use a funnel or a piece of paper rolled into a cone to pour the paint mixture into the bulb. Bend the tip of the bulb back into place and seal it off with duct tape.

If you haven't got a hacksaw, you can use a pair of needle-nose pliers to break away the black enamel insulator ring at the metal end of the bulb. Grip the nipple at the very tip with the pliers, give it a tug and pull the filament out. You can now fill the bulb with paint up to a half-inch from the top. Tape over the end of the bulb or use a candle to melt wax over the hole, filling the remaining half-inch.



Keep your eyes peeled for glass Christmas ball ornaments. This will reduce the number of steps in the process because the ornament already has an opening.

Hitting the mark can be hard. You may want to start with targets close to ground level. An accurate throw can be very effective, covering up focus points like faces or words.

If you have a target that is higher, you could try finding or making a water balloon launcher. The launcher acts as an oversized slingshot, which is made from a five-foot piece of rubber (a bicycle tube would work for this) with a pocket in the middle to hold the projectile. Two people hold the rubber at each end, and a third person pulls back on the pocket and releases. The paint bomb is then (hopefully) projected skyward. This can be much more of a conspicuous operation than simply tossing a paint bomb by hand, but it is potentially more effective.

For pragmatic reasons, paint bombing is often a preferred tactic among billboard "restoration" activists. The target image is effectively ruined quickly and easily, making for a relatively low-risk situation. With waysides as galleries and car-stricken people as captive audiences, what are you waiting for?

Dear Ned Ludd is an irregular column, which serves as a forum for the discussion of creative and diverse means to defend the Earth. Neither the EF! movement nor the Earth First! Journal, nor any of our friends, family, neighbors, lovers or pets necessarily encourage anyone to do the things discussed on this page. The contents should not be legally construed as anything other than mindless entertainment.

most expensive vehicles we can afford. It is not our desire to ruin our health by devouring processed foods. It doesn't make us happy to sponsor Third World sweatshops and to make capitalists rich. But from the perspective of the marketplace, this is precisely what we, as consumers, appear

to want. This is what we appear to orient our lives toward.

To authentically become human beings and exercise the genuine freedom of pursuing our own interests requires that we escape this capitalist culturation. This is what SPLAT-Montréal is about. Our efforts are to

be understood as only a small part in the larger fight against capitalism—a small part in the larger struggle to create a human society in which our desires and interests are not homogenized by corporate advertisers.

For more information, visit www.splat-montreal.org.

Don't Chop Rocky Top

Katúah Earth First! Confronts Mountaintop Removal in Tennessee

COMPILED BY JOHN JOHNSON

As the sun began to emerge over the Cumberland mountains on August 18, Katúah Earth First! was busy simultaneously climbing billboards and blockading the entrance to the Zeb Mountain coal mine in eastern Tennessee.

The Robert Clear Coal Company refers to the mining of Zeb Mountain as "contour mining" and "cross ridge mining." It claims that mountaintop removal actually helps the mountain by fixing past mining damage. According to one miner, "The Appalachian mountains are pretty steep, and flat places to build on are hard to find. We open up areas; why you could build a Wal-Mart in some spots."

This project will devour three peaks of Zeb Mountain and more than 2,100 acres of mixed mesophytic forest. It will destroy habitat for a number of endangered species, including the black-sided dace, the Indiana bat, neotropical migratory songbirds and several freshwater mussels. If the coal industry successfully forces the project, the whole Cumberland Plateau could be opened to this destructive practice—leading to flattened mountains, decimated forests, polluted streams and diminished air quality. Mountaintop removal has already terrorized Kentucky and West Virginia (see *EFJ* September-October 2003).

The Rocky Top affinity group rolled two barrels into place and filled them with rocks and cement, while a banner proclaiming "No Mountaintop Removal" was hoisted above. At 5:15 a.m., miners began to show up for work, and three activists locked into the barrels, blocking traffic to the mine.

Upon realizing that no one was in fact going to move, the police were called in. After four hours, the blockaders were arrested. They later copped a plea for trespassing and were released. The court was surprisingly lenient, and many folks at the courthouse and jail (including cops) expressed both

support for the action and anger at companies that ravage their mountains.

During the blockade, the Banner Busters affinity group began the daunting 150-foot climb up a large billboard off of Interstate 75. With the help of ground support and a pulley system, two giant banners, each reading "Stop Mountaintop Removal," were deployed facing both directions of traffic.

"This mountain has stood for eons, and now some greedy corporation wants to grind it to rubble for a profit. For 40 temporary jobs, we are being forced to sacrifice our heritage. This is a clear case of short-term gain for a minority and long-term loss for the majority," said one of the climbers.

After several hours, the climbers descended and escaped into the afternoon sun, leaving their message for the passing traffic to read.

Coal companies like Robert Clear Coal have historically cheated people out of their land, trashed the area, exploited local workers and sent all profits up north and overseas. Katúah Earth First! calls on all people across central and southern Appalachia to stand up and force an end to the destructive coal mining that ruins nature, culture and mountain heritage.

To get involved or to donate money and action gear, contact Katúah Earth First! River Faction, POB 27855, Knoxville, TN 37927; katuah@riseup.net; Katúah Earth First! Valley Faction, POB 281, Chattanooga, TN 37401; (423) 821-3501; johnjEF@bledsoe.net.

For more information on stopping mountaintop removal in Tennessee, visit www.angelfire.com/rebellion2/zebmountain.

This article was compiled from material produced by the Valley and River Factions of Katúah Earth First!, with some information gleaned from websites of groups fighting mountaintop removal across central and southern Appalachia.

In early October, the Katúah EF! Billboard Lovers Brigade took over two giant billboards along I-40 near downtown Knoxville. They hung large banners—proclaiming "StopMntopRemoval.Com"—that stayed up throughout the day, including both rush hours.

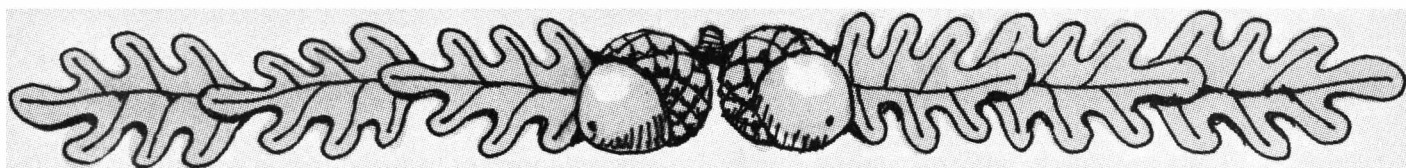
The coppers confiscated the climbing gear, so please send some dough to the Knoxville crew so they can get more.



Katúah EF!'s Rocky Top affinity group locks down

Take some time and contact the following officials to demand an end to destructive coal mining and the revocation of Robert Clear Coal Company's permit and charter:

- Governor Phil Bredesen, Tennessee State Capital, Nashville, TN 37243-0001; (615) 741-2001; (615) 532-9711 (fax); phil.bredesen@state.tn.us.
- Dr. Lee A. Barclay, US Fish and Wildlife Service, 446 Neal St, Cookeville, TN 38501; (931) 528-6481 x.212; lee_barclay@fws.gov.
- George Miller, director, Office of Surface Mining, 530 Gay St, Ste 500, Knoxville, TN 37902; (865) 545-4103 x.186; (865) 545-4111 (fax); gmiller@osmre.gov.
- Tennessee Valley Authority, Board of Directors, 400 West Summit Hill Dr, Knoxville, TN 37902-1499; (865) 632-3719; rmhorton@tnva.gov.



CHURCH OF DEEP ECOLOGY

Recognizing nature as the true root of our spirituality, we will work to encourage a more sustainable lifestyle based in exploring and celebrating the interconnectedness of all living things and the Earth.

What is Deep Ecology?

Deep Ecology is the radical idea that all life has the right to exist, that no one species is more important than another.

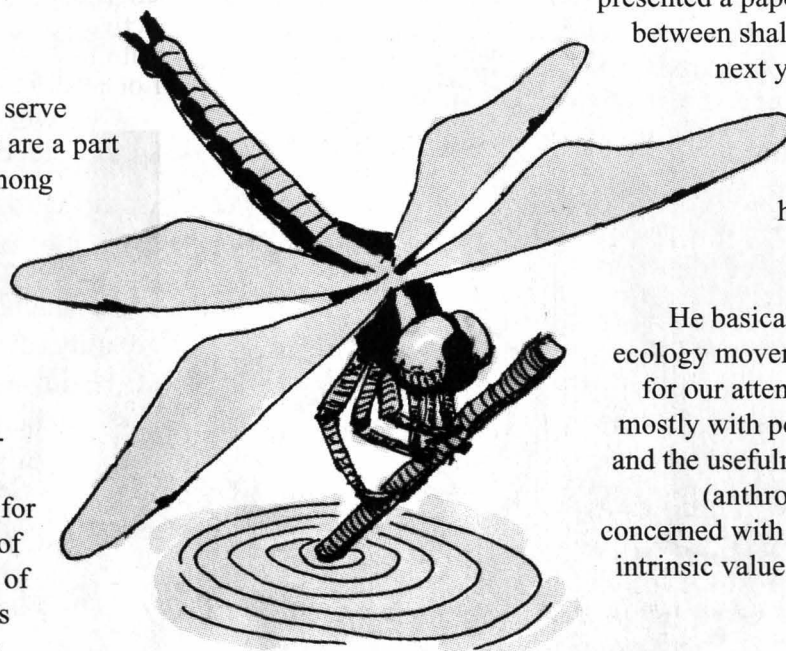
According to Judi Bari,
Nature does not exist to serve humans. Rather, humans are a part of nature, one species among many. All species have the right to exist for their own sake, regardless of their usefulness to humans.

We agree with this statement.

Biodiversity is essential for the continued existence of the living Earth. As part of this biodiversity, humans must learn to live within nature, according to nature's law, and learn to accept our role as one among many.

We embrace Deep Ecology because it gets back to our roots. Not our roots as humans living in a modern society, but as members of something much larger, where our every action affects those around us. We embrace Deep

Ecology as a return to nature-based living, rather than the greed-based societies we have come to know.

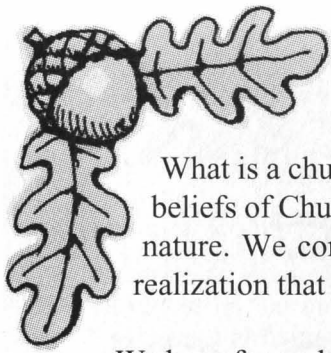


A Brief History of Deep Ecology

In 1972, at the Third World Futures conference in Bucharest, Norwegian philosopher Arne Naess presented a paper which first distinguished between shallow and deep ecology. The next year, Naess published, *The Shallow and the Deep, Long-Range Ecology Movements*, in which he presented his philosophy to the world.

He basically stated that there are two ecology movements which are competing for our attention. The first is concerned mostly with pollution, resource depletion and the usefulness of the Earth to humans (anthropocentrism). The second is concerned with the diversity, richness, and intrinsic value of all the Earth. This is the Deep Ecology movement.

Naess and others spent years explaining and building the Deep Ecology movement around the world. In 1984, while camping in Death Valley, Naess and George Sessions conceived the eight guiding principles of Deep Ecology. These principles are not meant to be dogmatic, but rather a starting point for discussion and action on deep ecological matters. Anyone who broadly agrees with the principles will see the implications of them in their daily lives, and live accordingly.



WHY A CHURCH OF DEEP ECOLOGY?

What is a church, but a group of individuals gathered together to worship in a common way? The beliefs of Church of Deep Ecology members are deeply rooted. These beliefs are basic to our very nature. We come from various backgrounds religiously and otherwise and have come to the realization that nature is the root of our spirituality.

We have formed a church so as to have these convictions recognized as the sacred beliefs that they are. These beliefs are just as sacred to us as are the beliefs and teachings of other religions to their followers.

In order to worship freely, we needed to be recognized by state and federal governments. The Church of Deep Ecology was founded in 2001 in the state of Minnesota. The Church of Deep Ecology is registered with the Minnesota Office of the Secretary of State. Donations to the Church of Deep Ecology are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Eight Guiding Principles of Deep Ecology

1. The well-being and flourishing of human and nonhuman life on Earth have value in themselves. These values are independent of the usefulness of the nonhuman world for human purposes.

2. Richness and diversity of life forms contribute to the realization of these values and are also values in themselves.

3. Humans have no right to reduce this richness and diversity except to satisfy vital needs.

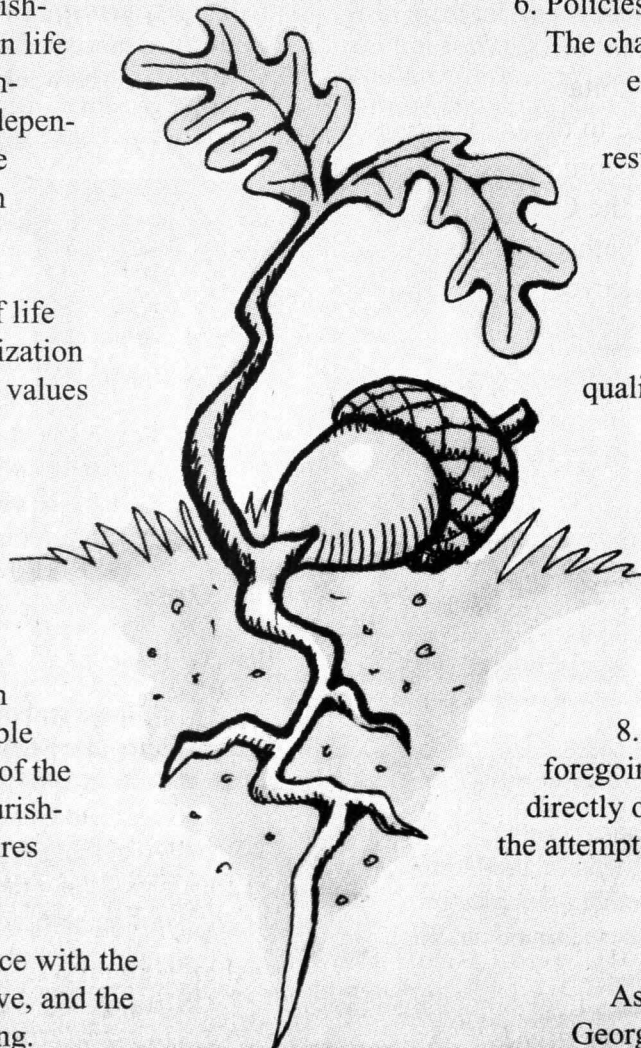
4. The flourishing of human life and cultures is compatible with a substantial decrease of the human population. The flourishing of non-human life requires such a decrease.

5. Present human interference with the nonhuman world is excessive, and the situation is rapidly worsening.

6. Policies must therefore be changed. The changes in policies affect basic economic, technological, and ideological structures. The resulting state of affairs will be deeply different from the present.

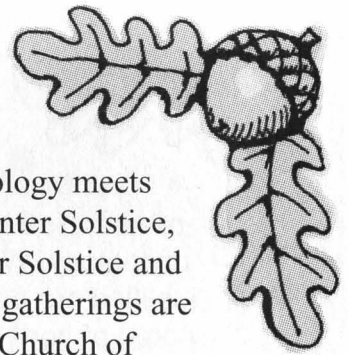
7. The ideological change is mainly that of appreciating quality (dwelling in situations of inherent worth) rather than adhering to an increasingly higher standard of living. There will be a profound awareness of the difference between big and great.

8. Those who subscribe to the foregoing points have an obligation directly or indirectly to participate in the attempt to implement the necessary changes.



