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Greenpeace Meets Cascadia · Roadless Rule Shredded · Enviros Sell Out Forests · Lobster Guts to LNC

Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal
Mabon September-October 2004



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Earth First!

Mabon September-October 2004

The *Radical* Environmental Journal

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Who Says There's
No Truth In
Advertising?

We'll Keep Our Heads, Even at the Guillotine

It's tough when you wake up and ask yourself if you are fighting a fight worthy of the name resistance. When this happens, it's important to take a step back and address one's motives.

We should accept the fact that things are, and have been, deadly for those not part of the First World elite, and that getting a good story in the media or holding the moral high ground isn't always the most helpful or healthy thing to do about it. Our strategies should reflect both the need to destroy ivory towers (in the physical sense and in our minds) and our desire for better world.

This issue of the *Journal* contains articles featuring a wide range of tactics. Logging road blockades and treesits in the Northwest, the First Social Forum of the Americas in Ecuador, a slew of ELF and ALF activity in Utah, and a nationwide strike in Guatemala protesting land evictions.

We all know that we have to fight on many fronts, in different forms. That being said, it's not important for everybody to burn down a lumberyard, but it is important to realize that such actions are happening and need aboveground support. Nor is it important for everyone to put all of their energy into trying to get politicians on "our" side.

What is important is that people

promise the Earth (and the humans and non-humans who live in it) to continue a fight worthy of where we're at in this world.

That we base our decisions on tactics off of our desires for actual change.

Throughout all of this work, we must not forget the importance of breaking down oppression in all its forms, working together, and showing solidarity. We must be constantly thinking about communication, healing, creativity and our relationships with all living things. All of these are integral toward having lives filled with autonomy and respect; they are at the heart and soul of what we are fighting for.

In the words of Derrick Jensen, "Do what you love, do what you can, do what best serves your land base, we need it all."

And for some, do it at night with a timer and fuse.

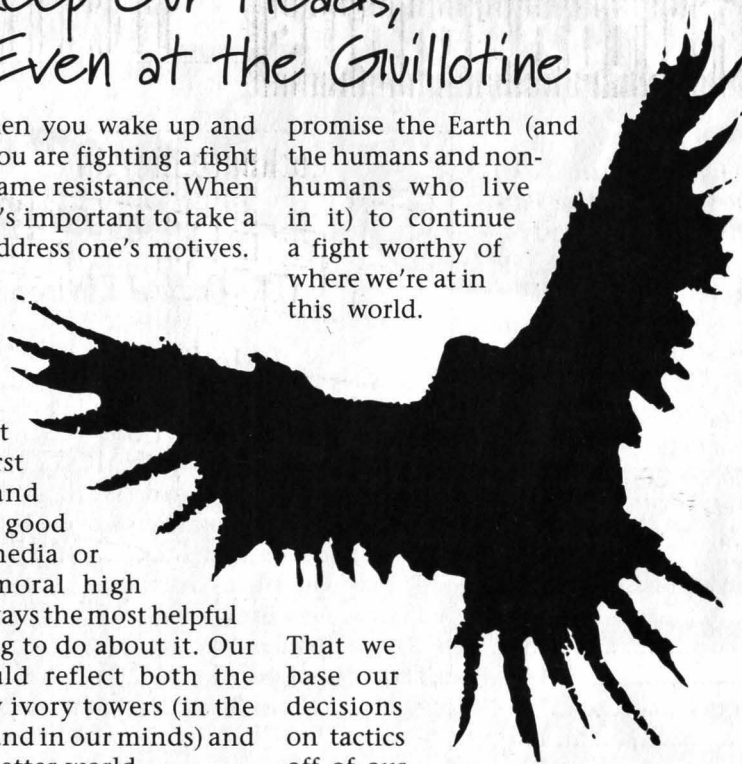
—OSCAR

Corrections: In the July-August issue of the *Earth First! Journal*, we incorrectly edited the article "A Wildland Fire Tragicomedy" to give the impression that fire suppression generally causes fuel accumulation and subsequent uncharacteristic fires. The author wrote to us saying: "Journalists and politicians repeat this story *ad nauseum*, and it has

some empirical support in some ponderosa forests of the southwestern US, but it cannot be generalized across the continent to other vegetation communities."

Also, the photo on page 8 was incorrectly credited to Scott Silver. It was taken by Robin Silver.

The editorial collective regrets the errors.



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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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Upcoming deadlines: September 5 • November 1



This is Autonomous Action

BY ANTI-G8

From the Asheville Global Report: "On June 10, an unknown number of individuals shut down access to Research Triangle Park (RTP), in the Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, area to protest the silencing of dissent, the destruction of the environment and the undermining of democracy by corporate and government interests.... Signs, including a 20-by-40-foot banner, were hung over the Durham Freeway and I-40 reading, 'Caution—G-8 and RTP equals exploitation and greed.' ...

"Someone had jury-rigged the arms on the railroad to come down and some explosive looking devices were found in the area," said Lt. Norman Blake. Three intersections were blocked this way, while five more intersections were blocked with steel cables.... This act of civil disobedience coincided with the final day of the G8 meetings on Sea Island in Georgia. No one was hurt in the scare, which police are calling a 'domestic terrorist act.'"

There has been much talk about "autonomous action" in anti-capitalist circles since the Miami Free Trade Area of the Americas protests in November 2003. This action at RTP exemplifies this new approach to direct-action protest tactics. The individuals who shut down RTP that morning did not go to Georgia to be brutalized and repressed by massive numbers of police; they picked a target in another area, where such a disruption could benefit from the element of surprise, and took action without direction from a larger organizing group.

