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n Memory of ThunderCraig · Hunt Sabs 101 · Horizontal Forest Initiative · Dolphin Samurai

Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal
Brigid January-February 2004



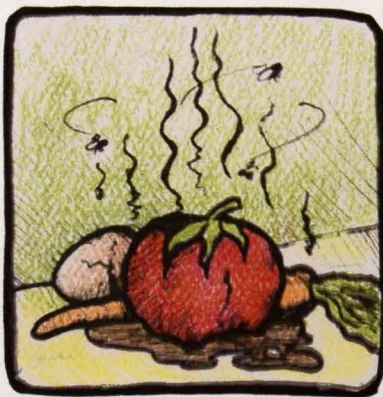
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NOT SO HARD TO FIND
TOOLS FOR
INDUSTRIAL SABOTAGE

ROTTEN
STINKY



THINGS!

EGGS, VEGGIES,
MEAT, POOP!

SHARP



THINGS!

KNIVES, BOXCUTTERS,
RAZORS....

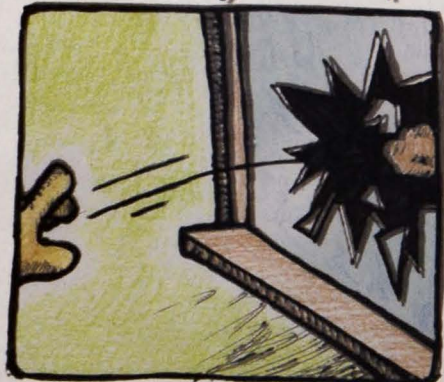
GRAINY



THINGS!

DIRT, SUGAR
OR CEMENT!

SOLID, HEAVY



THINGS!

BRICKS, ROCKS
AND STICKS!

Earth



First!

Brigid January-February 2004

The *Radical* Environmental Journal



Viva la Boréale: Lockdown Against Kruger

René-Levasseur is an island located within the Manicouagan Reservoir north of Baie-Comeau in Québec, Canada. Prior to October, no commercial exploitation on the island had ever occurred. According to multinational logging giant Kruger's "management" plan, 90 percent of the forest will be logged within the next 50 years.

On November 26, four activists chained themselves to cement-filled barrels in front of Kruger's Montréal offices. For more than eight hours, they stopped vehicles from entering the company's parking lot and delayed employees' arrival to work. The action was aimed to attract public attention to Kruger's recent clearcutting on the island.

The ecosystem on René-Levasseur island is old-growth boreal forest composed mostly of 200- and 300-year-old black spruce. The island is home to herds of wood caribou, moose, wolves, lynx, bears, wolverines, martens and many bird species. For more information, visit www.liberterre.cjb.net.

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artwork by Eian Wilson



capitalist philosophy that prioritizes the commercial interests of companies and powerful institutions over the rights of human beings.

For those of us invested in the environmental, peace, labor and social justice movements here in the US, the 10th anniversary of the Zapatista uprising is a good time to reflect on how the nature of our common project has changed. Ten years ago, using materials about NAFTA from the AFL-CIO and the Student Environmental Action Coalition, I gave my first public political presentation in front of my high school peers. Today, the EZLN's critique of neoliberalism still inspires me to act for a truly democratic society.

This society I work toward today is one in which nobody will be obliged to exploit or be exploited in order to live. The key lesson that many American activists my age have learned in the years since the start of the Zapatista uprising is that we will never live in such a society unless we work against global arrangements that privilege the people of some nations at the expense of others.

It is a great honor to express on these pages my solidarity with the EZLN. As a nonviolent activist, I don't have the inclination or the courage needed to take over by force even the tiniest of towns. But neither do I have enough words to express my profound respect for the Zapatistas and their charismatic leader.

In this issue of the *Earth First! Journal*, you will find representation of our uncompromising defense of Mama Earth. Universally, these stories are about putting land and liberty before profit worldwide. Emiliano Zapata would be proud to hear us proclaim: *¡Basta ya! ¡Tierra y libertad!*

—DAN

On January 1, 1994, armed revolutionaries took over a number of small towns in the state of Chiapas, Mexico. The insurgent forces of the *Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional* (EZLN) stated that they chose New Year's Eve for the start of the uprising in order to call attention to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which came into force throughout North America at the stroke of midnight that day.

The rebels quickly became headline news worldwide. The effect of their insurrection was felt not only in the closed club of Mexican politics, but also in the US. The EZLN sent a strong message to the leaders of the world's most powerful nation that Mexico was not for sale, no matter what politicians from its ruling party said. The Zapatistas inspired activists everywhere to resist neoliberalism, a free market

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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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Inside Front Cover: Breakfast

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Shepherd



Taking Action for the Tongass

with 12 tons of sod and a handful of angry Alaskans

BY SHIKATENE

In November, six Alaskan residents, along with 24 Greenpeace activists, laid 12 tons of sod on the road leading up to the doorstep of Undersecretary of Agriculture Mark Rey's office in Washington, DC. Five Alaskans and three Greenpeace activists were arrested.

The action was held to reinforce the message that had been expressed during a meeting the previous day between the Alaskans and Mr. Rey. We wanted to make it abundantly clear to Mr. Rey what "roadless" looks like. The sod was later donated to be used to repair holes along the National Mall.

Our meeting with Mr. Rey was to voice our outrage that the current administration had exempted the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. This exemption would open up pristine forest within the Tongass to even more industrial logging.

We were ushered into a conference room and awaited the arrival of Mr. Rey. Prior to the meeting, it was decided amongst the group that Mr. Rey would not be allowed to dominate the discussion.

There was no illusion that what we said would have any influence on his heart, prompting him to turn his back on 20 years of lobbying for the timber industry.

It is interesting to note that hanging on the walls of the conference room were two beautiful photographs of Alaskan wilderness. This was called to Mr. Rey's attention and that it seemed to be incongruent with his predilection for roads and clearcuts. "If roads and clearcuts are no big deal, why don't you have portraits of them adorning your walls?"

One of our members provided Mr. Rey with a very brief and polite outline as to how the meeting was going to be conducted. Next, we asked, "Would you, Mr. Rey, stand with us today and tell the American public that you will not allow roads to be built in Tongass roadless areas?" We explained to the undersecretary that before he answered this important question, the six of us would like to share our reasons why the Tongass should be included in the roadless rule.

Up until this point, Mr. Rey remained calm and obliging. However, as each member spoke about the effects the decision to exempt the Tongass from conservation protections would have upon subsistence users, ecotourism, taxpayers, families, commercial fisheries and aesthetics, Mr. Rey became increasingly agitated. His hands trembled, and the left side of his face twitched.

When he was asked again, "Would you, Mr. Rey, stand with us today and tell the American public that you will not allow roads to be built in the Tongass roadless area?" He stated, flatly, "I can't do that."

He was then asked why he had not listened to the more than two million Americans, 450 gun clubs, numerous religious organizations and scientific groups who had overwhelmingly voiced their support for the Tongass to be included in the roadless rule. "I don't count votes," was his reply. We stated that this appeared to be the common rule for this administration.

The hounding continued until one of our members said, "You are destroying the forests!" This proved to be too much for Mr. Rey. He came out of his chair, red-faced, shaking, with his finger pointed at his ac-

cuser and yelled, "That's bullshit!" The person that this expletive was directed immediately launched, "That's bullshit" right back at him. Mr. Rey sat down. He continued to be evasive, and the group allowed him a moment to speak. In response to our questions, Mr. Rey portrayed himself as a poor bureaucrat neutered of any ability to make the changes we requested.

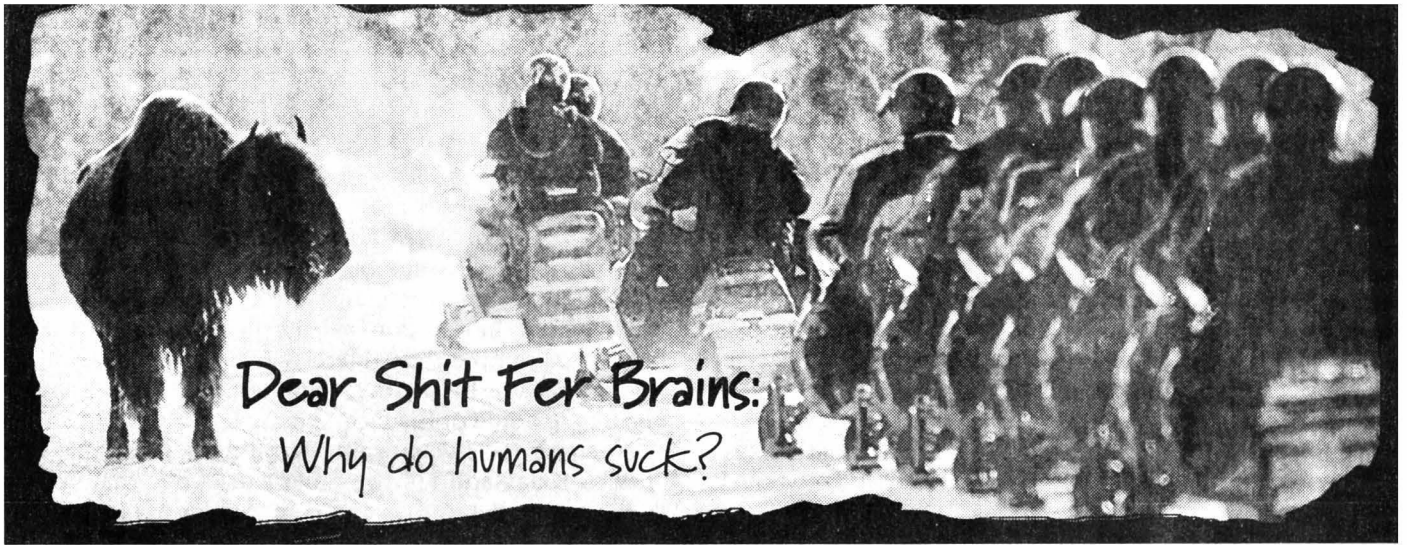
At the end of the meeting, we left a very clear message: "You people can do whatever you want on paper, but it will be another thing to try and implement it in Alaska. There will be people who will not stand by and allow our forests to be gutted. We will do whatever it takes to stop you!" With that, the group walked out. When someone accidentally knocked over a chair, Mr. Rey said, "No need to destroy the furniture!"

ShiKatene, a full-time activist residing in southeastern Alaska, is an active member of "The Tongass Pledge of Resistance." He can be reached at shikatene@yahoo.com.



photo by Laura Lombardi/Greenpeace

Mr. Rey portrayed himself as a poor bureaucrat neutered of any ability to make the changes we requested.



Dear Shit Fer Brains: Why do humans suck?

Hello *Earth First! Journal*,

I hope everyone is well there in Tucson. The *Journal* has been extremely impressive lately. I find myself reacting positively to most of the articles, and even some of the points of view I disagree with are well written enough to encourage me into further thought on the subject. I especially want to pay compliments to the smartMeme project folks; all of their contributions are excellent and worth several readings.

—RICK

Dear SFB,

The biggest difference between nature and civilization is that nature works for a living.

—CORY E. MASON

Dear *EF!*,

First off, let me just say thank you for the attention paid to prisoners in the *Journal*—not just the printing of their addresses but also their words and art. I wanted to write to give people an update on Jeff “Free” Luer’s case and let them know what they can do to aid Free in securing his freedom.

Free’s appeal is moving forward, albeit quite slowly as the state has just responded to his appeal with their own 64-page brief. In it, they call Free a “terrorist” numerous times
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and attempt to paint him as a threat to the public. This tactic is dangerous if they succeed because they can push for either the denial of his appeal or permanent incarceration.

Imagine: political prisoners incarcerated permanently because Ashcroft and company deem them threats to the public. It is imperative that we combat this terrorist label for Free, as well as all other political prisoners and direct action activists.

Many ask what can be done. These are Free’s suggestions from a recent letter with my comments in parenthesis: “Form a support group or contact a pre-existing group in your region. Spread info about my case. Do fundraisers to help with legal fees (checks should be made out to Free’s Defense Network, POB 3, Eugene, OR 97440). Hold demos (good days: June 11, the anniversary of Free’s imprisonment; December 5, Free’s birthday). Contact me for more info, my address is on the *EF!* prisoner page.”

To all of this, I would add writing letters to Oregon publications in Free’s defense. For more information or additional ways to support Free, contact Friends of Free, freefreenow@mutualaid.org; www.freefreenow.org. Thanks for your support and keep up the great work,

—DYLAN, FRIENDS OF FREE

EF!,

Your November/December 2003 issue is excellent. I read with interest the articles on SUVs. While I loathe and despise all SUVs and the scumbags who drive them, I feel other motorists should also be held responsible for global warming, air pollution, energy waste, etc. Such as:

A. The bald, middle-aged, pot-bellied business exec who thinks his 400 H.P. 17 mpg Corvette will make him look hot to young babes.

B. The 70-year-old women in their 4000 lb, 18 ft., 12 cup-holder, dual climate-controlled Coupe De Ville.

C. The 20-something geeks in their Jeep Wranglers.

D. The Rednecks in their bad-ass pick-up trucks.

E. The A-holes who drive Porsches, BMWs, M-Bs, Jaguars.

F. The losers who drive gas-guzzling Mustangs, Cameros, Firebirds and Vipers.

Etc, etc, etc.

The point I’m trying to make is that 95 percent of all the vehicles in this country are climate-changing, air-polluting, gas-guzzling monuments of American stupidity, waste, selfishness and arrogance.

—JACK WELCH

Dear Friends of the Buffalo,
In this time of thankfulness, we have some sad news. On Tuesday November 25, another bull

buffalo was shot dead by DOL agent Shane Grube while running back toward the boundary of Yellowstone National Park. He was some 25 yards shy of the border. Volunteers had to witness the agents drag the dead bull to the facility where they proceeded to fork-lift him onto a truck, gut and skin him and remove his head.

Again another powerful animal died at the hands of the ignorant and intolerant. The bull lived the only way he knew how—“Wild and Free!” Even in death, the Buffalo continue to teach.

In this past week while out on patrol, volunteers have been honored by a visiting pack of wolves, howling to others in the distance while eight bull bison lay silent amidst the sage brush, seemingly undisturbed by the presence of their predatory visitors. A bald eagle soars overhead, scanning Duck Creek for a meal while three otters break water as they come up for a look and quickly dive under again. A lone moose can be seen in the pines. Two ravens chase a Red-tailed hawk west of Sandy Butte.

Each day in the field we are reminded that we are merely a strand in this huge web.

With the Buffalo,

—ROMAN

Dear Ned "Clueless" Ludd,
Asking your local lighting store to save their burnt-out bulbs to throw paint at the urbanscape is a real shi(f)-for-brains idea (see *EF!* November-December 2003). Be sure to tell the store keeper how you are going to use them and where you live while you are there, too! For those who don't want to leave a trail, go to a thrift store and buy them.

—SHIFTLESS

Dear Earth First! Family,
The most profound tragedy is born of the greatest love. With the love we shared for Craig Walter Beneville, his death leaves a deep emptiness that shall never be filled. He was a lover of life with a compassion and laughter unequalled, a natural leader without pretense, a champion of the wild places.

Those of us who had the honor of sharing in protest, a camping or river trip, any occasion with him will not forget his charm and generosity. A generosity not only of possession, but of spirit.

We are left saddened and searching, but Craig left us with a mission. We must remember his example and forge forward against the metal-plastic jaws of destruction. We must remember that beaming smile that shared his loving strength with us. We will miss you, Craig, but you will always be alive in our hearts and minds.

With love,
—ONE OF HIS MANY FRIENDS

Dear SFB,
In "Open Letter to Men in the Eco/Social Justice/Anarchist Movements," I advocate that "if we truly want to stop the

destruction of the planet, we need to work to stop sexual violence, misogyny and sexist attitudes" (see *EF!* September-October 2003). Nothing could be more true. Fighting male supremacy and ending "the war against" is worthy of our efforts as much as any other social/political/economic cause.

But taking a position against sexism and patriarchal violence is also a means of addressing the problems of population size and growth, which are root causes of many environmental problems, including climate change, ozone depletion, air and water pollution, traffic congestion, and sprawl.

Members of the eco/social justice/anarchist movements to which I speak should broaden their efforts and oppose President Bush's anti-abortion policies, such as the Global Gag Rule, which bans foreign aid for organizations that undertake voluntary abortion activities, even if these activities are supported by non-US funds. The revival of this Reagan policy has already meant that thousands of African women have lost not just family-planning assistance, but prenatal and infant care—and (what is newly devastating) help in fighting AIDS.

Opposing the Bush policy would be consistent with Principle 20 of the Rio Declaration, which provides: "Women have a vital role in environmental management. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development."

Second, and perhaps more important, by strengthening the link between environmentalism and issues of social justice, we have the opportunity to show that we are not simply interested in protecting the comforts and aesthetic pleasures of affluent nature lovers. In other words, by working to stop sexual violence, misogyny, and sexist attitudes, we can increase our ranks in the battle to stop the destruction of the planet.

—AVI BRISMAN

Dear SFB,

I have worked tirelessly for several decades in struggles such as the Redwood forests of California, Mt. Graham in Arizona and against US intervention in Central and South America.

Many of these struggles were long and difficult both because of the powers that we opposed and because of our own movement's weaknesses. I have a hard time telling

young activists that I meet what group I think is worth putting their effort (or my own) into. Single issue campaigns do not seem to be effective activism or educational tools. My best proof is the popularity of Bush despite his war crimes and global arrogance.

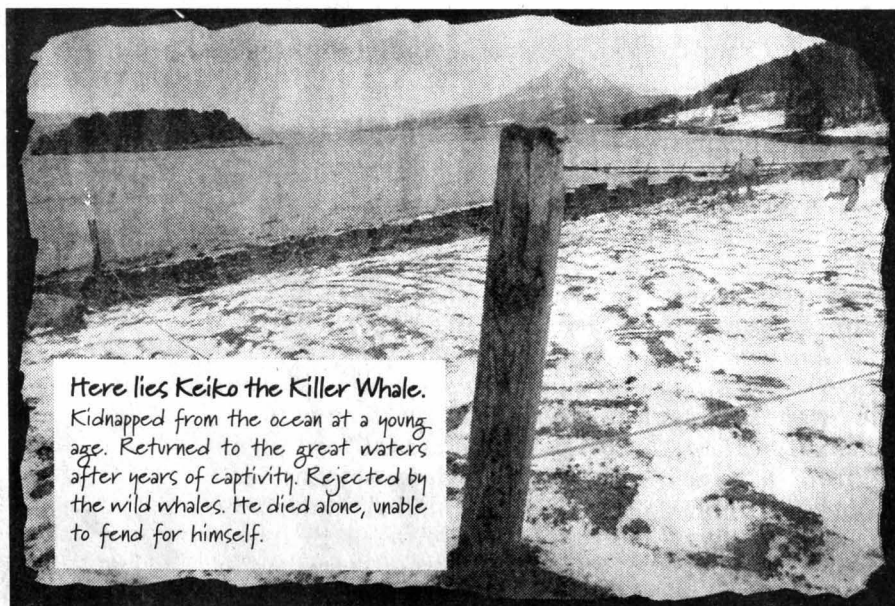
I have long felt that the rising consciousness and rebelliousness in Latin America is the best hope that the Western Hemisphere has for real change. This is why the US vigorously attacks popular movements in Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, etc.

It is why I attended the WTO protests in Cancún and why I am now in Chiapas preparing to tour Mexican activist communities in order to help them network with other North Americans and help us understand the struggles important to them and how we can unite against US-led free trade enslavement schemes such as the WTO, FTAA and NAFTA.

Miracles began in Cancún. For the first time in more than 10 years, I feel energized and now have something to ask people to put their energy into.

I watched and participated in a difficult organizing scene where international activists who were poorly funded and fearful of the Mexican police state came together with the Mexican student and *campesino* groups to create effective and dramatic actions despite the problems we faced with language, styles and threats from the thousands of well-armed and fortified military.

—ALMOND



Here lies Keiko the Killer Whale.
Kidnapped from the ocean at a young age. Returned to the great waters after years of captivity. Rejected by the wild whales. He died alone, unable to fend for himself.

In Memory of ThunderCraig: 1967-2003

BY MICK GARVIN AND
JIM FLYNN

"The Thunderbird was usually a friend to humans, a benevolent spirit seen as the source of wisdom. The Chippewa stated that the eyes of the Thunderbird flashed with fire, his glance engendered lightning and the flapping of his wings produced thunder. The Algonkian tribes believed the Thunderbird to be a benign nature spirit. The Assiniboin claimed the wise old Thunderbird never harmed or killed anyone. Usually, his role is to challenge some other great power and protect the Indians. But in some legends, the Thunderbird is himself malevolent, carrying off people to their doom."

—STEVE MIZRACH, AUTHOR OF
THUNDERBIRD AND TRICKSTER

Other legends say that if you seek the Thunderbird and acquire a tail feather, you can bring back the dead. Riding a Thunderbird has been said to be like riding lightning itself. From the stories we have heard of Craig's childhood of skateboards, mountain bikes, scooters and motorcycles—and from what we know of Craig's climbing and rafting skills—we would have to say that if there ever was anyone who would dare to ride a Thunderbird, it would have been Craig.

Craig Walter Beneville, 36, restoration forestry contractor and former editor of the *Earth First! Journal*, died December 1. While climbing with close friends and working on a wildlife habitat creation contract, Craig fell from a large Douglas fir on the slopes of Table Rock Mountain in the Molalla River drainage, approximately 30 miles northeast of Salem, Cascadia. He had



Early August 2003, Lobster Valley, Oregon

Photo by Ayelet Hines

been performing similar work for the past six years.

Craig—the fabulous ThunderCraig to us mortals—was a god. Maybe not on par with Amitaba Buddha, Jesus, Odin, Allah, Coyote or Krishna, but a deity nonetheless. Perhaps closer to Pan, Craig was more interested in the taste of good beer, making music and laughing like a spastic pileated woodpecker. He was loved and worshipped by his many followers. Hell, even the dykes liked him.

He was passionate and fearless, not a combination that normally leads to a long life. He smiled a lot and was kind to animals (mostly). He related to children better than most parents. He danced without self-

consciousness or rhythm, sang in a very special way and drank with polished skill. He loved tequila and the whole godforsaken desert that comes with it. He was ThunderCraig.

He was many other things as well: intellectual couch potato, wildlands firefighter, rock climber, connoisseur of very fucked-up jokes, carpenter, poet, whitewater raft captain, brewer, scrub-hugging canyon rat, philosopher, sick puppy and slammin' cow-punk guitar beater.

He was respected and liked by the Freddies and BLMers who came into contact with him, loved by his friends and family, feared and hated by few. He leaves behind his mother and father, Barbara and Edward, siblings Ed, Sandy, Kirby and Casey and grieving thousands.

Thanks for the elbow room Craig, but we always thought we'd be with you for at least a little longer...

Mick Garvin and Jim Flynn could be considered co-

widows of our fallen comrade. For more than a decade they have been climbing, hiking, partying and raising hell with Craig (while trying to keep up with, and cleaning up after, the ornery S.O.B.).

People can help continue the type of surveying work Craig did by sending a donation to the Cascadia Wildlands Project, earmarked "Northwest Ecosystem Survey Team,"
POB 10455
Eugene, OR 97440.

Born in Pasaic, New Jersey, on January 23, 1967; raised in Orange County, California. Graduated in 1993 with honors from the University of California-Irvine.

Late '80s until early '90s: Attempting to stop the destruction of coastal sage-scrub ecosystems in southern California, Craig locked himself to the entrance of the Orange County Transportation Corridor Agency, hung banners and himself from large cranes, flung cow feces around the Council Chambers and chased bulldozers.

1992: Boarded and seized the *Sammi Superstar*, a South Korean carrier ship loaded with tropical hardwood in the Port of Long Beach, California, with EF!, Rainforest Action Network and Greenpeace.

1992: Boarded and bannered the *Edward Abbey*, the flagship for the maritime ego-warrior movement, in response to Cap'n Paul's "lily-livered banner hangers" comment.

1993: Moved to Eugene, Oregon, to work on the *Earth First! Journal*, where he was an editor until 1997.

1995: While protesting trophy hunting, got kicked out of Canada for hanging a banner from a 287-foot-tall flagpole. Authorities were unable to remove the banner for weeks.

1998: Filed a lawsuit against the FBI regarding information allegedly linking the Unabomber to Earth First!. Won the lawsuit in 2003.

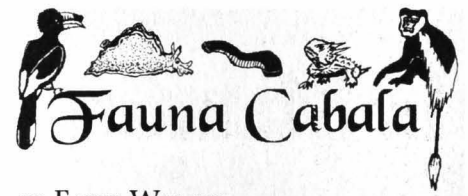
1998 to present: Initiated volunteer red tree vole surveys in Cascadia. Conducted surveys between work on forest contracts and home improvement projects at his Winter home in Joshua Tree, California. He turned in some fresh vole poop just days before his fall.

If you can overcome your distaste for inappropriate technology, as Craig frequently did, check out www.thundercraig.com.

Craig in Action



The many facets of Craig (from left to right): On board, going for it, fearless, flying, friends and finally, when Hyundai came to Eugene, Oregon, and wanted to build its offices on federally protected wetlands, Craig was there to tell him how he felt about it. After throwing the sign "Hyundai: A Good Corporate Citizen" to the ground and stopping on it, he yelled, "You people make me want to throw up!"



BY FAITH WALKER

For Craig, whose riparian bellowings—"Hey, Can I Touch You?," "Down with Empire!," and "Happy, happy, we're so fucking happy, tra la la laa..."—were of the highest quality. You are missed beyond words.