As revised by Arne Naess and George Sessions in January 2000

RITUAL



Worship

The Church of Deep Ecology teaches that spiritual worship is personal, and that we should make our worship in our everyday lives. Rather than separate ourselves from our daily lives for an hour a week, we strive to act daily based upon the Eight Guiding Principles of Deep Ecology.

Marriage

The Church of Deep Ecology does not believe that individuals need to have their various relationships validated by any church. We will, however, perform marriage ceremony as dictated by state and federal authorities so that people can have their relationships recognized by the government.

Death Rites

The highest and best end is that our death is of value to the Earth and its inhabitants. Only when we are part of the cycle of life in death, is the cycle complete and we are of some final use to the living Earth. To this end, the Church of Deep Ecology recognizes proper death rites as ones that will return one's matter to the cycle in a natural way, as is the case with all other animals.



Quarterly Gatherings

The Church of Deep Ecology meets quarterly on or about Winter Solstice, Vernal Equinox, Summer Solstice and Autumnal Equinox. The gatherings are open to Ministers of the Church of Deep Ecology, Members of the Church of Deep Ecology and Invited Supporters of the Church of Deep Ecology. People interested in participation in the Quarterly Gatherings should make their interest known to the Ministers of the Church of Deep Ecology.

order of the wild

Members of the Church of Deep Ecology have varying viewpoints and beliefs. The common threads that bind us together are the principles of deep ecology. The order of the wild is founded on the following beliefs:

*We cannot improve upon nature.
Re-wilding the Earth and ourselves are our goals. We recognize no authority but nature.*

Every element of life requires death. Simply inhaling, we kill millions of living beings to survive. We strive to make every death a respectful one, committing no murder but for sustenance or defense.

We must strive to find our connections with all beings. Relationships extending beyond the human family must be reasserted.

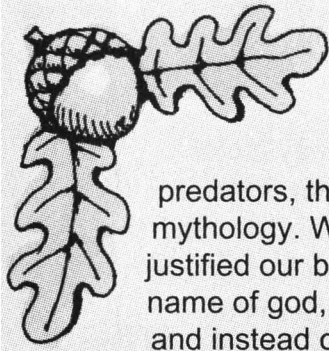
The patterns of wild nature in the places we live, inform our living.

When we accept the bounty of the Earth, there is no need for technologies that support a consumer lifestyle that is unsustainable and unnecessary.

We must act now.

Members of the order of the wild have an obligation to bring about a re-wilding, to help the living Earth on the path to healing.

This can take many forms, from the destruction of the critical infrastructure of civilization and direct defense of nature, to preserving the knowledge of the old ways.



Humans vs. Nature

For millions of years, humans lived in a predator-prey relationship with all species. An equilibrium existed on the Earth. As we lost sight of our origins, we began to develop tools and ways of living that insulated us from predators, the elements and the uncertainty of hunger. We explained away nature with mythology. We became arrogant, and developed religious and state institutions that justified our behavior and helped us to live with the atrocities committed every day in the name of god, king, country, ego and sport. Humans stopped looking to nature for answers, and instead came up with answers that suited the moment.

All life, all around the Earth, is now subject to the whims of the dominant culture: a culture repressed, disconnected completely from the wildness of the Earth and the wildness in itself. Only through this alienation could anyone commit such atrocities as the captains of industry and government do daily.

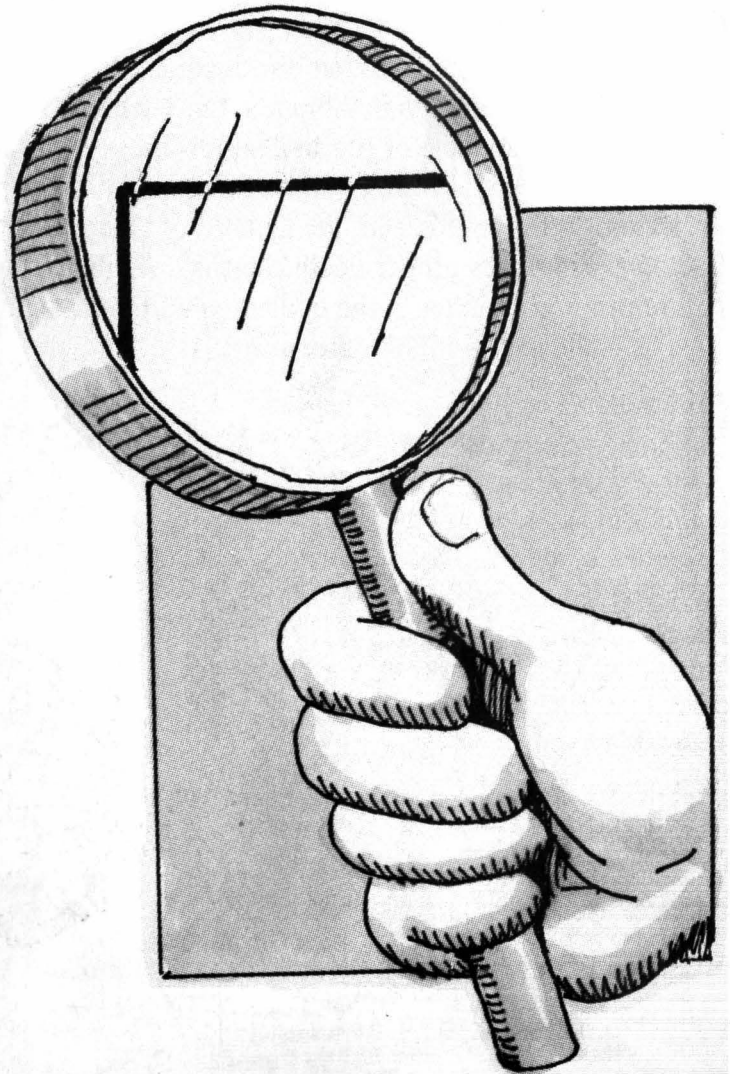
We strive to find ways of healing our selves and the land, letting the land heal us, and living in place. A place will only reveal itself if we are there long enough to see the seasons change, to sit very quietly, very still for a long time. This is the process of re-wilding ourselves, becoming feral. Re-wilding the Earth, defending wildness where it remains, and stewarding injured land onto the healing path of re-wilding, is our way. Learning the ways of nature this is the path of Deep Ecology.

First, we are animals.

As you study the natural world, pay special attention to the other animals. What do they spend their waking hours busied with? Are they hunting? Are they preoccupied with mating? Are they building or finding shelter? Look at the other animals and see what the real focus of their lives is. Draw the inspiration for your daily life from the patterns of the natural world.

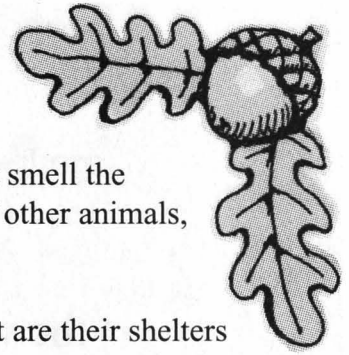
Survey your life. Are you spending your life striving for the things that an animal does, or are you toiling for things outside of those natural needs? Try to see the human place within nature. What changes can you make as you strive to live within that natural place? Strive to find your animal niche. Look at your life and make a decision to avoid the things that are not part of your natural animal. Live each moment with purpose, as does the squirrel or the dragonfly.

As you observe the natural world ask yourself, Do animals take more than they need? And ask yourself, How many animals destroy for reasons other than self-preservation?



Where do you live?

Where does your home come from? Most of us live in houses which are barriers against nature. From our windows we may be able to watch the birds, but we can't feel the flutter of their wings in the air, we can't feel the chill of winter, can't smell the rain. It doesn't have to be this way. Our homes could be inspired by the homes of other animals, allowing us to dwell in the natural world again.



Look at the animals around you. Where do they live? Do they own the land? What are their shelters made of? Can you even see their shelters, or do they blend in so well with their surroundings that you can't find them? Are the animals' homes larger than they require? Does the animal build its home in a place that threatens the animal's very existence? How does your home compare with these?

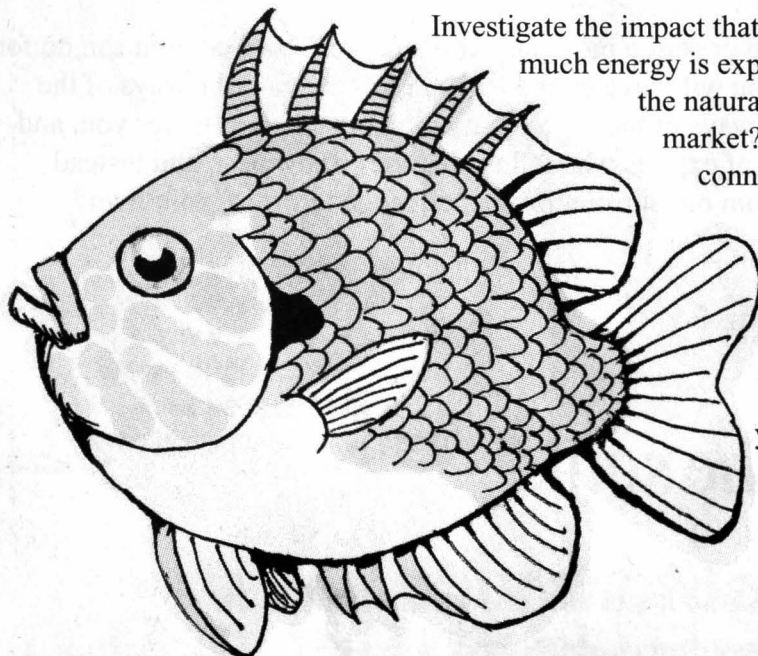
An animal's home is utilitarian, not excessive. Animals' homes are made of natural materials: mud, sticks, sod, bamboo, straw. Animals' homes will degrade, once abandoned, or they will be taken over and maintained by another animal. Animals live in homes that breathe, that don't poison them. When you see an animal shelter, you see it as part of nature, not an impenetrable barrier between that animal and the natural world.

Our shelters should be constantly changing, growing, degrading, according to our needs. Shelter is transient, malleable, something that we can abandon from season to season, if our needs dictate.

What are you eating?

Are you actually sustaining yourself, or are you slowly killing yourself and the world around you? When you look at the natural world, do you see other animals passing up their basic nutritional needs for poison?

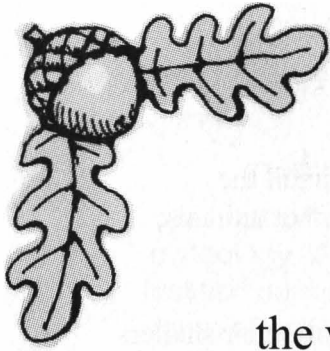
When do you think that the human animal evolved? What foods do you think were available to that animal? Do you think that you are evolved to eat the diet you are currently eating?



Investigate the impact that your food choices have on the natural world. How much energy is expended to produce your food? Is it less damaging to the natural world if you grow a radish, or if you get it from a market? Ask yourself, What kind of ecological damage is connected to an organic apple from the other side of the Earth? Is processed vegan food any better for you or the planet than raising chickens in the city?

How many of your food needs can you actually meet for yourself? Can you find it locally? Where does it grow? Before eating that piece of fruit, ask yourself, where does this come from? Can you find something similar growing wild in your neighborhood or bioregion?

As we think about our food, let's think about what makes sense, and why it makes sense.
Eat deliberately.



Taking Action

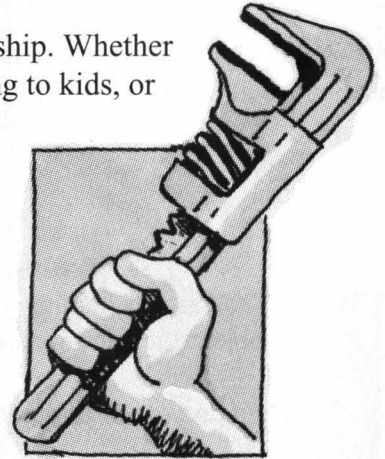
(Don't just sit there, do something)

Never doubt that a few committed people can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has.
-- Margaret Mead

The Earth is not dying, it is being killed. You see it everyday, everywhere you look, and you can't just sit back and watch it. Direct action is vital to stopping environmental destruction and confronting corporate control. Direct action is taking personal action to directly improve your life, taking personal responsibility and living deliberately. Think of direct action as self-defense: defending yourself and the Earth against the forces that are destroying nature and wildness. Remember, you are a powerful person.

For members of the Church of Deep Ecology, direct action is a form of worship. Whether you're blocking bulldozers, pulling biotech crops, teaching organic gardening to kids, or biking rather than driving, you need to fill your days, and your *nights*, with direct action. Direct action to save the Earth is deliberately working toward a vision of species in balance on a healthy, living Earth.

Gather your own food. Walk to work. Eat local, organic food. Turn off the lights. Read by candlelight. Plant a fruit tree. Barter instead of buy. Identify the edible plants in your yard. Wake up with the sun. Sleep when you're tired. Eat when you're hungry. Meet your neighbors. Form a community. Compost. Take someone to your favorite wild place. Watch the squirrels. Watch the wasps. Watch the blue jays. Learn from them all.



You can host a straw bale construction workshop or start a bio-diesel cooperative. The more you can do for yourself, by yourself, the less negative impact you will have on the Earth. You can learn the ways of the Earth, and teach these to others. By learning the ways of the Earth, you will learn what's best for you, and for the Earth. Together we will destroy the class of experts who tell us that they know best, and instead listen to our natural instincts, taking our clues from our surroundings. Define the terms of your own survival, and then take action.

**“Sentiment without
action is the ruin of the soul.”**

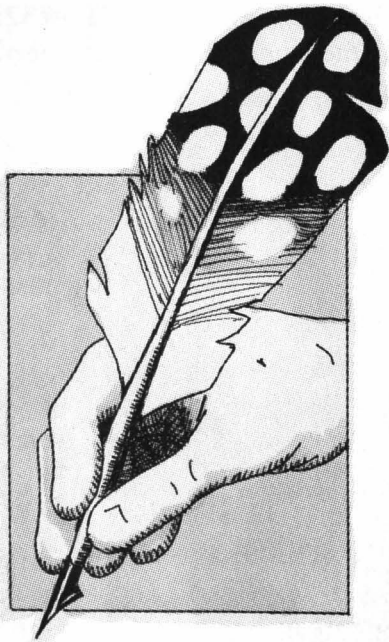
-- Edward Abbey

Start your studies

We draw our inspiration from many sources; from nature, and humans who write with nature in mind. We all have to start somewhere.

Action

Adkins, Jan, Moving Heavy Things
Angier, Bradford, How to Stay Alive in the Woods
Dickson, Murray, Where There is No Dentist
Gibbons, Euell, Stalking the Wild Asparagus
Jenkins, Joseph, The Humanure Handbook: A Guide to Composting Human Manure
Mollison, Bill, Permaculture: A Designers' Manual
Oehler, Mike, The \$50 and Up Underground House Book
Shelter Publications, Shelter; & Shelter II
Werner, David, Where There is No Doctor
Wescott, David, Society of Primitive Technology,
Primitive Technology, A Book of Earth Skills; & Primitive Technology II, Ancestral Skills



Inspiration

Devall, Bill and George Sessions, Deep Ecology; & Simple in Means/Rich in Ends

Devall, Bill, Living Richly In An Age of Limits

Diamond, Jared, Guns, Germs and Steel

Eldredge, Niles, Dominion

Foreman, Dave, Confessions of an Eco-Warrior; & Eco-Defense

Glendenning, Chellis, My Name is Chellis, and I 'm in Recovery from Western Civilization

Kimbrell, Andrew, ed., Fatal Harvest: The Tragedy of Industrial Agriculture

Macy, Joanna, and John Seed, Thinking Like a Mountain, Toward a Council of All Beings

Naess, Arne, Ecology, Community & Lifestyle

Perlman, Fredy, Against His-story, Against Leviathan!