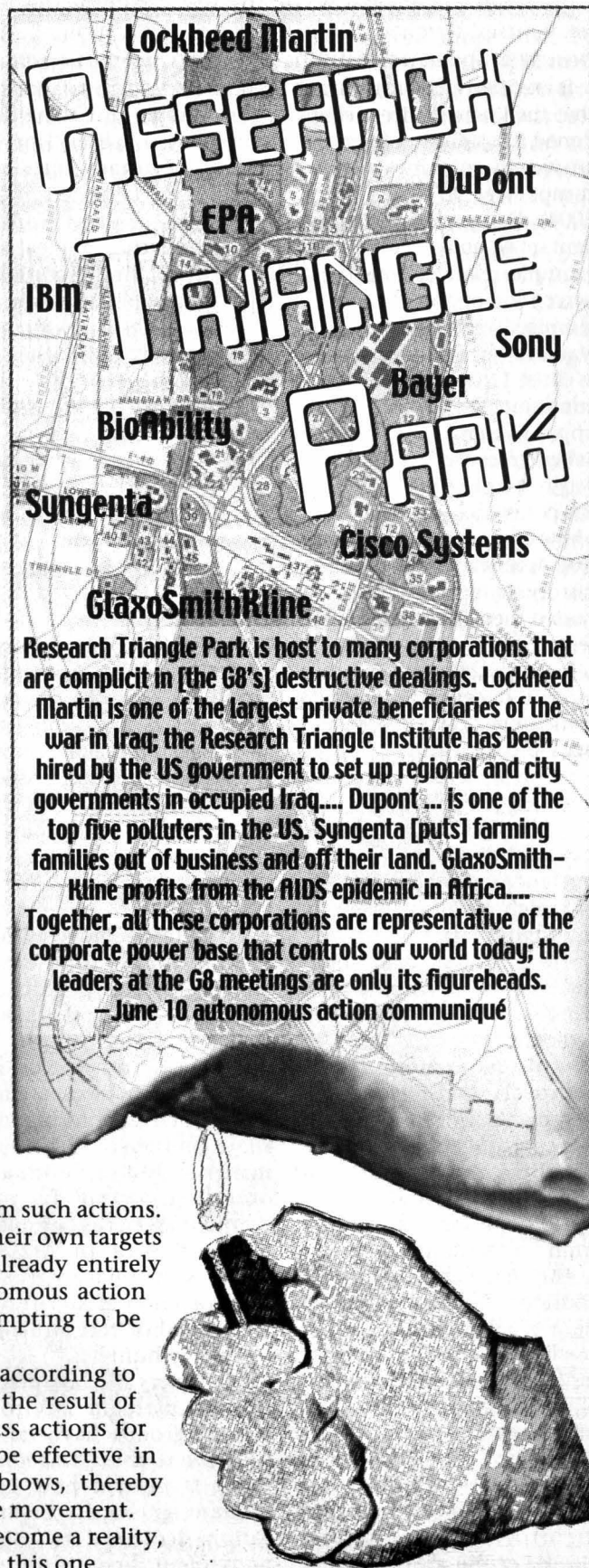
The benefits of such an approach are clear. Since there was no police preparation, it was possible for this group—estimated by one newspaper as only three or four people—to accomplish disruptions that one thousand people could not have achieved in the occupied zone around the G8 meetings. The action brought local attention to the global issues surrounding the G8. This attention would have been harder to draw otherwise, now that the media underreports anti-globalization and anti-capitalist efforts.

This protest shut down business in one of the highest concentrations of destructive corporate activity in the US. After an initial panic, the mainstream media maintained a total blackout about the event. Their mainstream reporting also downplayed the action's effectiveness. In one news report it suggested that the police and not the protesters had been the ones who shut down the area. This indicates a concern that if such tactics are publicized, they might be put to use by other groups.

Participants in the anti-capitalist movement should learn from such actions. It can be more efficient for small groups of individuals to pick their own targets and act with surprise on their side than to protest in areas already entirely controlled by security forces. A campaign of constant autonomous action would force state and capital to overextend themselves, attempting to be prepared everywhere at all times.

Autonomous actions demand security and careful planning according to local conditions and issues; they do not take place simply as the result of action-calls and rhetoric. They may not be as effective as mass actions for soliciting mass participation in the struggle, but they can be effective in countering repressive state activity and striking powerful blows, thereby attracting attention and inspiring new participants to join the movement.

If the much-discussed strategy of autonomous action is to become a reality, however, it will be because others take note of actions such as this one.



Research Triangle Park is host to many corporations that are complicit in [the G8's] destructive dealings. Lockheed Martin is one of the largest private beneficiaries of the war in Iraq; the Research Triangle Institute has been hired by the US government to set up regional and city governments in occupied Iraq.... Dupont ... is one of the top five polluters in the US. Syngenta [puts] farming families out of business and off their land. GlaxoSmith-Kline profits from the AIDS epidemic in Africa.... Together, all these corporations are representative of the corporate power base that controls our world today; the leaders at the G8 meetings are only its figureheads.
— June 10 autonomous action communiqué

Dear Shit Fer Brains

Dear SFB,

It was disappointing to read that the Ruckus Society abandoned its tradition of vegetarian/vegan-only meals at its camps (see *EF!* May-June 2004). Dangerous, the precedent set when one group's (for example, Native Americans) perception of oppression is legitimized while another's (vegetarians/vegans) is disregarded as elitist. I trust the irony of the consequences of alcohol as oppressive and those of meat as benign or even empowering was not lost on all. I support the policy to keep alcohol out of the camps in respect to Native Americans and the long history of oppression it has caused them. And here are the reasons that meat, too, has no place in a just society. The meat industry does not discriminate in its oppression of people, animals and the Earth.

Oppressive consequences of eating meat:

- rampant destruction of the world's forests to allow for ranching practices, most of which are undertaken by multinationals
- negligent use of antibiotics and hormones, which wreak mayhem on impacted ecologies
- obscene amounts of petrofuels used in fertilizers to grow the corn feed, and in transporting animals/meat
- disgusting amounts of pollution runoff and groundwater pollution, particularly from hog farming
- unimaginable cruelty and abuse of animals before and during slaughter
- induced disease epidemics among confined animals with the dangerous potential of zoonosis
- oppressive and dangerous work conditions and unfair compensations of those working in the meat industry, coincidentally the great majority

of whom come from traditionally oppressed populations.

I could go on.... One final comment, I call bullshit on the position that adult people of color are confined to eating what is put in front of them and that a meat-free diet is out of the lifestyle reach of many people. Not only are nutritious substitutes for meat widely available, but they are also affordable.

If some people are willing to sacrifice their desire to drink alcohol for a few days for the good of the camp, so too should others be willing to suffer a little tofu.

—MICHELE

Dear Editor,

The July-August 2003 issue of the *Earth First! Journal* featured an article by Mel Youngblood proclaiming the need for a direct action movement to protect North American wolves. I fully agree with this assessment and contend that now is a critical time for wolves and their supporters.

Soon the government will prematurely remove all federal protections for the gray wolf. Western politicians have made it clear that when that day comes, it will be open season on wolves. Already dozens of wolves have been killed in cold blood—some murdered by hateful, misinformed individuals, others “destroyed” by government agents as “problem wolves.” And in Alaska, where wolves have virtually no protection at all, wolves are being shot from airplanes by trophy hunters.

The letters and lawsuits of the mainstream environmental groups have failed to prevent these tragedies. What is needed now is a militant grassroots organization dedicated to using nonviolent direct action to

protect wolves from immediate danger while simultaneously engaging in a mass educational campaign to win the support of people living in wolf-inhabited areas. I am calling on *EF!* readers to help launch this project. It can be a completely new group or a part of Earth First!. I am open to suggestions.

The wolf restoration movement has the potential to move forward dramatically, bringing healing and balance to entire ecosystems that have suffered from the absence of their top predator. But if we don't do something soon, wolf restoration will be obliterated. Future generations will never hear the howl of the wolf—that ancient, primal song that represents the very soul of wild North America. And I for one don't plan to let that song be silenced without one hell of a fight. If you feel the same way, email me at restorethewolf@riseup.net and together we will turn words into action.

For the Earth,

—GROWLER

Dear SFB,

I hope the *Journal's* reporting of McDonald's in New Zealand switching to non-GE chicken feed (see *EF!* July-August 2004) won't be construed by its readers as some type of major victory for the environment—certainly not for the billions of non-readers who make up that select group

in the world called factory-farmed animals. Chickens, whether on GE or non-GE soy feed, will continue to live unbearably short, painful lives imprisoned in crowded, windowless, warehouse settings, with little or no room to move, daily breathing noxious ammonia fumes from their manure. Truly, their only salvation will come from nothing less than a no-compromise stance by humans in refusing to eat all chickens—and cows and pigs—today!