In the Darling Ranges of southwestern Australia, male quacking frogs (*Crinia georgiana*) are bellowing beatific ballads. This acoustic anuran's duck-like call is exceedingly attractive to females, who are all ears during nocturnal splashing in shallow, moss-lined pools. Such a riparian Shangri-La is congested with a congregation of competing callers, each stunning with his fuchsia or golden eyeshadow and the rosy patch on his amphibian privates.

A male will wait until the end of his neighbor's call before delivering one of his own, and he tends to precisely match its number of notes. This means that he is just as attractive as his rival, while minimizing both the chance that his crooning will lure a predator and the energy expended in this amorous pursuit, which isn't minimal. In fact, the objects of his desire prefer acoustic feats involving multiple notes, lots of pulses on the first note and a high calling rate. It's thus likely that the male call is an honest signal of his quality, which translates into fit froglets.

When voluptuous females hop about in the clamorous chorus, they pass right on by many suitors before being successfully serenaded. Dawdling has drawbacks, however, because musically challenged males adopt debaucherous strategies. Satellite males hang out by the more musically gifted ones, waiting until the happy couple retires before joining them, while sneaker males ramble around intercepting females as they run to their beau.

It's thus that half of all matings are polyandrous, usually involving two (and sometimes up to nine) males in a frog sandwich. Females attempt to avoid such libidinous activities because males don't aim well in the confusion, so many of the eggs she releases either aren't fertilized or aren't fertilized by the quacking hopper with the good genes. This story is repeated night after night in the forest in wintertime, until the pools are awash with tadpoles.



photos courtesy Friends of Craig



photo courtesy Wolf Watershed Educational Project

Crandon Mine Victory in Wisconsin Won by a Historic Alliance

Members of the Wolf Watershed Educational Project stand behind the "tombstones" meant to symbolize mining disasters worldwide.

BY DEBRA McNUTT AND ZOLTAN GROSSMAN

This Fall, the 28-year fight to stop the proposed Crandon mine in northeastern Wisconsin came to a sudden end. Opponents defeated the controversial zinc-copper project, which they had long contended would harm the local environment, economy and Native cultures, and, in the end, two Native American tribes gained ownership and control of the mine site.

The Forest County Potawatomi and the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa (Ojibwe) paid more than \$16 million for the 5,000-acre mine site. On October 28, tribal members and non-Indian mine opponents flooded into the Nicolet Minerals Information Center, now owned by Mole Lake, to celebrate. The Nicolet Minerals Company has dropped all mining permit applications for the Crandon mine.

As he hung a giant "sold" sign on the building, Potawatomi tribal member Dennis Shepherd exclaimed, "We rocked the boat. Now we own the boat." The two tribes divided the Crandon mine site between themselves, to ensure that a toxic, metallic sulfide mine could never threaten them in the future.

This remarkable victory goes beyond stopping the project. In the process of organizing, the grassroots opposition movement helped to build bridges between groups that had previously been adversaries. It brought together Native American nations with sport-fishing groups, environmentalists with unionists and rural residents with urban students.

This unusual alliance first drove out the world's largest resource corporation (Exxon) and then the world's

largest mining company (the Australian-South African firm BHP Billiton). The shaft mine was proposed in an area that encompasses many wetlands, Ojibwe wild rice beds and Native burial sites, as well as prized trout, walleye and sturgeon in the Wolf River (see *EFJ* August-September 2002).

Through old-fashioned grassroots organizing, which included speaking tours and local government resolutions, the movement campaigned throughout Wisconsin for a statewide mining moratorium and a still-proposed ban on cyanide use in mining. Using the Internet, the campaign got the message out around the world, even leading to a rally in Australia. This is an example of "globalization-from-below" in the midwestern Heartland.

International mining journals characterized the Wisconsin organizers as "barbarians at the gates of cyberspace" who were becoming "increasingly sophisticated." The Wolf Watershed Educational Project was portrayed as a "threat to the global mining industry." Last year, one mining industry think tank, the Vancouver-based Fraser Institute, gave Wisconsin the lowest "Investment Attractiveness Index" of any political unit in the entire world (a score of 13 out of 100).

The tribes bought the site at a "rummage sale" price partly because the grassroots movement had driven away potential corporate partners for the Nicolet Minerals Company, and therefore had caused the sale price to drop by tens of millions of dollars. Nicolet's former director, Gordon Connor, Jr., complained that Wisconsin's "anti-corporate culture" defeated the mine, adding, "We have engaged every significant mining interest in the world. The message is clear. They don't want to do business in

the state of Wisconsin." Former Nicolet President Dale Alberts said that the Crandon mine "is dead and gone forever. I think it is essentially the end of mining in the state. It is a bitter pill."

How did this strong anti-mining movement develop in Wisconsin? Because it effectively drew from four strands

in the state's history. It engaged the tradition of progressive populism, which has a history of mistrusting big business. It exhibited the environmental ethics of John Muir and Aldo Leopold, which are still strong in rural areas. It tapped into the historic resentment that rural northern Wisconsin residents have for the state government in Madison. And it was the historic determination of Native American nations, including the Ojibwe, Potawatomi and Menominee, to protect their treaty rights and tribal sovereignty that proved to be the decisive factor in the campaign's success.

The mining companies not only tried to pit whites against Native Americans, but also rural northern residents against urban southern residents and union members against environmentalists. They failed in each attempt. The mining companies could not divide Wisconsin communities by race, by region or by class.

Resource corporations are no strangers to dealing with environmental groups made up largely of white, urban, upper-middle-class people. The companies have been able to portray such activists as yuppies or hippies who do not care about rural jobs.

What corporations face in Wisconsin is something new—an environmental movement that is rural-based, multi-racial, middle-class, working-class and made up of many youth and elders. This movement does not just address a corporation's environmental threats, but also its threats to Native cultures, local economies and democratic institutions, as well as its "boom-and-bust" social disruptions and its mistreatment of union employees.

This type of "people power" movement also defeated a Perrier-owned springwater drilling project in central Wisconsin in 2002 and is opposing an electric transmission line in northwestern Wisconsin. New environmental groups are going beyond the message of "not in my backyard" to "not in anyone's backyard," corresponding with a deeper critique of our corporate economy and politics. Environmentalists are asking why we need centralized electric grids instead of renewable energy, bottled water instead of cleaner water supplies and new sources of metal instead of recycled materials.

The Crandon mine victory points toward new paths for people of diverse backgrounds to work together. It also shows how communities can together build a sustainable future on the land. The former mine site will now be managed to protect its natural and cultural resources, as well as to develop a local sustainable economy.

For the local Native and non-Native people who have spent so much time and money to defeat this project, the victory brings a sense of peace after a quarter century of struggle. At the Nicolet Minerals Information Center, Mole Lake veteran Jerry Burnett brought out an American flag he had long carried upside down, as a symbol of distress, and turned it upright.

Burnett told the gathered crowd, "I fought in Vietnam. When I came back, I swore I would not fight another war except in defense of my country. And then I had to fight the mining company to defend my own soil. We have won this war. Now the war is over."

For more information, contact the Midwest Treaty Network, POB 1045, Eau Claire, WI 54702; (715) 833-8552;

www.treatyland.com; www.wolfriverprotectionfund.org.

Debra McNutt and Zoltan Grossman are members of the Midwest Treaty Network. McNutt is a longtime anti-racism and environmental organizer, while Grossman is a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.



Photo courtesy Midwest Treaty Network

"We have lost so many resources, so many wild places, in just a few generations. This purchase protects some of the remaining resources, from the groundwater and wetlands to the waters of the Wolf River."

—GUS FRANK, CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI COMMUNITY



Photo courtesy Midwest Treaty Network

The Dolphin Samurai of Taiji

Sea Shepherd Crew Confronts Dolphin Slaughter in Japan

BY CAPTAIN PAUL WATSON

More than 22,000 dolphins and small whales are slaughtered in remote Japanese bays every year. Places like Iki, Izu, Ito, Futo and Taiji have become associated with horrific images of defenseless dolphins being speared, slashed, clubbed and drowned.

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society began an aggressive campaign in September to oppose the annual dolphin slaughter near Taiji.

On September 29, a three-person crew, under the direction of California activist Nik Hensey, arrived in southern Japan to document the dolphin kill and gather evidence on illegal activities by the fishermen.

Within a week, the first dolphin drive began.

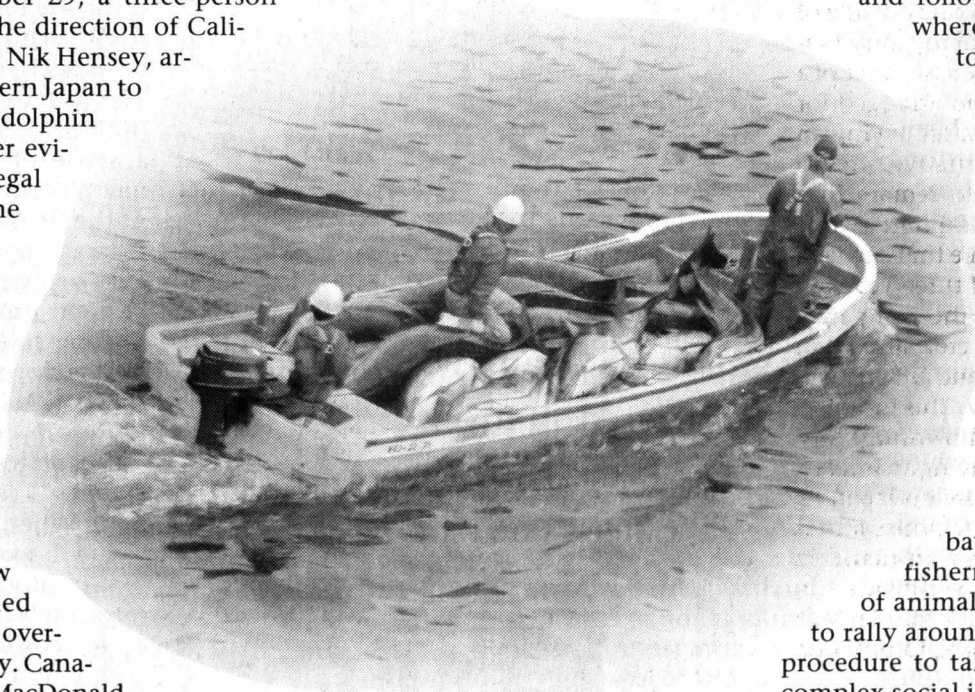
When the killing started on the morning of October 6, the Sea Shepherd crew was positioned on the cliffs overlooking the bay. Canadian Brooke MacDonald and Morgan Whorwood of the UK captured the slaughter on camera. The images later appeared on the front pages of major newspapers around the world.

The Japanese government was embarrassed and responded by having signs placed around Taiji that prohibited photographs. Still armed with their cameras, the Sea Shepherd crew patrolled the waterfront every day throughout October and November.

In late October, the crew caught the slaughter of 13 Mellon-headed whales on videotape. The Mellon-headed

whale is a protected species, and the kill was illegal. More whales would have been killed, but the Sea Shepherd crew used steel rods to bang on the rocks around the bay and thus drove 17 whales back out to sea.

MacDonald and Whorwood departed from Taiji at the end of October, and Hensey was left to hold the ground alone for a few days. Despite threats and assaults, Hensey defended himself and kept up the patrols with his video camera.



At one point, a fisherman struck him with a stick, and Hensey retaliated by challenging the group of fishermen to a duel with Japanese bamboo swords. None of the fishermen accepted the challenge, leaving Hensey as the undisputed last samurai in Taiji.

Fortunately, Hensey was reinforced by famed dolphin defender Ric O'Berry, who has dedicated his life to protecting these gentle and intelligent creatures. Allison Lance Watson from the US and Alex Cornelissen from the Netherlands were dispatched from

the Sea Shepherd ship *Farley Mowat* in Seattle, Washington, and Thomas Heinemann, a German citizen, arrived from Santa Cruz, California.

Actor Billy McNamara of *Law and Order* fame arrived from New York with his camera. While on patrol filming some pilot whales being killed, McNamara was assaulted by fishermen with sticks. He stood his ground.

The Sea Shepherd crew were clearly frustrating the fishermen by the second week of November. Police arrived and followed the crew everywhere, warning them not to take pictures.

On November 18, a number of dolphins and pilot whales were driven into Taiji Bay. By this time, the Sea Shepherd crew had witnessed enough blood and suffering. They had heard too many screams from tortured and dying dolphins.

The dolphins in the bay were terrified. The fishermen speared a couple of animals to force the others to rally around. This is a common procedure to take advantage of the complex social inter-relationships of marine mammals. A deliberate injury to one or two members of the pod will lead to others attempting to assist their wounded family members.

For Watson and Cornelissen, it was enough. They slipped into wetsuits and entered the water.

The dolphins and whales were behind two walls of nets. Cornelissen cut the outer net, while Watson cut the inner one. Both began to swim across the bay while towing the heavy net across. From inside the enclosure, a few of the dolphins began to escape.

Suddenly, a fast skiff came roaring in and narrowly missed running over Watson. The fisherman reached down and grabbed the net to reconnect it. But Watson refused to let go, and they began a tug of war—the fisherman on the bow of the boat and she in the water. Twice the boat operator ran over her, but Watson still refused to let go. The fisherman looped the rope from the net around Watson's neck and attempted to strangle her, but she managed to slip out of the noose.

After an hour of skirmishing in the water with fishermen, Watson and Cornelissen were arrested for "forced interference with commerce." The next day, the police confiscated all of Heinemann and Hensey's video and camera equipment, making further documentation impossible.

Watson and Cornelissen were held for 23 days without being allowed to communicate with anyone outside of the jail. The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society secured the assistance of a lawyer from Tokyo who arranged for the two to be released after paying an \$8,000 fine. The alternative was to plead not guilty and to remain in a Japanese prison for three months while awaiting trial for a crime that carries a maximum sentence of three years.

This does not end the campaign. Another Sea Shepherd crew arrived in Taiji on December 21, and O'Berry will be returning in January. This promises to be a long, hard and painfully frustrating fight, but it is having an impact. The eyes of the world are on Japan.

On December 10, demonstrations were held at Japanese Consulates in more than 40 cities worldwide, including a protest in Tokyo. Many in Japan are now beginning to question the slaughter.

When Watson and Cornelissen were released from jail, they were escorted to Osaka by the police. Their escorts expressed respect for what the pair did: "You did what you had to do. You did your duty for the dolphins and in serving them, you are the dolphin samurai of Taiji."

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.

Photo by Brooke McDonald/Sea Shepherd.

Off the coast of Taiji, Japan, fishermen capture dolphins by working in small boats, using sounding rods below the water's surface to interfere with the dolphin's sonar and navigational abilities. Once located, the dolphins are penned overnight, then smaller skiffs drive the pods toward the beach where the animals are slaughtered and bled to death in the bay—staining the water blood red. Sea Shepherd crewmember Nik Hensey was on the frontlines in Taiji for two months this Fall, where he patrolled the waterfront, skirmished with dolphin killers and documented brutal atrocities.

I have been forced to watch as "fishermen" drove spears into a small pod of striped dolphins. As heat rose from the open wounds of a recently killed whale, I videotaped the butchers while they hacked off her pectoral fins. I have seen a pod of 50 terrified pilot whales frantically thrash about as the males in the pod sought to protect nursing mothers and newborns from the boats of the Taiji "fishermen." I have also experienced the callousness of a community of whalers who seek exemption from international condemnation by evoking notions of "culture" and "tradition."

With the crimson waters and bloody corpses of more than 100 whales and dolphins, I see no "tradition" being played out—only greed. These killers view the oceans as nothing more than an asset to be liquidated. My eyes see blood red; their eyes see only the color of money.

The fact of the matter is that the dolphin drives of Taiji are big business, and the profit comes not from dolphin and whale meat, but from the live dolphins that are sold into captivity. If aquariums and "swimming with the dolphins" operations are a part of Japanese "culture," than I might stand corrected. But first show me the Kanji scrolls.

I am here in Taiji because my crewmates and I are driven by both compassion and rage, which burn throughout our bodies at the sight of injustice and brutality. There are some who have called us "terrorists" for saving dolphins here. If we are terrorists for believing that life is more important than property, then what term does one reserve for those who take life, threaten life and engage in the wholesale slaughter of innocent life? One must ask: "What drives someone to the point where s/he feels it necessary to jump into cold waters to save a pod of dolphins?"

Whether for culture or profit, the dolphin and whale cultures of the oceans are being threatened. When the oceans are void of the dolphin and the whale, what will we tell generations to come? What will we tell our children and grandchildren who ask us about the mythical giants who once swam the oceans?

There are two paths we can go down: one ends in the destruction of life and the other ends with its preservation. When asked by future generations what role I played in the destruction of the animal nations, my crewmates and I can proudly say that we stood in their defense.

—NIK HENSEY

**To claim tradition at the expense
of exterminated species
just doesn't seem sufficient.**



Sab the Bastards!

EF! Disrupts Bighorn Sheep Hunt in Arizona

BY PHOENIX AND CHUK'SHON EARTH FIRST!

In the world of trophy hunting, desert bighorn sheep are a once in a lifetime prize. The North American Sheep Hunters Association glorifies hunters who kill one of each of the five subspecies of bighorn sheep in North America by deeming them members of the "Grand Slam Club." Of the five subspecies, the desert bighorn is the rarest.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department grants 150 permits to kill desert bighorn throughout the state each December. For the third year in a row, Earth First! was prepared to sabotage the trophy hunters attempting to slaughter 15 animals in the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge.

In 1939, more than one million acres of land were set aside in Arizona as a bighorn sheep sanctuary, including the Kofa. At that time, no more than 700 desert bighorn were left in Arizona due to overhunting, habitat fragmentation and the introduction

of domestic sheep disease. However, by the 1950s, limited desert bighorn trophy hunting was allowed.

Today, the Kofa serves as host to a variety of professional hunting guides and outfitters who charge fees, starting at \$5,000, to lead trophy hunters into rugged mountain sanctuaries deep inside the refuge.

Earth First! believes that national wildlife refuges should be sanctuaries for native wildlife, not playgrounds for recreational killers. Desert bighorn recovery in Arizona will only be successful if it is done for the sake of the bighorn rather than to provide wall ornaments for trophy hunters.

Activists from both Phoenix and Chuk'shon Earth First! are dedicated to stopping hunters from killing bighorn. The tactics used are simple and have been met with limited success: locate the sheep hunters, follow them into the hunting areas and spook the bighorn rams away from the hunters' guns.

Sabotaging a desert bighorn sheep hunt requires incredible stealth and endurance. Long hours are spent hiking through lava-strewn mountains in search of the hunters. Saboteurs depart the basecamp before dawn to shadow an entourage of hunters as they head into the bighorn's territory, often hiking 10-15 miles a day. The objective is to not lose sight of the hunters, who spend the mornings and late afternoons spotting for trophy rams in the distance before stalking them for a rifle shot.

On December 6, a battalion of EF! hunt saboteurs spotted a sheep hunter's vehicle north of Bighorn Pass. We exited our 4x4 and headed uphill to look for the hunters. Whether they knew it or not, their hunt was over. For the next four hours, we followed the husband and wife hunting team until they packed up their vehicle and left the bighorn in peace.

That evening we received a special campfire visit from two hunting guides we had met that morning. Believing we were only hikers, they boasted of the rigors of bighorn hunting and provided us with vital intelligence. Mike was a friendly, 50-year-old, barrel-chested Marine veteran who operated Good Times Outfitters out of Phoenix in his spare time. Carlos was a 30-something, athletically built tracker who Mike referred to as his "game getter." Their client was an Arizona trophy hunter who had paid Mike to lead him to a big chocolate-colored ram.

We learned from Mike and Carlos that the bighorn were not grazing freely in the unseasonably warm weather but instead were keeping to their higher Summer range. During colder weather, bighorn normally graze on open mountainsides where hunters can more easily spot the sheep.

The next morning, seven hunt saboteurs rumbled through Hoodoo Wash toward the tall rocky spires of

the Kofa Mountains. We were on the prowl for four bighorn hunters that were in the southern portion of the mountain range. When we found a hunter's vehicle, we dispatched three hunt saboteurs. It wasn't long before they found a group of hunters spotting for sheep. The hunters were gazing toward Polaris Mountain, a monolith of stone that rises abruptly from King Valley. The hunters were unsuccessful in locating sheep, and our saboteurs left the area only after the hunters did.

In the end, many days were spent doing nothing more than pursuing hunters down long rocky roads in our 4x4. Yet when we were hiking the high summits where only the bighorn roam, we felt close to not only the bighorn but to our own power as hunt saboteurs. This is the world we are willing to fight for. Until all wildlife is free from human threat and pursuit, we unilaterally howl, "Sab the bastards!"

For more information, contact Phoenix EF!, phoenixef@excite.com.

Earth First! believes that national wildlife refuges should be sanctuaries for native wildlife, not playgrounds for recreational killers.

Don't Turn Your Back on Wildlife... Every year, thousands of animals are killed in the name of sport. Hunt saboteurs take action where it counts—in the killing fields—using nonviolent direct action tactics to save the lives of animals. From using hunting horns and voice calls at fox hunts, to standing in front of the shooting butts on the grouse moors, to wading through the rivers at mink hunts—wherever animals are being hunted for fun—hunt saboteurs will be there.

Hunt Sabotage 101



artwork by Nicolas D.

Hunt sabotage, simply put, can be characterized as the disruption of hunts through some form of intervention. As there are a wide variety of hunts—fox, deer, bear, duck and fishing to name just a few—so are there a wide variety of tactics to combat and put a stop to hunting. As with all forms of activism, and direct action in particular, it is important that activists stay focused on their goals and be creative in developing

the tactics and strategies to meet them.

You may find that hunt sabotage is a useful tool as part of a specified campaign against a guide outfitter. Or you may have an empowering experience by simply heading out into the woods to ensure that the hunters you encounter have an uneventful day.

The first step taken by any would-be saboteur should be to gain information on local hunts and seasons. Find out what animals are currently being hunted and then devise a strategy for saving them. Books on hunting seasons can usually be found in gun, hunting and sporting goods stores or directly from state fish and game departments.

The most effective means of saving animal lives is to stop a hunt before it starts. Aside from legal means, direct action can be effective in either stopping the hunt all together or at least slowing it down. Blockades and civil disobedience may be useful in targeting specific hunters, while road and vehicle sabotage can be used to slow down and disrupt hunting. The destruction of hunting blinds, platforms or even fishing piers can also throw a wrench into hunters' plans.

It is wise to visit the area you will be sabbing ahead of time to familiarize

yourself with the terrain and to find out exactly where the hunting will take place. You can often go to local hunting stores and, pretending to be new to the sport, gain valuable information on where the popular hunting spots are. Try to find out as much as possible about the kind of hunting you are targeting and the behavior of the hunters. What time do they leave in the morning? Are they mainly on foot or in vehicles? Will they be just off the road or deep in the woods? Finding out the answers to these types of questions can greatly improve your chances of finding hunters and having a successful hunt sab.

Effective saboteurs also know the habits of the species they are defending. What hours of the day are the animals most active? When do they sleep and eat? What are their favorite foods? Again, some of the most effective sources for this information are hunting books and magazines.

Large numbers of hunters turn up for the opening days of hunting seasons, and many animals are killed at this time. By being present, hunt sabs have the opportunity to show opposition to the "sport" of hunting and to save lives.

Always remember that sabotaging hunts can be dangerous. Hunters are

Hints and Tips: Confrontations

Violent reactions on the part of hunters are possible. The following points should be noted during a hunt sab:

- Always remember that the primary reason for your presence is to save the hunted animal.
- If a hunter is chasing you, it helps to have an escape route—for example, over a fence or into a thick wood.
- Saboteurs should always stick together, as a straggler is an easy target for a hunt thug.
- Take any injured saboteurs to a hospital for confirmation of injuries. This is essential if there is a court case.
- Any violent incidents should be documented. Take written notes as soon as possible after the event. Get names and addresses of witnesses, photographs or a description of the troublemakers and their vehicles.



artwork by Nicholas D.

armed, violent and nearly always outnumber hunt saboteurs. Wear orange clothing in the woods to avoid being shot by a hunter. Stay in groups for protection and carry video cameras to document any violent encounters or threats.

Although there are many effective means to stop a hunt, confrontational or in-your-face tactics are simple and seem to work best. For instance, to sab fishermen, sit next to them and throw rocks in the water until they leave. To sab duck hunts, use a small boat or raft of some kind to sit in the water and keep the ducks away. With deer hunts, follow hunters while making so much noise that no animal will come near. Always carry whistles or air horns so that if the hunter does find an animal, it is scared away before the hunter shoots. Be wary of frightening animals when no danger exists, as they could be scared and run toward hunters. With bear hunts, hunters tend to drive along, scanning clearcuts for bears who are feeding. Follow hunters' vehicles. If they get out of their cars, join them.

In most of these cases, the presence of saboteurs totally eliminates the possibility of a kill. Often, the hunters will get frustrated, give up and head home. It is a good idea to follow hunters all the way out of hunting areas to make sure they don't simply go elsewhere.

While confrontational tactics are universal and can be used anywhere,

different places and methods of hunting allow opportunities for various types of sabbing. Maybe you live in a state that allows hunting with dogs. In this case, you may want to visit the dogs, often found in metal crates in the back of a hunter's pickup truck, and rub some sort of non-toxic scent on their noses to prevent them from picking up the trails of other animals. If you live in an area where hunters pay guides to take them hunting, you can target the guides directly. Often their clients pay high prices. If you can make several of their hunting trips unpleasant and uneventful, then word will get out and their business may suffer.

Just remember to stay creative. There is no limit to what people can do to save animals. To disrupt hunts, saboteurs have used everything from the high tech (video equipment, small aircraft, etc.) to the low tech (people flying kites shaped like hawks to scare away doves). Hunt sabotage is not difficult; it simply takes planning and the will to do it. So get out there and sab the bastards!