Quinn, Daniel, Ishmael; & The Story of B

Sessions, George, Deep Ecology For the 21st Century

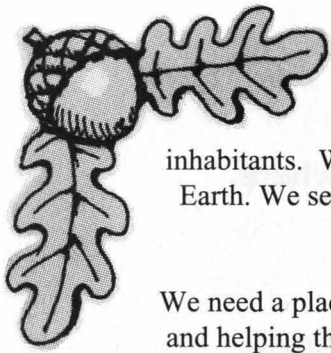
Zerzan, John, ed., Against Civilization

CrimethInc. Workers' Collective, Days of War, Nights of Love

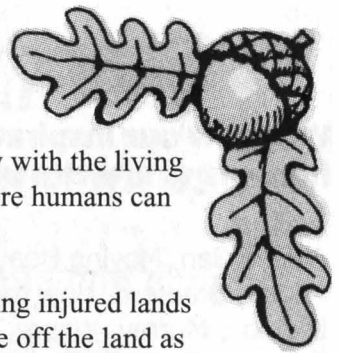
www.deep-ecology.org
www.deepecology.info
www.ecoself.net
www.earthfirstjournal.org
www.paleofood.com
www.religionandnature.com

www.churchofdeepecology.org

code@churchofdeepecology.org



Vision



We envision our community as an educational center for retreats, conferences and workshops which further the influence of Deep Ecology on the Earth's human inhabitants. We will offer an ever-changing classroom of living in harmony with the living Earth. We see a never-ending work in progress, a place for inspiration where humans can fall into the realm of nature, not always outside of it.

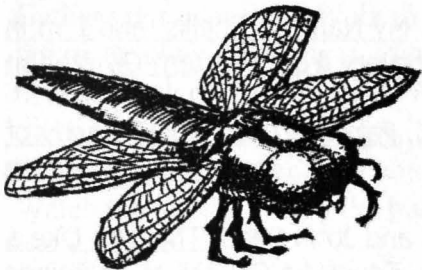
We need a place to make our vision a reality. Preserving pristine lands, healing injured lands and helping them onto the path of re-wilding, we will teach others to survive off the land as they steward it.

We know there are ecosystems out there in need of re-wilding, we know there are properties, because of years of abuse, that could benefit from our vision. We know there is land somewhere that someone would like to see preserved or healed. We need to make connections with these lands and their caretakers.

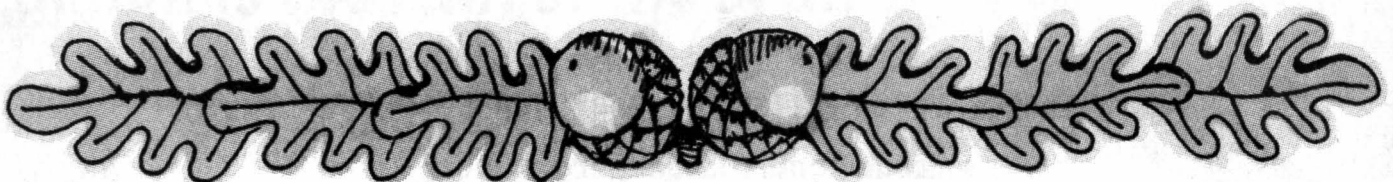
Donations

The Church of Deep Ecology needs your donations of land and money to help fulfill our vision for the living Earth. This is a great opportunity to guarantee preservation of the land that you cherish so much, while gaining tax benefits and retaining the right to see your vision for your land achieved.

All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Anyone who donates at least \$25 per year to the Church will receive our newsletter and be invited to our Quarterly Gatherings. For a complete wish list, please visit: www.churchofdeepecology.org.



Church of Deep Ecology
PO Box 16075
St. Paul, MN 55116



Meet Edna

The Story of a Red Oak

BY DANDI LYON

In mid-September, two Massachusetts EF! treesitters, Dandi Lyon and Badger, were endangered when workers for the Mt. Wachusett ski area began clearing the surrounding forest (see EF!J September-October 2003). Shortly afterward, a climber cut down the treesitters' food, water and safety equipment. Cut off from their supporters and facing dehydration, exhaustion and inclement weather, it was with heavy hearts that Dandi and Badger made a midnight descent from their treetop homes. Here, Dandi reflects on her experience with the tree called Edna.

When you first enter the forest where I was living, you might only see hundreds of trees or even millions of leaves. In your mind's eye, the forest is just a sea of objects. You might look up and notice an old red oak, but it is not until you engage in some form of intimacy with one another that you come to meet the subject of a life. You come to see the red oak as an individual, unique from every other being in creation.

This is how I came to know Edna, the giant red oak that I lived in for six weeks. Edna is the name I gave her because I couldn't keep calling her "my tree." She was never my tree. She was her own. Edna was the subject of a life.

More than 100 feet tall and probably 200 years old, she had a few burrows that provided homes for small critters. At her base lived a swarm of hornets. Her leaves, large and green, numbered in the thousands. Her bark was tough, and she was strong—though she gave way to the wind and swayed gently with its push. A light green-colored lichen made its home on Edna's trunk and branches. Her acorns were her children. They lived together—the lichen, the hornets, the critters and Edna. I guess you could say they were kind of like a family.

Edna was unlike any "tree" that I've ever known, mostly because she's the only one I have ever lived in. I guess you could say I was another member of Edna's community.

The reason I was living with Edna was because her life was threatened by people that saw her and her neighbors as mere trees. I once read a Zen proverb that has stuck in my

mind: "Be careful to not mistake a tree for a tree." This saying always puzzles people at first, but when you consider it in regard to objectivity (viewing something as a mere object that is lifeless) versus subjectivity (viewing something as a form of life with individuality, uniqueness and a name), it makes sense. Today, extreme objectification threatens the Earth. With less than five percent of native forests remaining in the US, we cannot afford to be so callous about life.

Objectifying life only helps murderers to rationalize their actions. It is why thousands of dead Iraqis are classified as "collateral damage." It is also why I hear people

making comments during wartime like, "Why do they have to show us these pictures on the front page; I don't want to see that!" Numbers are much easier to rationalize than names and faces.

Numbers help dairy farmers objectify as well. At a factory farm with 1,000 cows, when a single cow falls below the profit line in producing milk, it is sent to the slaughterhouse without so much as a blink. Through objectification, a life be-

comes a commodity. In the same way, it is easy to objectify a forest if it means increasing your profit margin by leveling every ancient tree and sapling it contains.

With wild lands diminishing at an alarming rate, we must pause to reflect on our actions and their impacts. We must learn to see that in every being exists a subject of life. I lived in Edna because I saw the forest as a living entity that should be preserved for future generations and for the sake of its *self*. I invite you to visit the forest and meet someone too.

The action on Mt. Wachusett was the first treesit to take place in the Northeast. Although the trees were cut, Mass EF! recognizes this as an important step in building a regional direct action movement to save the forests.

For more information, contact Mass EF!, POB 533, Lunenburg, MA 01462; takeaction2001@hotmail.com.



Blocking ski-area expansion on Mt. Wachusett

photo courtesy Mass EF!

Armed with Visions

clear as cut glass & just as dangerous

Silent War Cry

I Shall honor your Flowers
I Shall respect your Trees
I Shall Fight for your Water
I Shall defend your Indigenous Caretakers

As I am made of thee
I will convert your
 vision into words
As I am made of thee
I will take action worthy
 of your life sources
As I am made of thee
 I will take up my Bow
 I will take up my Arrows
 I will take up my Shield
 I will take up my Duty
As I am made of thee Earth Mother
I am made of thee fashioned by the Great Creator
 I am made of thee...

I will Not Fail you Earth Mother—
I will Not Fail you Great Spirit
I am weak and small and careless, this I know
 yet I am made of and by thee...

I Shall take up my Bow
I Shall take up my Arrows
I Shall take up my Shield
I Shall take up my Duty
Pray for my Steps in Battle, all my Elders.

—Byron Shane Chubbuck

Anthem

(excerpt)

America became Ecotopia and Ecotopia's flag is the Wilderness
 and Ecotopia's National Anthem is the wind.

America loved itself so much
 it became Ecotopia
 after all.

Now we play no National Anthem
And need no Symphony or amphitheatre
 or downtown or Milwaukee
As we sit and listen to crickets
 and watch fireflies as it gets dark
 in hot July along the pure fresh-water shores
 of Great Lake Michigan.

—Antler

Olympic National Park Trail Guide

Take Highway 101 north to Brinnon,
go west on Dosewallips River Road.
Ignore the official CLOSED sign.
When you get to the washout,
park the damn car and scramble around
the scenic wonder of a collapsed road.
Then ramble unofficially toward the park,
laugh at the meaningless road signs,
and enjoy the rapids and turquoise pools
and the spectacular Dosewallips Falls,
where cars once sped on by to picnic tables.
The tables now are all turned over,
the ranger station has lost its ranger,
and hemlock, alder and douglas fir
have fallen across the trails.

The forest service would rebuild this road
so the picnic tourists can return.
Elk and Marmot and Murrelet
and Salmon like it the way it is.
I too, with all my contradictions,
like it the way it is.
All the parks will look like this
when there are no more parks at all,
and perhaps even no more poets,
just the poetry of the healing world.
As they say in Earth First!, Nature bats last.

—Craig Oare

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Send poems to Warrior Poets Society, POB 14501, Berkeley, CA 94712-5501

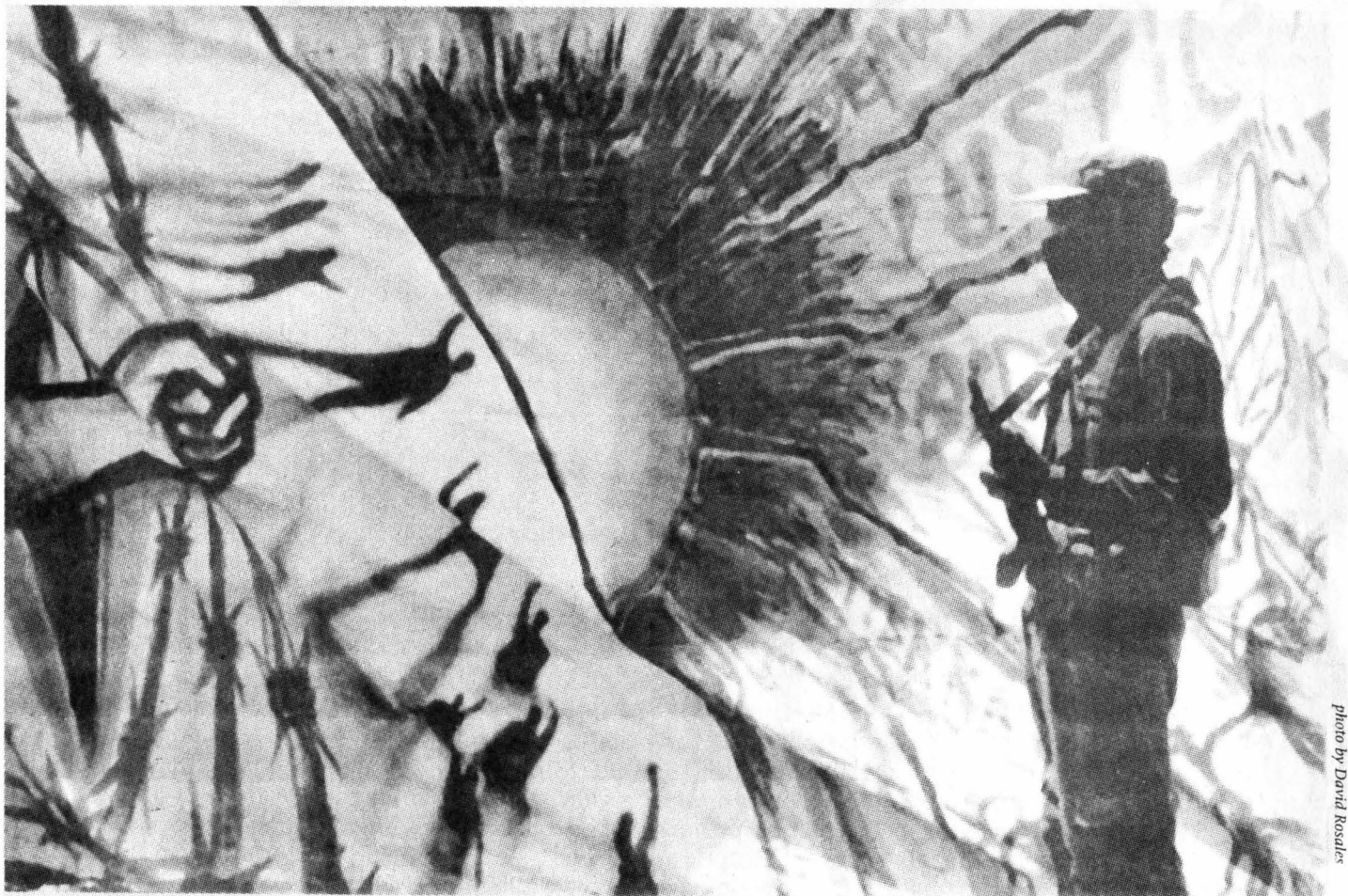


photo by David Rosales

Human Need

"But that's human need,"
he insisted,
thus erecting a wall
in our discussion of
environmental problems.

Humans don't need electricity.
If we did,
We would've gone extinct
a long time ago.

Humans don't need cars
and certainly, if we did
we would've died out
thousands of years ago!

Humans don't need to exponentially increase;
if we did,
I wouldn't be here
to write this poem
you wouldn't be here to read it
and Earth would be going about her business
with less turbulence.

Humans need to know their place.

—Jenny McBride

Untitled

Pedaling thru hills shrouded in rain
Every leaf murmurs the sounds
Of the highway
Past the countless, strangled eyes of roadkill
With their toupees of blood & brains
Over mud-filled water
Carrying the land downriver
Where it will be the soil
Of a new America
Or the fertility
Of a greater nothingness,
Life being too delicate
For second chances.
Regardless, we are choking or drowning
& when we finally reach out our hands we
May find only our cousins, kudzu & honeysuckle
Reaching over & over & over the land...

—Alley Cat Rutabaga

Setting Free the Prisoners

the ecological consequences of releasing mink

BY ROD CORONADO

Fifty million years ago, mustelids stalked their prey with the same streamlined body and pointed head that their descendants, the American mink, hunt with today. Indeed, fossil records suggest that today's water-savvy mink have changed little from their forest-dwelling ancestors. Of the 15 naturally occurring subspecies of mink in North America, six are being selectively bred in captivity. The genetic integrity of these mink is threatened by fur farms who are domesticating the species for commercial exploitation.

On August 25, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) released 10,000 mink from the Roesler Brothers Fur Farm in Snohomish County, Washington. This action marked the 57th such raid since the ALF began opening fur farm cages in North America in 1995. The tactic is not new, however, with the ALF having first introduced this strategy against the fur trade in the UK in the 1980s.

Since farmers began breeding mink in the early 1920s, only the color, length and quality of the animals' fur has been affected. Outside of these factors, the mink being raised on the 400 mink farms in the US are genetically identical to their wild cousins. The fact that fur-farm mink so readily adapt to feral life indicates that the attempted domestication has so far had a negligible effect on their race.

Mass mink releases have presented a sometimes difficult question for environmentalists who oppose the domestication of native wildlife but fear the impact that large numbers of mink would have on the surrounding environment. According to Nigel Dunstone in his thoroughly researched book, *The Mink*, "While the mink is no model of benevolence, many years of research in the field have revealed no evidence of the ecological disasters so often predicted."