—BOB BERMAN

Dear Opportunists for Brains,

The *Journal* doesn't usually cover elections much so I want to put in my plug: I never thought I would be asking y'all to get out and vote—but these are critical times—times to think about the planet and planetary change and not about your stupid little country—it's not even a country—it's an Empire! Why not let all the occupied people vote—all one billion or so....

Especially people in Arizona, Florida, Arkansas, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee and other key states—VOTE for the Man who has helped elect more leftists than anyone in history—and the Man who has helped build an armed resistance movement all across the globe—a growing resistant insurgency that threatens all of Capitalist Imperialism. VOTE GW Bush—please I am so so serious—OK if you can't do it then vote Nader or not at all—DO THIS unless you can think of a way to stop the election—or rig up all the machines! Without Bush to guide the US down a hole, we

Keep Your Letters to
the Editors Under
300 Words!

will die a slow and helpless death—Jihad for Bush. There is but One Stupid White Tyrant—He IS Bush! Vote for Armageddon!

—MOMBASSER KASSIM

Dear Folks,

It was a great honour to have my poem appear in your wonderful journal (see *EF!* July-August 2004). I have had different stories and poems published in many places, but this was the best.

We fight against great odds. Humans have no idea how "great" a geological force we have become. Species after species, habitat after habitat, ecosphere after ecosphere—vanishing, poisoned, rendered uninhabitable. People become fanatical about second-hand smoke from cigarettes, yet are clueless about exhaust pipes from vehicles.

I am a man in my late fifties who has seen woodlands disappear, rivers poisoned, and the very air around me tainted; a perpetual cloud hangs over the city of Boston near which I live.

I try to live well. I bicycle to work on most days or use public transport; I recycle; most of the items in my personal office I write out of have been gleaned from trash days and clean-outs of other houses. Yet I too get sucked in and buy an occasional CD or a cup of coffee when I have no container to put it in and add to the massive amounts of waste materials we, as humans, generate.

I cut back on this, I use less of that.

I was visiting New Jersey a few months ago due to a death in the family. Some of my relatives, all their SUVs parked out in the driveway of their second home, one in Jersey, one in Florida, were discussing drilling for oil in the tundra of Alaska. Then the guy married to my cousin says, "Well, it's either us or the antelopes."

Every time I hear someone say something like that, and I hear more of it than I like, I realize how fucked we are and

how important the work you folks are doing is.

I was an active member of the Kearsarge Affinity Group in the late '70s, which was affiliated with the Clamshell Alliance. I did support and direct action and was arrested with my group blocking the reactor pressure vessel coming into Seabrook nuclear power plant. The last event I took part in was Biodevastation 2000 here in Boston. I was a peacekeeper in the nonviolent action/parade to demonstrate resistance to GMO companies.

My basic philosophy is based on nonviolence, yet I realize that the lamb cannot negotiate with the wolf. Our greatest strength lies in our diversity. It is that very diversity that keeps our planet alive, which the corporate ecopathic machine is killing. Unfortunately, because advertising is such an effective means of brainwashing, the public feeds the machine.

I say let the machine eat shrapnel.

For the Wild,

—MARC D. GOLDFINGER

Dear Friends,

I've received your last two issues, both excellent. Thanks.

On June 18, I pled guilty to one count Destruction of Government Property and five counts of Threatening Communications. Two of these "communications" went to Whiteman Air Force Base naming all their weapons as weapons of mass destruction for their effect on both the human population and the natural world. Three of the "communications" went to federal judges warning them that the laws of the US are themselves weapons of mass destruction since they sanction war, environmental contamination and destruction (agrichemicals, deforestation, species extinction), abortion and capital punishment.

I don't yet have a sentencing date, but I wrote a sentencing statement, which I believe you can get from nukeresister@igc.org (I know it's too long to print).

One correction for your next issue. Some of my sen-

tences for the missile silo, bank action and previous letters with bullets affixed were concurrent and others consecutive, altogether totaling 27 years. Thus far I have served more than 20 years total, not the 18 listed. That 18 years, which the *Nuclear Resister* lists, was just for the missile silo, and actually I still have six years left to go on it, which will follow the time I will get for the 2004 actions plus the time I will get for the violation of the supervised release for the bank action. The pre-sentence investigator who is preparing my pre-sentence report said that the way all these sentences are stacking up, I won't live long enough to even begin the final five years of the 1984 sentences. Confusing and not necessary for anyone to understand, but the correct figure for my time in prison so far is 20 years.

Thanks for all your good work,

—HELEN WOODSON



BY FAITH WALKER

For tropical boubous (*Laniarius aethiopicus*), it's all about duetting. This bushshrike of tropical Africa is socially monogamous, with males helping to bed-and-breakfast the boubou babies. The glue that keeps a pair together and in possession of a home is highly synchronized duets, which are noteworthy since, among birds, females rarely sing. Boubou pairs have a complicated and precise duet repertoire, which overall sounds like flutelike whistles, spiced with female snarls, buzzes and rattles.

Of the 12 duet types, half are initiated by each sex. Initiating a duet forces

a boubou's beau to join in, thus circumventing illicit affairs in the dense foliage. Commitment between a pair is reflected by duet precision and by the amount of solo singing going on. Highly committed pairs rarely croon solo; mates are very attentive, delivering the appropriate response even with bugs in their bills.

Duets also serve in territorial defense, with pairs perching prominently and duetting flagrantly. Their precision, hence commitment, signals how willing they are to tussle for their turf. If a territorial dispute does occur, the winning pair celebrates with a victory duet specially reserved for such an occasion.

Thus, using duets for mate guarding and territorial defense, the tropical boubou provides a melodious example of the evolution of a complex communication system in birds.



Greenpeace Meets Cascadia: A Disco Mosh

BY TIM REAM

In the pitch dark of an early morning, a large, canary-yellow shipping container is unloaded onto a narrow logging road with a tremendous thud. Almost immediately, goggled people enter the box with a gas-powered auger and are soon drilling a deep hole through the bottom, which is then fitted with a cemented, two-arm lockdown.

In the forest above, a camouflaged comrade tests the transmitted video reception and watches remotely as the container is locked from the inside. Wireless email messages are soon sent out to the world declaring an end to ancient forest logging.

It is Greenpeace meets Cascadia. Literally.

A little over a year ago, Greenpeace USA declared that ending commercial logging on public lands was among its highest priorities. Along with the huge Tongass rainforest of Alaska, the diverse conifer forest of the Klamath-Siskiyou is where it chose to launch its new public forest campaign. It has been a great learning experience for everyone involved.

Much of that experience was positive. The forest defense community of southern Oregon and beyond welcomed new activists from around the US, who were brought in by Greenpeace for the month of actions. Just by setting up a camp in the Kelsey-Whiskey Timber Sale of the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Greenpeace was able to instantly attract a huge amount of media and public attention to this threatened area. The action described above clearly met its objectives of drawing national attention to the logging of ancient forest on public lands. The local media was saturated and coverage extended around the country.

For their part, some of the Greenpeace campaigners found the local milieu challenging. Overall response by local activists was light in this remote region without major population centers. Few local activists stepped up to take on lockdown or "high risk of arrest" roles. At their

In a nutshell, the Greenpeace approach is to engage in direct action for the purpose of maximum media exposure. The central idea is to create an image or set of images, memes if you will, that gain the widest possible dispersal through corporate media. Through that exposure, change is sought.

camp, Greenpeace campaigners had to deal with stubborn activists who wouldn't honor their elaborate climb safety protocols, as well as a few locals who felt that stealing Greenpeace equipment was an expedient means of defending the forest.