This article originally appeared in No Compromise, the direct action publication of grassroots animal liberationists and their supporters. For more information, visit www.nocompromise.org.

For tips on carrying out a successful hunt sab, visit hsa.enviroweb.org.



artwork by Nicholas D.

BARE BONES

Makah Lose Whale Hunt

In December, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed its earlier ruling that the Makah Tribe may not hunt the gray whale. With potentially large implications for Native American treaty rights, the recent ruling states that a full Environmental Impact Statement and a special permit from the US government are required before the Makah will be allowed to hunt whales again off the coast of Washington state.

The Makah are the only indigenous group whose treaty with the US enumerates its right to hunt the animal. The tribe was forced to stop whale hunting in the 1920s due to the effects of overhunting worldwide. Since the Makah revived the custom in 1995, they have only killed one whale.

"The hunt opponents did win, but it's not the end," said John Arum, attorney for the Makah. "It's likely we'll file a second petition for a rehearing, and we'll see what the court does with it."

Slicing up Nicaragua

Construction of an interocean canal through Nicaragua has been debated for more than a century, yet interest in the waterway has been building since January 2000, when the US ceded the control of the Panama Canal to Panama.

In September, China pledged \$20 billion to fund the venture. The canal would gash open two mountain ranges and partially drain Lake Nicaragua, the freshwater body located in the southwest corner of the country.

Planners have known for more than a decade that of the remaining possible Central American routes for the canal, the route through Nicaragua is the most practical. The proposed design would accommodate vessels five times heavier than does the Panama Canal.

Dire Wolves: Trackers Aid Wolf Recovery Efforts

BY MEL YOUNGBLOOD

Even though most biologists agree that gray wolves are now well established in the Northern Rockies Recovery Area, conflict and controversy continue. Each state within this region—Wyoming, Montana and Idaho—submitted a wolf management plan to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), which is supposed to ensure that wolf populations remain at sustainable levels (see *EF!* July-August 2003). However, what those levels are is subject to debate.

In December, a federally appointed committee approved all three management plans, including Wyoming's highly controversial plan that would allow wolves to be shot on sight anywhere outside of national parks. With the committee working to produce their final report, a delisting proposal for the tri-state area is pending.

Defenders of Wildlife, along with 16 other environmental groups, filed a lawsuit in October to prevent the species' removal from the federal list of threatened and endangered species. Defenders of Wildlife President Rodger Schlickeisen accused the FWS of "backing away from wolf restoration before the job is finished."

As the wolf delisting process continues, it has become more important than ever to safeguard existing packs. In Montana, there has been a rash of illegal wolf shootings and the population has become unstable. In the six months since the last wolf report was published, the population has declined by more than 56 percent.

The Idaho Wolves

To learn more about wolves and assist with their recovery, I attended a three-week wolf tracking expedition conducted by Wilderness Awareness School and the Shikari Tracking Guild in August, near Stanley, Idaho. Due to strong anti-wolf sentiment in Idaho and other parts of the West, I can't be more specific about the expedition's location.

Because of the Idaho State Legislature's vehement opposition to wolf reintroduction, the Nez Perce Tribe has been

responsible for wolf management since 1996. Under the direction of wolf biologist Curt Mack, the Nez Perce Wolf Recovery Program's monitoring efforts include radio collaring wolves from half of Idaho's packs. One of Mack's goals is to minimize animal and human interactions. As a result, the Nez Perce are considering less invasive methods of monitoring, including tracking.

Making Monitoring Inroads

On the expedition, we used a high-tech tool called CyberTracker to compile data about wolves, their ecosystem and prey. CyberTracker is designed to be used on hand-held computers fitted with Global Positioning System units. Field data can be easily entered using icons on the computer's keypad. This allows trackers to record the exact location where animal sign are found. In effect, CyberTracker is transforming tracking into a recognized science. It has the

potential to revolutionize data collection for conservation purposes.

for wildlife monitoring. Tracking costs less than radio telemetry and doesn't disturb wolves—since there is no direct interaction and the wolves are not forced to wear a cumbersome collar. It also yields much more data and presents a clearer picture of how a wolf pack is inhabiting an area. Trapp assisted our expedition by providing us with information about the pack we were tracking. Two of the wolves had been radio collared, yet one of the collars had stopped working and the other slipped off. Rather than replacing the collars, Trapp began looking into alternative monitoring techniques. CyberTracker data has the potential to help Nez Perce wolf managers better protect the pack.

On the Trail of the Wolf

Initially, our expedition was devoted to the raw experience of tracking. We plunged right in on the first day by



artwork by Philippe Amies, www.philippeamies.com

potential to revolutionize data collection for conservation purposes.

Jon Trapp, a biologist employed by the Nez Perce Wolf Recovery Program, has an ongoing research project that is increasing our understanding of how wolves utilize the landscape for denning, as well as ways to protect this sort of habitat. Trapp has joined a growing vanguard of biologists who have discovered the merits of tracking

following fresh wolf tracks up a road near our basecamp. The next day we followed crisp sets of both adult and pup tracks on sandy substrate for a good distance. We looked for a variety of sign besides tracks, such as grazing patterns, rubs and scat. We collected data points and used them to create maps and figure out where to track next.

The wolves covered many miles, and so did we. We looked for sign up

mountains, across crystalline streams, high benches and alpine meadows. We were in the heart of wolf country, and everything in the landscape spoke to us of their presence.

During the third week, a pattern emerged: The wolves had adopted a schedule similar to that of the humans who made incursions into their range. From Monday through Friday, the wolves hunted elk and deer in creek bottoms and meadows. On weekends, when humans flooded into the wilderness with their motorhomes and off-road vehicles, the wolves retreated into the mountains, too shrewd or edgy to come down until Sunday night.

Because we didn't want to disturb them, our goal wasn't to actually see the wolves. Rather, we wanted to stay one day behind. Judging from their behavior, the wolves didn't seem stressed by our tracking activities, and they certainly weren't trying to avoid us.

We discovered sign of wolves running through our basecamp. Pup tracks mixed with adult. Fresh scat, some containing evidence of recent kills. Scent markings in the road, wolf urine sharp in the thin alpine air. We learned

Trapp surmised that this pack may have grown large enough to split in two. Though we never proved this, we concluded the pack was in transition.

Dire Wolves

Mack recently met with Steve Nadeau, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's (IDFG) wolf coordinator, to begin the delisting process. The problem is that once the wolf is delisted, the FWS will force the IDFG to take over wolf monitoring. This transition concerns environmentalists, who believe that wolves will suffer as a result of IDFG's historic anti-wolf stance. It also concerns some of the Nez Perce.

In September, at the 2003 World Wolf Congress in Banff National Park, Nez Perce Tribal Council member Levi Holt stated that the tribe sees delisting as premature because of the social attitude toward wolves in Idaho. Holt remarked, "The gray wolf can take care of itself if only humans would allow for it. The parallels are strong between the wolf's struggle to survive and what Native Americans have gone through in this country. Both struggles can be linked to the negative effect of manifest destiny."



artwork by Philippe Ames, www.philippeames.com

to pick up the smell of a wolf and fall onto its trail.

We discovered that the pack we were tracking had produced two litters during 2002—an uncommon situation. We routinely came upon the sign of two mature females, a mature male, plus several sub-adults and pups who moved disjointedly to rendezvous sites. A pack is normally very efficient; these wolves' behavior seemed disorganized.

Only time will tell how Idaho wolves will fare in the aftermath.

For more information, visit westerngraywolf.fws.gov. To learn about the Wilderness Awareness School and Shikari Tracking Guild, visit www.wildernessawareness.org; www.shikari.org.

Mel Youngblood is an environmental writer who lives in a remote part of northwestern Montana.

BARE BONES

EPA Deregulates Nuclear Waste Disposal

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting comments until March on its proposal to partially deregulate the disposal of nuclear waste. Released in November, the proposal would allow nuclear facilities to ship used radioactive materials to dumps that aren't specifically licensed to handle the waste.

Opponents of the move say that deregulation would allow nuclear waste to end up in municipal landfills.

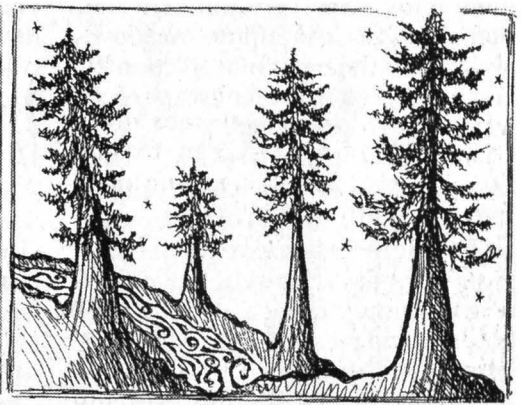
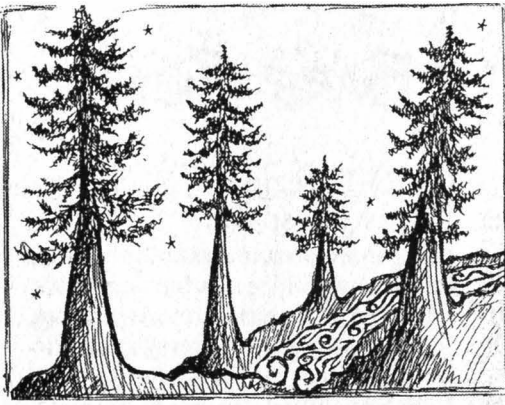
"The EPA is now helping to prop up the nuclear industry, at the expense of public health, by paving the way for nuclear waste to be dumped in facilities that were not designed for these dangerous radionucleotides," said David Ritter, a policy analyst with Public Citizen.

Germany Cuts Nuke Habit

Germany switched off the first of its 19 nuclear power plants in November. The move is part of a plan to eliminate the use of all nuclear power generating facilities in the country.

Green party politicians had made decommissioning the plants a precondition to joining a parliamentary coalition with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's social democrats in 1998. According to Environment Minister Juergen Tritten, the plant's closure signals that nuclear power has no future in Germany: "Until 2020, we will close an average of one nuclear plant per year."

While Germany, Belgium and Sweden have announced plans to phase out nuclear power, other European countries will continue to produce it. Shortly after Germany switched off this first plant, more than 1,000 activists disrupted the transfer of radioactive waste from France.



Elk Creek: A Direct Action Adventure

BY SPRIGLET

Remember those "Choose Your Own Adventure" books? At the end of every page, the reader could make an active decision that would influence the outcome of the story. The best part was that if you didn't like the results, you could backtrack or start over. If only forest defense campaigns, or even life itself, were that simple.

The setting for this particular story is Canada's Great Bear rainforest. The protagonists are the local folks of Chilliwack, British Columbia, who use a variety of means to defend old-growth rainforest in the Elk Creek watershed. The villain is George Mohammed, head of Cattermole Timber Company, whose lackeys leave nothing but stumps in the wake of their chainsaws.

The Elk Creek rainforest stands today between an aggressively logged area and the agriculturally modified Fraser Valley. A broad coalition is trying to protect this habitat for endangered species, such as the northern spotted owl, coastal giant salamander, mountain beaver, Keen's bat and the marbled murrelet, as well as the 850-year-old Douglas firs that are some of the tallest trees in Canada.

The coalition is more than 1,000-people strong and includes those who are a part of the moderate Elk Creek Conservation Coalition who provide logistical direct action support for Elk Creek Action, members of the Pilalt Tribe and the paperwrenchers at the Western Canada Wilderness Committee. The Pilalt still hold traditional title to this part of their territory and they assert their consent was needed for any logging to occur.

Overall, the citizens of Chilliwack were not notified or consulted when the provincial government quietly removed Elk Creek from protection as a community watershed in the mid-1990s. In 1998, Cattermole acquired logging rights to the area. The timber surveys were done discretely. Cattermole applied for and received a helicopter logging permit in 2003.

During the last three years, hundreds of letters have been written to the government of British Columbia unanimously opposing the logging plan, without response.

An Elk Creek Action protest camp was set up on private property next to the cutblock. On September 28, the campers made first contact with the loggers. That morning, a logger showered an environmentalist with sawdust. Later that day, another logger purposefully dropped a 160-foot tree dangerously close to the activists, while another chased a protester with a running chainsaw.

The rash of intimidating behavior from Cattermole employees flared up on October 2, when an irate logger threatened to shove a camera up a protester's ass. When it was suggested that everyone calm down, the logger said, "Why do you think that Cattermole put me in here? It's not because I am calm. You better watch out, watch your nights, watch your back doors."

In an effort to halt logging in the watershed, Elk Creek supporters carried out a 30-hour blockade of Canadian National Railway lines on October 3. The train tracks bisect the Pilalt reservation, and the intention of the blockade was to draw attention to the illegal logging



photo courtesy Western Canada Wilderness Committee

by stopping trans-Canadian rail travel. In response, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police sent 12 large vehicles, 15 passenger vans and a truck full of armed men totaling about 100 police officers. The blockade came down quickly.

By October 20, Cattermole had resumed logging despite persistent interference from activists. Company workers cleared a new helicopter landing zone that was buffered by a raging creek to prevent access by protesters. On the morning of October 23, a Cattermole employee assaulted two protesters when he found the landing zone had been sabotaged in the night.

Both of the protesters did not fight back and were hurt enough to need emergency medical attention. The logger had hit one of the protesters over the head with a bag of spikes.

Despite forest actions, Cattermole had selectively cut the trees under its permit by November 21. An estimated 44 million board feet of timber lay on the ground for export and this was only the beginning of the logging planned for this sensitive area. Cattermole intends to log nine more blocks in the Elk Creek area in the coming years. While locals reeled in shock, Cattermole submitted a road amendment to its original "no new roads" helicopter logging plan.

Undaunted, on November 29, forest protectors at Elk Creek unveiled the next tactic in their defense campaign. A platform was hung 50 feet above the forest floor, suspended from a fir and a hemlock tree. The platform, and a new protection camp, stand directly in the path of Cattermole's proposed logging road. The forest is now inhabited by a growing number of concerned individuals, with the support of many Chilliwack and Cheam residents.

On December 19, Cattermole trucked in loads of gravel to start building a different extension road onto private property that is next to Elk Creek.

The road will facilitate the trucking of Elk Creek's raw logs, and the associated milling jobs, directly across the border. Under the Softwood Agreement between the US



Photo courtesy Elk Creek Action

We will not sit idly by and watch as the BC liberals collude with industry in the liquidation of our collective future, against the public will for the profit of the few.

and Canada, this forest has been pilaged for less than eight dollars a truckload in stumpage fees—a loss to taxpayers and a loss to the ecological community. In return, Cattermole will make a profit of 12 million dollars and pay the provincial government only 11,173 dollars.

Elk Creek Action insists that it will not let Cattermole's physical intimidation tactics keep activists off of public lands. They vow to continue their dissent in the woods. Many believe that the logging at Elk Creek is really a testing ground for bigger development projects in the area.

No matter what conclusion, the protagonists of this real life "Choose Your Own Adventure" will be fighting for the forest every step of the way. For more information, www.elkcreekaction.org.

BARE BONES

Fee Demo Extended

In November, Congress signed a 15-month extension of the fee demonstration program rather than the full two-year extension requested by President Bush. Fee demonstration is a controversial program that requires visitors to public lands to pay an access fee.

Environmentalists believe the partial extension is a signal of the program's impending demise.

"Fee-demo," commented Scott Silver of Wild Wilderness, "has been a flop. We expect that this latest extension will be the last extension fee-demo will ever get."

While top brass at the US Forest Service, National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management have claimed that the measure is necessary in order to maintain their services in the face of decreased federal funding, others have criticized it as a bold attempt to privatize public lands.

Last Desert River Faces Slow Extinction

The San Pedro River is the last functioning desert river ecosystem in the southwest. In December, President Bush signed the 2004 defense appropriations bill, which contained language weakening protection of the river.

The San Pedro faces extinction because it is being drained by intensive groundwater pumping for the Army's Fort Huachuca and nearby towns and developments.

Representative Rick Renzi attached a rider to the defense bill, attempting to prevent any examination of the base's environmental impact. As signed into law, the legislation states that any challenges under the Endangered Species Act and other environmental laws to the base's expansion will have to show that the base itself—and not the workers it attracts—causes harm to the fragile ecosystem.

Fairy Tales Rage in the

BY JORIS VANDENBOSCH

On June 30, GroenFront! squatted a forest in the south of the Netherlands. The forest, known as the Entwoods, borders on the Efteling theme park. Intending to build hotel accommodations for 3,600 guests in the surrounding forest, the Efteling owners claimed that the park needed to enlarge to survive. GroenFront! says only more forests will let us survive. After months of protest, the woods are saved for the time being, as construction plans have been postponed for two to three years.

GroenFront! started our Netherlands-based direct action network in 1995 based on lessons learned from successful anti-roads protest sites in England. After an intense three-year campaign against one of the largest infrastructure projects in Europe, the Betuwe-line connecting Rotterdam (the world's largest port) and the German Ruhr (Europe's largest industrial area), GroenFront!'s strength was pretty drained. Though morally victorious (if something like that exists) and though parts of the line were scrapped, the project wasn't stopped.

Our actions had hit a part of the system that doesn't obey any laws, and year-long occupations of to-be-destroyed houses, multi-million dollar evictions, ongoing construction site occupations and sabotage couldn't change the course of "progress."

After that, we decided to oppose a project we could defeat. So we chose a private development project with a

budget of about 50 million dollars. The Entwoods forest is 150 years old, an age and a half in Dutch terms, which is pretty much the maximum here, as the country has been ravaged.

The Efteling, the largest theme park in the country, had been a family business and, as far as it goes, green and "ethical." In the '90s, a new board of directors aimed for commercialization. They felt that the Efteling needed to compete with theme parks in Belgium and Germany.

First, a big roller coaster was built, in violation of environmental regulations, but the

escapism. Attractions are based on homely fairy tales of times long forgotten, which are made "real" at the Efteling. This is why the board of directors insist that new accommodations be built in an old forest, where "only" a quarter of the trees would be cut down. They want to build medieval castles and dream-like houses. They need nature in order to make money.

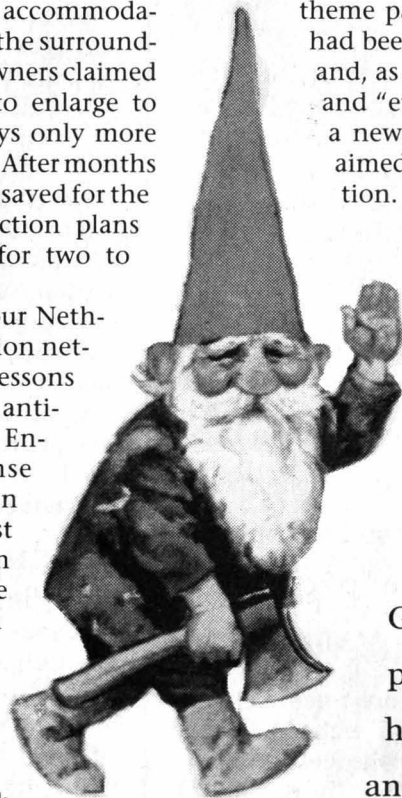
Meanwhile, Groen-Front! has made its own fortresses in the forest, undertunneled and protected by treehuts. Several ents were "brought to life" and posted around the camp. Different myths were made real and apparent to local visitors, with workshops focused on climbing and storytelling.

GroenFront! doesn't want people to escape their horrible, urbanized, sterilized and planned existences. These realities need to be faced, destroyed and exchanged for a life where people

realize they are part of nature. This is what makes resistance so important. It is also what makes protest very difficult because people like fairy tales more than their dull lives. In the Netherlands, nearly every square inch of land is planned, dull and gray. It is quite understandable for people to

want to visit a fairy tale, even one incorporated by civilization.

For the Efteling to succeed with its expansion scheme, a degree of public support would be necessary. Local residents are generally not theorizing about why people want to go to an amusement park, especially since many of them work for the park or are otherwise



GroenFront! doesn't want people to escape their horrible, urbanized, sterilized and planned existences. These realities need to be faced, destroyed and exchanged.

Efteling has the local government in its pocket. The next step would be the "Droomrijk," or "dream kingdom," a luxury resort where guests could stay, go to the attractions, consume food and drinks, buy souvenirs and have a nice time escaping reality.

The Efteling's core business model consists of making money from

Amusement Park Says Goodbye

Netherlands

economically involved in its operations. GroenFront!'s focus has been more on why everything that might have some value needs to grow. We've presented ourselves as the latest action-packed attraction of the Efteling, stealing its website and coming to the aid of the fairy people living in and around the park.

Meanwhile, the Eftelings's plan to bulldoze the Entwoods in September was delayed by legal proceedings that argued for the protection of a badger fort and disputed the amount of nature that would be "compensated." The courts kept delaying a verdict, thereby decreasing the threat of eviction (the local government and the Efteling were not agreeing on who would order our eviction).

In October, the Dutch supreme court rescinded the construction permit because both the Efteling and the local government had failed to put in their zoning maps the height of the hotels to be constructed. It rarely happens that the supreme court denounces construction plans because of something as minimal as was the case here. Pressure against the plan had increased during the Summer due to local support for the forest and a flood of media stories about the campaign to save it. This pressure toppled the plan, and in November, the Efteling stated it had postponed the work for the next two to three years.

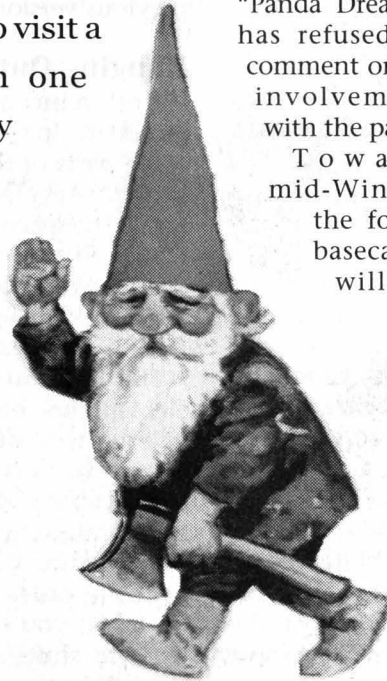
The Efteling board of directors say that they have suffered an economic

loss of several millions of dollars. The recreation company involved in the project, which had already taken reservations for the bungalows, also lost several millions of dollars on the failed venture.

The World Wildlife Fund, working together with the Efteling to produce an attraction called the "Panda Dream," has refused to comment on its involvement with the park.

Toward mid-Winter, the forest basecamp will be

In the Netherlands, nearly every square inch of land is planned, dull and gray. It is quite understandable for people to want to visit a fairy tale, even one incorporated by civilization.



broken up, and the Entwoods lot are looking out for a new target while keeping a persistent eye on the Efteling.

For more information, contact Groen-Front!, POB 85069, 3508 AB, Utrecht, The Netherlands; entwoods@groenfront.nl; www.entenwoud.nl.

Joris Vandenbosch lives in the Netherlands, where he is actively involved with GroenFront!.

to Logging Plans

BARE BONES

Fashion Industry Puts Species at Risk

The survival of several endangered species is being jeopardized by the fashion industry. As fur has regained popularity on fashion catwalks, there has been a rise in the illicit trade in the skins of endangered animals such as leopards, tigers and antelope.

"Since the 1980s, the illegal skin trade has virtually ceased to exist because it was not fashionable," said John Sellars, senior enforcement officer for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, "but we are seeing models going back to wearing fur and a consequent boom in trade."

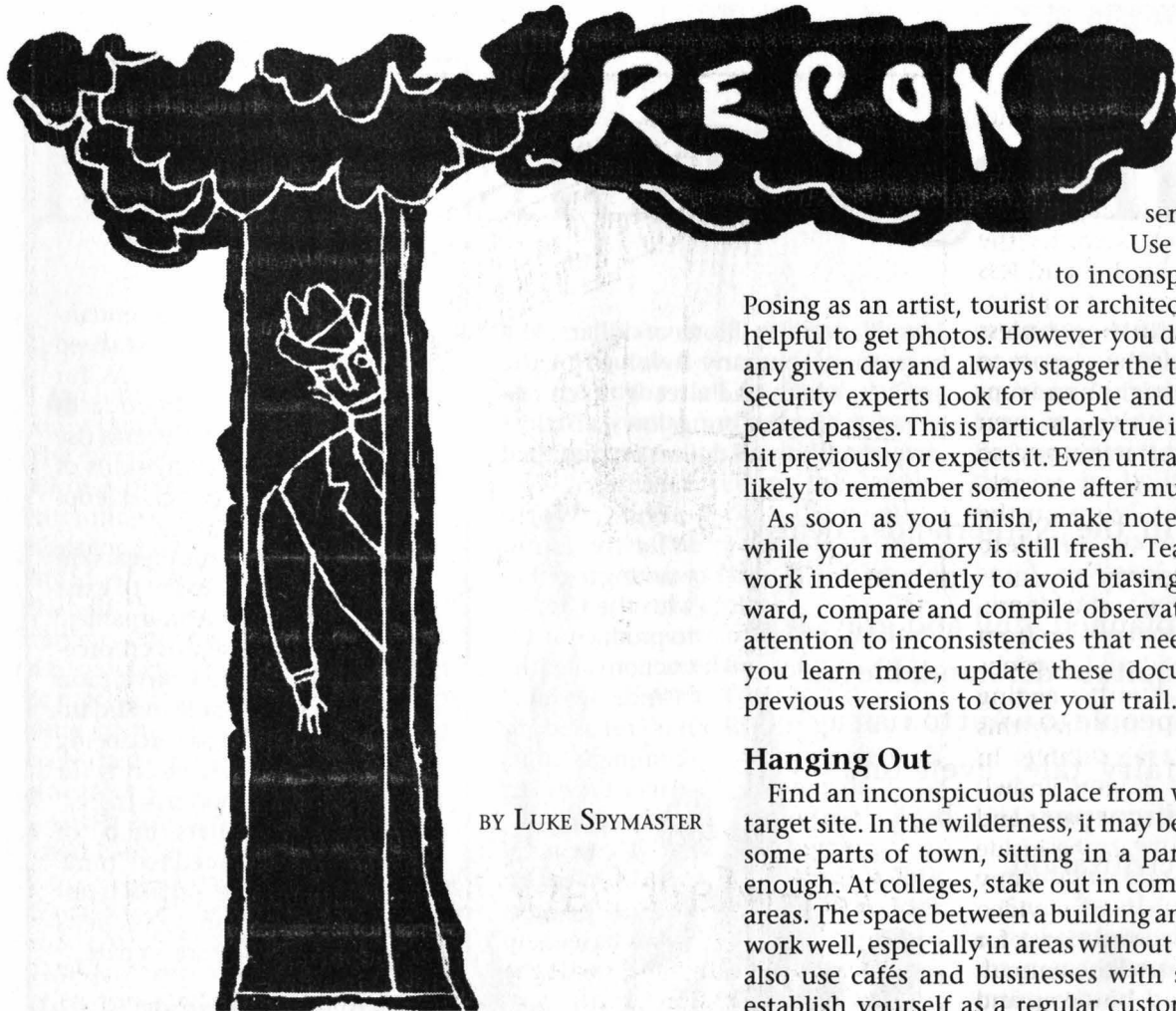
According to Sellars, much of the fur trade is headed to China. This Fall, Chinese officials impounded more than 1,000 pelts in their biggest seizure to date.