At the 1991 Seattle Fur Exchange auctions, I interviewed numerous mink

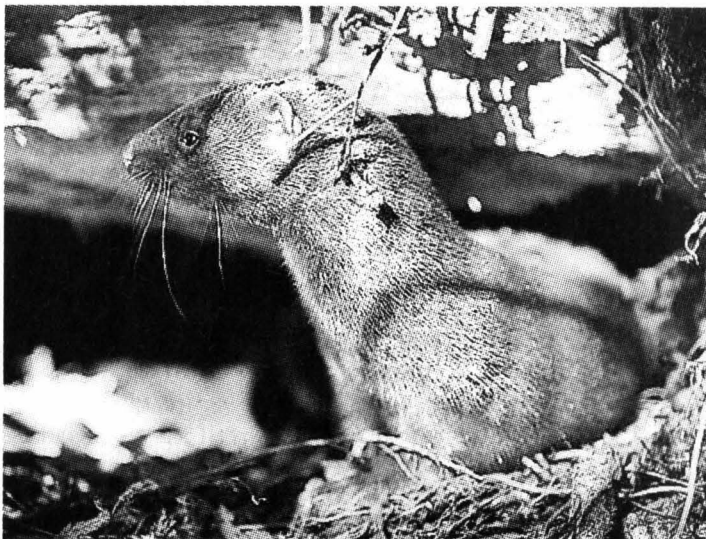


Photo by Steve Ringman

A mink liberated by the ALF in August returns to the wild.

farmers, none of whom questioned the potential survivability of farm-raised mink in the wild. Most states require that mink farms have a perimeter fence surrounding mink barns to prevent escapes.

Whether mink can survive is less of a question than what ecological impacts such introductions have on native wildlife, especially fish, ground-nesting birds and small mammals. In England, research on the effects of feral mink on salmonid stocks revealed that the mink did little more than impact surplus populations of smaller fish.

Meanwhile, sea bird nesting colonies can be especially vulnerable to feral mink. On islands off the coasts of Scotland, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Norway, sea birds have been heavily preyed upon by feral mink, sometimes forcing the birds to nest on islands further offshore. In the US, an entire colony of spotted sandpipers was wiped out by marauding mink. Yet, the majority of animals preyed upon by feral mink remain abundant, including rabbits and rats.

Nonetheless, even 100 hungry and fierce small predators can be capable of wrecking havoc on domestic and wild animals. In Snohomish County, less than a mile from the Roesler Brothers farm, escaping mink killed chickens and other animals. One neighboring farmer lost 29 exotic birds to mink attacks.

In times of low prey availability, mink have been known to kill beyond their immediate needs in order to stockpile prey for future consumption. Understandably, any artificial populations of small animals such as ducks or chickens are vulnerable to feral mink predation. As biocentrists, this should be the last reason to oppose the return of captive mink to their rightful home in the wild.

On average, only 30 percent of the mink released during fur farm raids actually escape into the surrounding environment. In Washington, where there have been seven mass releases since 1996, that impact is unnoticeable as these normally shy and solitary animals quickly distribute themselves over a large area.

Once wild, mink regulate their numbers according to the availability of suitable habitat and prey. According to Dunstone's research, a mink's intolerance of other mink will ensure a low population density. Aggressiveness toward their own kind make mink their own number one predator.

Any ethical debate on the merits of causing such a predator-prey reaction must first be leveled against the fur farm industry itself. It is solely responsible for sustaining large concentrations of predators in cramped and unnatural conditions. The attempted domestication of mink is fraught with problems ranging from physical neurosis in the form of self-mutilation to diseases unknown to wild mink.

The often rural and mountainous regions where mink farms are located are far from pristine, untrampled wilderness. These areas are affected by threats much greater than those posed by released mink, such as habitat destruction, water diversion and pollution.

In North America, no biological evidence has been documented or published revealing long-term negative ecological impacts from the ALF's mink releases. The ALF has always favored

simple release as a tool of economic sabotage and the quickest avenue toward animal liberation. The financial impact such actions have on fur farms is monumental. And while offering an often slim chance for permanent freedom, the ALF's actions are nonetheless offering mink a chance—one arguably better than the animals' certain death. The villification of mink as a significant predator of native fauna and domestic stock, or as a competitor with native carnivores, is largely without foundation.

Following numerous ALF raids, released mink have been killed by automobiles, and some animals have suffered fur damage from fights with other mink. In Snohomish County, recaptured mink are killing each other.

"Mink are fine when littermates are caged together, but when they're not, they're quite vicious and do eat each other. That's what we're battling," says a Roesler Brothers fur farmer.

While unfortunate, the result is still to further deny income to mink farmers. At the Roesler Brothers Fur Farm, the cost of the ALF's August raid was an estimated \$500,000. While an ethical dilemma for some, fur farmers and liberators alike acknowledge the financial impact the action carries to the stability of a mink farm.

Still, there comes a responsibility with the mass release of mink. The targeted area for mink releases should be carefully researched, and raids should be carried out in consideration of threatened or endangered wildlife in the surrounding ecosystem. The single most effective solution remains the permanent closure of all mink farms and the ecologically responsible rehabilitation and release of their native prisoners.

We live in a time where there are no easy or ethical answers to the problems posed by exotic non-native species, Euro-American *Homo sapiens* being at the top of the list. As biocentrists, we must balance our idealism with pragmatism. With farm-raised mink, the answers come easily. Earth First! and other deep ecologists should oppose the attempted domestication of the American mink by the fur industry before this native predator becomes yet another human-dependent species that exists solely for our commercial exploitation. In this regard, the ALF stands as the only organization actively pursuing this goal.

Euro-ALF Mink Freedom Tour

International Animal Liberation Front (ALF) raids against mink farms this Summer have cost fur farmers millions of dollars and have resulted in the destruction of invaluable genetic records necessary for the mink's continued exploitation.

On August 5, the Fronte por los Liberacion de los Animales (FLA; Spanish ALF) re-visited a mink farm in Teruel, Spain, where 13,000 mink were released in 2001. In the most recent raid, five mink were rescued. Their communiqué warned, "We wanted the farmer to know that the FLA hasn't forgotten him, and we won't until they close the farm."

The Djurens Befrielsefront (DBF; Swedish ALF) visited a mink farmer in Ramsdala at the end of August. The DBF redecorated the farmer's house and car with red paint symbolizing the mink's blood. A communiqué following the action read: "No more excuses. Get out there and get the job done."

In the fourth anti-fur farm arson in four months, the Dyrenes Frigjorings Front (Norwegian ALF) attacked a fur farm feed producer in Otteroya on September 1. The factory was burned to the ground, causing several million dollars in damages.

On September 7, 8,000 mink were released in Denmark from a fur farm near Ringkoebing by the Dyrenes Befrielsesfront (Danish ALF). While most of the animals were recaptured, 1,000 remain free.

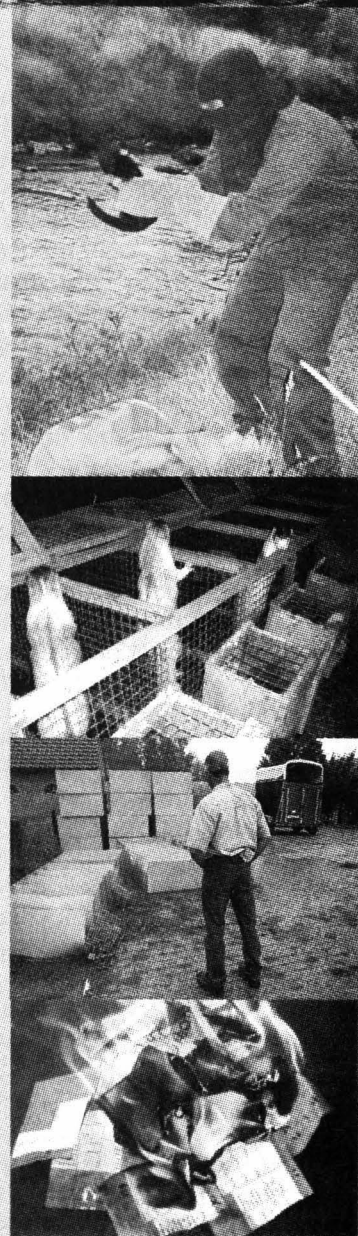
As the Dutch Fur Farmers Association celebrated its 75th Anniversary on September 9, animal liberationists conducted a daylight raid on Gerard Winkoop's Mink Farm in Putten, Holland. Two hundred mink were released, cages were destroyed and stones thrown at the farmer's house and vehicle windows. A Dutch liberator said, "We wanted to show the fur farm community that anything can happen, day or night."

On September 22, the Eläinten Vapautusrintaman (Finnish ALF) released 7,800 mink in Lahnakoski, Finland. All of the mink cages on the farm were opened, yet neighboring fur farmers recaptured 7,000 of the escaped mink. Mink farmer Bengt Hagstrom said breeding records were destroyed and that the pelts from the released mink were damaged: "Twenty years of work breeding mink has gone down the drain."

Back in Sweden, on September 29, the DBF placed incendiary devices on vehicles and in the offices of Svenljunga Mink Company, a feed producer that was also attacked two years ago. Three trucks and a car were destroyed.

And at the end of this long list of actions, on September 28, a mink farm was raided in Belgium. Approximately 3,500 mink were released.

For a listing of fur farms in your region, visit www.animalliberationfront.com/ALFront/FinalNail2.pdf.



A mink being released in Spain; mink peering out of their cages in Sweden; a Dutch mink farmer inspects smashed cages; burning breeding cards in Finland

photos courtesy Bite Back

Report from the Galapagos

BY CAPTAIN PAUL WATSON

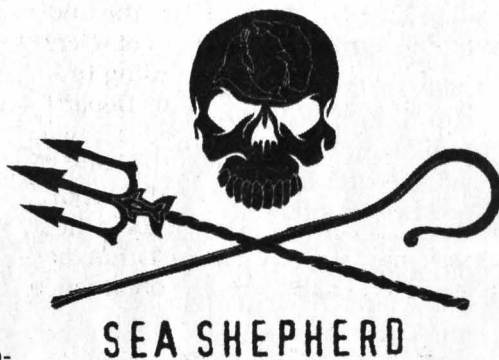
The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's vessel the *Sirenian* is well known in the Galapagos Islands for stopping shark poachers in their tracks. Since December 2000, the former US Coast Guard patrol boat has been on active duty in the Galapagos National Park Marine Reserve, located 700 miles off the coast of Ecuador. The Sea Shepherd and the park have a five-year contract to work together toward eradicating poaching in the reserve.

The *Sirenian* is staffed by Sea Shepherd volunteers, Galapagos National Park rangers and officers of the Ecuadorian navy. It is an unusual alliance, but it is working. Sea Shepherd provides the ship, the rangers provide the expertise and the navy provides the authority.

Now, more than halfway through the contract, the record of interceptions, arrests, convictions and court-ordered confiscations speaks for itself. The ship has been instrumental in seizing thousands of poached shark fins. In early September, rangers with the *Sirenian* seized 850 shark fins and arrested three Ecuadorian poachers and a Korean shark-fin buyer. Then on October 3, the drift line of an industrial fishing boat, No.3 Angel, was retrieved, and the *Sirenian* escorted the poachers back to port.

The growing demand for shark fins is contributing to the rapid decline of shark populations worldwide. In 1981, the total trade in shark fins was 31 tons; in 2002, it was in excess of 4,000 tons. With fins bringing in an average of \$660 per kilogram, the temptation to catch sharks is now luring poachers into marine national parks like the Galapagos.

Current trends, rather than flavor, are what drive the shark fin business. The bodies of the sharks are wastefully discarded, and there is little nourishment and practically no taste to the cooked fins. Once touted as an aphrodisiac and a beauty aid, shark fins have become a status symbol at wedding banquets and business dinners throughout Asia.



In Singapore, Sea Shepherd-Asia has been campaigning against shark fin soup for years. It has produced graphic advertisements, which depict a wedding banquet with dead sharks staining the bridal gown and the guests' clothing with blood.

According to Francis Ng, who has worked in the restaurant business in China for the past 12 years, shark fin soup wasn't very popular a decade ago. "Now it's a way to show how rich you are. If you have a top VIP dinner, this soup

is big face." One small bowl of shark fin soup sells for anywhere between \$40 and \$150, while a special order of the most expensive soup (which can take as many as five days to prepare) costs up to \$320 per person.

Sea Shepherd is fighting this destructive trade both at the source where the sharks are caught and in the market where the sharks are sold.

Yet the truth of the matter is that we are losing the fight to save the world's persecuted shark populations. It is a difficult campaign because most people are afraid of sharks—despite the fact that for every shark attack on a human being, some 20 million sharks have been brutally slaughtered by humans.

In November, Sea Shepherd's Farley Mowat will leave the dock in Seattle, Washington, and head south to join the *Sirenian*. The problem is that there are hundreds of millions of dollars being made from this horrendous trade, and there are little funds available to fight it. The poachers make more money than the park rangers, and the national park cannot afford the equipment



A pile of bloody sharks killed for their fins

photo courtesy Sea Shepherd

needed to properly police the marine reserve.

We do what we can, where we can and when we can, with what we have. If we can't save an area of this planet like the World Heritage Site of the Galapagos National Park, we won't be able to save anything.

For more information, visit www.seashepherd.org.

Captain Paul Watson is the founder and president of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and a national director of the Sierra Club.

Iceland Resumes Whaling

For the first time in 13 years, Iceland has dispatched three whaling vessels. On August 16, the Halldor Sigurdsson, the Njordur and the Sigurborg were sent to kill 39 minke whales in the North Atlantic Ocean. Iceland has now joined Japan in circumventing the International Whaling Commission's (IWC) worldwide moratorium on commercial whaling by arguing that its actions are part of a "research whaling" program.

Claiming that it will not return to full-scale commercial whaling until at least 2006, Iceland argues that it must sell its whale catch on the international market in order to finance its research program. Since the commercial ban in 1986, research whaling has been exploited as a loophole in order to get whale meat on the market in Japan. The Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species however, prohibits international trade in whale products. Iceland also intends to kill 150 fin and sei whales in future "lethal research," stating that one objective of the research plan is to assess populations and the applicability of non-lethal research methods.

In order to prove that Iceland's scientific research is bogus, conservationists say the IWC should prohibit commercial trade in whales killed for research. "If whale meat was given away, and there was no money to be made, the need for research would disappear overnight," says Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. The 39 minke whales that Iceland intends to kill are currently worth more than one million dollars in Iceland, while in Japan they represent a value in excess of seven million dollars.

Iceland submitted its research plan to the IWC's scientific committee in 2002, where it was rejected by many member

nations. Yet Iceland maintains that "any member of the IWC has the undisputed right to conduct whaling for the purposes of scientific research."

According to Richard Boucher, a spokesperson for the US State Department, the killing of minke whales has triggered a review by the Department of Commerce. Under the Pelly Amendment, this review should lead to a ban on the importation of goods from any country deemed to have breached IWC regulations. "Lethal research on whales is not necessary and the needed scientific data can be obtained by well-established, non-lethal means," said Boucher.

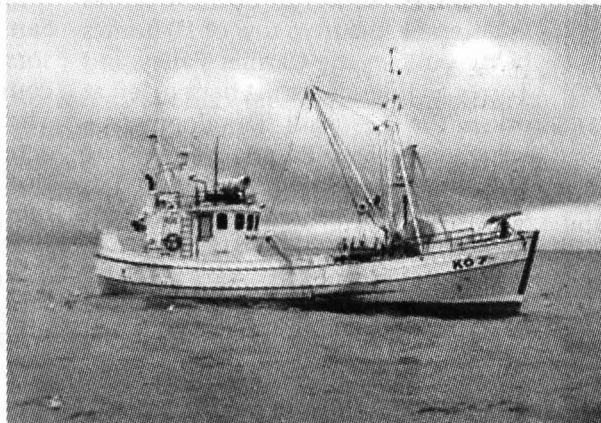
Environmental groups have been slow to take decisive action against the whaling, having yet to resume a boycott on Icelandic products.