A major theme under exploration during the month was the friction between Greenpeace hierarchy and forest defender consensus. Greenpeace campaigners on the ground in Oregon worked hard to keep the process open wherever possible. It was a definite shift from the top-down Greenpeace campaigns of the past, and it frustrated some of their own activists, who were used to giving and taking directions. On the other hand, both the timing of actions and the tactics employed were dictated from afar, something local activists found to be disconnected and disempowering.

It became apparent to many participants that two distinctly different subcultures had come together, and everyone was going to have to stretch to make things fit. Nowhere was this more evident than in the way action styles matched ultimate goals.

In a nutshell, the Greenpeace approach is to engage in direct action for the purpose of maximum media exposure. The central idea is to create an image or set of images, memes if you will, that gain the widest possible dispersal through corporate media. Through that exposure, change is sought. In comparison, it is safe to say that most Cascadia-style actions seek to challenge or stop some perceived wrong, for example public lands logging, and then to obtain or solicit as much media as possible for that action. If the distinction seems subtle on paper, it is anything but subtle on the ground.



In Cascadia, an action camp is created to attract newcomers and to train and inspire them to take effective action. For Greenpeace, an action camp is created to project an image that an action camp has been created. Greenpeace was wildly successful in this endeavor.

The Greenpeace camp had two large geodesic domes, several arctic tents, a high-tech communications van, solar panels, a fire truck and several additional structures all located on the very edge of the Kelsey-Whiskey Timber Sale. An elaborate treesit was constructed close by. The whole camp took days to set up. No action camp created by Cascadians has ever looked a fraction as good. The media ate it up, and the public got the message loud and clear.

But it wasn't an action camp per se. The domes weren't waterproof. Most people from Greenpeace slept on cots otherwise unavailable in the field. Tons, literally tons of expensive equipment were brought in or bought at superstores. Neither climbing nor communications nor groundtruthing skills were widely shared. Many people who attended the camp left without hiking through the threatened units. Actions were certainly being planned, but at a separate Greenpeace camp.

But again, it looked more like an action camp than any action camp I have ever seen and was therefore widely reported as such. Interesting.

A parallel experience occurred with the road blockade action. That shipping container was the most elaborate blockade I have ever seen. Nonetheless, the BLM and county sheriffs dismantled it by noon the same day, and the loggers went quickly to work. We left the action site to the sound of roaring chainsaws. Although we didn't really stop logging that day, the blockade resulted in wider media coverage than any other one-day action I have participated in.

When packing up, Greenpeace wanted to leave the treesit behind. Local activists pointed out that the sit could easily be defeated by a cherry-picker from the road. Greenpeace thought that this was a fine situation, since it would make for such great still and video images, which could once again be used to tell the story of public lands

logging around the country. Local activists, however, pointed out that no treesit in Oregon has been successfully evicted, and we didn't want to diminish the effectiveness of the tactic with such a precedent. In the end, the treesit was disassembled and loaded into a truck.

All in all, it was a stunning lesson. The Greenpeace blockade didn't stop logging, but it appeared more widely in the media than anything we could have done alone. The Greenpeace camp wasn't an action camp but appeared in the media more like an action camp than anything we have created. The treesit wasn't really a treesit, but it looked more like a treesit than Cascadia's.

So what's best? I suppose it depends on your worldview. If you believe that change happens incrementally through a political process that responds to the masses, then the masses must be educated and agitated into influencing their elected officials. The best way to reach them is through mass media. Direct action is sexy

enough to penetrate that medium.

If you believe that most people already agree with your basic premises but have little influence in politics, or if you believe that corporate media will never really deliver your ultimate messages, or that meaningful change will require destruction of the system, not engagement in it—then you better get out of the office and into the woods.

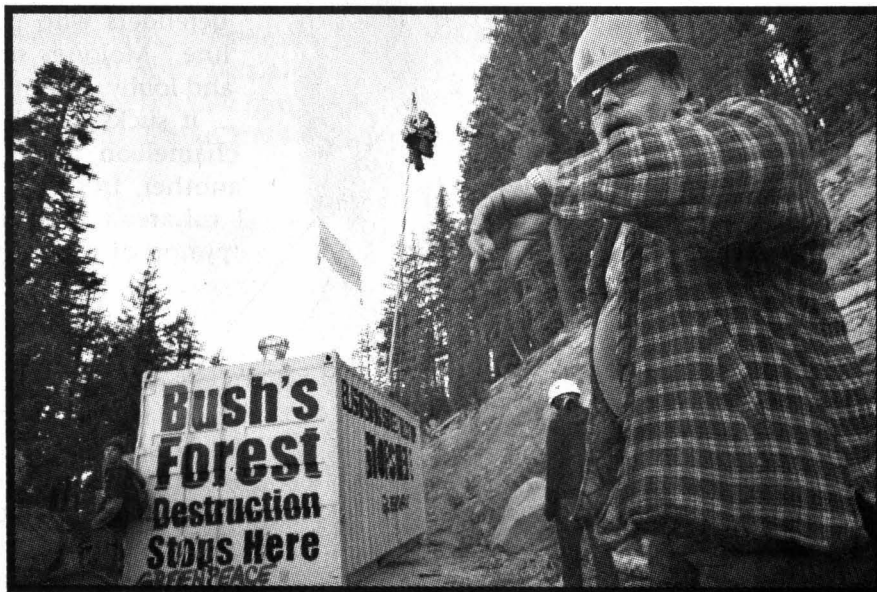
Of course, it could be the case that no single tactic or approach is "best." That we all are in a process of learning and constantly evaluating our effectiveness, that the situation is in continual flux and demands ever-evolving tactics. If this is so, then we should keep pushing the edge of our comfort zones, risking our privilege constantly and communicating as widely as we can while remaining true to our core messages.

I'm glad that

there are national news stories about the destruction of the last wild places, like the Klamath-Siskiyou. I'm also glad there are people who won't go home until the saws are quiet.

Tim Ream is glad that Greenpeace came to Oregon and certain that he heard them promise they would be back to defend Kelsey-Whiskey from logging.

Of course, it could be the case that no single tactic or approach is "best." That we all are in a process of learning and constantly evaluating our effectiveness, that the situation is in continual flux and demands ever-evolving tactics.



photos by Dung Ngo/Greenpeace

State Legislature Debates While Treesitters Hold Strong

BY JESSICA LEE

As you read this, ancient trees in California are being mauled, toppled and sold for profit.

On a platform 100-feet up in an old redwood that has lived for more than a millennium, Willow gazes out across the Humboldt County forest that has been mutilated by Maxxam/Pacific Lumber Company (PL).

Willow and a team of local treesitters have vowed to protect the three remaining old-growth trees in the land "claimed" by the lumber company. Jerry, the tree Willow calls home, has been continuously occupied for the last two-and-a-half years.

The fate of Jerry depends not only on Willow's presence, but on lawmakers in Sacramento. Dedicated, soft spoken and fearless, Willow says that he will not descend until the Heritage Tree Preservation Act is signed into law. The bill, SB 754, would protect trees on private or state land if they sprouted before 1850, the year California became a state. Protected species would include large hardwoods, redwoods, giant sequoias, Douglas firs and Port Orford cedars. The trees could only be cut in proven emergency situations.