Endangered Animals for Sale

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has proposed new rules that would allow hunters, circuses and the pet industry in the US to import endangered species and their parts.

Under current regulations, foreign animals that are protected by the Endangered Species Act, as well as objects made from those animals, may not be brought into the US without a special permit. For the past 30 years, this special permit has only been available to those acting to preserve endangered species, including zoos and scientists. The new rules would grant a permit to any individual claiming that the sale of endangered species would benefit conservation efforts in the country of origin.

Environmental groups contend that the FWS proposal contains no provisions that would allow the agency to verify or enforce such claims.



BY LUKE SPYMASTER

Just as polluters weigh the money-saving benefits of illegal dumping against the price of being caught, they also weigh security risks against costs. These targets often compromise their defenses, protecting vital areas against the most likely and damaging attacks while leaving secondary areas more vulnerable. As the size and complexity of the target increases, so too do its vulnerabilities.

Careful reconnaissance, or recon, is necessary to help you identify the soft spots and make a clean getaway. Every enemy's defenses can be breached; you just have to figure out how and where.

Getting Acquainted

Most recon is done in stages, beginning off-site and from an anonymous location like a public library. Be advised that libraries and universities are increasingly taking steps to track the identities of computer users. After learning as much as you can about your target by using the Internet and other library resources, it's time to check things out first hand.

Begin with a simple walk/bike/drive past the place. Carry nothing incriminating with you, although a dog leash or bird-watching book may provide a useful alibi. Drivers should let a partner do the recon so that they can focus on the road. Get a feel for the overall layout. Observe entrances, blind spots, activity centers, dumpsters and security features. Notice where you could discretely drop people off during an action. Also look for places to stash the van and to arrange for a post-action pick-up. What are the

possible routes to and from the target? Are they covered by security cameras or motion sensor lights?

Use a small tape recorder to inconspicuously take notes.

Posing as an artist, tourist or architecture student may be helpful to get photos. However you do it, only go once on any given day and always stagger the timing of recon visits. Security experts look for people and vehicles making repeated passes. This is particularly true if your target has been hit previously or expects it. Even untrained people are more likely to remember someone after multiple visits.

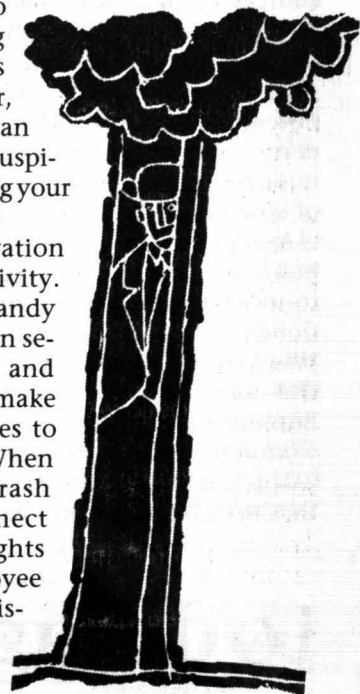
As soon as you finish, make notes and sketch a map while your memory is still fresh. Team members should work independently to avoid biasing one another. Afterward, compare and compile observations, paying special attention to inconsistencies that need to be resolved. As you learn more, update these documents and destroy previous versions to cover your trail.

Hanging Out

Find an inconspicuous place from which to observe the target site. In the wilderness, it may be a nearby hillside. In some parts of town, sitting in a parked vehicle may be enough. At colleges, stake out in commonly used outdoor areas. The space between a building and nearby bushes can work well, especially in areas without pedestrians. You can also use cafés and businesses with scenic views. If you establish yourself as a regular customer, you can do extended surveillance without seeming suspicious.

The observation point should shelter you from the elements and be fairly comfy, because you may spend days or even weeks there. Binoculars or other optics will increase your distance and safety. Make "awnings" from toilet paper rolls to reduce reflections off the lenses. To stay awake, chew on espresso beans rather than drinking coffee in order to reduce piss breaks. If you have a partner, work in shifts so that you can sleep. Take care not to arouse suspicion when entering and leaving your observation area.

Only by extended observation will you learn patterns of activity. Keep a watch and notebook handy to record routines. Learn when security guards make rounds and change shifts. Do the police make regular drive-bys? Who comes to work early or leaves late? When are deliveries made and trash hauled away? Try to connect events, such as when office lights go out, followed by an employee exiting and driving away. Discovering these patterns will reveal the best way to carry out your action. It will also



allow you to work confidently, knowing when and where to expect trouble.

Intimate Secrets

When you can safely approach a building without being seen, try the dumpster. It's often hidden and less guarded than other areas. Climb in, shut the lid and start reading! Unless you forgot your headlamp, expect to find invoices from customers and suppliers, research documents or even intra-office memos. Paper is heavy, so sort it there if possible. The more background knowledge you have on the target, the more easily you'll be able to identify useful documents.

Activists have obtained valuable precision information doing recon from inside a building either by getting jobs or conning their way in. Depending on what you've learned so far, this may not be needed or possible. In addition to furthering your knowledge of security, activity patterns and building layout, there may be inside opportunities to locate keys, copy documents, take a clandestine video or learn computer passwords. Look for an emergency procedures manual. Don't get carried away, however, and jeopardize the planned action.

Define Your Goals

Despite years of security improvements, viruses still infect computers, nuns manage to disarm nukes and lab animals are liberated. This is because no protection can be 100 percent effective.

The important thing is to define your goals. Be flexible in your choice of targets. Rather than simply saying, "Let's mess with XYZ Corporation," consider the larger picture. Are there less risky ways to reach your target, indirectly, via subsidiaries, clients, suppliers and others who may not be as security conscious? How will a particular action fit into the overall campaign? Will it build your movement or divide it? How will it result in meaningful and lasting change?

After these questions have been answered, it is time to determine the logistics and feasibility of the action. The information gathered from your reconnaissance will help you make knowledgeable and confident decisions. An effective campaign will choose targets wisely and hit them where it hurts.



Wal-Mart Sabotage in Indiana

In Martinsville, Indiana, the site of a new Wal-Mart store under construction was sabotaged on October 24. Dozens of survey stakes were pulled, and windows were smashed. Slogans such as "stop the Wal-Mart empire" were spray painted on building walls and machines. After that work was completed, sand was poured into the fuel tanks of more than a dozen pieces of heavy machinery. Tires were slashed, and engine hoses were cut.

According to an anonymous communiqué following the action, "We are overwhelmed by the amount of shit society offers us. We look around and see our lives displayed in neon lighting. In one city block, there is a McDonald's, a Chevron, a couple of banks and a Taco Bell. Two massive car dealerships glow in the short distance, the new SUVs proudly displayed in the front. We can even see the old Wal-Mart, which apparently wasn't large enough or new enough to satiate a growing population of consumers. Everything must be new, and it must be big. There is nothing unique about this specific location. This is life in North America. This is becoming everywhere.

"Some will have us believe that this is what should be desirable to us. Things are just large enough to keep us looking and shopping. Things are just fast enough that we never even have to leave our cars for most of our transactions. Everything is convenient, and people are satisfied.

"Most people are content with this, but we are not. We know that life does not have to be one monotonous routine played out over and over again. We know that the places we live in can offer us much more than Wal-Marts and McDonald's and Chevrons. We know because at times we have experienced a break with this reality and know that other possibilities exist.

"For us, sabotage may not be a means to change any world but our own, as an expression of our feelings toward this society. We strike for ourselves, out of our own frustrations, rage and despair... as a means of therapy and adventure. Because to not act, or to resign oneself to such an impoverished life of working and consuming, is not good enough for us. We are not content, and we intend to express this."

blast from the past

February-March 1994, *Earth First! Journal*



The Man Without a Bioregion: On Monkeywrenching and Ecotage

BY MIKE ROSELLE

Monkeywrenching! What a loaded term. It used to mean stopping a machine in progress by inserting a foreign object into the gears, in much the same way that the early Luddites threw their wooden shoes into the powerlooms at the dawn of the industrial age. The wooden shoes were called *sabots* in Dutch, hence the word "sabotage." V.I. Lenin wrote before the Russian Revolution that good communists should strive to "throw a spanner into the gears of the capitalist state." A spanner is a monkeywrench, and while I'm certain this must have been a figure of speech before Lenin coined it, ever since then, the term "throwing a monkeywrench into the works" has meant to disrupt an ongoing process with the clever use of a familiar object.

It was, of course, Edward Abbey who gave us the verb "monkeywrenching" in his 1975 book *The Monkeywrench Gang*, about a merry band of environmental saboteurs. Monkeywrenching in this sense has the same definition

as "ecotage," which came into the vernacular in the late '60s.

There is a belief held by some that monkeywrenching is always synonymous with ecotage. I would argue against such a narrow view for the following reasons. First, "to monkeywrench" already has a widely accepted definition throughout the world and indeed is in many dictionaries. Second, and I think more important, if we define monkeywrenching only as acts of ecotage, then when we speak of it we are always talking about something secretive and criminal, when many of the best monkeywrenches are neither.

In the real sense, monkeywrenching is neither violent nor illegal but has to be extremely disruptive by definition: a timber sale appeal, a lawsuit or sometimes superglue.

In this sense, ecotage could also be something that was not particularly disruptive or productive, and therefore not really monkeywrenching at all. That having been said, I want to make it clear that I

Frontlines

World's Highest and Largest Treesit Action

In an attempt to stop logging of old-growth forests in Australia, Greenpeace and The Wilderness Society suspended two platforms more than 200 feet above the forest floor in Tasmania's Styx Valley on November 12. The platforms accommodate six people in tents, along with a kitchen, a washroom and a computer that treesitters use to relay pictures of the protest to supporters and the media.

Woodchip logging in the valley consumes up to 1,500 acres a year. Many trees are more than 400 years old and 300 feet tall, approaching the height of St Paul's cathedral. The eucalyptus in the Styx Valley are the tallest hardwood trees in the world. Some of these trees are even taller than redwood sequoias in the US, thought to be the world's largest plants.

Nearly 60,000 hectares of Tasmania's forests have been logged in the past five years, and environmental advocates want a park established to preserve the remaining forest.

The treetop protest was dismissed as a stunt by forestry representatives, who said that 40 percent of Tasmania's forests are protected. Environment minister Ian

Macfarlane said that the government had already made concessions to campaigners: "This was all determined six years ago, and the federal government won't be revisiting its decision."

Down with the Dump

Anti-nuclear protesters blockaded roads and railway lines in southern Italy in November after the Rome parliament revealed plans for a new nuclear waste dump. Actions culminated with a more than 100,000-person demonstration on November 23. The 10-day blockade was adjacent to the Salerno-Reggio Calabria railway line and closed a federal road that runs along the Ionic Sea.

Following the protests, the government stated that it would not pursue plans for the dump for now. But demonstrators vowed to keep up protests until the government rescinds its original decision. Opponents to the dump include trade unions, church groups and environmental activists from throughout Italy.

Many people fear that the planned underground dump would contaminate local water sources. In a 1987

sometimes think ecotage is justifiable and even necessary, but only under the following conditions:

- There must be what a reasonable person would see as a violation of the law. This is, above all, a matter of conscience. If you are convinced that it is illegal, or immoral, to cut down an old-growth forest, as a citizen, you have a right and a responsibility to intervene—or you may share some of the responsibility yourself. This is the main thrust of what some call the necessity defense.

- Other avenues for you to intervene have been exhausted.

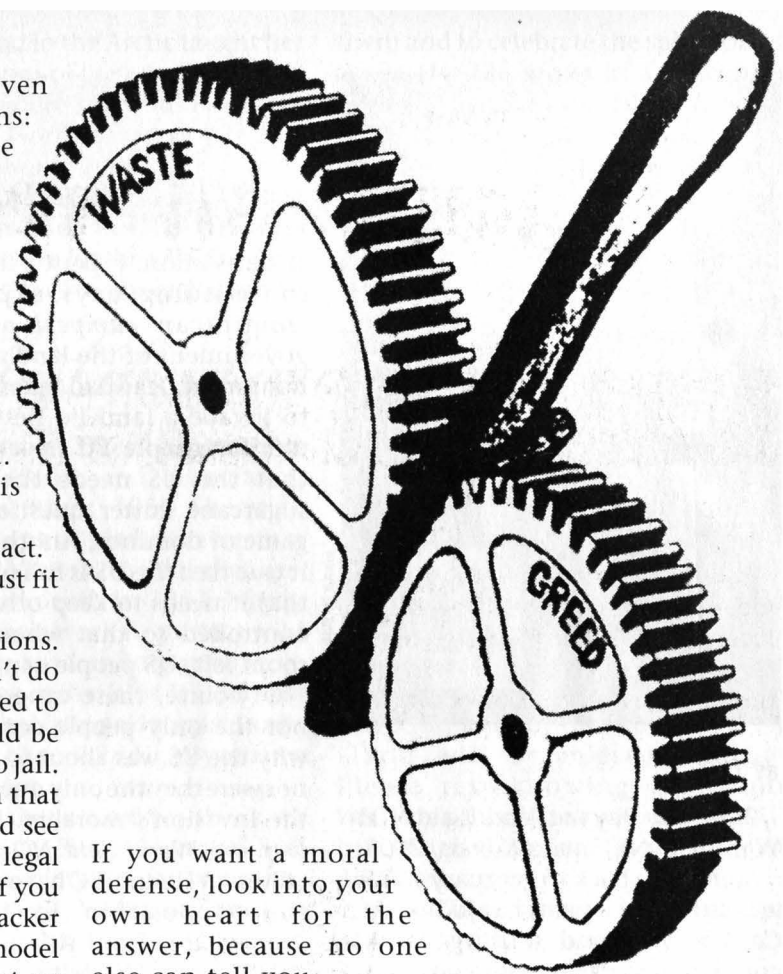
- You have a reasonable chance to succeed. Again, it is the individual who must make this call, not the state.

- The intervention is a lesser crime than the original act. This is to say that intervention, like punishment, must fit the crime.

- You must accept full responsibility for your actions. Forget the nonsense about not getting caught. Don't do the crime if you can't do the time. If you feel you need to be secretive, fine, but if you are caught, you should be honest about why you did it, even if it means going to jail.

I don't think all of this is very complicated or even that controversial. If you are walking down the street and see someone being attacked with a gun, you have every legal right and moral responsibility to try and intervene. If you decide that the best way is by sneaking up on the attacker and cleaning his clock with a tire iron, then you are a model citizen. If you have to take similar actions to protect an endangered species, then from a biocentric point of view you are also a good citizen.

If you need a legal defense, community defense and survival are an established part of common law.



If you want a moral defense, look into your own heart for the answer, because no one else can tell you.

Back issues of the EF! Journal are available for five dollars each. Please inquire for bulk discount prices. Or order our near complete 23-year set for \$500.

referendum, Italians voted to stop using nuclear power. The waste that needs to be disposed of comes from a power plant that has been out of operation since that time.

Cutting to the Quick in Palestine

Construction of the 200-mile, 25-foot-high "apartheid wall" around the West Bank of Palestine has resulted in the removal of thousands of trees, damaged watersheds and displaced thousands of Palestinians from their homes and livelihoods. On November 9, as part of an International Day of Action Against the Wall, approximately 150 Palestinian and Israeli activists cut open the border fence near the Palestinian village of Zbube.

After 15 minutes of snipping barbed wire and damaging the electronic fencing, border police arrived. They shot bullets into the air and fired tear gas canisters at the activists. Despite police dispersal tactics, anti-apartheid wall activists continued until they had created a 32-foot opening.

As part of the day of action, demonstrations and rallies also took place in dozens of cities around the world, including Osaka, San Francisco and Melbourne.

Grassy Narrows Blockade Still Going Strong

Since December 3, 2002 the Ojibway community living

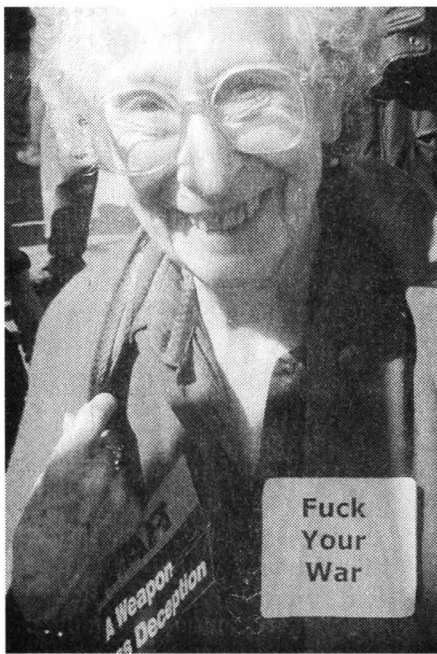
at Grassy Narrows in northwestern Ontario, Canada, have successfully maintained an anti-logging road blockade. They are fighting the clearcutting of their traditional land in the Whiskey Jack Forest by Abitibi Consolidated, a Montréal-based paper corporation. The blockade at Grassy Narrows has been a source of inspiration for many communities throughout the world as an example of indigenous resistance.

On December 3, the Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement gathered outside Abitibi's headquarters to demand an end to logging. Approximately 70 people participated in the protest that day, including individual activists and environmental organizations.

An Abitibi public relations representative refused to speak with the protesters.

Ecodefense in Russia

On November 25 and 26, more than 2,000 environmental activists, affiliated with the Russian environmental group Ecodefense, staged protests in 30 cities throughout Russia against the importing of nuclear waste into the country. Overall, 13 activists were arrested, despite the fact that the protest was mainly educational street theater. They were fined and released.



Review

2/15: The Day the World Said No to War

at translation. I spent a lot of time in the ensuing days explaining to Dominican *campesinos* why the government of the land and people I hold most dear had taken upon itself to invade a land I'd never seen and murder people I'd never met. "Is it that the US needs the oil?" one sugarcane cutter questioned over a game of dominos. Another asked, "Is it true that the US is full of people and that it needs to keep other countries controlled so that when there's no room left, US people can move?"

Of course, these cane cutters were not the only people confused about why the US was about to invade Iraq, nor were they the only ones to question the invasion's morality. In *2/15: The Day the World Said NO to War*, the editors at Hello NYC have documented that opposition to the war is everywhere. From Athens, Greece to Washington, DC, with stops in places as distinct as Karachi, the South Pole, Cape Town and Mexico City, *2/15* travels through a global rejection of our government's foreign policy.

Photographic highlights include peace signs formed by naked people, a die-in, street theater, a taxicab with an innovative anti-war paint job and an older woman sporting a "Fuck Your War" sticker. Quotes from international literati, including Susan Sontag, Noam Chomsky, Carlos Fuentes, Paolo Coehlo and Kofi Annan, provide commentary for the photos.

In a visually appealing book of 218 full-color, graphic-dominated pages, Connie Koch and her colleagues at Hello NYC have provided reassuring evidence that ordinary people, like my Dominican cane cutter friends, understand the case against US empire. *2/15* is uplifting enough to make one feel like there might be a hope for our species after all.

Dan is proud to be from anti-war activist Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s hometown. He recently returned from two years in the Dominican Republic, a country that most people in the US know nothing about, despite the fact that it has been occupied by US armed forces twice in the last century.

BY DAN

2/15: The Day the World Said NO to War, Hello NYC and AK Press, 2003.

Sometime back in February 2003, I was sitting in a palm board hut on a Caribbean island waiting for my country to start dropping bombs on Iraq. The local radio station had halted its normal Spanish patter and was instead retransmitting English-language CNN with periodic attempts

photo by Bob Steitz

Frontlines

ALF Liberates Goats in England

On December 14, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) entered Water Farm Goat Centre near Bridgewater, Somerset, England. Twenty-one goats were carefully removed and ferried away to awaiting vehicles.

"These goats will now be able to live out their lives in caring homes, free from the fear and pain of the vivisector's scalpel," stated an ALF communiqué.

Water Farm Goat Centre breeds goats to supply to laboratories. Earlier in the year, it was reported that 43 goats were also liberated from Water Farm.

The communiqué continued: "The British countryside is littered with establishments like Water Farm Goat Centre, and the suffering animals imprisoned inside them are there for the taking. All it takes is careful planning, determination and the will to save lives."

The Hammer of Vegan Justice Has Fallen

The vegan dumpster militia descended upon Forest Pharmaceuticals employee Kevin Wiseman's home in Cincinnati, Ohio, in late November.

Serving "an early Thanksgiving feast," the dumpster militia smeared buckets of stinky liberated cole slaw over Wiseman's home and automobiles. "On this Night of Justice, these Knights of Justice covered this sick demon's house with rotten food," claimed the vegan crusaders.

Forest Pharmaceuticals is an international pharmaceutical company that has paid Huntingdon Life Sciences to do toxicity tests on animals for its products.

Sticking it to Starbucks, Again

On November 29, employees at 23 Starbucks locations in Houston, Texas, came to work to find door locks filled with glue and toothpicks. Mock notices from management to customers were taped to the doors, stating that the outlets were closed.

A similar tactic was used in August at Starbucks in San Francisco, California. The protest was organized as a result of the company's lack of ecological and social integrity in the coffee it purchases. Most of the stores were able to open fairly quickly, although locksmiths had to replace some of the locks.

BY STEVE GIL

On October 19, conservationists mourned the loss of a dear friend and a lifelong wilderness advocate. Mardy Murie passed away quietly on her ranch in Moose, Wyoming.

Born in 1902, Mardy set out at an early age for a lifetime of adventure.

Her childhood in the Arctic taught her valuable lessons of life's surprises, and it was here where she would find her love for the North Country (see *EF!* August-September 2002).

Mardy's husband, Olaus, was a wildlife biologist and co-director of The Wilderness Society. Their love for the wild was only surpassed by their love for each other.

them and to celebrate the spirit found there. Her life serves as a beacon of hope, her gentleness reminds us of the value of peace, and her actions teach us to stand up for what we believe in our hearts.

Perhaps no one can sum up the battle cry of Earth's defenders better than Mardy did: "So what

Mardy Murie: A Life Lived for the Wild



Mardy Murie

photo courtesy the Murie Collection

Mardy went on Olaus' assignments throughout Alaska, and information collected on their 1956 Sheenjek expedition eventually led to the creation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

After Olaus' death in 1963, Mardy continued their work to protect wild places. She played an important role in the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act, the Alaska National Interest Lands Act and the 1984 Wyoming Wilderness Act.

At times, she worked for the Izaak Walton League, Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society. In between her travels and work, Mardy was host to conservationists, authors, teachers and students who would visit her ranch for discussions, tea and, of course, cookies.

Mardy inspired many people to explore wild places, to work to protect

have I said? That we live in a precarious world; that we are threatened by man's ingenuity; that we need a less consumptive lifestyle in order to preserve the beauty and grace of our world; and that our remaining wild places, our wilderness, have to be a most important element in all our thinking and all our doing."

You will be missed, Mardy. Please rest knowing that your lifetime of work for wilderness will be carried on and that your spirit will live forever.

Steve Gil, a former intern at The Murie Center, believes that Mardy leaves us all with great hope of what we can achieve in our lifetimes, and he values how much of her life there is to be celebrated.

Locking Up Boise Cascade

In Portland, Maine, the Acadian Green Brigade, affiliated with the Earth Liberation Front, took responsibility for a direct action against Boise Cascade paper products during the Columbus Day weekend.

The brigade glued locks at Boise's offices, including the building's main entrance. Elfish slogans were spray painted across the entrance to the building. The tires of eight delivery trucks and two trailers were punctured.

"This action was done to show solidarity with the members of the ELF in the Pacific Northwest and to illustrate to those who wantonly destroy our forests that they will not profit by their action anywhere," reported an anonymous communiqué.

Cutting the Longline

At the National Fisheries Institute's (NFI) October national conference and International West Coast Seafood Show in Long Beach, California, Sea Turtle Restoration Project (STRP) activists confronted swordfish dealers who had previously refused requests to drop the fish from their inventories.

After infiltrating the exclusive opening night gala of the seafood show on the legendary Queen Mary cruise ship, activists dropped a massive banner: "Swordfishing

Kills Sea Turtles." They had already pulled off a similar banner drop at the starting line of the Long Beach Marathon earlier in the day.

NFI was chosen as a campaign target for its role as an official advisor to US Trade Representatives, as well as its push for a potentially disastrous expansion of World Trade Organization authority over the oceans.