Greenpeace's ship, the Rainbow Warrior, was dispatched to Iceland to engage in dialogue with Icelanders rather than to directly interfere with the whaling. Greenpeace hopes to convince Icelanders to abandon whaling in favor of a growing whale-watching industry.

Unable to repair its ship in time, Watson has announced

that the Sea Shepherd's ship, the Farley Mowat, will be in Icelandic waters in the Summer of 2004 to directly intervene against Iceland's illegal whaling. In 1986, Sea Shepherd agents shut down Icelandic whaling operations by sinking half of the whaling fleet and destroying the nation's whale processing plant. Watson has stated, "A line must be drawn in the sand, and a stand must be taken for the whales. If Iceland tries to kill whales next Summer, they will have to sink us to do so."

For more information, visit www.seashepherd.org.



Illegal whaling vessel from Iceland

photo courtesy Planet Ark

Activist Murdered in St. Lucia

Jane Tipson, a dedicated conservationist and animal rights activist, was murdered in St. Lucia on September 17. Many of Tipson's friends and colleagues believe her death was at the hands of a contract killer, hired to stop her work to protect dolphins in the Caribbean. Tipson had been actively campaigning against the creation of dolphin-encounter tourist attractions at the time of her death.

After moving to St. Lucia 30 years ago from her native England, Tipson co-founded the Eastern Caribbean Coalition for Environmental Awareness and the Whale and Dolphin Watching Association. In St. Lucia, Tipson is remembered as a tireless leader of many cetacean anti-captivity campaigns, dedicated to caring for hundreds of domesticated and wild animals in a way few people have ever seen.

Sea Shepherd Conservation Society Captain Paul Watson responded to news of Tipson's murder: "Because of the enemies Jane made in high places, and because of her efforts to help animals in St. Lucia, I fear that the investigation into her death will not be a priority. I remember my life being threatened when Sea Shepherd's ship was last in St. Lucia, and my experience there illustrates to me what a courageous heroine Jane was in the face of very real threats of violence."



Jane Tipson

photo courtesy ECCCA

Once Again, ELF Strikes a Match in San Diego



BY ROD CORONADO

The Earth Liberation Front (ELF) has struck against urban sprawl in San Diego County again. On September 19, fires destroyed four luxury homes that were under construction and damaged two others. Authorities believe it was an attempt to burn a row of 10 homes being built in the Carmel Valley and Torrey Highlands area. A banner left at one of the sites read: "Development = Destruction. Stop Raping Nature. The ELF's are mad." No one was injured in the fires, which caused several million dollars in damages.

The developments targeted by the ELF are encroaching on sensitive open space, which provides a wildlife corridor between Carmel Mountain Preserve, Torrey Pines State Park, Los Penasquitos Lagoon and Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve. These areas are an integrated wildlife system, representing southern California habitats threatened by development.

In 2003, Pardee Homes, one of the developers targeted by the ELF was named by *Builder Magazine* as the "Large Production Homebuilder of the Year" and "America's Best." Pardee owns more than 1,665 acres of land in the Carmel Valley and has received approval for the development of 3,589 residences during the next 15 years.

The other development targeted by the ELF was owned by SheaHomes. It operates divisions in San Diego, Orange County, northern California, Arizona, Colorado and North Carolina, making SheaHomes the largest privately owned building firm in the nation and the 10th largest of all home builders.

The first fire destroyed three SheaHomes units under construction, and a separate fire damaged another house across the street but was quickly

put out. Across a ravine, a third fire was reported at the Pardee Homes development. The fires were just a few miles north of the area where the ELF was responsible for a \$50-million arson in August (see *EF!* September-October 2003).

The latest fires came just before the San Diego Board of County Supervisors met in September to question the county's "smart growth principles." The county threatens to open 20,000 acres of pristine land to the construction of one and two-acre estates as part of its urban development plan for the next 20 years.

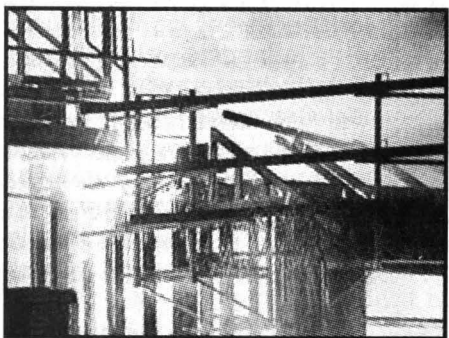
More than 500 plant species, 150 types of birds and a large number of reptiles, amphibians and mammals, including mountain lions, live in

Pardee Homes, one of the developers targeted by the ELF, was named by *Builder Magazine* as the "Large Production Homebuilder of the Year."

Penasquitos Canyon—which is the only protected coastal canyon in San Diego County. Penasquitos Canyon boasts a waterfall cascading through volcanic rock, California

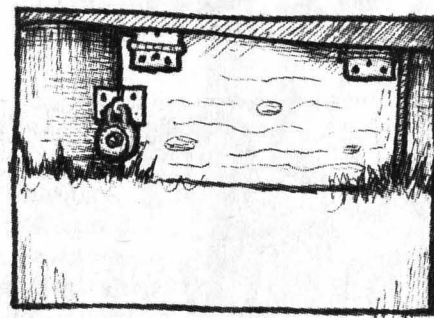
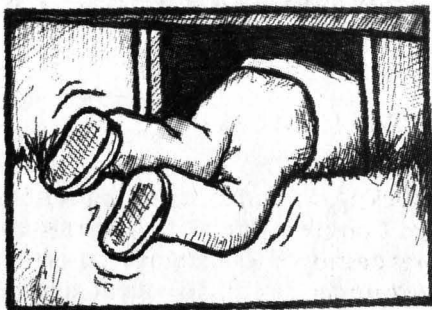
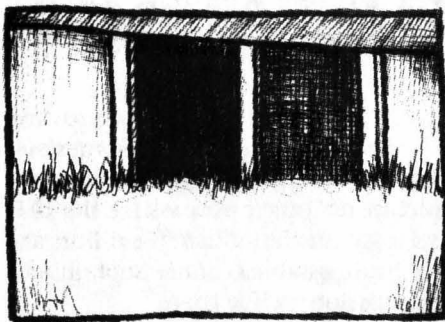
live oaks that are hundreds of years old and willow-covered stream banks populated by Pacific tree frogs, great blue heron, egrets and mallard ducks.

Though there has been no formal statement issued by the ELF about the most recent actions in San Diego, a communiqué was released following an anti-development action this Summer. It summed up the belief of many environmentalists: "For too long, we the people have allowed our magnificent forests to be leveled and shipped off, our water to be poisoned. Now greed-driven developers are trying to marginalize the last green spaces and habitat of our unknown Edens." It is clear from both past statements and the recent actions of the ELF that urban sprawl is a central issue to many underground activists struggling to protect the Earth.



Habitat, or so we called it

Recollecting my limited relationship with our little squat by the highway



artwork by Breakfast

BY TINDER

"Habitat" was a small house, two rooms upstairs and another three down. The first floor had virtually no light, and the back room was beginning to fall off the house, so we stuck mostly to the bedrooms upstairs. There was a better view of the interstate from there anyway and the constant hum of trucks barreling down I-5 actually pumped a little life into the place.

Four of us moved in, but we weren't the first to take advantage of the free rent. Tags on the stairwell marked previous visitors, some of them people we knew. We just hoped that the "H-eight ball crew," whoever they were, would never return. I couldn't help but wonder if an old resident had come to put the pool cue down at the end of the day and claim a few nights sleep, eight ball in hand, when I woke up one morning to find the door partly kicked in.

My friend Derailleur and I shared a room. Shortly after I moved in, I thought I'd prove myself a worthy roommate and clean a little. I had also quickly tired of sleeping with the fossilized cat turd behind my pillow. In order to clean, I needed light, yet until then the boards on the windows had left the room almost void of daylight. Foamer and I gave them a few whacks and used a bottle to wedge them open. After a few minutes, the room was swept, and the shaggy pieces of linoleum were thrown away (or rather thrown *out* of the way, into the closet). The room was coming along great! Habitat was easily transformed into something that was ours.

We opened a new entrance on the side of the house. Hinges on a board covering a window frame made for a great camouflaged door. Climbing in the window frame, out of the rain at night, and lighting a couple of candles was a homecoming I enjoyed.

We had been living happily under our sagging roof for about a month—with no sign from any sort of owner or from any members of the H-eight ball crew—and a dinner party seemed like the appropriate house-warming event. We brought lasagna from a friend's house and mingled by the side of the kerosene lantern. Having no dishes, only spoons, we all gathered 'round and ate trough-style out of the pan. Our spirits were high and our stomachs full.

We had started up a round of our favorite game, Mafia, when a loud, banging noise came from downstairs. "This

is the police, come out with your hands up!" Five of us quickly scrambled up a hole in the ceiling into the attic. Crouched up on the rafters we waited, and I wished we had baked the neighbors those cookies that we had talked about so many times.

The cops searched the house with their flashlights, and we tried to keep completely still. I was sure it was over. Shiny Toes had fallen asleep and started to snore, and I didn't want to reach over and shake him. The cops pointed their light up at our hole, which was maybe a little too ominous for further investigation. After two or three hours, we decided to leave. Defeated, we gathered a few of our things and climbed outside. Strangely enough, the only thing missing was a bottle of hot sauce from Foamer's jacket. But habañeros don't mix with honey glazed...

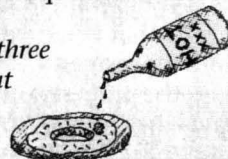
We wondered how the cops could have penetrated our defenses so easily. The "barricade," a board propped at a 45-degree angle between the floor and the window, was crushed. The floorboard we used as the wedge ended up actually being two boards glued end to end, and it had snapped in half. So the cops' battering ram probably looked something like a shoulder or a boot.

Habitat just wasn't the same after that. We knew the owners were going to start working on the property soon, so we didn't stay there much. A bulldozer could come ripping through the wall any morning, and we would only be discovered later, unrecognizable, buried under a pile of old floorboards.

One morning I found a saw, which inspired me to go over to Habitat and fix the barricade. My inspiration turned to longing and nostalgia; my hands groping at shingles and rusty nails. Habitat now lay in a pile of rubble; a silent backhoe rested over all that was left of our little home.

Within a few short months, a new house was built. Every so often we would bike by, and in a fit of jealousy and sadness, shake our fists in the air and cry out, "Habitat!" But the new residents, out planting in their garden, would just tilt their heads and squint at us with a questioning gaze.

Tinder hadn't paid rent in more than three years, until the Journal took it directly out of his paycheck. He still needs to learn his lesson about blockading the door.



Breaking the Illusion of Scarcity: A Squatter's Primer



BY TINDER

The tract-housing cookie cutter is hard at work, sucking up trees for the matchstick houses, churning out more "anywhere USA." Asphalt is thrown down and rolled out, left to bake in the sunlight, raising temperatures. Wild habitats are constantly

smothered in the sprawling blanket of subdivisions. Roaring streams are tamed and piped underground. The sparkling reflection of the moon at night is traded for the buzzing orange glow of streetlights. Suburban areas are growing, but we don't have to support this. There are other places to live.

Contained inside the city limits of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, there are more than 30,000 empty housing units, yet affordable housing remains scarce. Scarcity is a fundamental element of capitalism, and it must remain so in order for the economy to thrive.

Developers manufacture a false atmosphere of scarcity in order to secure customers for unnecessary new housing developments by either demolishing older houses or by keeping the doors on them closed. If we are to avoid urban sprawl, we must see through the illusion of scarcity and utilize what already exists. So dig a pry bar under the boards covering the window, crack it open and squat it.

Finding a Place

Make sure the place you choose to squat is truly abandoned. Peek in the windows and see if it's dirty. A "condemned" sign on the front door or window can be a good thing: It takes a lot more work and money for the owners to fix up a condemned house, so it probably won't be rented out next month.

If there is a realtor's padlock on the door or the grass has been recently cut, then it's a no go. Boards on the windows and doors might seem more dismal, but they signal that the house is uninhabited and provide privacy from nosy neighbors who might call the cops in the future. If the place looks unoccupied and unattended, write down the address. If no address is visible, take note of the cross streets and how many lots there are between the corner and the house.

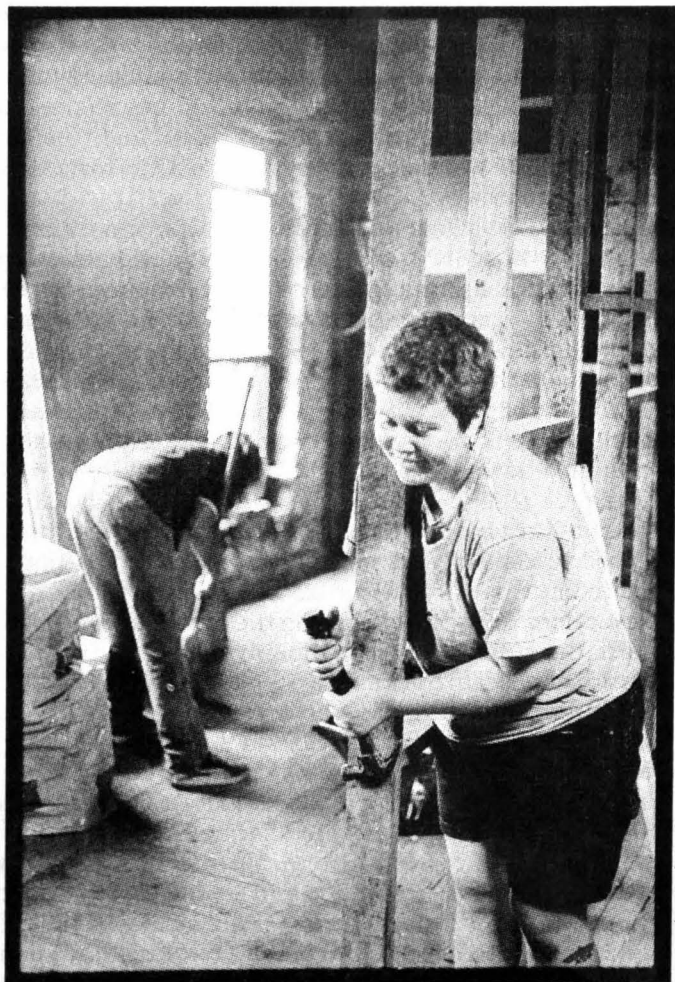
Then it's time to take a little stroll down to the tax assessor's office. Here you can locate the address of your prospective house by using lot maps. The address can then be used to learn about the history of the location. What is it that you'll want to know? Huge amounts of back taxes could mean that the owners aren't wanting to invest anything into the property. If the owners live far away, they might not visit the property often. Among other things, the retail value and whether the property is condemned are also listed in the public record.

Squatters' Rights

Some cities in the US have laws stating that if a person squats for a certain number of days, they have acquired rights to the housing and are no longer trespassing. In other cities, the first step is to try and establish basic tenants' rights. To do this, you must establish some sort of rent payment and receive permission to live there.

The most common way to pay rent is with cash, but it's not the only option. Rent is also frequently paid in work trade—for example, making repairs, watching over the place, cleaning it up and so forth. The landlord's permission doesn't have to be explicit, or even written down. The rental agreement can be written, verbal or simply implied by the landlord's conduct.

If the landlord gives up on evicting you, then you have their implied consent to stay there. In court, the argument could be made that when the landlord came by, you made an oral agreement to live there in exchange for watching over the property.