Only three percent of California's original ancient forests remain intact, with one third of that rooted on non-federal land. Susan Moloney, of the Citizens' Campaign for Old-Growth Preservation (CFOG) estimates that the bill could save hundreds of thousands of trees from the ax. CFOG, a coalition of religious, environmental and business groups has been working on the bill for several years.

The bill passed the Committee on Natural Resources in June and has been resting in the hands of the Committee on Appropriations since August 4. From there, it will be sent to the floor of the California State Assembly. If passed, it is then up to Governor Schwarzenegger to sign the bill into law, which would take effect on January 1.

Moloney personalized the fight to save the world's oldest living organisms when she sat on the steps of the state capitol in Sacramento in 2002 and fasted for 52 days to force then-Governor Gray Davis to keep his

campaign promise to protect the trees. In late July, treesitters throughout California committed to a juice and herbal tea fast for nearly two weeks to bring attention to the rate at which the trees are being cut.

While big name stars including Pierce Brosnan, Martin Sheen, Bonnie Raitt and No Doubt have stepped into eco-politics and publicly advocated saving the old-growth forests, only the direct-action treesitters have opted to put their bodies between the saws and the trees.

"If treesitters weren't up here, the company could probably liquidate the forest and turn it into a tree farm. We aren't going to let them get away with it," said Willow in a cellular phone interview from Jerry.

"I have a huge affinity [for the activists] doing the direct action part of this campaign," Moloney said.

But in Sacramento, politics transforms activists into well-dressed politicians.

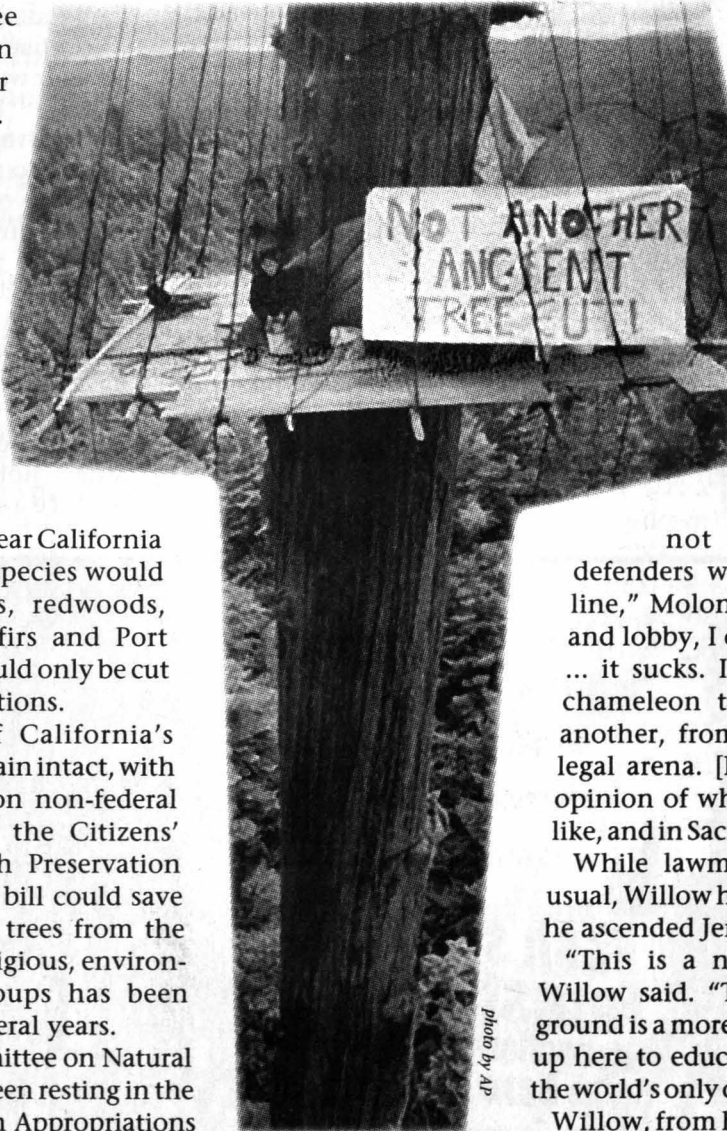
"The lawmakers do not have empathy for eco-defenders who put their lives on the line," Moloney said. "When I dress up and lobby, I can't talk about EF! actions ... it sucks. I feel like [I have] to be a chameleon to go from one world to another, from the direct action to the legal arena. [Politicians] have a tainted opinion of what direct action and EF! is like, and in Sacramento that doesn't help."

While lawmakers go about policy as usual, Willow hasn't touched ground since he ascended Jerry on November 11, 2003.

"This is a nonviolent direct action," Willow said. "To stay up and not touch ground is a more potent way of protest. I am up here to educate people what's going in the world's only old-growth redwood forest."

Willow, from his platform, overlooks the clearcut patches of forests where 16 of the ancient trees have been cut by PL. During Spring 2003, 22 treesits attempted to save the trees. Now only three remain (see *EF!* May-June 2003).

Since his ascent, Willow has witnessed more than the attack on ancient trees; he has seen an assault on an entire ecosystem, from clearcuts to mudslides. Willow cried the first time he witnessed a clearcut.



"You can hear the saws going and they are really loud, and then they stop. The tree starts to moan and finally you hear the crack of its spine and the sonic boom of it hitting the forest floor," Willow said.

Although deeply affected by the cutting of trees, Willow stresses that North Coast Earth First! (NCEF!) is not anti-job or anti-logging. Before Maxxam bought Pacific Lumber in 1985, the company rotated watersheds when harvesting trees, did not clearcut or use herbicides and also abstained from cutting on steep slopes.

Maxxam's change of company policies rapidly intensified the impact that logging was having on the 20,000-acre Freshwater Watershed. Extensive cutting on steep slopes has caused large mudslides, carrying off valuable soils needed by the forest. Eroded sediment has now filled Freshwater streams up to eight feet in some places, increasing the frequency of floods in the town of Freshwater.

Since Schwarzenegger took office, Ruthanne Schulte and Jim Branham, two PL employees, have accepted positions within the California Environmental Protection Agency.

"How convenient that PL, which has violated over 600 environmental laws in the last decade, can swap workers for favors at the state level," said Remedy, a NCEF!er who sat in Jerry for nearly a year and was forcefully extracted by PL in March, 2003.

While The Heritage Tree Preservation Act creeps through the legislative process, Willow and other treesitters remain in Jerry, Everlasting Life and Anastasia.

Remedy is still fighting a SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) lawsuit against her and others, and hopes that the bill won't be stalled much longer. "This is a very important bill that has been a long time coming.... In the meantime, trees are being cut down," she said.

Since being trimmed by the loggers more than a year ago, Jerry has begun to sprout new growth and perhaps one day will tout the long strands of lichen that once looked like the beard of Jerry Garcia.

Treesitters are requesting food (Willow loves dried mangos and olives), ropes, other donations and legal help. For those wanting to ascend to the next level, additional treesitters are needed now!