In October, STRP achieved a significant victory when Red Lobster dropped swordfish from menus in 500 restaurants as a result of a year-long petition campaign.

Steeplechase Sabotage

In the early hours of October 24, several members of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) walked onto the Yarra Glen racetrack in Victoria, Australia.

The starting barrier was dismantled when the ALF removed 20 heavy steel gates and spirited them away, along with all the nuts and bolts. The starters' platform was smashed. Cables, springs and hinges were cut and damaged. The judges' box overlooking the racetrack was covered in anti-jump race slogans and an ALF claim of responsibility. Finally, a large steeplechase fence was doused with flammable liquid and set on fire.

A steeplechase horse is 18 times more likely to die from racing-related causes than a horse involved in flat racing.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD

GE Pets Bright Under Any Light

"Under ultraviolet light, they will appear to be glowing in the dark," says Yorktown Technologies CEO Alan Blake. Blake is referring to a little tropical fish that was once striped like a zebra but now, at the hands of the Austin, Texas-based company, has been modified to glow fluorescent red, green or yellow. These "GloFish," soon to be released as the first genetically engineered pets, are expected to flood markets in January.

California has banned lab-engineered species from its markets and will not accept the fish in pet stores. Yet Yorktown Technologies isn't dissuaded by California's ban and is determined to sell the fish in other states.

Originally developed in Singapore to detect water pollution, the GloFish will be sold commercially in the US for five dollars apiece.

Blake claims that the fish pose no threat to the environment, but many people fear the potential consequences should the fluorescent fish contaminate the wild gene pool.

Seeing with the Grizzly Bear's Gaze

It's the latest high-tech tool for wildlife study: the digital camera. Staff of the Foothills Model Forest Grizzly Bear Research Program, based in Alberta, Canada, outfitted two grizzly bears with digital cameras in July 2003 to show the world how the species lives with humans encroaching on their territory.

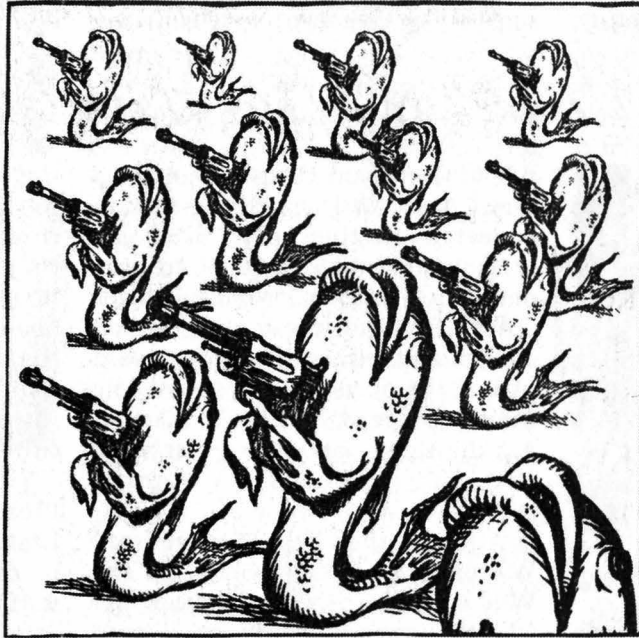
Equipped with wide-angle lenses that can view a distance of 500 yards and side-mounted to overcome the grizzly's characteristic neck "hump," the cameras were programmed to take one picture every daylight hour.

The cameras, which can store a season's worth of images on an internal computer chip, were retrieved by biologists in late October before the bears descended into a drowsy stupor for the winter.

The research team hopes to answer such questions as how the bears react when they encounter development activities and how they adjust to changing habitat conditions.

Man Perishes from Encounter with Fish

Henry Thomas Buckner of Middleburg, Florida, was pronounced dead on October 19. Buckner died after a live fish, a four-inch bream, became lodged in his throat.



Captain Keith Riddick of the Putnam County Sheriff's Department said, "No one saw him put the fish in his mouth. They heard gurgling, turned toward him and saw Buckner bleeding from the mouth with the fish sticking out."

At the time, Buckner was fishing with his stepfather and friends on the Ocklawaha River. His companions were unable to remove the fish.

Buckner's family denied rumors that he was trying to imitate a stunt he had seen on television. Toxicology tests confirmed that Buckner was neither drunk nor under the influence of drugs at the time of his death.

Nature Bites Back: Master of the Impossible Mauled, Big Hair Proves Dangerous

Las Vegas animal trainer and magician Roy Horn, half of the performing duo Siegfried and Roy, had a piece of his skull removed in October after a 600-pound white tiger named Montecore grabbed the star by the neck and dragged him backstage during a performance at the Mirage Resort.

In a feat of surgical genius, the section of Horn's skull was placed in a pouch in his abdomen for safekeeping. The procedure was performed in order to alleviate pressure inside Horn's head until swelling in his brain went down.

Following the attack, Siegfried Fischbacher speculated that the tiger was trying to save his trainer after Horn had taken a fall during the show. Horn tripped during the sold-out performance while trying to distract Montecore's attention from a woman in the audience with a large hairdo, who reached out to pet the tiger.

Fischbacher's account of the mauling was "a beautiful story but it just doesn't wash," said animal behaviorist Louis Dorfman. "Stress led to the bite. It was an outlet for irritation."

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals Vice President Dan Mathews wrote in a letter to Fischbacher and Horn following the incident: "No matter how much you say that you love the wild animals whom you have confined continents away from their natural homes, you are still the men who have subjugated their wills and natures to further your own careers."

Horn suffered from paralysis on the left side of his body yet is expected to make at least a 95 percent recovery.

There are as many churches as there are bales of hay in this part of rural Tennessee. A sign in front of one of the churches, near a red, weather-beaten barn, reads: "Warning: Exposure to the Sun May Prevent Burning!" But make your way down a winding dirt road and over a few small bridges, and you'll find an intentional community called Ida, part of the pagan-inspired radical faerie network.

Tucked away in its picturesque valley home, Ida is one of several faerie sanctuaries scattered throughout the US. During its Autumn queer music festival, the Idapalooza Fruit Jam, I had an opportunity to chat with MaxZine Wienstien, a steward at Ida, about queer and environmental activism.

Environmentalism: Not Just For Elves

An Interview with Radical Faerie MaxZine Wienstein

BY JOEY PLASTER

JP: MaxZine, how would you describe the radical faeries?

MW: The radical faeries are a counter-cultural queer movement, but there are probably as many definitions of what a faerie is as there are people who identify as faeries. What appeals to me about the faeries is that I feel it's a group of people who are irreverent and challenge the status quo. It seems like we're really good at getting together and smashing taboos, even ones we might hold dearly to our hearts.

A lot of what the faeries are about also has a back-to-the-land component, so there are a number of different places called faerie lands or faerie sanctuaries that are out in the woods or certainly out of urban areas. The radical faeries attracted me to living with other queer people in Tennessee, and I've been out here for nine-and-a-half years.

JP: Can you talk about your experiences with Earth First!?

MW: When Earth First! started, I was a part of a number of environmental campaigns around Ann Arbor, Michigan. What frustrated me was that we were often bending over backward to be polite in order to get the corporations, governments or courts to change practices that were bad for the environment. I felt that being too polite often meant making so many compromises that meaningful social change became impossible. The whole idea that we had to sanitize and whitewash who we were to get a seat at the table was also pretty demoralizing.

So, I was excited when I first heard about Earth First!. The idea of radical environmental activism and the slogan "No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth" appealed to me. Maybe there was something sexy or passionate about Earth First! that I felt was lacking in the environmental movement where I lived.

I subscribed to the *Earth First! Journal*, and I began having discussions with friends and other activists. People liked the idea of bold actions, such as spiking trees, and the fantasy of cracking a dam and letting the river flow wild again as was envisioned in *The Monkey Wrench Gang*. That seemed to infuse excitement into a lot of environmental organizing around the country.

continued on next page



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But I was turned off, as a gay man, by a lot of the macho posturing from the founders of Earth First!. It seemed like this posturing had a certain allure for people.

[In *MaxZine's* best macho voice]: "We're gonna fuck shit up, and we're gonna take them on. We're not going to compromise, and we are not wimps. We're gonna guzzle beer."

That was a lot of what came across to me early on, and I wondered whether I really did want to get too close to this movement.

Around the same time, I was also involved in AIDS activism and watching friends get sick and die made it even harder to deal with machoism. I think one thing that the AIDS movement has done is challenge traditional masculinity. In the mid-'80s, there were some disgusting, hateful messages coming from the US government. Even though thousands of people were getting sick and dying, Ronald Reagan couldn't even utter the word AIDS. So the silence and the machismo of the culture helped to foster an AIDS activist movement that was radical and that in some ways paralleled what was going on with Earth First!.

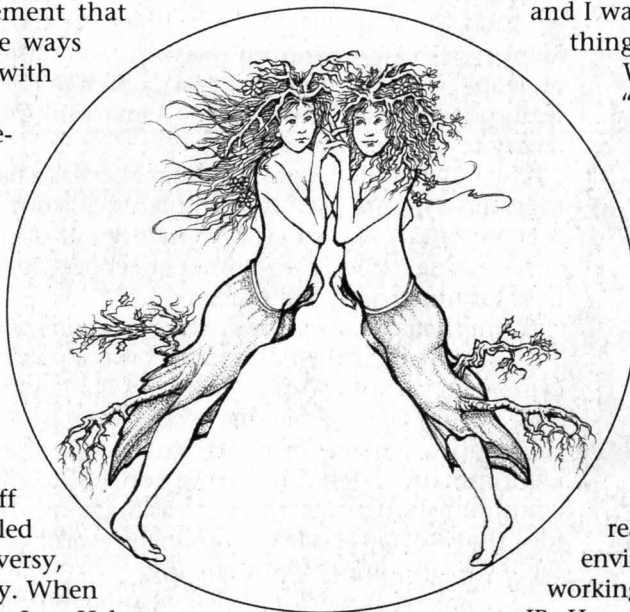
But I wasn't comfortable being involved with people who were homophobic. Why should I compromise who I am to make other people comfortable?

This came to a head after the *EF! Journal* published an article about population control, and one of the solutions offered by the author was that there were all these people with AIDS who were going to die off (see *EF!J* Beltane 1987). It was called a satire once it became a controversy, but it didn't strike me as funny. When you have government leaders like Jesse Helms applauding the death of gay men from AIDS, and then shortly after that of African Americans and drug users—or when you're in an environment where there are politicians who would quarantine people with AIDS because they're queer or of color or whatever—then it's not funny to read a satire in the *EF! Journal* implying that it's good for people with AIDS to die because that would reduce the world's population.

I decided to cancel my subscription to the *EF! Journal* after I saw that the article wasn't challenged very effectively. It felt like Earth First! was unwilling to look at how sexism and machismo were part of the same system that is dominating the Earth.

There was something else in the *EF! Journal* at the time that was also troublesome to me. A certain wing of environmentalists in the '80s were in favor of restricting immigration and blaming immigrants for our environmental problems in

The idea of radical environmental activism and the slogan "No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth" appealed to me.



the US. I just couldn't believe that with the US Army being the biggest polluter in the country, there were people blaming Mexicans or Guatemalans or Salvadorians—people fleeing wars that were funded by the US—for our problems.

That lack of analysis of the global situation and the racism really made me not interested in hearing about Earth First! for a number of years.

JP: Where is the overlap between the more

positive aspects of Earth First! and the faeries?

MW: When I moved to Tennessee 10 years ago, I became reacquainted with Earth First! folks from Katuah. Earth First! had gone through a lot of changes. I think the radical communities in this country as a whole are much less homophobic than they were 15 to 20 years ago.

After I moved to Ida, I heard about a demonstration that was going to happen at Watts Bar. Watts Bar was beset by billions of problems, as nuclear power plants tend to be, and Katuah Earth First! was part of a coalition that was trying to keep it from going online. Some friends and I wanted to go as faeries and do something with the Earth First! crowd.

We decided we were going to host a "Miss Nuclear Meltdown Pageant" as part of the demonstration. We probably went on too long, as we tend to, but it was just so much fun. We probably had 20 contestants, including Miss Three Eye Three Mile Island and Miss Hiroshima. There were all of these faeries dressed up in high drag and low drag to protest the nuclear power plant, and all of their outfits were nuclear related, very bizarre and lots of fun.

The crowd just loved it. It was really nice to come home to a group of environmentalists who were excited about working with the faeries here in Tennessee.

JP: How are you working to create models of sustainable living at Ida?

MW: I live in a place where we strive to create a sustainable community and a sustainable future. Some of our sustainable projects include using wood from the land to heat our homes in the Winter and growing much of the produce we eat. Since we're on 243 acres, most of which is undeveloped, we hope to learn more skills from the natural world that can be integrated into our human culture.

The biggest challenge for us at Ida, I think, is how we who come from a very selfish human community can learn to be more cooperative. We need to learn how we can change the dynamics of our communication to allow us to stay open to each other, resolve conflicts, welcome new people and support folks when they get sick or are just freaking out. I think those questions are primary and need to be answered before we're really going to change too much in the natural environment.

Actually, I think that changes in the natural environment can go hand in hand with changes in human communications and social dynamics. When you plant gardens and harvest food you've grown, when you craft wild food to eat and make herbal tinctures and other natural medicines—I think when you do all of these things—it can have a great influence on human dynamics.

Having said this, I think that creating models of sustainable living anywhere in this country is a catch-22. I think that global warming, pollution, toxic waste, genetically engineered foods and so many other things are challenging the Earth's ecosystem in ways that humans haven't been able to challenge it before. It frightens the hell out of me. I think that an important part of creating a sustainable culture is fostering political activism. I don't think that creating islands of pseudo paradises is really what's going to make a difference in the long run. I guess for me, living sustainably really comes

down to a combination of trying to live more harmoniously with the environment while trying to learn how to be active in some kind of movement for radical social change.

JP: You've written that since the 1930s, many African Americans have lost their land due to foreclosure, tax sales, threats by racists or violence. You've also acknowledged that many faeries own land in Tennessee because it is relatively cheap. Can you talk more about the relationship between land, privilege and activist communities?

MW: With the general whiteness of back-to-the-land projects, I really want people to think about the fact that privilege has a role in issues like land ownership, renting land or accessibility. There are some really amazing communities being created in this region, but it's difficult for people living in these communities to talk about and look

at the role that privilege has played in this process. On certain levels, privilege has made it easy for white people but at other times harder for people who aren't from

a privileged background to ease into our environment. It makes me really sad and at times frustrated, and I question what my role is in that.

I want to be a part of a society that isn't so restrictive for people

of color. The reason why I talk about how black farmers have lost their farms—through forced foreclosures, through threats of violence and so forth—is because it points out what it is we're facing. We're facing a culture that has intimidated people of color and kept them from owning land out in the woods.

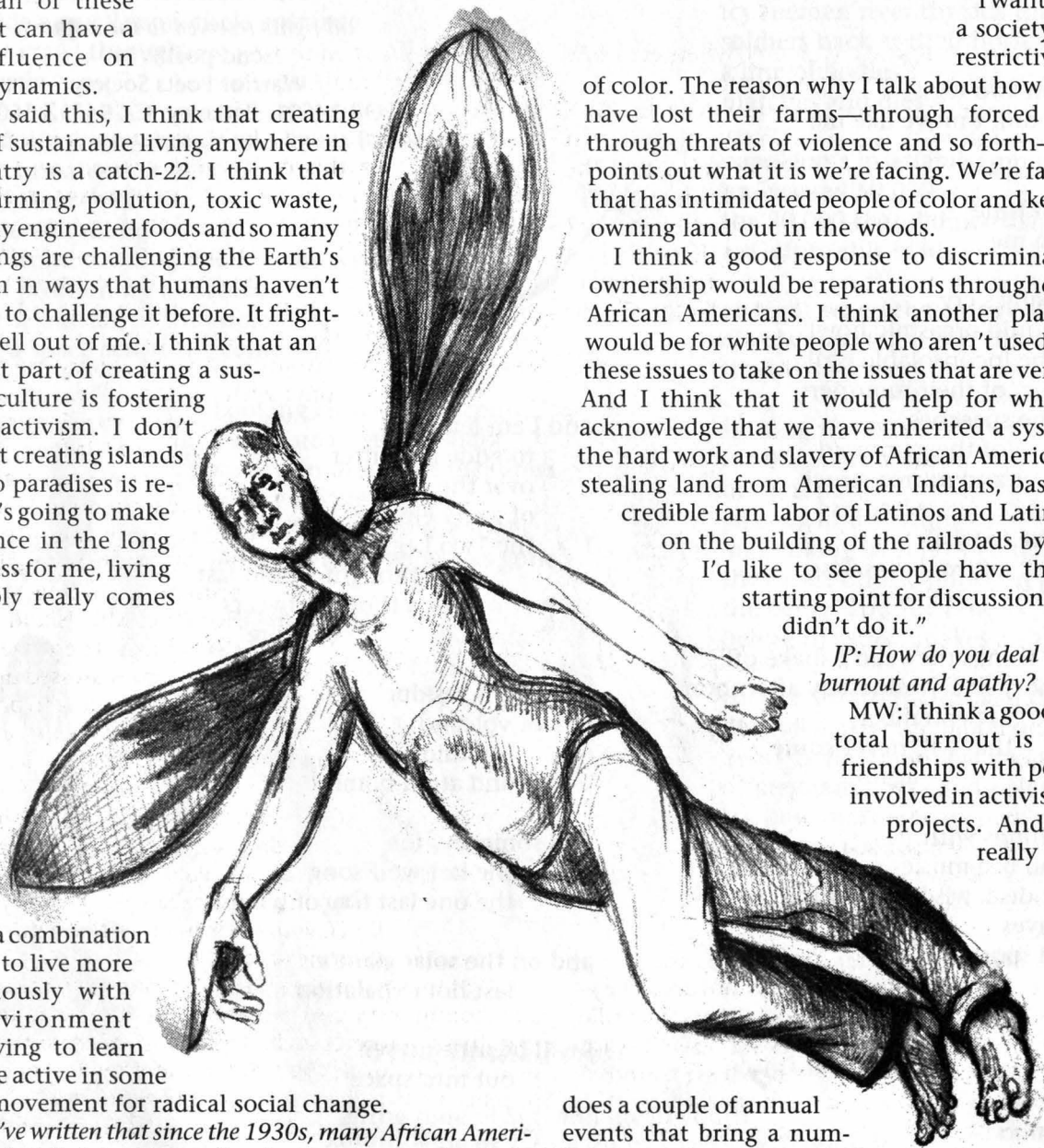
I think a good response to discrimination in land ownership would be reparations throughout the US for African Americans. I think another place for action would be for white people who aren't used to discussing these issues to take on the issues that are very scary for us. And I think that it would help for white people to acknowledge that we have inherited a system based on the hard work and slavery of African Americans, based on stealing land from American Indians, based on the incredible farm labor of Latinos and Latinas and based on the building of the railroads by the Chinese.

I'd like to see people have that more as a starting point for discussion rather than "I didn't do it."

JP: How do you deal with cynicism, burnout and apathy?

MW: I think a good way to avoid total burnout is to maintain friendships with people who are involved in activist and creative projects. And for me, it's really nice that Ida

I think that global warming, pollution, toxic waste and GE foods are challenging the Earth's ecosystem in ways that humans haven't been able to challenge it before.



does a couple of annual events that bring a number of people to our land who say, "Wow, we really like what you're doing out here." Just being open to having a lot of people come and share our home with us is a good way of getting the affirmations we need to carry on what we're doing.

Folks can visit Ida any time. For more information, contact Ida, (615) 597-4409; planetida@planetida.com; www.planetida.com.

Joey Plaster is always searching for new, queer ways of relating to the world and one another. He lives in Florida.

Artwork this page by Eian Wilson.

Armed with Visions

Clear as cut glass & just as dangerous

Wind

They move on two legs
but they don't move like me
I blow in
and out
of time
and take with me
every

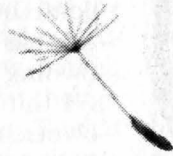
baby's cry
liquid orgasmic howl
the inconsolable wail
of their mourners
the speeches
of their primp'd
and mirror-struck
leaders
the footfalls
of their ceaseless
armies

and, too, the things they can't shake off:
the memory of a Wednesday afternoon
in September
that will never come
again

I mix these things with
pollen and bee music
the flight-deck wisdom of birds
rusted leaves
seeds and spores

I plant
I fan flames
I cool desire

in the right mood
I uproot neighborhoods
blow neon signs
on beachfront bars
and knock pricey seashore condos
back down
among the sharks



all rights reserved to the authors
send poems to:
Warrior Poets Society
POB 14501, Berkeley, CA 94712-5501

and I am left
to glide and jitter
over the ruins
of every empire
the Two Legs
thought would last
a thousand years
or more

I carry the residue
of volcano
asteroid
and atom bomb

and someday, too
the last wolf song
the one last flap of wing

and on the solar giant's
last hot exhalation

I will breathe myself
out into space

thinning
spreading

giving final voice to every
bug buzz and bit
of bramble music

that was fed me.

—MLW



The Circle Within the Circle

Walking the Milwaukee River corridor
cold in the middle of winter
quiet in the middle of the city
I come to find a small abandoned shelter
built by hands
logs layered together to fit
mud plastered shingled sides of dead plants
sealed strong enough to shed wind
on the side a small semi-circle entrance
you must crawl through
to get inside

Getting down on my hands and knees I peer in
Low arch of natural dome
Warmer inside than out
Dry sheltered ground
pieces of wood to sit on encircle the wall
the ritual positioning of people
around the outside of the circle
with open space across the center

Looking closer at the center
I see a small gentle shape
circled in dried summer grass
where a little coyote
bedded down for the night
long after everyone was gone

—Josh Gilman

Winter 1812

napoleon's army
huddles around campfires
fueled by cannon wheels

sky is a delicate orange
icy niemen river threads the landscape
soldiers hack at their horses
a line of bodies
marches and dies

napoleon's insatiable ambition
has wasted 50,000
the 20,000 that did not die in russia
are left to this land

at night when the orange sky goes out
clouds appear charred like moscow
the wolves come

sniffing the wind
fur the color of wood
in tight packs
yipping and yowling
and talking in yellow elation
they feast on the unfrozen parts of men
the bellies and the bowels
before the snow makes a shroud

they return to their warm dens
dutifully spew up napoleon's army
amid joyful whimpers and playful growls
of pregnant wives and sisters
so these mothers can suckle
the wolves of 1813

—David Albano

Time in the Forest

the time of Sun and green youth
the time of Rain with its sparkling diamonds
the time of Fog and silvering
the time of Fire with its ruby crackling
the time of Stillness and deep rootedness
the time of Wind whirling whistling
the time of Ice and white oblivion
the time of Stars and the music of the spheres

—Ellen Cooney

artwork by Anne Ophelia Dowden

California Fires Send Chainsaws into Action

THE HORIZONTAL FORESTS INITIATIVE

BY LISA DIX

As chaparral fires burned in southern California at the end of October, the Bush administration and members of Congress exploited the tragedy of homes burning down and lives lost to slam their logging agenda through the Senate.

Their rhetoric on the California fires was full of lies. They blamed the fires on environmental appeals and litigation, which they claimed had caused "analysis paralysis." They also implicated the Senate for not passing legislation that would "ease regulations" to "speed up thinning" on public lands. The corporate media fed public and political hysteria by showing dramatic footage of burning homes and calling for something to be done. Yet most coverage did not thoroughly investigate the legislation the Bush administration claimed was needed to "fix" the problem.

The facts are striking. The majority of the California fires started and burned not in forests on public land but in privately owned chaparral and grassland areas. Most of the fires resulted from arson. According to US Forest Service (USFS) documents, it was the lack of funding, improper prioritization of funds and extreme drought conditions that stalled fuels reduction work around homes and communities in southern California. In reality, no fuels reduction projects in southern California's national forests had been held up by environmental appeals or litigation in the past three years. Fuel reduction projects had only been the subject of one administrative appeal in the last six years.

The legislation that went before the Senate would have done little to protect communities from wildfire because it focused on remote public lands. In fact, commercial logging and associated road building, activities known to increase the risk and severity of fire, would increase dramatically under the legislation thanks to the new powers granted to the USFS and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In these harsh political times, the facts mattered little.

Bush's Horizontal Forests Initiative

The Bush administration's grossly misnamed "Healthy Forests Initiative" (HFI) was announced in August 2002 during a press conference in which President Bush stood in front of a recently burned area in southern Oregon. With the help of Undersecretary of Agriculture and former timber industry lobbyist Mark Rey, the Bush administration decided that it would play on public fears surrounding fire to politically advance its logging agenda. The administration's national forest greenwashing story went something like this:

Fire is a destructive force, a "holocaust" on public forests. Environmental appeals and litigation have prohibited

"active management" and have caused "overly dense forest stands," which now dominate forest landscapes across the US. These promote "catastrophic" wildfire, and they are time bombs waiting to explode. The way to make our forests healthy again is to "ease" and "expedite" environmental laws so that "thinning" can rapidly occur rather than having to waste time assessing environmental impacts or going to court.

HFI lacked any substantive measures to protect forests and

make them "healthy." HFI reverses regulations that limit USFS and BLM discretion and eliminated requirements for the agencies to complete environmental impact analyses for logging and road-building projects. It gutted regulations protecting endangered and threatened species, waived environmental analyses for "hazardous fuels reduction" logging projects, eliminated many public comment, participation and appeal requirements, reversed species habitat and water quality protections designated by the Northwest Forest Plan and weakened roadless area protections.

The House Passes Bush's Logging Plan

In May, the House of Representatives passed the "Healthy Forests and Restoration Act of 2003" (HR.1904). This bill would have fully implemented Bush's HFI by granting the executive branch the power to undermine the very heart



A massive wall of fire spread across southern California in October

Photo by Greg Pirolo

of the National Environmental Policy Act and permanently change the standards of judicial review to favor timber interests in the courts.