There's always work to be done around the house.

photo by Stacy Wakefield

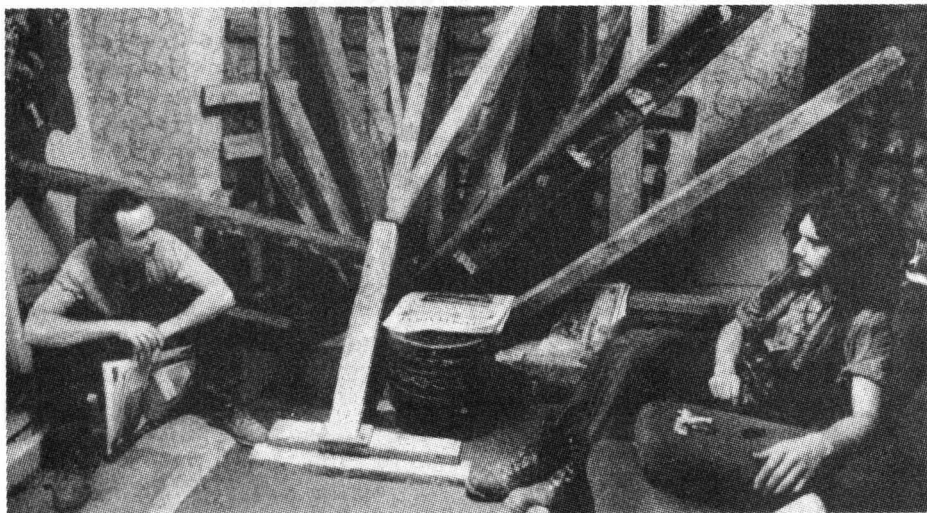


Photo courtesy Do or Die, No. 10

The cops won't be bothering these folks tonight.

Attempts to evict you can be stalled by making it appear that you're a valid tenant who is supposed to be there. If the cops come and the place looks clean—with pictures on the walls and furniture to sit on—it'll be easier to convince them not to throw you out. If you have any mail or utility bills delivered to the house, the police will be more likely to leave it as a civil matter, even if the landlord is present. In that case, the owner will have to evict you formally in court.

If you do get busted for popping a squat, you can expect to be charged with a Class B misdemeanor of trespassing or breaking and entering.

Adverse Possession

If you get really lucky, sometimes squatting can actually lead to the complete legal possession of the house through what's called "adverse possession." Every once in a while, people squat a house that seems to be truly abandoned. If you've dealt with the police and neighbors, and there's still no sign of the landlord, then you can proceed in claiming adverse possession. In a nutshell, if you pay the back taxes and make improvements on the property—and after you've openly squatted the place for five to 20 years (or longer, depending on the state laws)—you can claim adverse possession and the house is yours.

Housekeeping

If the toilet doesn't work, you can use a five-gallon bucket, just be sure to sprinkle a little sawdust or dirt over your business when you're done. When the bucket's full, empty it into a deep hole

in the backyard and let it compost. Remember to piss in a separate jug, so as not to drown composting humanure.

Check the circuit breakers for electricity. If there is no juice, the meter can be jumped with a piece of flattened one-inch copper pipe. Whatever you do, do not try this without someone who knows what they are doing.

Water can often be turned on at the main valve out in front of the house. Sometimes there's a metal cap along the sidewalk that says "W," "Public Works" or something similar. Remove the cap, and you'll see a little knob a few feet down. This can be opened with a special "water key." You might be able to make one yourself by attaching a wrench to the end of a pole or by welding one.

You can turn the gas on using a similar technique. However, before lighting up the stove, you'll want to check the lines inside the house for leaks by brushing them with soapy water and checking for bubbles. You'll want to do this at the same time you turn on the gas.

Of course, there's no right way to go about squatting. If you don't want to deal with bills and establishing tenants' rights, then don't bother. Just have as much fun for as long as you can. You'll figure a lot of things out as you go. And if your squat only lasts a month, you've given that much less money to developers.

A squat is not some place that you heard about in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, crawling with jaded old punk rockers. It's that regular old house around the damn corner. Well, at least it becomes a squat as soon as you break in...

Not Quite Armchair Reading

Here's some useful squatting resources to get you going.

- **Homes Not Jails (HNJ)** advocates the use of vacant and abandoned housing for people who are homeless. HNJ has a great deal of resources available on tenants' rights and legal expectations.

For more information, visit www.homesnotjails.org.

- **No Trespassing**, by Anders Corr, South End Press, 1999. This book contains everything from the theory and practice of squatting to stories on squatting as direct action, as well as the hidden histories of housing.

- **Not For Rent**, by Stacy Wakefield and Grrrt, Evil Twin Publications, 2003. Interviews and conversations with squatters, eco-activists, musicians, anarchists and all kinds of creative folks in the UK.

- **War in the Neighborhood**, by Seth Tobocman, Autonomedia, 2000. A graphic novel documenting the vibrant squatting movement in the Lower East Side neighborhood of Manhattan during the '80s. In comic book form, there are many inspiring tales of how squatters battled the New York Police Department to defend their homes.

- For up-to-date international news and legal resources, visit www.squat.net. The main focus here is on squatted houses, car sites and other free spaces.



For Your Eyes Only

Find Your Target & Drive Them Nuts

BY SHAC-USA

While a large mass movement is nice (and needed), an "army of one" can and will get the job done. Activists taking action on their own can be powerful. When an activist can't join a demonstration, set up an outreach table or create a group, they are not out of options. Those of us who can't or don't want to be part of a big movement may instead take a 007 approach to activism by using COINTELPRO-type tactics to crack our enemy's resolve.

Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to distract, disrupt and destroy the ease with which those who abuse animals and decimate the environment operate. By means of stealth and cunning, you must first acquaint yourself with your enemy and then seek to undermine their every effort. Armed with all of today's urban spy techniques, you shall act as both sleuth and provocateur.

This is no assignment for the weak of heart. Great peril exists at every turn. But remember, even greater peril exists for the victims who are depending on the success of your operation. This article will not self-destruct in five seconds... but any evidence attaching you to any of the following tactics should.

Finding the Target and the Home Addresses

•Use a company's website and any promotional materials you can find to locate who sits on the board of directors, as well as who holds the managerial positions. Also, try annual reports and old press archives about the target company (at your local library or online). Trace who is quoted and what their position is. Nine times out of 10, you will track down your target.

•Start in the simplest places. Look in the phone book, search for the name on Google or use 411.com. Many targets are business people and don't expect protest pressure. They see no reason to keep their home listings private.

•For those tough-to-find corporate bastards, use the info-search databases at your nearest university library. Most college libraries (and definitely law and business libraries)

give free access to the search engine "Lexus-Nexus." This is your one-stop shop for all public records—from news stories to legal documents and business filings. By searching for the company or the target's name, chances are high that you will not only find the current address but also previous addresses.

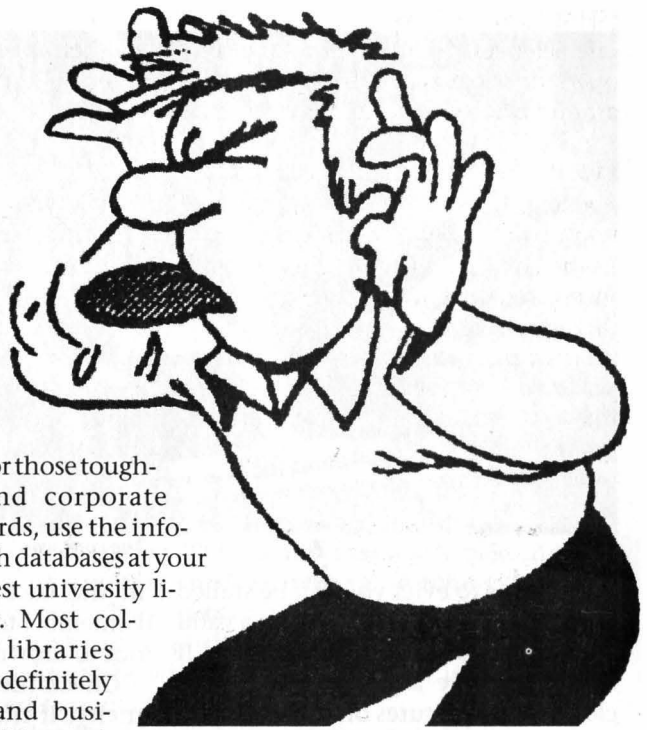
Know the Workplace Dynamics

Besides the chain of command, you are going to want to know the target's work hours, projects, events, facilities and any gossip about them. Two clever approaches are:

•The pretext phone call. Head to a payphone and call your target, pretending to be various characters. If you are put through to a secretary, you can pretend to be a delivery person with an important document needing immediate attention. Invaluable slip-ups happen and may result in you getting the

time your target goes home, which golf club they attend or even their personal cell phone number. Even better information can be forthcoming if you actually get your target on the line. Try this with various departments. On one occasion, an activist was actually able to find out when a shipment of laboratory animals was being delivered!

•Sport your most generic business outfit and simply do the "walk-through." In big companies, not everyone knows everyone else. Last year, a Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty



Hi, Pizza Palace?
Yes, I'd like to
order 200 cheese-
less pizzas to...

(SHAC) activist drove her car past security and into Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). An employee of the lab held the door open for her as they went in, and she had a good long walk around before barricading herself inside an office!

Home Is Where the Heart Is

•Neighbors are easily duped and will tell you what you're not supposed to know. When the target is not home, swing by the neighbor's house and pretend to be interested in the vintage green jaguar parked in your target's driveway. Call the neighbors pretending to be a relative planning a surprise party and that you need to know when your target will be home. Or even call acting like a journalist doing a story on animal rights or environmental activists targeting the folks next door: Can they offer any comment on their neighbors?

England that the company had to hire someone to sort through and send back all of the deliveries.

•Swing by your target's home and wait around to take photos of him or her. The paparazzi do it all of the time for movie stars, so why don't we do it for all of the celebrities of animal and Earth abuse? Maybe catch a glimpse of them in their swimsuit, screaming at their bratty kids or stealing the neighbor's newspaper.

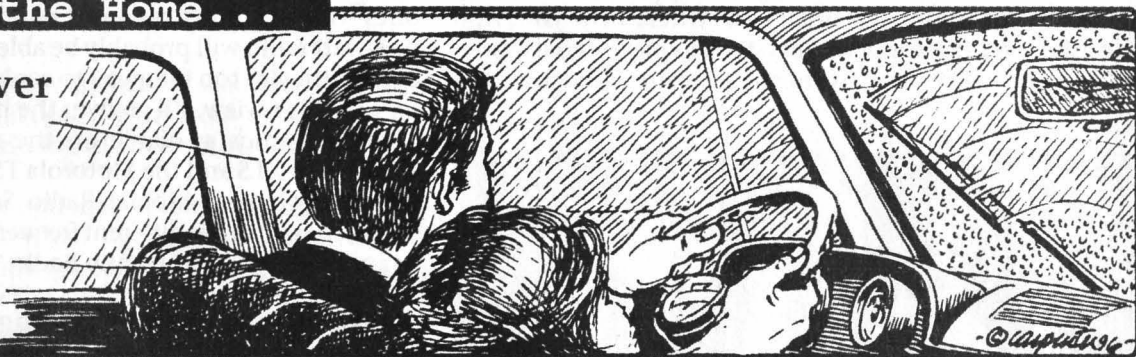
•"Warning: A known Earth destroyer/animal abuser lives at..." Putting up posters in your target's community is a good way of drawing attention to the vile and secret world of corporate exploitation. This can also cause a great deal of embarrassment to the individual. The locals are entitled to know about someone who commits unthinkable acts of barbarism on animals or the Earth.

•www.SHAMEONYOU!.com. If you are more computer

Fleeing the Home...

Will they never
stop?!

-Just keep
driving



•One of the most exciting ways to get to know your animal-abusing or Earth-destroying target is to follow them. Which video store and library do they use? Do they belong to a golf or yacht club? Following can be tricky, and you must have a reliable source of transportation. Most corporate scumbags don't take the train or bus.

Time for Action!

With your newly acquired information, it is time to let your imagination run wild.

•Visit www.nachomail.com. This website allows you to send emails from your target's email address to anyone you'd like, such as their friends and colleagues. Think the morning meeting should be canceled? Go ahead and do it. Maybe it's time to fess up to your spouse about having an affair.

Letting rude and inappropriate comments slip to a customer can be so easy when on email—especially theirs. Recently, all the high school classmates of a HLS executive received an email from their old chum, asking if any of them would act as a character witness for him in his upcoming murder trial!

•If you can't attend a home demo, don't sweat it. You can still make an impact on your target's credit ratings. In many magazines, there are forms allowing you to start receiving subscriptions and products with a bill sent later. Once the unwanted deliveries start pouring in, if your target doesn't take the time to send each parcel back with a canceled order statement, their credit takes a nose dive. HLS employees have received everything from *Playboy* to Precious Moments figurines. This got so bad for HLS in

inclined, why not build a special website for the ecoterrorist or vivisectionist you are after? Expose their dirty laundry, their funny photos, their home address and phone number. Include graphic pictures of the animals they experiment on or the forests they have clearcut, as well as links to other websites that attack the merit of those operations. These people deserve as much privacy and dignity as they give to their animal victims.

These are just a few of the ways to get to know your enemy and get under their skin. There are plenty of other ideas. The point is that you don't have to belong to your local animal rights group or Earth First! chapter to have a voice for the Earth or its animal inhabitants. Pranks, practical jokes and an unnerving amount of personal information on your subject can be just as powerful as a national demonstration.

Using great determination, SHAC-USA is committed to shutting down HLS and driving another nail in the coffin of the vivisection industry. For more information, contact SHAC-USA, POB 22398, Philadelphia, PA 19110; (888) 354-2435; shacusa@envirolink.org; www.shacamerica.net.



Pump Up the Volume

A Face-off between Kenwood and Motorola's Next-Generation Walkie-Talkies

BY DAN SPALDING

It might be the suburban kid in me, but some of my fondest memories are of running around in my backyard playing hide and seek with a Radio Shack walkie-talkie. There was the techno-intimacy of being able to communicate with someone who wasn't anywhere near you. And the inherent sexiness of this mysterious piece of hardware.

Looking back on it, these memories also demonstrate the



contradictions I face with today's walkie-talkies. Last to first: Sure, radios are sexy—but they're also expensive, if not as fragile as the Radio Shacks of old with their "insta-break" telescoping aluminum antennas.

Radios help you communicate with people who aren't anywhere near you. But in practice, "anywhere near you" means within two blocks, if that.

That brings me to the final contradiction of radios. Like so much of the high-tech crap I covet, its usefulness is inversely proportional to its cost. That is, the more expensive and cool it is, the more useless it is. There are definitely times in every activist's life when you need some walkie-talkies. Those times come once or twice a year for most of

us. And to add insult to injury, when you need them, you often need five or six for them to be really useful.

There are times when it could make all the difference for everyone in your affinity group to have a radio. If you're organizing a treesit, lookouts can warn people if they see law enforcement coming. Even if the lookouts are the only ones with the pricey two-watt radios, everyone else with a one-watt radio will probably be able to hear their warning, even if they're too far away to reply.

In this review, I'll go over the highs and lows of three of the radios available on the market: the Kenwood FreeTalk XLS and the Motorola T5820 and T7200. These are all General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) radios, which transmit at different frequencies than their cheaper and more popular Family Radio Service (FRS) brethren.

Power Over, Power Through, Power Within

The main problem with FRS radios is that they are only allowed to transmit at a half-watt of power. In real life, that half-watt will get you maybe a mile in the desert, at night, without any air molecules between you and any other radios. In the forest, you might be able to transmit up to a half mile. In the city, count on two blocks at best.

GMRS radios, however, are allowed to broadcast at up

to two watts. In practice, I've transmitted more than a mile in a semi-urban environment (near downtown Oakland, California) with a two-watt radio—the Motorola T7200. I've done about half as well with the one-watt Kenwood FreeTalk, and about half as well as that with the one-watt Motorola T5820.