For more information, contact North Coast EF!, POB 219, Bayside, CA 95524; (707) 825-6598; shunka_2004@yahoo.com; www.northcoastearthfirst.org.

Jessica Lee is a freelance writer in Tucson, Arizona, who loves chasing Sonoran thunderstorms in the beautiful desert.

North Coasters Blockade Maxxam Operations

BY EMRYS

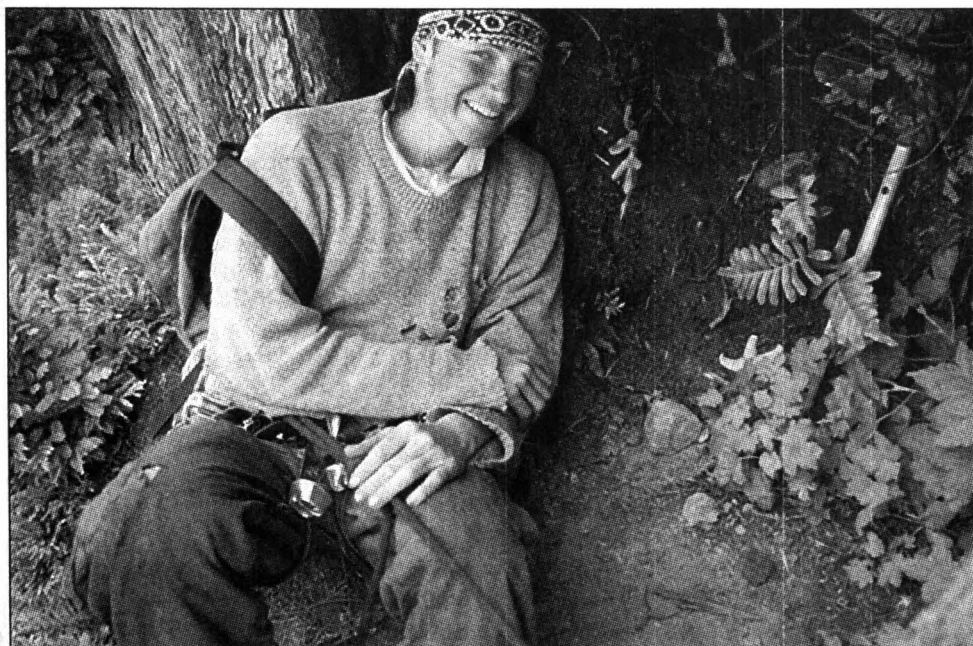
North Coast Earth First!ers staged two roadblocks on July 27, targeting routes used by Maxxam/Pacific Lumber Company (PL) to slay and remove old-growth trees in the Mattole River watershed in California. The following day, a treesit village was constructed to further hinder the loggers' progress.

The Heritage Tree Preservation Act, which is currently before the California Assembly Appropriation Committee, would preserve trees more than 254 years old on non-federal land, which contains one-third of California's remaining old-growth forest. But while the legislation moseys through the political process, forest defenders remain on the frontlines to hold the loggers at bay.

"We can't afford to wait for legislation that takes effect after forests are gone," yelled a treesitter from her occupied Douglas fir. "We support the Heritage Tree Bill but need to protect the old growth being cut today."

Sitters expect to inhabit the tree village until the bill is passed, which would provide protection to the trees that PL plans to haul away. Logging in the Mattole has consisted of scattered clearcuts, many on steep mountain slopes. This has generated unnatural erosion, which is clogging the Mattole River and threatening salmon runs.

On August 5, activists blocked two tree-laden logging trucks in front of the Humboldt County Courthouse in Eureka. Two people climbed on top of one of the trucks to display signs and banners condemning PL's operations. Protesters offered passing motorists literature explaining the devastation caused by logging. The activists demanded that PL stop clearcutting, logging on steep slopes, cutting old-growth trees and spraying herbicides.



Willow poses next to a small fern garden growing in a scar left by a lightning strike on Jerry.

photos by AP

"Save Some Old Trees!"

The Down-Sized Message of Northwest Enviro

BY TIM REAM

The Northwest forest movement has completely lost its way, and the evidence is everywhere.

In the late '90s, the vision for the forests of the Pacific Northwest was clear. These amazing ecosystems were centered on federal lands and being destroyed by commercial extraction. Stopping commercial extraction on public lands was the unifying message generated by the grassroots movement for protecting the forests of the Northwest. It drove the actions of everyone from Earth First!ers to the Sierra Club. We knew what we wanted, and we fought hard to get it.

"Save the Poster Child!"

With George Bush newly elected, the analysis of many in the forest protection movement in early 2001 was that forest watch efforts had almost run their course. The fantastic work of those who groundtruth, appeal and sue was about to come to an end, and suddenly the national forests would be thrown open to unprecedented logging at the hands of Bush. People were clearly afraid, and from that fear the Old Growth Campaign was born.

The Old Growth Campaign was founded on the quixotic notion that we could get Bush and the Republican-controlled Congress to produce legislation putting Northwest old-growth forests off-limits to logging. The campaign partners abandoned the practice of calling for an end to the entire federal timber sale program throughout the country. The focus was instead shifted to big, old trees on the west side of the Cascades.

At that time, the *Journal* noted the folly of the approach (see *EF!* September-October 2001). Why not maintain national unity around protecting forests everywhere? Why not ask for what we want and what the ecosystems need for integrity? Why not realize the impossibility of a good Republican forest bill and instead focus all efforts toward holding onto the protections we had in the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan?

Three years later, the results are in. We have lost the Survey and Manage Program and the Aquatic Conservation Strategy without most citizens ever understanding what they were. Senator Ron Wyden, a Democrat from Oregon, obtained the

cover he needed to support Bush's Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Grassroots activists no longer talk about ending logging on public land. The Eugene, Oregon-based Cascadia Wildlands Project has recently endorsed a bill by Oregon Representative Peter DeFazio—another Democrat—that will "save the old growth" while tripling national forest logging. All the while, the Bush administration's rate of ancient forest logging has remained on par with Clinton-era logging.

You might think that hindsight would lead to a little foresight in the current timeframe.

Supporting "Our Friends" in Congress

Despite Wyden's efforts to stick a knife in the backs of enviros whenever he gets the chance, many allies are lining up and turning around for the next jab. Ah, the promise of "Wilderness."

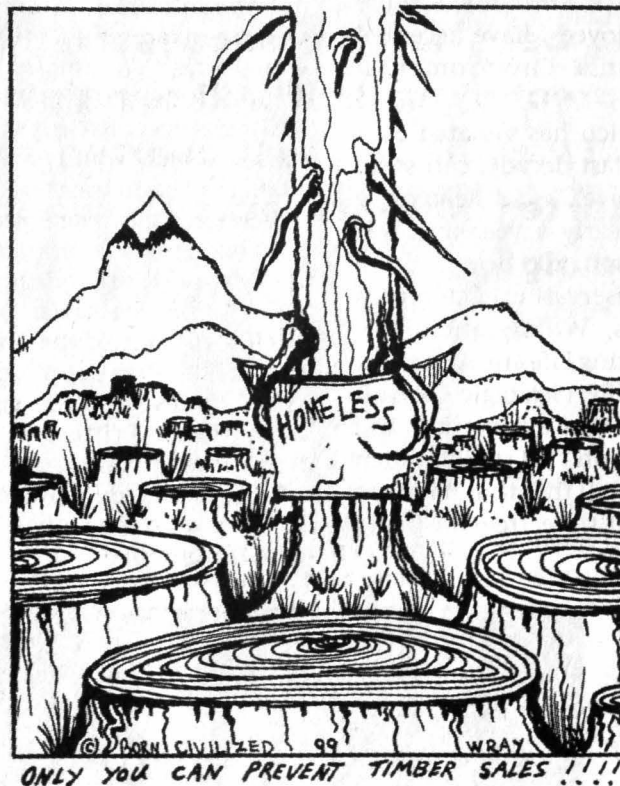
Wilderness is the Holy Grail of forest activism. Once an area is declared Wilderness, it is about as "saved" as it can get. A meticulous job of inventorying Northwest Wilderness candidate areas has been underway for several years. This has created an important database, helping define what needs protection.