Upon passing the House and easily sailing out of the conservative Senate Agriculture Committee, HR.1904 was poised to move to the Senate floor. However, many Senators had serious concerns about the extreme provisions in the House bill and for many months there were not enough votes to overcome a filibuster.

Enter Wyden and Feinstein

Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Diane Feinstein (D-CA) drafted their own bill as a Senate "compromise." The Wyden/Feinstein bill had little support in the Senate, and no support from the environmental community, because it went too far in rolling back environmental laws. However, despite promises not to compromise any further, Senators Wyden, Feinstein, Max Bacus (D-MT), Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) and Tom Daschle (D-SD) engaged in back-door negotiations with a small group of republican Senators.

A very bad "deal" was cut on September 22. Daschle urged the Senate to act on the legislation, thereby handing the Bush administration one of its priority anti-environmental initiatives and a huge gift to the timber industry. Yet due to sustained public pressure, it appeared that the deal still would not get enough votes to break a filibuster in the Senate, and it remained stalled. In fact, it was highly likely that the deal would not have gained enough political support to pass the Senate—that is until southern California started burning.

Then the Fires Started Burning in California

On October 30, two days after the fires began in California, the deal passed the Senate. Wyden, Feinstein, Bacus, Lincoln and Daschle succeeded by twisting the arms of democrats to vote for the deal. They continued to tell their colleagues that environmental laws had to be compromised in exchange for old-growth protection.

The old-growth protection language contained so many loopholes that its protections would be meaningless. Moreover, Wyden, Feinstein and Daschle promised the democrats that they would hold the line in conference, ensuring that the deal would not be changed before it was signed by Bush. Several democrats offered amendments to improve the bill, but the deal-makers rejected these amendments because of their commitment to hold firm.

Predictably, Wyden and his cronies did not keep their word, and the bill did get worse in conference. The conference bill on HR.1904, was passed by both the House and Senate on November 21. The HR.1904 then headed to President Bush's desk, where it was signed into law on December 3.

What's at Stake

The Bush logging law will have devastating impacts on national forests and BLM-administered lands. Historically speaking, this is the first major stand-alone forest management legislation that has passed Congress since the 1976 National Forest Management Act. The Bush logging law undermines bedrock environmental laws and changes the standards in which the federal judiciary reviews logging cases, tilting the balance to favor timber interests.

While more than 85 percent of the communities that need fire-work done directly around them are on private, not public lands, the bill focuses funds on remote public lands. It is highly likely that homes will continue to burn due to the fact that the agencies have no incentive to spend money to protect communities or to even prioritize this needed community protection work.

The law does not contain any protections for currently healthy forests such as roadless areas or wildlife reserves. In

fact, it directs the agencies to conduct "hazardous fuels reduction" projects in threatened and endangered species habitat, thereby reducing quality wildlife habitat for many terrestrial and aquatic species.

The new law allows projects up to 1,000 acres to be categorically excluded from all environmental review if the agencies claim that insects (including native insects) pose a threat to these forests. This has long been an excuse for inappropriate and illegal logging.

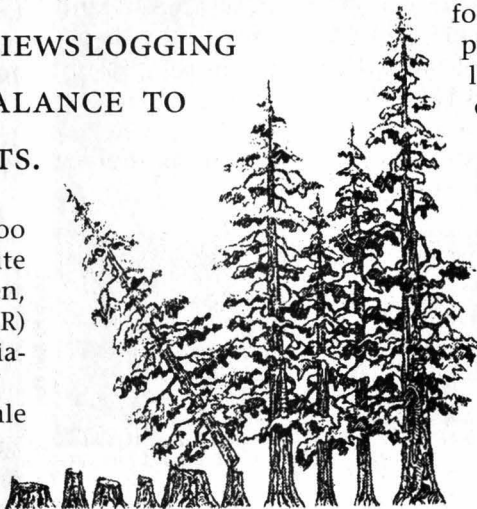
Since commercial timber sales are a money loser for the federal treasury, the administration plans to pay logging companies in large, commercially valuable trees instead of cash for their "services". The timber industry will now receive timber as their payment for building roads to cut down the forests and if roads can't be built, logging companies will be given a subsidy to cover the cost of removing trees by helicopter.

Forest defenders must remain vigilant in documenting and voicing the abuses that the agencies are certain to carry out under these new powers. We must continue to organize in our communities and to speak out against the egregious impacts of corporate logging. The on-the-ground fight in this next year is critical and now more urgent than ever.

For more information, visit www.americanlands.org.

Lisa Dix is the campaign coordinator for the American Lands Alliance.

THE BUSH LOGGING LAW UNDERMINES
BEDROCK ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND
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“Shock and Awe” Logging Proposed for the Siskiyou



photo by Rolf Skar

“Salvage” logging in the Biscuit Fire area

BY ROLF SKAR

The US Forest Service (USFS) has created some truly outrageous timber sales over the years, but under the Bush administration, it has hit a shameful new low. Its plan to “salvage” log sensitive forests affected by the 2002 Biscuit Fire in southwestern Oregon is the largest logging project in the modern history of our national forests.

How large is this extreme scheme? Hold onto your climbing harness: The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Biscuit Fire Recovery Project contains proposals for more than one billion board feet of logging across 60,000 acres. That’s enough lumber to create a chain of log trucks 2,700 miles long—stretching from Oregon to the East Coast.

The 518 million board feet of logging proposed by the “preferred alternative” in the DEIS runs through 12,179 acres of inventoried roadless areas. In addition, the USFS admits that its preferred alternative would degrade some 57,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas—possibly making these areas ineligible for protection as wilderness.

Making matters worse, this monstrous timber sale threatens to drive chainsaws into the heart of the proposed Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Conservation Area—an ancient, rugged landscape, which, due to its botanical biodiversity, has been called the “Galapagos of North America.” In fact, this landscape features a long list of special characteristics, including Oregon’s largest unprotected

roadless forest, the highest concentration of Wild and Scenic Rivers in the nation and more rare and endemic plant species than any other forest in the western US.

The Siskiyou Wild Rivers area also has a rich history, having been proposed for permanent protection as a national park in the 1930s. It is the place where Earth First!ers first used civil disobedience to defend forests in 1983. The Bald Mountain road blockades during the ‘80s eventually stopped the construction of an illegal road into the 90,000-acre North Kalmiopsis Roadless Area. In so doing, the blockades demonstrated the power of direct action and inspired the modern grassroots forest defense movement. In the 20 years since, support for permanent protection of the Siskiyou Wild Rivers area has grown.

The logging industry saw the Biscuit Fire as an opportunity to change this hard-won support. A series of natural fires—driven by unusually hot, dry conditions—burned intensely across a large landscape. No stranger to fire, the extraordinary diversity of the Siskiyou Wild Rivers area has been sculpted by forest fires since the last Ice Age.

Logging industry propaganda claims that the area is now a charred “moonscape” that will be a “brushfield” for hundreds of years if it is not logged and converted into densely planted, fire-prone conifer tree plantations. In reality, native forests in the Siskiyou are experiencing a robust natural rejuvenation. It is the logged areas and tree plantations that are not faring well since they do not possess the resiliency of natural ecosystems.

Originally due out in July, the USFS delayed releasing the DEIS for almost five months in order to include increasingly extreme logging plans in the document. According to the USFS, logging could start as early as this Spring. To make sure pesky environmental laws don’t get in the way of this timeline, Congress might even pass a Biscuit Fire “salvage rider.”

There is much more at stake in this fight than the future of a world-class wild place. Knowing that people in the US overwhelmingly oppose logging old-growth and roadless forests, the timber industry views post-fire “salvage” logging as another way to get its hands on public forests.

If we lose this debate, no fire-dependent forests in the nation will be safe from the saw. Wild forests and the natural cycles of disturbance and renewal will become even more endangered.

Your help is needed to stop this timber sale and to protect our Siskiyou Wild Rivers for future generations of all species. For more information on how to take action, visit www.siskiyou.org. And of course, plan to take a trip to the Siskiyou this Summer!

Rolf Skar is the Siskiyou Wild Rivers campaign coordinator for the Siskiyou Project.



photo by Rolf Skar

The Ghost of "Healthy Forests" yet to Come Visits Kentucky

BY PERRIN DE JONG

On February 15, 2003, a weather phenomenon as old as the Earth's atmosphere visited the hills of northeastern Kentucky. A cold, steady rain had been falling all day, and as darkness descended on the forested slopes above the city of Morehead, the air temperature in the higher elevations dipped just below freezing. Water covering the trees began to crystallize, and as the rain continued to fall, it encased the trees in a thickening sheet of ice that pulled branches and treetops toward the ground with its weight. As the night progressed, the sounds of limbs and entire trees snapping and crashing to the ground filled the chilly, wet air.

Early the next morning, a group of us went out to check on a friend who lives on one of the ridges outside of town. The locals were already out in force, clearing trees from the roads with privately owned trucks, chainsaws and cases of Pabst Blue Ribbon in an admirable display of decentralized, anarchistic self-governance. We slid up the road, sidestepping downed powerlines, wincing at the exploding noises the trees made as they split apart all around us and staring, with our jaws dropped, at what was an undeniably changed landscape.

This was the Daniel Boone National Forest. And as we made the rounds to make sure no one had been crushed by falling trees in the night, one theme was repeated to me over and over again by the locals: "You just wait and see what the US Forest Service (USFS) does with this."

I didn't want to believe that the agency charged with protecting our national forests and serving the public was going to use this ice storm to go hog wild with illegitimate logging proposals for the forest's northern district. Unfortunately, my friends' assessment of the situation turned out to be all too true.

The USFS responded to the ice storm with one giant "salvage" logging project called the Morehead Ice Storm Salvage Timber Sale. This project would cut trees that lost at least one-third of their branches, as well as all trees in a 20,000-acre area that were pulled down by the weight of the ice. As a gesture of ecological stewardship, the USFS would require that five trees of both of the above-mentioned types be left in place per acre.

No scientific rationale has been provided for the one-third canopy loss rule or the "leave five per acre" rule. The USFS estimates that 3,000 acres of trees will be logged, but anyone can see by walking through the project area that nearly all of the trees could be interpreted as having lost a third of their branches in the storm, particularly trees at higher elevations. The USFS intends to implement the

continued on next page



photo by Rolf Star

project without the standard environmental impact analysis and without opportunities for the public to be involved in decision making.

The stated justification for this project is to protect the "damaged" trees from an invasion of leaf-eating gypsy moths, which may or may not happen at some point in the future. While the USFS estimates that the moth may arrive in Kentucky 25 years from now, logging is scheduled for early 2004.

The fundamental problem with the rationale behind this project is that it assumes natural disturbances in the forest cry out for human intervention—as if every old tree hasn't been through countless storms, losing countless limbs in the process and still living on to provide food and habitat for wildlife.

But even if this project had some legitimate justification, hiring a commercial logger to do ecological restoration is like hiring an accountant to give you a root canal—you're barking up the wrong tree. Commercial loggers, more often than not, cut trees that are commercially valuable to mills, while

ignoring trees that were intended to be cut for restoration or public safety purposes.

Perhaps the scariest thing about this project is that it embodies the philosophy at the core of George Bush and Mark Rey's insidious "Healthy Forest Initiative" (HFI). The basic approach of the HFI is to identify a bogus threat to forest health and then slash and burn environmental protections and citizen participation in order to accelerate logging.

Amazingly, while the Morehead Salvage Sale reads like a page out of the HFI, it was proposed while the legislation was still being debated in Congress—as if in giddy anticipation of the return of the good ol' days of unhampered public lands access for the good ol' boys in the timber industry. With the HFI being signed into law in early December, we can expect to see a lot more "healthy" public lands exploitation along these lines.

Dreary predictions aside, it is important to take stock of why the forest defense movement now finds itself

fighting "forest health" projects and how it is that we got here. The bottom line is that a long time ago, we won the fight in the court of public opinion over how public lands should be managed. We have the support of the majority of Americans when we say that we should end commercial logging on public lands and restore native forest ecosystems. And any mainstream pollster who has surveyed the public on this subject can tell you that's true.

So when Bush and the USFS want to fatten the wallets of their buddies in the timber industry at the public's expense, they have to come onto our turf in order to sell the idea. They use green language to describe the same cut-and-run banditry that has defined federal lands mismanagement for decades. They talk about promoting forest health and protecting trees by cutting them down. They claim to be the *real* environmentalists—because now it's hip to be an environmentalist, and they know it.

This isn't a new approach concocted by the marketing-savvy Bush adminindustry. The USFS has long been moving in this direction as a direct result of the public education that the forest defense movement has been carrying out for decades in this country.

The task before us now is very clear. We must continue to shine our light on the lies of the USFS, exposing every false justification for the same old shameless exploitation it has been promoting since day one, until it no longer has a place to hide its true intentions. This requires some faith in people's ability to see through smoke and mirrors when given the right information.

EVEN IF THIS PROJECT HAD

**SOME LEGITIMATE JUSTIFICATION,
HIRING A COMMERCIAL LOGGER TO
DO ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION IS
LIKE HIRING AN ACCOUNTANT TO
GIVE YOU A ROOT CANAL.**

Here in Kentucky, we've already seen evidence of this ability. The Morehead Salvage Sale attracted 40 people from across the region to the project area in November when the Eastern Forest Justice League hosted a training on treesitting

techniques—including ascending, descending, knots, traversing and platform installation.

If we can continue to keep this faith and take action when necessary, we will prevail in our efforts to expose the USFS for what it is. Perhaps then we will finally be able to shake ourselves of this rotten Logging Service and put in its place the Forest Service we were promised.

For more information, visit www.kyheartwood.org.
Perrin de Jong is with the Katúah EF! Cumberland Faction.



Denouncing those with Strong Ties to Pacific Lumber

ACTIVISTS TARGET HUMBOLDT LAW FIRM

BY VERBAINA

When ancient forests are cut and peaceful protesters are tortured or even killed, we all suffer. In Humboldt County, California, there are people at a law firm, Mitchell, Brisso, Delaney and Vrieze, behind the scenes, encouraging and defending such travesties. On September 30, Humboldt forest defenders locked down to a vehicle in front of Mitchell Brisso's office to expose the law firm's conflicting interests and unethical practices.

Pacific Lumber (PL), controlled by the Maxxam Corporation and defended by Mitchell Brisso, has been illegally devastating old-growth Redwood and Douglas fir forests, filling the waters with poisons, causing flooding, initiating landslides and perpetrating violence against Earth First!ers for almost 20 years.

Starting in 2001, PL, through Mitchell Brisso, filed SLAPP suits (Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation) against more than 100 people. A company files a SLAPP suit with hope that the threat of ruinous legal fees will deter a defendant from being outspoken against certain issues of interest to the company. Russell "Adolf" Gans, the attorney from Mitchell Brisso who is litigating the SLAPP suits, seemed shocked by the demonstration in front of the law office.

In addition to PL, Mitchell Brisso represents Humboldt County, its sheriff's department and the county slammer. The sheriff's deputies work closely with and for PL in protest situations and have been consistently violent to peaceful activists. In the well-known 1997 pepper spray lawsuit in which protesters are seeking a settlement that guarantees chemical weapons will no longer be used against nonviolent protesters, Mitchell Brisso has kept litigation going for six years. The case has been unnecessarily prolonged at the expense of Humboldt County taxpayers.

It's important to note that Mitchell Brisso and PL maintain social and business ties with nearly every judge who

presides in Humboldt County. One activist explained:

"I was arrested by the sheriff's deputies during an action to protect the Mattole from being clearcut by PL. I went to jail, and I was served papers saying that I was being sued by PL (through Mitchell Brisso) for the protest. I went to trial in front of a judge connected to PL, lost, was sentenced, and, while in jail, the county refused to feed me vegan food for 52 days. So I sued them for religious violations, and there was Mitchell Brisso defending the county and, of course, refusing to settle. The blatant incestuousness is sickly funny,

but mostly sick."

The law firm's other clients include Simpson Timber, Louisiana Pacific, several cities in Humboldt County, Kmart, insurance companies, school districts, "health care" providers and Del Norte County (home to the Pelican Bay State Prison). Mitchell Brisso claims that it "will not engage in any deceptive, dishonest or unethical conduct" on its clients' behalf.

Two womyn and two men locked to a disabled car in front of the law firm's office on a weekday morning in late September. The four non-violent activists, believing these attorneys deserve a lot more attention, were willing to risk arrest to expose the suited crooks and to send a loud message to the law firm. A steady crew of high-spirited forest defenders and civil rights activists holding banners, drumming, chanting, passing out flyers and supporting the lockdown were present.

One of the lawyers stole a banner, and a secretary pulled out her mace when an activist tried to converse with her through the mail slot. A young guy with a FBI badge tried to strike up a conversation with the folks at the demonstration, and four plainclothed investigators were present for hours, taking video and refusing to talk to anyone. Yet no arrests were made.

This is only the beginning. Folks will continue to expose Mitchell Brisso and alter the lawyers' reality of "business as usual." Maybe someone from the firm will be slapped with a true sense of justice and start working for the Earth.



Cascadia Rising

BY BOTRYCHIUM

When forest defenders from northern California, Oregon and Washington began brainstorming the regional collaboration known as "Cascadia Summer 2003," no one knew quite what to expect. While many shortcomings about the campaign could be listed, more than 100 folks came to Cascadia Summer to learn, share skills and defend some of Cascadia's last wild places. Cascadia Summer enhanced bioregional solidarity and inspired the creation of new ecodefense techniques.

The Summer began with a host of actions: the acquisition of "Beginnings" (a.k.a. the slice); the first treesits in the Klamath National Forest at the Glassups Timber Sale, erected by Mazama Forest Defense (MFD) and the Klamath Salmon Action Network (KSAN); a new treesit at the Solo Timber Sale in the Mt. Hood National Forest, courtesy of the Cascadia Forest Alliance (CFA); the establishment of an all-womyn's action at the Straw Devil Timber Sale in the Willamette National Forest, alongside an encampment by the Cascadia Forest Defenders (CFD).

Regular survey expeditions led by the Northwest Ecosystem Survey Team (NEST) and the Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project (BMBP) were held throughout the Summer. NEST climbed hundreds of trees looking for red tree voles, a rodent whose presence can stop a timber sale in its tracks—at least when the US Forest Service (USFS) plays by the rules. BMBP spent much of the Summer surveying the 12,500-acre Metolius Basin Timber Sale in eastern Oregon, an enormous fraud that is being touted by the USFS as a model timber sale in terms of wildfire management and community input. These survey expeditions provided a great opportunity to introduce folks to the forest defense movement and teach wilderness survival, "groundtruthing" and some tree-climbing skills, all without throwing someone directly into an intense basecamp environment with their first step into town.

In July, CFD found out just how intense that scene can be as the USFS moved in on the Straw Devil Timber Sale. Despite the best efforts of forest defenders, the area was logged. Only a narrow strip of forest containing treesits remained standing.

Within days, logging was halted by a court order when Straw Devil was added to a lawsuit that included Clark (Fall Creek), Solo and three other timber sales in the Willamette and Mt. Hood National Forests. With no way of knowing how the lawsuit would pan out, forest defenders entrenched themselves in Straw Devil's other units, erecting the first of a new breed of aerial blockading devices, an advancement beyond the "pods" erected at CFA's Eagle Creek blockade a few years back.

By the end of Summer, platforms—some tied to more than a dozen trees throughout the forest—could be seen suspended throughout the sale, thereby protecting a few acres of forest from a single perch. Entire units were completely enclosed under the blockading system. For many in Cascadia, the era of the increasingly futile treesitting tactics could very well be one step closer to retirement.

In the end, the courts ruled in our favor, and forest defenders at Solo and Straw Devil declared victory! Judge King ruled in November that the USFS must rewrite the Environmental Assessments for all six timber sales involved in the lawsuit. While the USFS rewrites the documents, which could take a long time, these areas won't be under the imminent threat of logging.

Meanwhile, an all womyn's treesit grew in downtown Portland for the second year in a row, this time honoring Bush's visit in support of the "Horizontal Forest Initiative." By the end of the day, five activists were in jail, two of whom got out without giving their names. Bush looked as dumb as ever.

Further south, in the Medford Bureau of Land Management district, activists with MFD and other groups



photo courtesy Siskiyou Project

The first Cascadia Summer? One of the many EF! blockades at Bald Mountain during the Spring and Summer 1983

MORE THAN 100 FOLKS CAME TO CASCADIA SUMMER TO LEARN, SHARE SKILLS AND DEFEND SOME OF THE REGION'S LAST WILD PLACES.

mustered together to protest the Bear Pen Timber Sale, with a surprise road blockade briefly halting logging in the area. Even further south, KSAN continues to rally support around planned development at the sacred grounds of Medicine Lake.

Some of the most important and inspiring, if not the most glamorous, work of Cascadia Summer was changing the way many ecodefenders think about patriarchy. While such a shift in attitude has by no means been unanimous, an increasing number of Cascadians are fed up and disgusted with the direct action forest communities' long-standing tolerance of oppressive behavior, "manarchists" and perpetrators of sexual violence within campaigns.

This year saw a new band of forest activists adopting a regional anti-oppression code, creating a dispute resolution body for addressing a variety of community issues, booting several known perpetrators from forest campaigns and organizing womyns' and transgender action camps that drew hundreds of participants. More than a few people who came to Cascadia Summer expressed that they would have never felt comfortable participating if

they hadn't heard about the changes afoot.

Such changes are slow and certainly not without controversy, but a seed has sprouted. Hints of movements within a movement so long renowned for white male dominance are clearly in the air.

THIS VISION IS NOT ONLY OF AN END TO THE ENSLAVEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT BY CORPORATE INTERESTS BUT ALSO AN END TO OPPRESSION IN ALL OF ITS FORMS.

As Cascadia Summer drew to a close, organizers brainstormed a way of continuing the alliance forged by the participating groups. As a result, a new support office has opened in Portland, Oregon. The office of the "Cascadia Rising" alliance hopes to bring new levels of attention to Cascadia's ecodefense movement, promote regional solidarity, help with fundraising and trainings and encourage a holistic vision. This vision is not only of an end to the enslavement of the environment by corporate interests but also an end to oppression in all of its forms.

Current Cascadia Rising projects include:

- Establishing a regional website that contains the most current information available about Cascadia's ecological resistance and hosts a variety of resources on anti-oppression work within the environmental movement.

- Maintaining a reliable phone and email contact for folks from outside the area who are considering coming to Cascadia to lend a hand and want more information on what's happening.

- Reaching out to alternative media and developing a regionally solidified corporate media strategy.

- Distributing materials, such as orientation packets and climb training guides, to groups throughout the area. Many of the resources that Cascadia Rising is developing will be of use to activists everywhere.

For more information, contact Cascadia Rising, POB 12583, Portland, OR 97212; (503) 493-7495; action@cascadiarising.org; www.cascadiarising.org.

Botrychium lives in Cascadia and plans to never leave, but sure wishes Tucson was a little closer.



Photo courtesy: Mazama Forest Defense

LOGGING BIG TREES CAUSES BIG FIRES!

On October 17, three men, supported by a dozen volunteers, locked their bodies to a slash pile in the middle of a logging road and briefly halted logging at the Bear Pen Timber Sale in southern Oregon's Medford Bureau of Land Management (BLM) district. Bear Pen is one of a series of old-growth timber sales north of the Rogue River.

The three were arrested, charged with interfering with an agricultural operation and released.

"We locked down because it has come to the point where legal and conventional means have played out," said D Disney. "People are concerned about the environment, but policymakers aren't listening to the people. It's time for us to take it to the next step."

The action was organized by Mazama Forest Defense and the National Forest Protection Alliance.

The Bear Pen Timber Sale is an example of how by the BLM is converting old-growth forests into fiber plantations for the timber industry. The BLM intends to log more than 200 acres of forests that serve as critical habitat for the northern spotted owl. Logging at Bear Pen will also have a massive impact on adjacent roadless and pristine areas.

Autumn in Miami

FTAA Protests Seek to Bring This Rotten System Down

BY JOHN JOHNSON

In November, activists from all over came to Miami, Florida, to protest the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). The FTAA is another corporate power grab. Like its evil father, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), it will give businesses and investors the power to destroy culture and nature. Hordes of activists from the mountains ventured down to the flatlands, swamps and beaches of Florida to participate in the mobilization.

Southern Appalachia offered up some of its finest to fight corporate free trade. From mainstream campaigners to street medics and Earth First!ers, from anarchists to permaculturalists and union members, the spectrum of the global justice movement from Katúah was represented in Miami.

Some of the union folks were there because, under NAFTA, they have seen their jobs in electronics and textiles disappear from the small towns and cities that dot southern Appalachia. A lot of us were there because we live with the daily destruction of life-giving forests, which are being savaged to feed the appetite of the global pulp and paper industry.

People in southern Appalachia know what it is like to be exploited; we have seen the backcountry that sustains us vandalized for the economic benefit of outsiders. Forests, coal, ginseng, fur-bearing mammals and cheap labor all have been extracted from the region ever since "whitey" set foot in these hills.

As a result of our experience, we stand in solidarity with the exploited cultures and ecosystems of Latin America and the rest of the world. When we fight globalization, we are fighting a struggle that has been taking place for hundreds of years.

In addition to suffering caused by the direct effects of globalization, southern Appalachia has long suffered from the cultural homogenization that globalization brings. McWorld, Inc. is in full effect as Mal-Warts spring up everywhere and forests and wetlands fall to generic subdivisions, sprawl and second homes for the local elites.