The rest of this article will discuss features and compatibility, but as far as I'm concerned, the moral of the story is: more power equals more range. The Motorola T7200 kicks ass. And for around \$115 each, it had better. It's also about twice as big as the other two radios.

The Kenwood and the Motorola T5820 are about the same size—bodies a little bigger than a deck of cards—with a three or four-inch rubberized antenna. Both cost around \$80 each. I think the Kenwood has better range, but the T5820 is easier to use and seems vaguely more rugged.

What's the Frequency, Kenneth?

Another reason to use GMRS is because everyone is using FRS radios these days. Well, relatively few people are, but enough that it can be irritating when you're all set to do your billboard liberation and discover that the parking

attendant at the lot next door is talking on the same channel. I was a legal observer in the Nevada desert last year with some FRS radios, and even 45 miles from the nearest town (except for the nearby military base) there was traffic on the channel we were going to use. FRS radios have privacy channels to block out chatter or you can just change to a different channel, but why bother when you can get a GMRS radio instead?

The law says you need a \$75 FCC license to use a GMRS radio, but I don't think anyone checks for it. And, technically, it can cause massive brain tumors (not really, but there are serious warnings in the instructions about not using the radio too much and keeping it away from your body).

Features Galore

The GMRS radios come with loads of features. None of these set one radio drastically apart from another, but they do add to ease of use and further set them apart from most FRS radios.

One of the best is the optional vibrate function, which makes the radio shake when someone is transmitting. This is super useful in noisy situations or in covert actions where noise could give you away. All three radios have it.

The feature that is most fun is the "privacy" setting. On the Kenwood, simply switch it on and supposedly everyone not using a Kenwood set to privacy will hear spooky, garbled talk. The Motorola T7200 has three privacy settings, and you ostensibly have to be using another Motorola T7200 set to the same setting to hear a transmission.

Ease of Use

The Kenwood, bless its heart, is the least convenient to use of the bunch. The cryptic abbreviations in its little LCD screen make it frustrating for the beginner.

In my opinion, ease of use isn't a deal-breaker with the Kenwood, however. Even though it transmits at only one watt of power, the Kenwood is pretty powerful. It just takes someone who is familiar with them (or sits down with the instruction book) to set them up and press "lock" so that the settings don't get changed by accident. However, if your radios will frequently be used by people unfamiliar with them, the Motorola models would serve you better.

Why Not Just Borrow Someone's Cell Phone?

For most people, the cost of radios is going to be prohibitive. Perhaps regional EF! groups or coalitions might consider pooling their resources and getting a set of radios to share, especially if a number of actions are planned in the area.

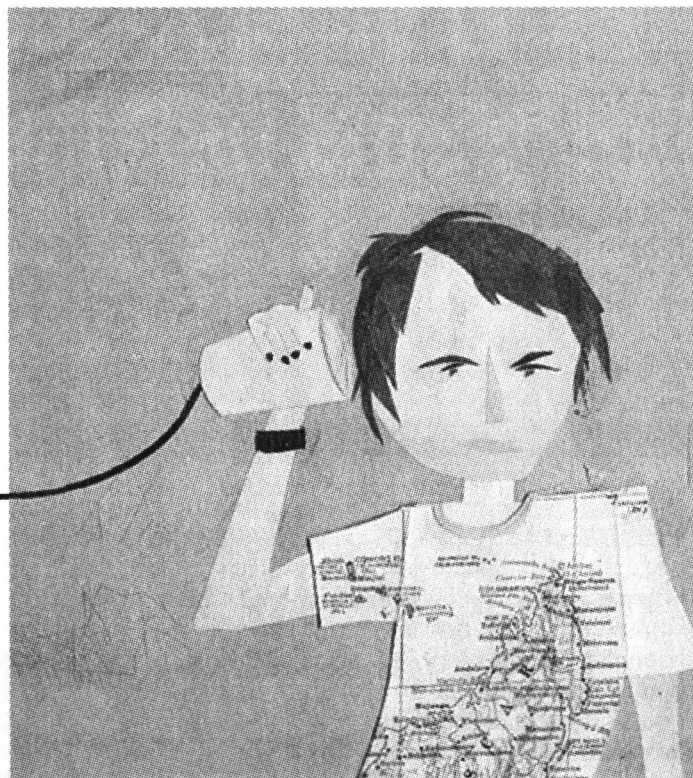
Computer guru Bruce Schneier is often quoted as saying, "If you think technology can solve your problems, you don't understand the problem and you don't understand

technology." Having radios, even sweet, expensive ones, won't necessarily let you instantly communicate with everyone you need to.

If you're in the "I need radios once or twice a year" category, maybe consider borrowing someone's cell phone instead. You sacrifice a lot in terms of communicating with more than one person at a time and also in terms of secrecy—it's fairly easy to determine your location and get phone records of who you called (see *EF!* January-February 2003). But, during mass actions in the city, you generally can't beat being able to reach who you need to on a cell phone.

Radios can often be very helpful. Yet they're not just toys anymore—it takes half a watershed to produce all of the circuits and liquid crystal displays in these things. It's fun to

In real life, that half-watt will get you maybe a mile in the desert, at night, without any air molecules between you and any other radios.



pretend you're some real important commando, but the environmental impacts are something to keep in mind. Even though books and manuals full of radio jargon and etiquette are probably a little overkill, it does help to know radio communication basics.

For some, it makes sense to have GMRS radios. You frequently coordinate activities in the woods at serious distances. You organize events with thousands of people. You are an attendant at a large parking lot. You want a massive brain tumor. GMRS radios were made for you. Go get 'em.

Dan Spalding does activist legal work with the Midnight Special Law Collective, which does not in any way condone his fixation with high-tech toys.

Anatomy of an Affinity Group



artwork by Maya Peterpaul

The idea of affinity group-based organization was planted in the US on April 30, 1977, when 2,500 people occupied the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant in New Hampshire. The growing anti-nuclear power and disarmament movements adopted this mode and used it in several successful actions throughout the late 1970s and 1980s. Since then, affinity groups have been used by environmental movements, the Central American solidarity movement, the anti-globalization movement and many others.

The Affinity Group is Born

The affinity group structure was born out of the anarchist and workers movements of the late 19th century, particularly those who fought fascism during the Spanish Civil War. Small circles of good friends, called *tertulias*, would meet at cafés in Spain to discuss ideas and plan actions. During a period of intense class conflict in Europe and of local insurrection and struggle in Spain, anarchists made *tertulias* the basis of their organizing.

Decades later, the 50,000-member Iberian Anarchist Federation (FAI) organized into affinity groups and local,

regional and national councils. Wherever several FAI affinity groups existed, they formed a local federation that was coordinated by a committee made up of one delegate from each affinity group. Delegates were then sent from the local federations to regional committees and finally to the Peninsular Committee. Affinity groups remained autonomous as they carried out education, organized and supported local struggles. The intimacy of the groups made police infiltration difficult.

In July 1936, a group of fascist generals launched a military revolt to take power from Spain's government. Spanish workers and peasants armed themselves and defeated the military throughout much of the country, particularly in the anarchist strongholds.

An estimated 1,200-1,800 self-managed workers' collectives were formed. This effectively replaced the remnants of government and private institutions by providing for the everyday necessities of life. Factories, transportation, telephones, agriculture and even retail stores were taken over and run collectively. The experience of working in non-hierarchical affinity groups created the conditions for six million people in Spain to reorganize society along revolutionary principles without bosses or government.

Affinity Groups Get the Goods

Affinity groups challenge top-down organizing and empower those involved to take creative direct action. They are by nature decentralized and allow participants to "be" the action by giving complete freedom and decision-making power to the entire group.

When forming an affinity group, find friends or fellow activists who have similar issue interests. An affinity group could be a relationship that lasts for years among a group of friends and activists, or it could be a week-long pairing based around a single action.

It is important to look for people who are willing to use similar tactics. For example, if you want to do relatively high-risk lockdowns, someone who does not want to be in that situation may not want to join the group. That person could do media or medic work, but this may not be the best solution

if they are not completely comfortable around certain tactics of direct action.

Affinity groups can be used to drop a banner, blockade a road, provide backup for other affinity groups, do street theater,

organize a treesit, form a padded bloc, change the message on a billboard or play music in a radical marching band. What makes affinity groups so effective for actions is that they can remain creative and independent by planning out actions without an organization or person limiting the possibilities.

Be creative and remember: Direct action gets the goods!

The information provided here is condensed from www.stopftaa.org.

FTAA Packing List



BY TINDER

From November 17-21, thousands will be converging in Miami, Florida, to interrupt the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) (see *EF!* September-October 2003). Here's a few things you won't want to forget to pack for the trip:

11 Gallons of Paint, Brushes

Six weeks before the FTAA ministerial, the Lake Worth Global Justice Group is inviting folks to a well-equipped art space in Palm Beach County. The space will be set up to build giant puppets, colorful banners and props. On November 15, all these creations will be paraded on a 60-mile romp to Miami. For more information, contact (561) 547-6686; sfglobaljustice@yahoo.com.

Dozen Pillows, Football Helmet

The Pittsburgh Organizing Group has issued a call to action for a Padded Bloc to disrupt negotiations. Affinity groups are planning to use shields and padding to confront police violence. Protected by their padding, the contingent will act as human shields to push back any police lines and to hold ground for unshielded protesters. For more information, visit www.organizepittsburgh.org.

Sleeping Bag, Ride

There's both a housing and a ride board on the Latin American Solidarity Coalition website. For more information, visit www.lasolidarity.org.

Bullhorn, Running Shoes

The major day of action is November 20. The AFL-CIO is sponsoring a massive march, beginning in the vicinity of Omni Mall and winding through downtown. Most likely, this will connect with other feeder marches and possibly a forest-specific action.

Hat with Press Card Stuck in It

There are plans for a "Media Center," which will provide communication services, physical space and use of technology. To subscribe to the Independent Media Center's mailing list, visit lists.indymedia.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/imc-ftaa-miami.

Liquid Antacid, Suture Kit

Chances are that if you know how to do an eye flush or treat a scraped knee, people will need your help. To link up with other medics, join the FTAA medical listserve at lists.riseup.net/www/info/ftaamedical.

50 Pound Bag of Rice, Cutting Board

Miami Food Not Bombs is teaming up with other chapters from around the nation. They're inviting anyone to come and assist with the chopping melee. Cooks, food and supplies are needed in bulk quantities. To get involved, contact miamifnb@hotmail.com.

Picnic Blanket, Tape Recorder (for Bootlegs)

You are invited to The People's Gala, which will be held on the evening of November 19. Located at the Bayfront Amphitheater on Biscayne Blvd, the gala will set a festive tone for the following days. It will be a multimedia event with a broad range of presenters, punctuated by musicians including Billy Bragg and Steve Earle.

Notepad, Pen, Paper Airplanes

A long list of local, national and international groups are scheduled to present forums and teach-ins throughout the week on a range of topics, including Indigenous rights, food security, genetic engineering and the FTAA's relationship to rainforest destruction. For a working calendar of events, visit www.citizenstrade.org/miamicalendar.php.

Break It Down

In Miami, those who soak up profits from perverted trade will no longer meet around unlit tables, and the voices of those who are losing living wages to the global North will not go unheard. With your bags packed, you're now ready to directly confront inequality, and while we're all together, why not have a little fun?

To learn more about the FTAA and the resistance to it, visit www.ftaaresistance.org; www.stopftaa.org.

Eco Bloc: Taking Action to Reclaim Ecology

If you are fighting for global justice, self-determination, peoples' food sovereignty and a future for life on Earth, then the Eco Bloc is *you*. The Eco Bloc is a tactic for advancing the realization of an ecological future and will be converging at the Free Trade Area of the Americas protests in Miami, Florida, from November 18-22.

The Eco Bloc is a nonviolent, autonomous space for individuals, affinity groups and organizations to unite and infuse the global justice movement with an Earth-centered message. We will march in green, with green flags, noise brigades and symbols of biodiversity, hope and change.

The Eco Bloc will continue on a parallel track to election year madness. Emerging in January at the New Hampshire Peoples' Primary, we will contrast the endless war on Iraq, workers and the Earth with ecological sanity and direct democracy. In April, the Eco Bloc will march to decry the greed and injustice of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund on their 60th anniversaries. We will confront the biotechnology industry in San Francisco in June at Biodevastation/Biojustice 2004. And the Eco Bloc will continue at an anti-war demonstration or picket line near you!

For more information, contact the Institute for Social Ecology Biotechnology Project, (802) 454-7138; eco-bloc@riseup.net; www.nerage.org.

Prisoners in the Struggle: Support Them!

Prisoner and Legal Updates

Editors' note: Regulations for mail sent to prisoners vary according to individual prisons. Before sending monetary donations, books or packages, ask prisoners what the regulations are. Assume that everything you write to a prisoner is read by the authorities.

•Mumia Abu-Jamal, who has spent nearly 21 years on death row, is suffering from a worsening condition of swollen and discolored joints. Supporters are asked to demand that Abu-Jamal receives immediate care by an outside physician of his choice. He can be reached at #AM8335, SCI Greene, 175 Progress Dr, Waynesburg, PA 15370, USA.

•José Vélez Acosta is awaiting sentencing for an action against the US military in May. Demonstrators celebrating the end of US military maneuvers on the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, used sledgehammers and fire to destroy a military boat, Humvee and the gates of the former military facility. Acosta faces two years in prison. He can be reached at #23883-069, MDC Guaynabo, POB 2147, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00922-2147.

•José Pérez González was convicted in September for conspiracy to destroy federal property in Vieques. He will be sentenced on December 11 and faces up to 10 years imprisonment. Currently being held without bail, Gonzáles can be reached at #21519-069, MDC Guaynabo, POB 2147, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00922-2147.

•Sherman Austin is being held at the Oklahoma City Federal Transfer Facility, awaiting designation to a federal prison. He is serving one year for maintaining a website that contained links to information on how to make explosives. Since September 15, Austin has been on 23-hour lockdown, and he has been denied phone calls, commissary,

letters and contact with other prisoners until transferred. Austin's family is requesting donations and legal help. For more information, contact Jennifer Martin, jmi46@sbcglobal.net.

•Kathy Boudin, imprisoned for 22 years for an attempted armored car robbery by the Weather Underground, was granted parole on September 17. Boudin was also implicated in an explosion at a New York City townhouse in the 1970s. She will be on parole for the rest of her life, with curfew and travel restrictions.

•Marco Camenish has been transferred to the maximum security prison of Pfäffikon in Switzerland. He is serving 10 years for using explosives to target nuclear facility powerlines. He can be reached at Hörnlistrasse 55, 8330 Pfäffikon/ZH, Switzerland. He reads French, German, Spanish and Italian.

•Betty Krawczyk, who participated in actions to blockade logging on Vancouver Island, Canada, was found guilty of criminal contempt on September 19, for violating a court order to stay away from the blockade. She is awaiting sentencing and can be reached at CS#037-939-24, Burnaby Correctional Centre for Women, 7900 Fraser Park Dr, Burnaby, BC V5J 5H1, Canada.

•Benjamin Persky, serving up to six years for property destruction at the homes of multiple Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) affiliates, has been moved to a prison/military boot camp where he will serve out his sentence. He can only receive letters and photos; absolutely nothing else. Persky can be reached at #03R3916, Lakeview Shock Correctional Facility, POB T, Brocton, NY 14716-0679, USA.

•Helen Woodson is serving 27 years for disarming a Minuteman II missile silo with a jackhammer, as well as

mailing warning letters to officials with bullets inside, robbing a bank and burning the money. Woodson is currently facing the possibility of life imprisonment since she has refused the terms of supervision that would accompany her release. Authorities believe that Woodson would commit further direct action and may prevent her release using new anti-terrorism legislation. She can be reached at #03231-045, FMC Carswell, POB 27137, Fort Worth, TX 76127, USA.