The problem is, you generally don't get a Wilderness bill passed in Congress without both of a state's senators in agreement about the bill and a president who is willing to let a bill pass without veto.

Despite these obviously overwhelming obstacles in the current political situation, enviros have been working hard with Wyden to introduce a Wilderness bill.

Enviros wanted a big bill covering many areas in Oregon. Wyden said no. OK, enviros wanted a bill that would include several areas in Oregon. Wyden said no. OK, enviros wanted a clean bill that just proposes Wilderness. Wyden said no. OK, enviros wanted a bill that doesn't actually increase the amount of overall logging. Wyden said no and released a Mt. Hood Wilderness recreation bill for Portland yuppies that reduces protections for other areas and increases the amount of logging around Mt. Hood.

Our visionless movement responded in June by largely sitting silent, afraid to criticize our friend, the senator, in an election year.



artwork by David Wray

Pass the Biscuits

Back in 1994, the Northwest Forest Plan created an imaginary forest called a "Late Successional Reserve" (LSR). It was an area that was supposed to be off-limits to logging. What was passed over by legal protections, and therefore available for logging, was called "the matrix." This includes areas where ancient forest logging is allowed if adequate screens to protect ecosystems can be met. When you hear about a campaign to stop an ancient forest timber sale in the Northwest, it is generally a campaign to stop a sale in the matrix.

There are a couple of problems with this scheme. Despite these protections, Northwest ecosystems continue to show declines in key indicator species. Spotted owls, for example, have declined an average of four percent in each of the last 10 years. Matrix forest is often some of the most valuable ecosystem left in an area, the seeds to future restoration. Cutting it is not justified. Moreover, the LSR is not really off-limits to logging, given that little loophole known as "salvage logging." That's right, under some circumstances, companies can go into LSR after a natural fire and turn the ecosystem—which is supposed to be a reserve for ancient forests—into a tree plantation.

Before the 500,000-acre Biscuit fire in southwest Oregon in Summer 2002 had cooled, the Bush administration was already plotting to log in LSRs. Enviro knew this. Their response? They immediately began trying to figure out which ancient forest areas they could give up in the matrix to keep Bush out of LSR.

Unfortunately, the timber industry is driven by its own clear vision: It wants to convert every acre of public land to plantation. And it has a strategy: use the threat of fire and post-fire situations to justify logging and planting in otherwise off-limits areas. The timber industry does not sit down and figure out how to compromise with enviros. It asks for everything and settles for as much as it can get.

While enviros were figuring out what to give away, the Bush people were figuring out how to ask for more. At Biscuit, they went for inventoried roadless areas too. Lacking clear vision, enviros again acted out of fear.

The US Forest Service's first move on the Biscuit playing field since its official decision to salvage log has been the declaration of eleven "emergency" timber sales: six LSR, five matrix (see *EF!* January-February 2004). A total of nine different environmental groups of all stripes have sued to stop the LSR sales. Not one has taken action to stop the five matrix sales, totaling more than 1,000 acres, all in ancient forest, all part of the largest complex of wildlands on the West Coast.

Further, the enviro coalition media team has decided that the movement should try to duck the issue of fire. Instead of talking about fire as natural and ancient forest logging as wrong, an enviro plan to log

25 million board-feet of timber became the media centerpiece. That plan, which included fairly stringent screens and was spread over 500,000 acres, is not as horrible as it sounds. The problem, of course, is the precedent.

Enviros have signaled that they are in favor of some logging of ancient forest at Biscuit. Our side said 25 million board feet. Bush said 500 million. Now it has become a question of where the deal gets settled, and it doesn't look good for a number of precious places.

Forest Politics or a Political Forest?

How can we reclaim a unifying vision for the Northwest forest movement? A good starting point might be checking in with the Earth.

Our vision for the forests must be one of sustainability at the very least. If Northwest species are becoming extinct or extirpated as a result of forest management practices, those practices must be targeted for change. That much seems obvious.

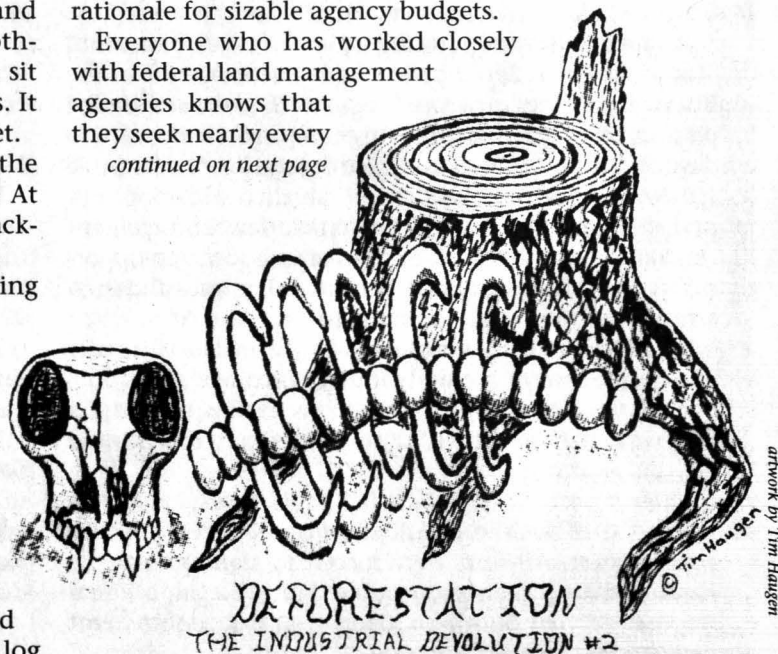
Trusted scientists are telling us that very large blocks of mostly unmanaged ecosystems, buffered and connected to other such blocks, are the only way to prevent widespread extinction, especially given impending threats like climate

change. Truly defending the forests of the Northwest means removing the commercial incentives for government management activities across the major portion of public lands here.

This vision runs directly counter, of course, to industry and agency approaches, which seek to have a role in the management of forests nearly everywhere. Without management activities, there is no commercial extraction. Without management activities there is little rationale for sizable agency budgets.

Everyone who has worked closely with federal land management agencies knows that they seek nearly every

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excuse possible to justify management and commercial extraction. Every loophole is exploited. With every inch they gain, they grab for miles more.

For ecological reasons, most of the public forest of the Northwest needs to be put off-limits to logging. Simply protecting old trees will not save the lynx or wolverine, let alone bring back the wolf or grizzly. For reasons of expediency, leaving some areas open to commercial extraction invites a never-ending battle over exactly where the line should be drawn.