In Miami, we marched, attended workshops, spoke to the media, said screw the media, tried some direct action and networked with new friends and old. We went to the beach, rocked out to music, drank beer, got shot, got gassed, got hit with sticks and shields, fought back and generally had a helluva time helping to create a lively oppositional movement and culture that in time—with its diversity as its strength—will bring down this rotten corrupt system that is exploiting Katúah and the world.

John Johnson is an activist with Katúah Earth First!.

Legal support in the aftermath of the FTAA protests

Miami Activist Defense

Miami Activist Defense (MAD) is composed of activists, law students, legal workers, attorneys and law collective members from around the country.

MAD is committed to providing legal support to the more than 280 activists arrested during the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) protests in Miami in November, including the 26 people facing felony charges.

Police used excessive force against nonviolent FTAA protesters and bystanders, and dozens of injuries were sustained from the vast array of "less-lethal" weapons—including batons, tear gas, pepper spray, plastic and rubber bullets, concussion grenades, tasers and electric shields. While the police actions are being touted by Miami Mayor Manuel Diaz as a "model for homeland defense," MAD has documented at least 10 beatings of arrestees, seven people held at gunpoint and reports of physical and sexual assault against activists while in custody.

Many people are expected to file civil lawsuits. In addition to personal injury lawsuits stemming from widespread police brutality, class action or

group lawsuits may be filed based on the denial of free speech and the violation of laws concerning search and seizure and due process.

MAD is coordinating discussions between defendants and is supporting people through arraignments, pre-trial hearings and trial, as well as facilitating defendant group meetings in order to work on court strategies.

Please send any evidence of police or city misconduct to MAD, c/o Southern Legal Counsel, 1229 NW 12th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601.

In order to support people going through the court process, MAD needs money. Make checks out to National Lawyers Guild, Gainesville (write Miami Activist Defense in the memo line) and send to MAD, c/o National Lawyers Guild, Gainesville, POB 2063, Gainesville, FL 32602.

For more information, contact MAD, (305) 400-6445; legal@stopftaa.org; www.stopftaa.org/legal.



Police clashed with protesters on the streets of Miami

Photo by Orin Langelle/Global Justice Ecology Project

CAFTA-SHAF-TA-
BA-NAN-A-FAN-A...
JUST LIKE NAFTA!

BY SPRIG

The final round of negotiations for the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) were held in December at the Mayflower hotel in Washington, DC. The Bush administration, stymied in efforts to create a hemisphere-wide free trade zone, succeeded in taking a smaller bite of the global, free trade pie with an agreement on CAFTA.

Despite Costa Rica, which bowed out of the negotiations because it objected to certain US demands, US trade negotiators were able to finalize an agreement with Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua on December 18. These four nations have simultaneously committed themselves to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) by agreeing to CAFTA.

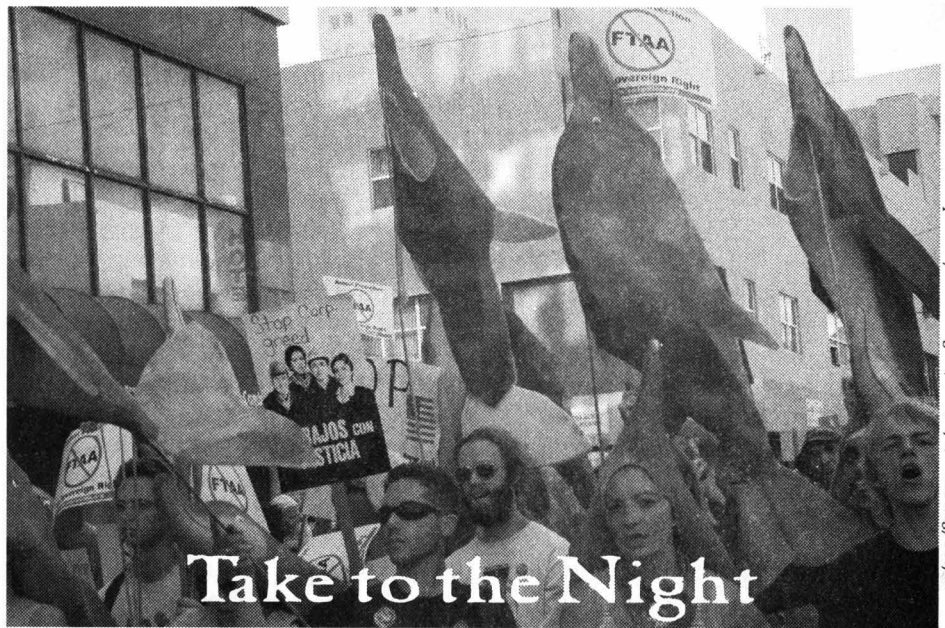
As was true with the North American Free Trade Agreement, CAFTA was drafted in secrecy and rushed through a year of negotiations. There was no formal public input or oversight, nor was a draft text made available to the public.

"CAFTA would extend to Central America the same gross violations of human, environmental and labor rights resulting from NAFTA, as FTAA would to all of South America. These so-called 'free trade' treaties constitute a hemispheric race to the bottom, with corporate lobbyists writing the rules and civil society completely cut out," said Rachael Moshman. Moshman was expelled, along with four other Mobilization for Global Justice activists, from a CAFTA press conference on December 11.

El Salvador's Minister of Economics, Miguel Lacayo, was forced to postpone his remarks until the activists were removed.

The present agreement will likely meet stiff opposition in Congress during the election year. Yet, CAFTA could become official as early as this Spring.

For more information, visit www.stopcafta.org.



Take to the Night

BY KAREN ELLIOT, JR.

If the Miami protests in November were a tactical defeat for the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) opponents, they were not a total defeat. If one of our goals was to shut down the city, the cops did that for us—even though this probably hurt small business owners more than the big banks. Clearly, the system sees our movement as a force to be reckoned with. The system acknowledges our power when it fills the local media with lies and uses brute force to suppress dissent.

What are the implications of Miami for the future? The direct action and anarchist wings of the North American radical social and ecological movements have lost the element of surprise at these huge events. There's nothing radical or militant about being constantly coerced, corralled, attacked and contained by the armed sadists who serve to protect the rich and squash rebellion.

Rather than abandon mass protests at globalization summits and political conventions, we need to rethink our strategies and tactics. How can we remain vitally public with our opposition while avoiding unnecessary arrests, injuries and drains on our resources?

People with more militant perspectives and desires need new outlets. We might consider becoming more autonomous in order to carry out affinity group actions and nocturnal subversions where people won't get caught.

During the day, is there any harm in joining and marching with mainstream groups in permitted events? Perhaps it's

time to use old-school soap boxing, leafleting and street preaching to spread radical propaganda and ideas. Let's continue to use convergences to focus on skillsharing and creating a new, sustainable world in the shell of the old. Let's illustrate our alternatives to global capitalism, patriarchy and the supremacy of the market by promoting permaculture, potlatches, bioregionalism and mutual aid through festive celebrations of culture, diversity and resistance.

Of course, neither tyrannical governments nor exploitative economic systems will fall by themselves. The most committed and heroic gestures will always have their place in our revolutionary milieu. When we have the numbers and the strategic need to fight the cops, let's be well-coordinated, ready to subvert the security apparatus and win. In the meantime, let's continue to build trust and solidarity in our movement. Ours will be a long revolutionary struggle—not simply a convergence-hopping fetish for weekend warriors. We need to drop more-radical-than-thou pretensions and to find natural affinities across superficial social, ideological and generational divides.

Our goal is to challenge and subvert a complex and well-organized system. We can work with all forms of resisters by day and carefully take actions with our tightest crews at night. With reflection and humility, we can develop new tactics to take on the empire.

Their fear of our movement is a fear of a future where the Earth will be respected and shared by all, and all the world's inhabitants will live free.

Migration of the Monarch Butterfly

BY BIKES ACROSS BORDERS

Guelaguetza is a word used in Oaxaca, Mexico, to signify a time and place for people to come together to exchange ideas, traditions, politics, culture, dance, music and art. This concept became our guiding force during the Bikes Across Borders monarch butterfly tour, where we decided to participate in a sort of international *guelaguetza*.

Bikes Across Borders works across political borders to build solidarity and foster partnerships between grassroots environmental and social justice organizations. These goals are accomplished by recycling bicycles for community-run bicycle cooperatives in Mexico and Cuba, conducting popular education tours in the US and exposing the devastating environmental degradation and neglect of human rights that has resulted from international trade agreements. By delivering more than 500 bicycles, tools and spare bike parts to community groups, Bikes Across Borders has assisted in the creation of locally run bike cooperatives and in providing autonomous transportation.

In late August, collective members departed from Austin, Texas, bound for the mobilizations against the World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial summit in Cancún, Mexico. When our van rolled up to the border between the US and Mexico, loaded down with bikes, tools, political propaganda, art and puppets, we had no idea what to expect from the Mexican authorities.

Activists who were flying to Cancún had forewarned us that we would never make it driving. But we soon bore witness to the double standard of immigration policies and our privilege as US citizens when we were waved through every checkpoint without incident. Because puppeteers have been targeted at actions in the US, we took precautions to craftily disguise our new puppet show, *La Migración de Las Monarcas*, amidst our supplies. In our show, the monarch butterfly becomes a metaphor for immigration, exposing the realities of genetically engineered food, habitat destruction, free trade and border militarization.

Our puppet show was inspired by the life cycle of monarch butterflies—who make an annual migration from their Winter homes in central and western Mexico, traveling as far north as Canada to lay their eggs before returning south. Their route is comparable to modern day routes of free trade under international agreements, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Monarchs have traced this migration pattern for hundreds of years, yet now their survival, along with that of many other species, is under threat from a variety of social, environmental and political pressures. Among the obstacles to the monarch's survival are global warming, excessive timber harvesting, industrial agriculture and the myriad environmental impacts of globalization.

Through imagery and puppetry, we were able to effectively illustrate complex situations with people who contend with these issues on a daily basis.

Transcending Borders



photo courtesy Bikes Across Borders

Cancún and the Politics of Art and Puppetry

Along with thousands of activists, *Las Monarcas* arrived in Cancún for the week-long protests against the WTO. In the midst of massive demonstrations and organizing, art played a significant role inspiring conversations about issues related to the WTO and corporate globalization.

A powerful theater piece performed by a group of women from Mexico City

elevated attention to the relationship between global economics and the hundreds of tortured and murdered women who worked in sweatshops along the US/Mexico border. Giant banners from the Beehive Collective and the Cycle Circus, which illustrated subjects such as Plan Colombia, the Free Trade Area of the Americas and the environmental impacts of global petroleum transport, were laid out in parks, streets, beaches and plazas throughout the city. Giant puppets resembling Mayan gods rose from among the demonstrators. Chac, the Mayan god of

rain and water, towered above the crowds and prompted discussions about water privatization.

Graffiti artists from Mexico City collaborated to lend life to the walls all around us, and soon there were elaborate murals saturating what once was bleak concrete. Live music from the Infernal Noise Brigade, Mexican brass bands and Argentinean-style pot and pan banging provided the soundtrack for 10,000 people to march against the WTO and bring down the secured fences.

Las Monarcas was performed at local parks, in the streets and at the beaches, while others read their poetry on public buses and informed people about the realities of the WTO and global trade networks. One of the most important roles that creative educational tools, such as *Las Monarcas*, played in Cancún was to extend dialogue to the local community. Too often, large mobilizations inadequately address outreach. Creative cultural work can act as a successful bridge, and in this case, it offered a way to communicate the motivations of the groups and individuals that had coalesced in Cancún.

Las Monarcas Migrates through Mexico

The Bikes Across Borders tour gave us numerous opportunities to present our show, as well as to learn and teach during workshops about popular education, puppetry and political art. We shared mask-making and street theater

through Puppetry and Bicycles

techniques with a group of almost 30 teachers in Oaxaca City. They created stories and put together short puppet shows about issues varying from the death of a woman trying to cross the US/Mexico border to scenes from Day of the Dead celebrations and discussions of Plan Puebla Panama.

After performing *La Migración de Las Monarcas* in a plaza in Palenque, Chiapas, a member of the audience invited us to perform the show in his community. We accepted his invitation, and the following day, we were taken to one of the Zapatista regional gathering areas high in the mountains. After we checked in with the center of "buen gobierno" (good government), we were invited to perform our show on the basketball court for a group of teachers and for the local elementary school. The students enthusiastically explored the puppets. They interviewed us about the happenings of the tour, as well as our politics regarding biotechnology and NAFTA.



photo courtesy Bikes Across Borders

Since the Zapatistas first became public in 1994 on the eve of the signing of NAFTA, they have played a central role in bringing attention to indigenous movements and have inspired global resistance to both neoliberal policies and the reign of global capitalism. During Summer 2003, the Zapatistas changed the name of the five *Aguas Calientes* (hot water) regional gathering areas to *Caracoles* (conch shells). When we asked what this change meant, they explained how conch shells are used not only to listen to the infinite but also to put out a call to the world. They told us that the *Caracoles* are centers where the Zapatistas intersect with civil society.

We found that the bicycles and parts that Bikes Across Borders had sent with the Bikes for Chiapas caravan during the Summer had arrived at two of the *Caracoles*, and plans for a community bike shop were underway.

Guelaguetza

One of the main goals in presenting the *Las Monarcas* show in Mexico was to initiate a cultural exchange in which we would learn from Mexican communities and in return give voice to their struggles through our cultural work and storytelling in the US.

Valuable discussions were sparked after the performances and during the meetings in Cancún where people shared concerns over threats to rural livelihoods and

agriculture. The destruction of heirloom varieties of corn and other crops via cross-pollination with genetically engineered crops was a constant topic of concern expressed by the people. Mexico is the birthplace of corn, a staple of Central American diets. Astonishingly, one third of the corn now sold in Mexico is imported from large agribusiness farms in the US.

One of the most overwhelming realizations we acquired from conversations after performances and during meetings was how tangibly NAFTA, biotechnology and Plan Puebla Panama influence the daily lives of people in the regions we visited.

After our experiences collaborating with various groups in Mexico, the importance of future projects to inspire dialogue and action across borders is evident to us. Our sense of responsibility as US activists to educate our communities about the effects of the US government's actions and of future trade negotiations is also stronger.

For more information, contact Bikes Across Borders, cyclecircus@riseup.net. Or visit www.cyclecircus.org, www.rhizomecollective.org, www.beehivecollective.org.

Prisoners in the Struggle: Support Them!

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 the authorities read everything you write to a prisoner. The following list is a small sample of the total number of political prisoners worldwide. The EF! Journal offers discounted subscriptions for prisoners. Please contact us for more information.

Prisoner Support Actions

•On September 20, a protest in solidarity with political prisoners Sherman Austin, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Matthew Lamont and Jeffrey "Free" Luers was held in front of the US Consulate in Melbourne, Australia. Activists wanted to send a clear message that all political prisoners have support around the world. The Australian protesters say that they are not going to stand by and watch fellow activists be unjustly imprisoned.

•Twenty-nine activists were arrested during protests against the European Union Summit in Thessaloniki, Greece, in June. Most of the protesters were released, yet seven were held on charges of rioting, possession of explosives and resisting authorities. While in custody, five of the activists went on hunger strike for between 49 and 66 days each. After increasing pressure from international support groups, as well as solidarity actions worldwide, the "Thessaloniki 7" were released on November 26. They are awaiting trial.

Animal Liberation

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

•Benjamin Persky, #03R3916, Lakeview Shock Correctional Facility, POB T, Brocton, NY 14716-0679, USA. Serving up to six years for property destruction at the homes of multiple Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) affiliates. Please only send letters and photos.

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

Ecodefense

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

•Marco Camenish, Hörnlistrasse 55, 8330 Pfäffikon/ZH, Switzerland. Serving 10 years for using explosives to target nuclear facility powerlines. He reads French, German, Spanish and Italian.

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

•Betty Krawczyk, CS#037-939-24, Burnaby Correctional Centre for Women, 7900 Fraser Park Dr, Burnaby, BC V5J 5H1, Canada. Serving 10 months for participation in a logging blockade on Vancouver Island, Canada.

•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, SRCI, 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.

•Helen Woodson, #03231-045, FMC Carswell, POB 27137, Fort Worth, TX 76127, USA. Serving 27 years for disarming a Minuteman II missile silo with a jackhammer, mailing warning letters to officials with bullets inside, robbing a bank and burning the money. Woodson is expected to be released in March.

Indigenous Resistance

•Byron "Oso Blanco" Chubbuck, #07909-051, 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.

•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.

MOVE

The "MOVE 9," members of an eco-revolutionary group, were framed for the murder of a cop and sentenced to 30 to 100 years each. Although many of the MOVE prisoners are listed together, they must be written to separately.

•Debbie Simms Africa, #006307, Janet Holloway Africa, #006308 and Janine Philips Africa, #006309, SCI Cambridge Springs, 451 Fullerton Ave, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-1238, USA.

•Michael Davis Africa, #AM4973 and Charles Simms Africa, #AM4975, SCI Grateford, POB 244, Grateford, PA 19426-0244, USA.

Prisoner Support Groups

•Anarchist Black Cross Network, www.anarchistblackcross.org.

•Anarchist Prisoner Legal Aid Network, 818 SW Third Ave, PMB 354, Portland, OR 97204.

•Books Through Bars, 4722 Baltimore Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19143; www.booksthroughbars.org.

•Break the Chains Prisoner Support

Group, POB 12122, Eugene, OR 97440; www.breakthechains.net.

•Critical Resistance, 1904 Franklin St, Ste 504, Oakland, CA 94612; www.criticalresistance.org.

•Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk.

•Free's Defense Network, POB 3, Eugene, OR 97440.

•Friends of Free, www.freefreenow.org.

•North American Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group, POB 69597, 5845 Yonge St, Willowdale, Ontario M2M 4K3, Canada.

•Prison Activist Resource Center, POB 339, Berkeley, CA 94701; www.prisonactivist.org.

•Prison Moratorium Project, 388 Atlantic Ave, 3rd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11217; www.nomoreprisons.org.

•Edward Goodman Africa, #AM4974, SCIMahanoy, 301 Morea Rd, Frackville, PA 17931, USA.

•William Philips Africa, #AM4984 and Delbert Orr Africa, #AM4985, SCI Dallas, Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612, USA.

•Mumia Abu-Jamal, #AM8335, SCI Greene, 175 Progress Dr, Waynesburg, PA 15370, USA. Abu-Jamal, a politically active journalist, was framed for the murder of a cop in 1981.

Political Prisoners

•Sherman Austin, #51565-054, FCI Tucson, 8901 S Wilmot Rd, Tucson, AZ 85706, USA. Serving one year for maintaining a website that contained links to information on how to make explosives.

•Thomas "JJ" Hicks, McDowell County Jail, 593 Spaulding Rd, Marion, NC 28752, USA. Currently facing marijuana and weapons charges. The FBI has tried to link Hicks, a longtime Earth First!er, to various Earth Liberation Front actions.

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

•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.

Vieques

Demonstrators celebrated the end of US military maneuvers on the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, in May 2003. Actions taken during a victory celebration led to the arrest and conviction of several activists, who were charged with conspiracy to destroy federal property. Although they share the same address, they must be written to separately: MDC Guaynabo, POB 2147, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00922-2147.

•José Vélez Acosta, #23883-069. Serving two years and nine months.

•Heriberto Hernández Carmona, #22304-069. Serving four months.

•José Pérez González, #21519-069. Serving five years.

•Néstor de Jesús Guishard, #21716-069. Serving one year and two months.

Manufacturing Dissent

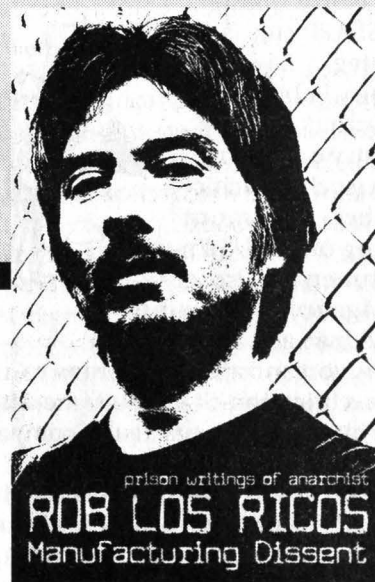
The Prison Writings of Anarchist Rob Los Ricos

"Until the world, in part or entirely, has been freed from the yoke of capitalism and all other forms of privilege and authority, more people will revolt and with increasing urgency."

—ROB LOS RICOS

Arrested by police during a 1999 Reclaim the Streets demonstration, Rob "Los Ricos" Thaxton was accused of throwing a rock at a cop. As a Latino anarchist, Thaxton was made into an example of what can happen to those who dare to rebel, and he was given a nearly eight-year prison sentence.

Published this Fall, *Manufacturing Dissent: The Prison Writings of Rob Los Ricos* is available for five dollars from the Anarchist Prisoner Legal Aid Network, 818 SW Third Ave, PMB 354, Portland, OR 97204.



Rob Thaxton loves beer. And the woods. And people, especially his daughter. Rob hates this "civilization" that we are crushed by everyday. He hates hypocrisy, greed and white-supremacist imperialism. And he hates to struggle. Which makes him a normal human being. What makes Rob amazing is the fact that he has spent the last three years in a prison cell, and will spend five more there, because of his commitment to create a better world.

Rob is an incredible political thinker who is able to link together 3,000 years of history to show why owning a credit card makes you a slave. Moreover, using the principles of anarchy, he is able to point out how the current incarnation of anarchism is eurocentric and white-centered. That creates space for black and brown peoples to reclaim the anarchism that indigenous folks have been practicing since before the advent of "civilization."

With every letter or article he writes, he challenges me to re-evaluate and relearn. Rob has made me realize, ultimately, that the only things worth fighting for are the simple things: laughter, life, trees, a home-cooked meal, a good homebrew, children playing, friendship. The rest of the things we worry about are smokescreens designed to confuse the real issues.

During the three years that I have known Rob, he has become much more than a political prisoner to me, more than an inspiration and a mentor. Rob reminds me that he and other political prisoners are not martyrs or symbols. He's a real person who hates struggle and war but loves life enough to engage in that struggle.

—WALIDAH IMARISHA

Ask an EF! Lawyer

He's Working on *Your* Side!

BY STU SUGARMAN

Dear EF! Lawyer,

What is a SLAPP suit? Are these really legal? How would being named in a SLAPP suit effect my activism?

Thanks for your help,

—NORTH COAST EF!ER

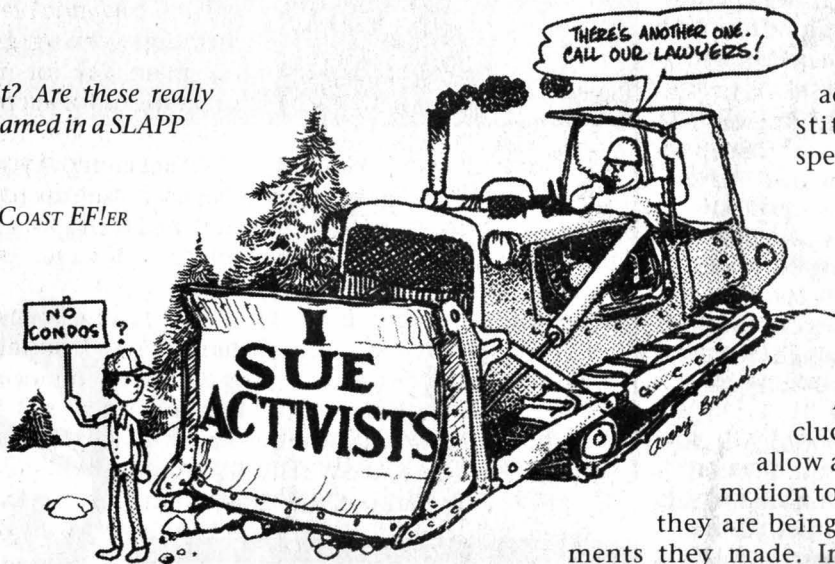
Dear North Coaster,

A SLAPP suit is a "Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation" filed by industry or government (such as Pacific Lumber, Newmont Mining or the US Environmental Protection Agency, EPA) against individual activists or small activist organizations in order to tie the activists up in endless litigation. SLAPP suits are designed to keep activists from attacking the particular company, as well as to keep them from their activist work.

The courts do punish people for filing frivolous lawsuits, yet SLAPP plaintiffs risk only monetary losses, not criminal sanctions. In civil cases, courts require that the person bringing the lawsuit be able to prove that the person being sued did something wrong. SLAPP suit plaintiffs often fail to do this, so the courts tend to throw SLAPP suits into the circular file where they belong. One study of 228 SLAPP suits found that only 23 percent of the cases won in court, though most people believe that the true percentage is even lower.

In 1994, Newmont Mining sued activist Larry Tuttle and a ballot initiative's two other chief petitioners for trying to prevent gold mining from getting a foothold in Oregon. In 2000, treesitters on the Oregon coast were threatened with lawsuits for "stealing" trees from loggers. In 1997, the EPA threatened a SLAPP suit against Monsanto opponents, the Times Beach Action Group (TBAG), in Missouri unless they turned over all of their records to the EPA. Newmont's lawsuit failed, the loggers never acted on their threats and TBAG knew even then that the law the EPA tried to use against them could only be used against polluters and their ilk.

SLAPP suits generally allege that an activist is guilty of libel or slander, interference with business relations, violating the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act or even conspiring against an industry's property rights under 42 USC 1983, a civil rights statute.



The reasons these lawsuits fail so often is that they are aimed against activists engaged in constitutionally protected speech or conduct.

Twenty-one states, including California, have laws against SLAPP suits, and another 10 states are considering anti-SLAPP legislation.