•Raul Zapatos, the leader of an anti-logging strike force in the Philippines has been serving a life sentence for returning fire when attacked by loggers. On September 19, Zapatos' appeal went before the court, and he was acquitted and released.

Animal Liberation

•Dave Blenkinsop, EM7899, HMP Bullington, Oxfordshire OX6 0PZ, UK. Serving 10 years for attacking the managing director of HLS, rescuing 600 guinea pigs from a lab supplier and for planting incendiary devices under slaughterhouse vehicles.

•Rae Schilling, GN6613, HMP Winchester, Romsey Rd, Winchester SO22 5DF, UK. Serving four-and-a-half years for harassment of HLS shareholders.

Eco-Defense

•Dr. Yuri Bandazhevsky, U1. Kalvarijskaya 36, POB 35K, Minsk, 220600, Belarus. Serving eight years for telling the world that nuclear radiation around Chernobyl was worse than the government reported.

•Iñaki Garcia Koch, Carcel de Pamplona, C/San Roque. Apdo. 250, 31080-Iruñez Pamplona, Navarra, Spain. Serving just under five years for sabotaging a dam construction site.



•Jeffrey "Free" Luers, #13797671, OSP, 2605 State St, Salem, OR 97310, USA. Serving 22 years and eight months for arson at a car dealership and for the attempted arson of an oil truck.

•Craig "Critter" Marshall, #13797662, SRCL, 777 Stanton Blvd, Ontario, OR 97914, USA. Serving five-and-a-half years for conspiracy to commit arson and possession of incendiary devices to destroy SUVs.

Indigenous Resistance

•Eric Wildcat Hall, #BL-5355, Unit I/ A 10745, Rt 18, Albion, PA 16475-0002, USA. Serving 35-75 years for helping to ship weapons to Central American Indigenous activists.

•Leonard Peltier, #89637-132, POB 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048, USA. Peltier, an American Indian Movement activist, is serving life in prison after being framed for the deaths of two FBI agents killed during the 1975 Pine Ridge siege.

Political Prisoners

•Byron "Oso Blanco" Chubbuck, #07909051, POB 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048, USA. Serving 80 years for aggravated assault on federal agents, escape and bank robbery. Chubbuck funneled money that he stole from banks to the Zapatista Army of National Liberation in Chiapas, Mexico.

•Thomas "JJ" Hicks, McDowell County Jail, 593 Spaulding Rd, Marion, NC 28752, USA. Currently facing marijuana and weapons charges. The FBI tried to link Hicks, a longtime Earth Firster, to various Earth Liberation Front (ELF) actions and has approached him with an offer to infiltrate the ELF in exchange for a more lenient sentence.

•Matthew Lamont, #T90521, A-5-248 UP, Centinella State Prison, POB 901, Imperial, CA 92251, USA. Lamont, an Earth Firster, is serving three years for possession of an incendiary device for reasons unknown.

•Robert Thaxton, #12112716, OSP, 2605 State St, Salem, OR 97310, USA. Serving a seven-year mandatory minimum sentence for throwing a rock at a cop at a 1999 Reclaim the Streets action in Eugene, Oregon.

•Fran Thompson, #1090915, Chillicothe Correctional Center, 1500 W Third St, Chillicothe, MO 64601, USA. Before she was given a life sentence in the early 1990s for shooting a stalker in self defense, Thompson was active in animal rights and environmental campaigns.

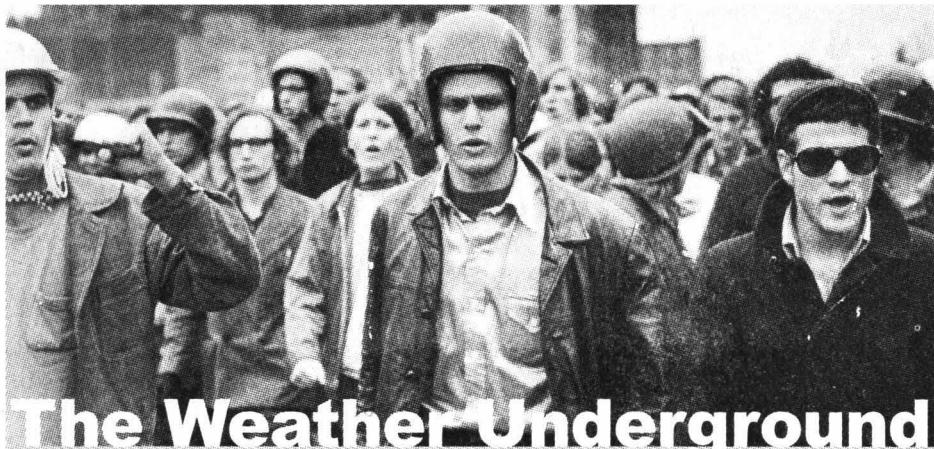


photo by David Fenton

The Weather Underground

"We are outlaws, free and high—a youth guerrilla underground in the heart of honky America!"

BY THE RADIKAL WEATHERMAN

The Weather Underground, a 92-minute documentary produced by Sam Green and Bill Siegel, Upstate Films, 2003.

As street clashes revolving around civil rights and anti-war struggles grew increasingly violent during the late 1960s and early 1970s, a growing urban guerrilla movement sprang up in response to escalating government repression. In addition to the Black Panther Party, the Black Liberation Army and the Puerto Rican Liberation Movement, cells and circles also emerged out of the white, middle-class, radical student movements prevalent at the time. One of the most notorious was the Radical Weather Underground—a remnant of the large and rather top-heavy socialist organization, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS).

In 1969, this affinity group of committed white radicals broke from the rapidly-fragmenting SDS to launch a guerrilla campaign to overthrow the government. They were clearly outraged by the Vietnam War and the blatant racism and classism of our society, as well as thoroughly disgusted with what many viewed as an ineffective popular movement in the streets.

Swearing solidarity with the poor and with people of color around the world, the Radical Weather Underground carried out bold and decisive direct actions throughout much of the 1970s. Their actions ranged from clashes with police to bombings of key political, financial, industrial and law enforcement agency installations.

The Weather Underground traces the rise and fall of the organization, commonly known as the Weathermen, using awesome film footage and priceless interviews with the group's surviving members. Completed after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the film thankfully spares us commentary on extremism itself—focusing instead on the politics of the day. At the same time, this film sheds light on the group's mistakes, misconceptions and dysfunction as it evolved, withered and faded.

This documentary is a must see for any radical using direct action. It chronicles the issues faced by the Weatherpeople themselves (they were all white, but not all male), including those that helped precipitate the Radical Weather Underground's demise in the mid-1970s—sexism, hierarchy, infighting, COINTELPRO, etc.

Startling in its timeliness, there is much in *The Weather Underground* that rings strikingly familiar to those involved in revolutionary struggle today. The activists in the film describe vital lessons for us all. The movie also reveals that most of the surviving Weatherpeople remain politically active, maintaining that direct action gets the goods.

For more information, visit www.upstatefilms.org/weather.

The Radikal Weatherman tracks the proliferation of positive vorticity, generated at the base of the trough where the winds of change howl and wail loudest.

Ask an EF! Lawyer

He's Working on *Your* Side!

BY STU SUGARMAN

Dear EF! Lawyer,

I am a recent environmental sciences graduate who now wants to head into the abyss of law. Do you have any advice on how I can maintain my radical spirit while going through law school? What schools or programs do you think are more geared toward natural resource defense? I'm headed in that direction in 2004.

—LAW SCHOOL BOUND

Dear School Bound,

Your questions bring back memories, since I had the same worries when I first thought about trading my career in marine biology for one in environmental defense law. As all I have are my experiences, I hope they help you. Before law school, I recommend that you write in a journal your detailed reasons for wanting to go and what you hope to accomplish in your life. That way you can clearly see any changes occurring during or after law school.

I think I was pretty radical when I started law school, but there's no question that I was more radical, and more determined, when I graduated. Law school radicalized me because, as bad as I thought things were before, it showed me how bad things really were and how focused the Power is on keeping its power. It showed me how even those institutions we trust to protect us are often looking for a way to justify preserving the status quo of environmental destruction. At least that's what I got out of it.

I got more and more frustrated because, until I graduated and passed the bar, there was little I could do about it. Furthermore, as a result of spending all of my time studying evil and its use of the law, I couldn't even do meaningful activist work against the Power. For more than three years, my frustration built, but eventually the day came when I got word that I had passed the bar, and the chains were finally cut. By that time, I was impatient and looking

for trouble. So, if your experience is anything like mine, law school will radicalize you.

Extra-curricular activities may help to maintain your radical spirit. Lewis & Clark College was open minded enough to give me a bulletin board in the lunch room to post literature describing boycotts against cosmetic companies, public lands ranching, California grapes and other industries. Campus groups included the Environmental Law Caucus, which organized Earth Day events and other actions; the Northwest Environmental Defense Center,

which teamed environmental lawyers with students to fight the bad guys; the Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center, which does similar work; and the Lewis & Clark chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

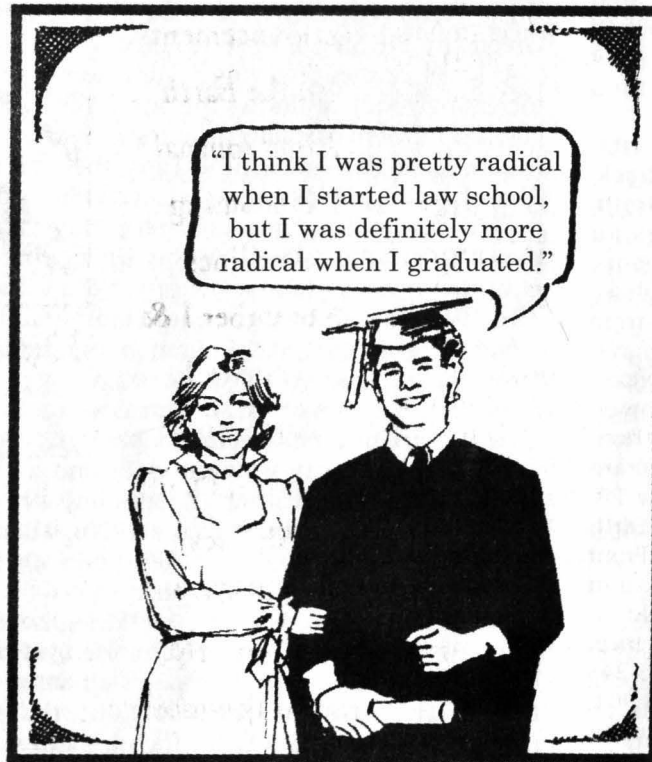
During law school, I was lucky enough to law clerk for the National Wildlife Federation and a local group called Rest the West. These jobs were fantastic because I was finally letting the rubber hit the road as part of a team of dedicated professionals. I started to feel what environmental law was all about!

Schools I would recommend above all others are the Vermont Law School and my alma mater, Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon. These two schools are perennially rated as the two best in the country for environmental law. From

personal experience, I believe that Lewis & Clark is imbued with a deep appreciation for the natural world, and it seems from its website and materials that the people at Vermont Law School share this ethic. Other schools focusing on environmental law worthy of a closer look are the University of Oregon and Bolt Hall at the University of California-Berkeley.

So, you *can* go through law school and be true to yourself on the way out. And there are law schools that would be proud to produce an able defender of the natural world. Good luck!

Do you have a legal question? Contact Stuart A. Sugarman, LLC, 3430 SE Belmont #101, Portland, OR 97214; blc@hevanet.com. Please write "Dear EF! Lawyer" on the subject line.



announcements

Buffalo Field Campaign Gears Up for Winter: Join the Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) this Winter to protect the last herd of wild buffalo from the seasonal slaughter outside of Yellowstone National Park. Volunteers are welcome to stay at BFC's cozy basecamp cabin and to help with cooking meals, doing outreach and daily ski patrols to monitor the buffalo. If you can help, whether as a volunteer or financially, it would greatly assist in protecting the buffalo.

For more information, contact BFC, POB 957, West Yellowstone, MT 59758; (406) 646-0070; www.wildrockies.org/buffalo.

Support the ELF Press Office

For those who value the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) Press Office and www.earthliberationfront.com, now is the time to show your financial support. The press office is seeking contributions, either on a one-time or ongoing basis—any amount helps!

Send checks or international money orders (money orders preferred) to the ELF Press Office, POB 21554, 1424 Commercial Dr, Vancouver, BC V5L 5G2, Canada.

Headwaters Forest Conference January 29-February 1 · Ashland, Oregon

The 13th annual Headwaters Forest Conference will bring together environmental activists from around the country to network and share information on saving forests. The conference will be held at the Ashland Springs Hotel, opening with a Thursday evening social. On Friday, a half-day plenary session examining the "State of the Environmental Movement" will launch the meeting. Special sessions, workshops and keynote speakers will follow during the next three days, with hikes to local fire and "Healthy Forest Initiative" sites on Sunday.

For more information, contact Headwaters, (541) 482-4459; conference@headwaters.org; www.headwaters.org.

Do-It-Yourself Fest

December 20-21 · Los Angeles, California

The Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Fest is an event for people to both give and participate in workshops pertaining to the DIY lifestyle. Skillshares will include community gardening, biodiesel fuel, starting a record label, starting a collective, books to prisoners, home brewing and more! There will also be speakers, games, a zine convention and book fair, poetry and live bands. Vegan food and housing will be provided. Remember, it's DIY, so if you have a skill to share, please be in touch!

For more information, contact (213) 353-9484; swirlywhirly@hotmail.com; www.diyzine.com.



Organizing an event that you think people should know about? Send your announcements to the *Earth First! Journal*.
Upcoming deadlines:

November 1 &
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collective@earthfirstjournal.org.



Desert Rat Rendezvous December 1-7 Kofa Wilderness, Arizona

This year's Desert Rat Rendezvous coincides with the annual slaughter of 19 desert bighorn sheep in the Kofa Wilderness Area in western Arizona.

Trophy hunters will be vying for the coveted "Grand Slam," an award presented by the Boone and Crockett Club for killing one of every subspecies of bighorn sheep in North America.

Meanwhile, Chuk'shon EF! is calling for a moratorium on the killing of the rare desert bighorn sheep, as well as hunting in wildlife refuges, and is asking for courageous volunteers to come to the Kofa to hike and bear witness to this atrocity.

The desert is beautiful in December. Join Chuk'shon EF! in fighting for its preservation during the day and reveling in its beauty around the campfire at night.

For more information, contact Chuk'shon EF!, (520) 609-2744; rodhasan@yahoo.com.



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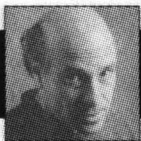
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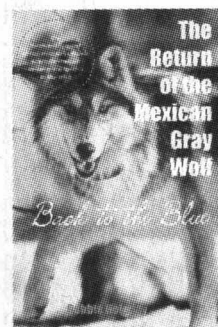
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Voices from the Ecological Resistance

Issue Ten

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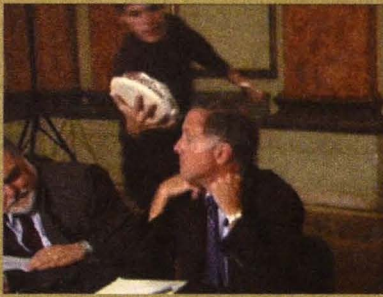
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Foi Tortado: The Pie is Cast

In Brazil, Bakers Without Borders delivered a fluffy cream pie to American Ambassador Peter Allgeier on August 28. Allgeier doubly serves as the co-president of the Free Trade Area of the Americas.



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