Anti-SLAPP laws, including those in California, allow activists to file a special motion to convince the court that

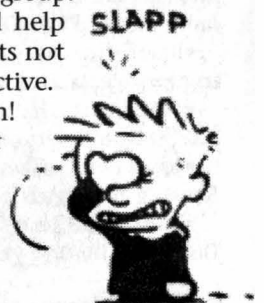
they are being sued because of statements they made. In response, if the evil plaintiff cannot convince the court of the lawsuit's merit, the activist wins and can get thousands in attorney fees and costs from the industry or government. Then the ordeal is over!

Delaware, for example, has a similar law but also allows for punitive damages (a lot of money—hundreds of thousands? millions?) against the plaintiff in a failed SLAPP suit. There is no federal anti-SLAPP suit law, but federal courts have applied state anti-SLAPP laws to increase the penalties that corporations face for filing such lawsuits. See *USA ex rel Newsham v. Lockheed Martin*, 190 F.3d 963 (1999).

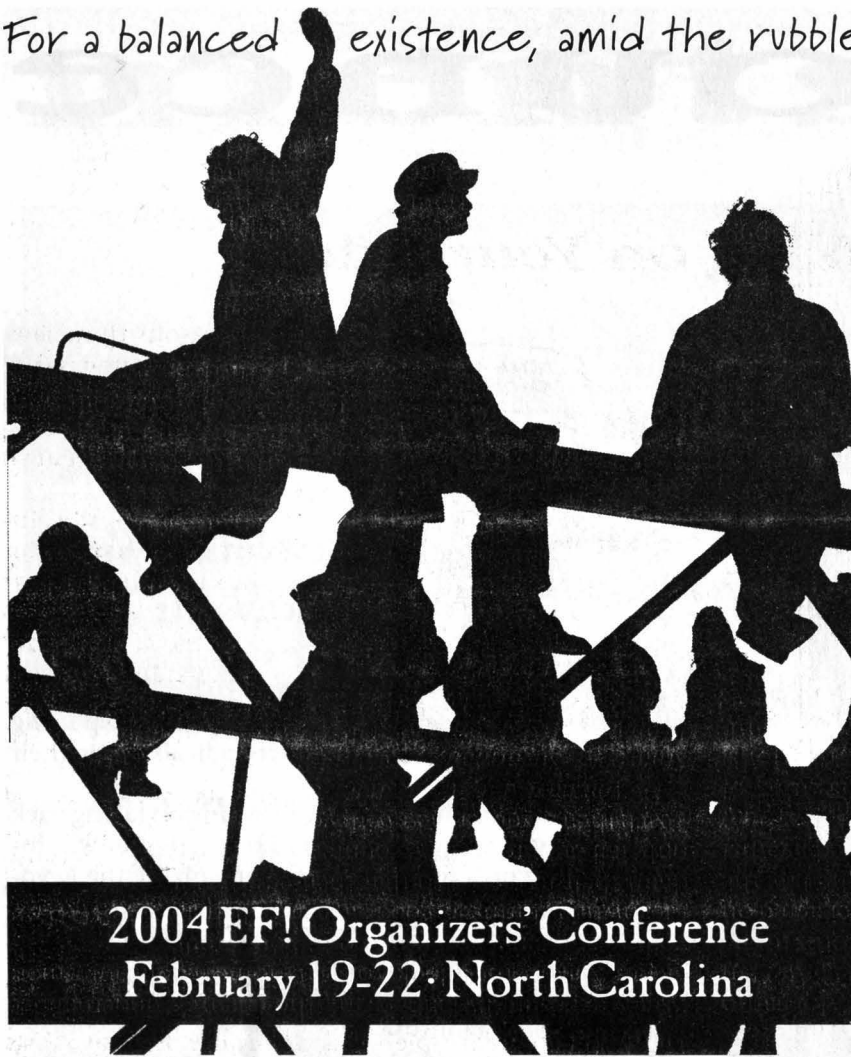
To protect themselves, activists should search the Internet. See www.gatt.org/slapp.html. There, you will find websites of organizations devoted to fighting SLAPP suits, anti-SLAPP statutes and case law nationwide. Since you are in California, a state with an anti-SLAPP law, you can hire a lawyer for free who may be able to recover their entire fee from the plaintiff!

If you are named in a SLAPP suit, you have a choice. You may either let your activism wilt and die, or you can do what TBAG and Larry Tuttle did: use the lawsuit to increase your issue's exposure by publicizing the enemy's underhanded tactics. Making them look worse in the media will bring more volunteer energy and funding to your group. Meanwhile, hiring a good lawyer will help drain their resources so that their efforts not only fail but prove to be counterproductive. Teach them to never mess with you again!

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.



For a balanced existence, amid the rubble of a post-industrial world...



2004 EF! Organizers' Conference February 19-22 · North Carolina

BY KATÚAH EF! ROADKILL FACTION

This year's Earth First! Organizers' Conference (OC) and Winter Rendezvous will take place on the grounds of one of the most impressive examples of an ecologically focused intentional community, with the goal of exposing two crucial movements to each other: the sustainability/communities movement and the radical environmental movement. Although most OCs have been held in warm Winter locales, we here in the southern Appalachians are excited to bring y'all to the mountains, where quiet, snowy hollers, hot chocolate, woodstoves and hopefully some fiddles and banjos will provide a backdrop to some lively discussions.

With several new EF! groups and campaigns popping up around the East, this OC will be an opportunity to breathe new life into the EF! movement. EF!'s original binding principles of no compromise, direct action and biocentrism are as necessary today as they were two decades ago. Yet to maintain the vitality and relevance of EF!, we should take the time to renew our commitments to these principles by engaging in critical analysis and visionary strategizing.

Just as you don't have to be active with an EF! campaign to be an EF!er, you don't have to be active with an EF! campaign to have something to add to the discussions. Since we are a decentralized network rather

than an organization, few decisions, if any, really get made at the OC. It is more a chance for those who are committed to the principles of EF! to exchange ideas, as well as an opportunity to give feedback to the EF! Journal staff.

A dinner and an opening circle will take place on Thursday night. On Friday, there will be an agenda brainstorm and an agenda-forming working group. Saturday will be the main day for meetings. Send us your suggestions for agenda items ahead of time, especially if you won't be present for the opening circle. If you won't be able to make the OC, but you have stuff on your mind that you really want to share, email or mail it ahead of time. Time will be set aside to read it aloud or to copy and pass it out.

During the weekend, there will be a bioregional "roundup," where people can give updates on local issues and campaigns. A facilitated discussion is scheduled to take place among EF!ers and the radical sustainability activists who live at the community to explore ways that our movements can collaborate. A thorough facilitation training will be offered by one of the most experienced community members.

In keeping with EF! tradition, Saturday night will be a "Night to Howl." So bring your instruments, poetry, spoken word, puppet show, interpretive dance, magic tricks or

anything else to entertain. There will quite possibly be some excellent homemade herbal beers and meads for sale.

Sunday will have a more free-form schedule, with space open for workshops, do-it-yourself skillshares, presentations and discussions. A tour of the ecovillage's earthen buildings, hydro/solar energy systems, edible landscapes, graywater projects and composting toilets is being organized.

We're hoping to initiate some kind of physical game, such as capture the flag, on Sunday. In addition, there will be opportunities to hike around the ecovillage's 300 acres, including some Winter tree, shrub and edible plant identification walks. And since we in the mountains are officially the "roadkill faction" of Katúah EF!, we may just have a skinning and butchering demonstration with a meaty feast to share!

The site has a capacity of 50 people, so we ask that folks who would like to attend register with Katúah EF! and that you come only if you are truly interested in participating in the meetings or cooking for the conference. Given the small capacity, communities may want to organize to send bioregional representatives. Some travel scholarships may be available. The ecovillage has generously offered a wood-heated building for our use where we can sleep, cook, eat and meet. Directions and other information will be sent to registered participants.

For more information or to register, contact Katúah EF!, (866) 460-2945; katuah@buncombe.main.nc.us.

announce

National Conference on Organized Resistance January 24-25 · Washington, DC

The seventh annual National Conference on Organized Resistance (NCOR)—a space for radical discourse and collective empowerment—is scheduled to be held this Winter on the campus of American University.

Last year's conference featured nearly 70 workshops, panel discussions and skillshares, tabling space for radical groups and political demonstrations.

Expected to be bigger and better than last year, this year's conference will feature workshops on globalization and animal protection, the apartheid wall in Palestine, gender binary 201, hip hop, media strategies and more.

For more information, contact NCOR, 4410 Massachusetts Ave NW, PMB 282, Washington, DC 20016-5572; www.organizedresistance.org.

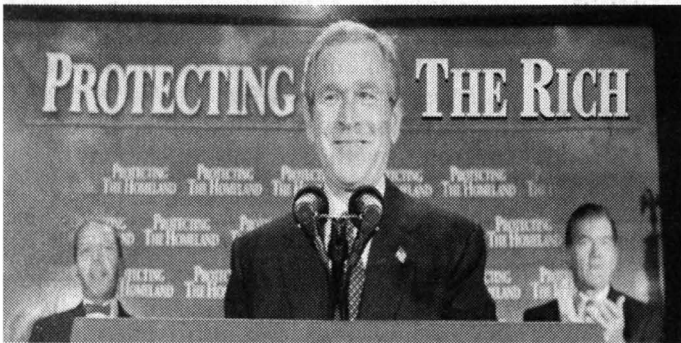


Call to Action for Revolution Winter Central Massachusetts

Every Summer tends to be a "Revolution Summer." Protests, rallies, forest defense and more. This Winter, folks in central Mass have a change of tactics. They are putting out a call to action to all Massachusetts radicals to join their Revolution Winter.

This Winter, anarcho youth are planning on taking back communities in central Massachusetts. Activities will include opening up a squat, as well as organizing the Revolutionary Anarchist Snow Shoveling Brigade to help clear away snow for those unable to do so. They also plan hot chocolate liberation, community get-togethers, movie showings and other fine events that humans enjoy doing during the chilly months.

Are you in the central Mass area? Come on out and help! For more information, contact grimeandcrime@yahoo.com.



COUNTER CONVENTION

Opposing the Republican National Convention in New York City

From August 30-September 4, the republicans are invading New York City to nominate George W. Bush as their candidate for president.

Why host a convention in September? Why New York City? By exploiting our grief and trauma from September 11, 2001, the right wing intends to further its regressive political agenda.

Imagine a million people on the streets, representing the diversity of the US: black radicals, unions, anarchists, church groups, queers, AIDS activists, environmentalists, global justice activists, those united for peace and justice, veterans and anyone else who is maligned by Bush's malicious agenda. Imagine an overwhelming, festive and poignant showing on the street with the entire world bearing witness.

By starting the dialogue between organizing groups early, demonstrations will be exponentially more effective.

For more information, visit www.counterconvention.org; www.rncnotwelcome.org.

Against Patriarchy Conference May 7-9 · Eugene, Oregon

The Against Patriarchy Conference strives to be a part of a movement toward the elimination of male privilege, domination and sexism by creating dialogue, educating ourselves and inspiring action.

What is patriarchy and how is it interlocked with white supremacy, colonialism, heterocentrism, classism, capitalism, speciesism and other forms of hierarchy? What are the practices and results of male domination? What does it mean to be a woman, man or genderqueer person in a patriarchal culture? If we could redefine these roles, what kind of folks would we like to be?

Through workshops, presentations, dialogue and performance, the conference will broach these questions with intellect and emotion, furthering an understanding of the complexity of oppression.

There will also be an amazing lineup of musicians, spoken word artists and performers. Housing, food and childcare will be provided. The conference is free and open to everyone.

For more information, contact Against Patriarchy, info@againstpatriarchy.org.

Environmental Justice Conference January 23-25 · Eugene, Oregon

The Coalition Against Environmental Racism will host its ninth annual Environmental Justice Conference at the University of Oregon in January.

Rising from the grassroots, the environmental justice movement demands an end to the disproportionate placement of environmental hazards—including polluting industries, resource exploitation and waste disposal—in communities that are predominantly low income and comprised of people of color.

The free conference will include speakers, panels and workshops covering such topics as the roots of the environmental justice movement, building cross-cultural trust and how to hold polluters accountable.

For more information, contact the Coalition Against Environmental Racism, (541) 346-2402; gladstone.uoregon.edu/~caer.

Robert "Naya" Bryan had been defending Ramsey Gulch, near Santa Cruz, California, when he was "found" injured at the base of a tree in October 2002 (see *EF!* March-April 2003). A year after Naya died from injuries sustained as a result of falling from the Ramsey Gulch treesit, 50 Santa Cruz Earth First! activists and friends gathered to remember him as a courageous and artistic forest defender.

The remembrance ceremony for Naya was upbeat as Santa Cruz EF! ended this year of mourning and renewed its commitment to defend the forests of the Monterey Bay biosphere.

During the past year, Redwood Empire timber company not only logged the tree Naya defended, which was located within the 200 acres of the Ramsey II Timber Harvest Plan (THP), but it also cut some trees that had been previously protected by Santa Cruz EF! in the Ramsey Gulch I THP. Using a secretive "amendment" procedure, the California Department of Forestry "reopened" the older THP, and the cut trees were yarded almost 2,000 feet across a high-line cable above Ramsey Gulch.

Santa Cruz EF! plans to build a new campaign when logging season opens this Spring to challenge a newly filed Ramsey Gulch III THP and is calling for others to join in protecting the southern end of this coastal redwood ecosystem.

For more information, contact Santa Cruz EF!, cruzef@cruzio.com.



13th Annual Headwaters Forest Conference January 29-February 1 · Ashland, Oregon Mobilizing the Grassroots in 2004



The Headwaters Forest Conference is an exciting gathering for people who care about forests and want to help protect them. People from across the West Coast attend the annual conference to work together toward ensuring healthy forests and clean water. The conference provides an opportunity to learn more about emerging issues, to share ideas about protecting forests and how to protect the areas we all love.

In this time of continued attacks on environmental protections, the theme of this year's conference is more important than ever: "Mobilizing the Grassroots in 2004."

Keynote speakers will include Gloria Flora, a former US Forest Service employee and whistleblower against agency mismanagement in Nevada, and Derrick Jensen, author of *A Language Older than Words*.

Workshops and plenary session topics will include working in non-traditional alliances, forest litigation, labor-environment connection, outreach and using economics on behalf of the environment. The weekend will also feature hikes to areas that have been damaged or threatened by the Healthy Forest Initiative, including the Biscuit Fire area, as well as a direct action and a dance.

Registration is required. Scholarships and work trade may be available. For more information, contact the Headwaters Environmental Center, (541) 482-4459; www.headwaters.org.

Black Mesa Support Needed

Black Mesa Indigenous Support works to uphold the sovereignty of indigenous people facing forced relocation, environmental devastation and cultural extinction at the hands of corporations and US and tribal governments.

This Winter, elders and families in Black Mesa, Arizona are putting a call out inviting people to stay with them and herd sheep, chop firewood, act as human rights observers and help with various work projects.

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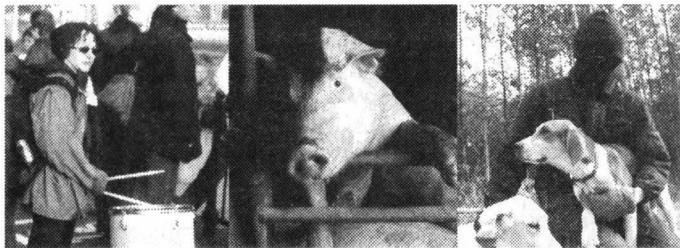
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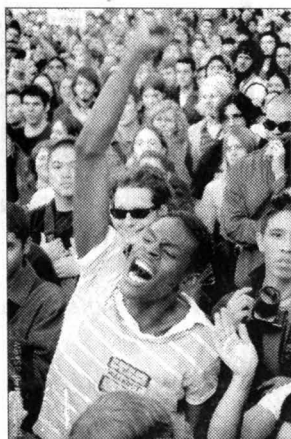
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BY COUGAR

Once upon a time, there was a person named Cougar. Cougar was tired of trees being cut down and soil being destroyed for the construction of new and bigger roads, tired of getting asthmatic from the smog while biking around town, Summers getting hotter, weather getting more unpredictable and extreme, ice caps melting, species dying, oil slicks spreading, oil wars getting more and more common. And Cougar was tired, oh so tired, of yuppies driving their SUVs like tanks down the roads of Cougar's town.

No one seemed to care enough to do anything about it all, so Cougar's only friend was the night. Like most Americans (perhaps including you, oh patient reader), Cougar lived near some railroad tracks. One night, with the moon shining above and the gravel crunching under foot, Cougar went to the train yard and found what Cougar was looking for. Amidst all the moping train cars, a few stood out. They were easily identifiable to Cougar or anyone else interested in looking. A good four feet taller than the other cars, these special cars were perforated with holes and slots as though the beasts inside needed fresh air. Through these holes, Cougar peered and saw Cougar's prey chained and asleep. The train car held eight automobiles—four on the top level, four on the bottom. Several of those on the bottom row were SUVs.

Cougar had not brought a slingshot tonight. Cougar wanted to do more than shoot out the windshields of the SUVs through the open slots in the train car (an easy and practically risk-free endeavor!). Cougar wanted to get inside.

The end of the train car had a massive double door that rolled outward. The door was locked with a heavy iron pin. Cougar did not have whatever device unscrewed one bulbous head of the pin, which would allow it to slide out and enable the opening of the doors. Cougar did have bolt cutters, but the bolt would not be cut! So Cougar wedged one handle of the bolt cutters against the wagon hitch and pulled back on the other handle like an oar, using every muscle in Cougar's body. Finally, the bolt snapped with a clang, and Cougar stood upright to open the train-car door. But still it was stuck!

The clever owners of the freight company, wanting very much to protect the sleeping automobiles inside, had included a second lock. On the inside of the door, a thick bolt rested in a deep well and could only be lifted by a long lever arm that was also hidden on the inside of the locked door. The lever arm was

meant to be lifted by some sort of key. Cougar had nothing that was the right size or shape to find purchase in the keyhole and give the necessary leverage. But Cougar was an inventive little elf! Cougar slipped Cougar's belt through the gap under the door, was able to loop it around the lever arm and, pulling both ends, lift the bolt with ease. Cougar swung the door open, hopped inside and swung the door closed behind.

No words could describe Cougar's immense joy at being able to meet a select group of SUVs, unlocked, face to face, away from the prying eyes of passersby and closed circuit security cameras! Cougar had a good hour to scratch paint, slash tires, (quietly!) smash windows, rip up the vehicles' interiors, smash in the radios, pry loose the dashboards and pull out the wires behind them, break off mirrors, kick out the glove compartments, open the hoods and play

Mad Mechanic! Oh, what indescribably infinite fun!

At the end of it all, Cougar closed up the train car and replaced the pin, hoping Cougar's trespass would not be noticed until much later and many miles away. Then, Cougar fled into the night and crept homeward, falling asleep with a great grin of joy spreading across Cougar's leonine face.

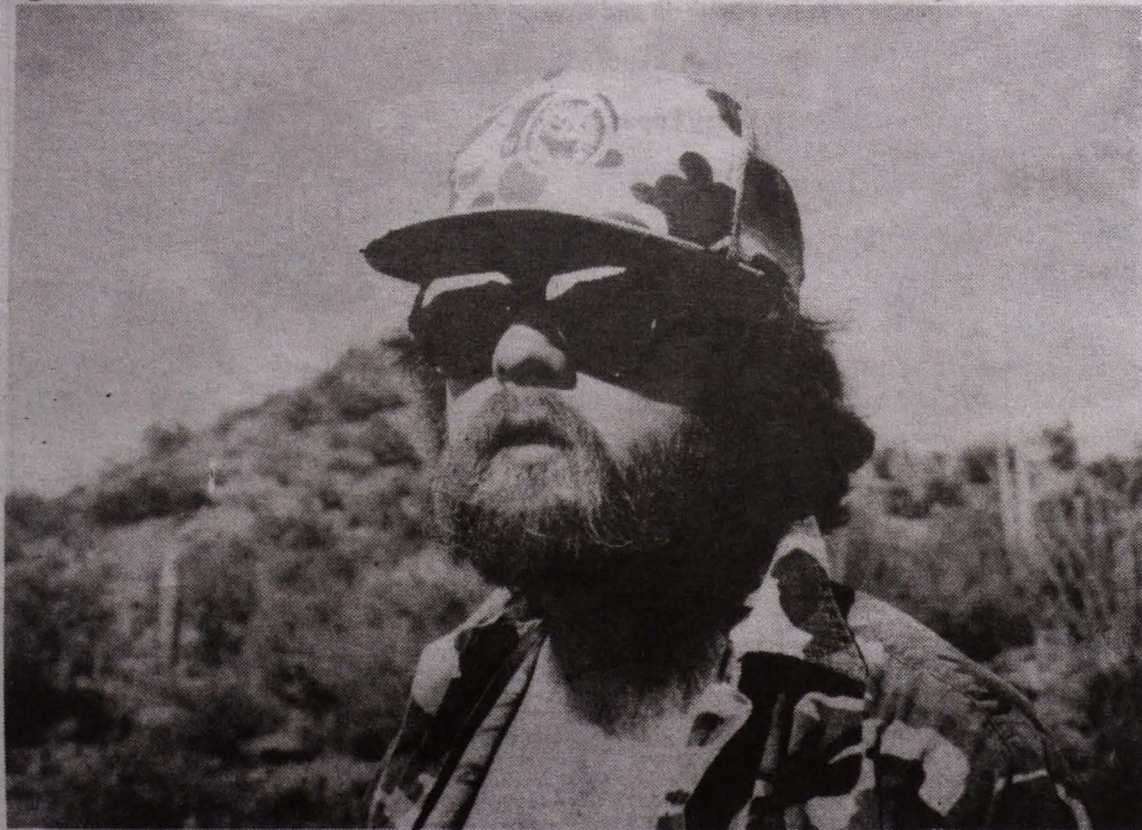
In the sluggish stillness just before dawn, Cougar was visited by dreams that Cougar was not alone, that others were prowling the night and consuming with fire or wrench the plastic and steel beasts that were breaking the circle. And all

across the world, inanimate commodities trembled, and the buds on the trees waited to burst forth in the coming light of morning.



artwork by Maura Peepaul

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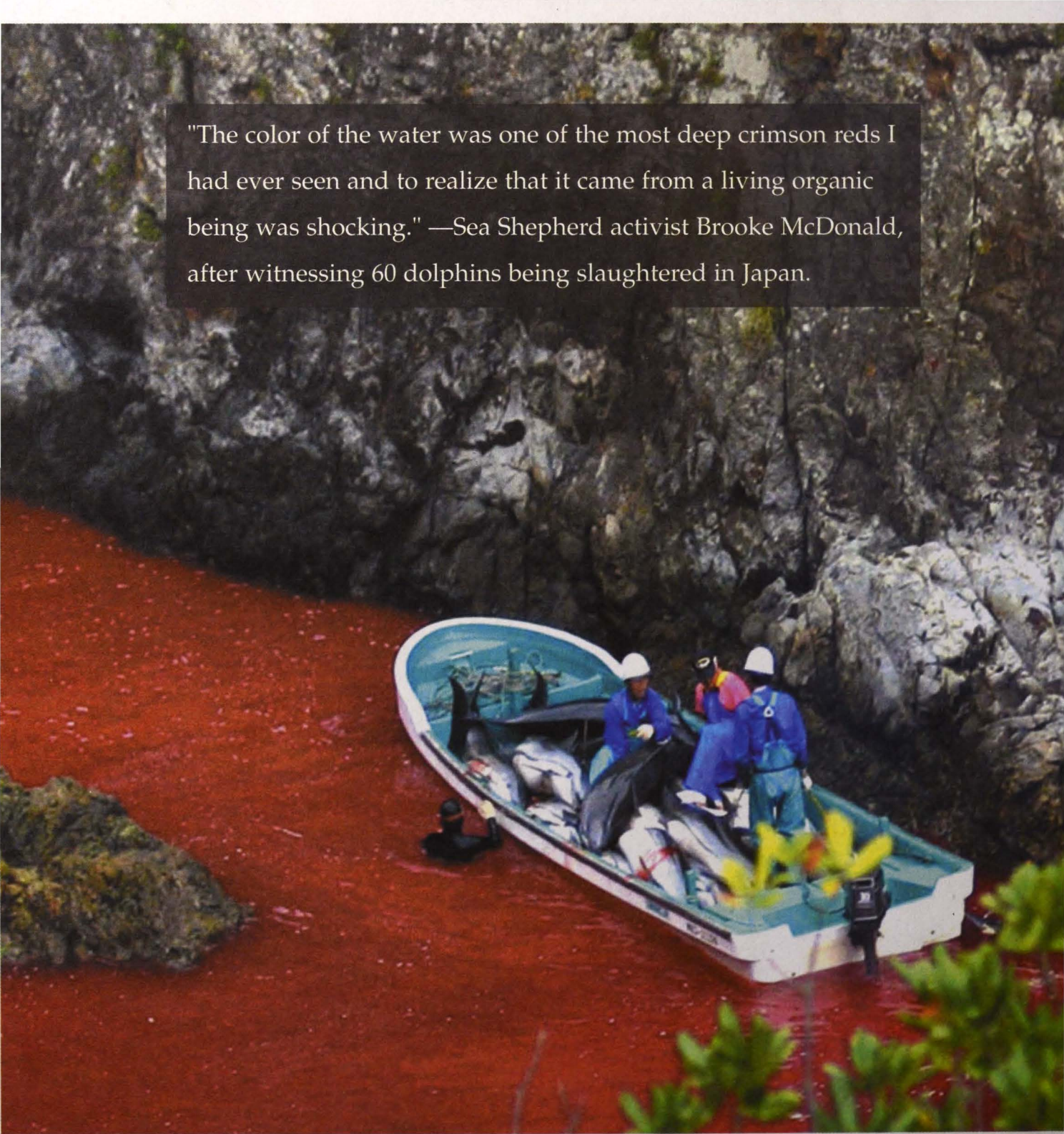
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