Asking to protect only half the forest has been far too successful. We protected the half still remaining, halfway, till it was a quarter. The quarter half-protected became the eighth.

Nothing short of an end to the federal timber sale program will protect Northwest species on the brink. Polls indicate that the majority of Americans want just that. How can environmental groups ask for any less? How can national and grassroots environmental groups be to the right of the American public on forest issues?!

Can one imagine an antislavery group that fought for fewer whippings? How about suffragettes asking for three-fifths of a vote for women? Would people rather unite behind an abolition of the USA PATRIOT Act or a rewrite of several clauses?

Shall we fight to protect every acre of our public land from profiteering, or should we seek to protect trees over a certain age? Shall we condemn a senator who uses a Wilderness bill to increase logging or should we sit quietly? Shall we stop salvage logging on every acre of ancient forest or shall we trade away some places according to their current administrative designations?

Do we want to win, or are we so beaten and afraid that we will continue to settle for the hope that we can arrange to lose a little less?

We really can end the federal timber sale program in the next four years. The first step, of course, is to agree that that's our vision, and say so from now on.

Tim Ream is a radical, just like the more than 100 members of Congress who have endorsed legislation to end the federal timber sale program.



TREE-CONTEMPLATING SELF-DEFENSE

System Strong-Arms Biscuit Defenders

BY NUTHATCH

In the timber counties of Oregon, justice remains a two-tiered system. But Charlie Steak, district attorney in Gold Beach, is taking civil rights violations into new territory.

In late July, activists erected a road blockade of the Indi Timber Sale, the first "salvage" sale auctioned off in the Biscuit Burn. A series of rope loops attached to a suspended platform cut off access to logging equipment being used to destroy ancient forest under the guise of "hazard-tree removal." After three days, the woman in the 75-foot-high pod was lowered using a 13-vehicle law enforcement caravan. Cops offered other folks on the scene an opportunity to get their gear from behind police lines and then arrested three of them for being there.

Steak charged the four arrestees with Class A misdemeanors, "Interfering with an Agricultural Operation." No one has ever been tried and convicted of this crime. Bail was then set at \$10,000—four times the normal Class A amount.

Three arrestees stayed in jail for a week, with one woman's bail doubling to \$20,000 for a recent Greenpeace action arrest. All four were forced to sign agreements making their presence on public lands illegal, a literal impossibility in Southern Oregon and a requirement

known to be unconstitutional in the US. One woman is required to stay in Gold Beach, a town of 2,000 people, for a month and check in with the court daily. A teenager who was arrested at the action had his bail dropped and then reinstated.

What is Steak so afraid of that he has to abuse people who care about forests?

My guess is that he knows a serious direct-action movement is gearing up against any and all logging in the Biscuit Burn, and he is trying to scare it off.

During the first month since the US Forest Service announced its decision to salvage log, it has only managed to offer one contract at Biscuit, to a small mill from out of the area. The Indi Timber Sale is near the headwaters of the 90-percent-intact Indigo Creek watershed, a prime salmon tributary. The project area has wilderness on two sides, inventoried roadless areas on three and is surrounded by ancient forest reserves.

For the rivers and for the forests, still healthy after a natural mosaic burn, Wild Siskiyou Action has vowed to stop small-time, ancient-forest capitalists from making a million by betting on the destruction of a healthy, remote place. Big time or small time, nobody gets to profit from intact ecosystems in the Biscuit.

To stay up-to-date on the Biscuit, visit o2collective.org.

Free the Klamath River, Bring Down the Dams: Tribes Stage Protests for Wild Salmon

BY KLAMATH SALMON ACTION NETWORK

In a global economy—in which international corporations can “own” a river thousands of miles away—there is a need for a global fight against exploitation. In California and Oregon, a complex of six dams on the Klamath River is owned and operated by PacificCorp, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Scottish Power, which is the 14th largest corporation in the world. The dams prevent salmon from traveling upstream to their spawning habitat, but Scottish Power claims that removing the dams or building fish ladders is not economical. Instead, Scottish Power is beginning the dam relicensing process, which it must do every 50 years.

So on July 17, while right-wingers and environmentalists in Oregon dueled at a Congressional hearing on the Endangered Species Act, fishers and members of the Hoopa, Yurok, Karuk, Klamath and Modoc tribes from along the 400-mile-long Klamath River took their case to Scottish Power headquarters in Edinburgh, Scotland. Their message was simple: We will not be ignored any longer. Bring down the dams, save the Klamath Salmon.

Leaf Hillman, a member of the Karuk Tribe, said, “We came here to send a message to Scottish Power.... We will travel to the ends of the Earth to accomplish our goal and bring the salmon home.”

Over the course of a week and a half, the salmon advocates met with the Scottish Parliament, held a salmon bake at Scottish Power headquarters, won over the Scottish media and public, and brought their message to Scottish Power’s board of directors. The advocates told how Scottish Power has ignored scientific recommendations for years on how to use the relicensing process to stop the dams from killing fish. These kills are destroying not just wild salmon but lamprey, sturgeon, local communities and a way of life. The tribes recounted that none of their recommendations have been heard. They told the story of a genocide that continues in California and Oregon as elders die from diet-related ailments. They told of devastation to fishing communities—and Scotland heard them.

A reporter from the mainstream news program *Scotland Today* said, “Scottish Power can’t be in much doubt now as to how much this means to these passionate and spiritual people, but if this protest doesn’t convince

them then history certainly should, because when Native Americans say they are prepared to fight, they mean it.”

Back in the US, locals and environmentalists brought the fight for the Klamath salmon to ground zero—Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Klamath Falls is not friendly territory, and the prospect of protesting an anti-fish meeting and rally in one of the most right-leaning towns in the western US did not bring many environmentalists running. Their fear is not without cause. In 2001, Klamath Falls hosted a bucket brigade in which right-wing politicians and 15,000 protesters stole water from the Klamath River. They also monkeywrenched open the flood gates to the Klamath

Water Project to protest water-use restrictions for farmers, which were enacted in response to an endangered species crisis. Soon after, the Bush administration “fixed” the problem with a 10-year plan. The next year, up to 60,000 wild salmon—half the run—died before spawning. The fishing and recreation industries and tribal subsistence were devastated.

The meeting in Klamath Falls was meant to ensure that silly things like science and laws won’t be used again to deny water to farmers.

Only one representative for all five Klamath tribes was allowed to speak in this gross display of injustice.

In a response to this one-sided testimony, more than 150 tribal members and environmental supporters from throughout the Klamath region marched through downtown to tribal drumming and songs before crashing the anti-fish rally, which included its own cavalry, giant bucket and loaded logging truck. Salmon advocates urged lawmakers to consider the economic and cultural impacts of salmon extinction to all of the downriver and Native American communities. Locals could not remember the last time Native people and environmentalists rallied together in Klamath Falls in such numbers.

There have been few times in history that so much world attention has focused on the health of a western river. The Klamath salmon run, one of the healthiest in the lower 48, does not have long in this world if something doesn’t change soon. Actions for the salmon and people of the Klamath will continue. September marks two years since the first big fish kill, and a day of action is planned. Please join us in bringing down the dams and freeing the river.

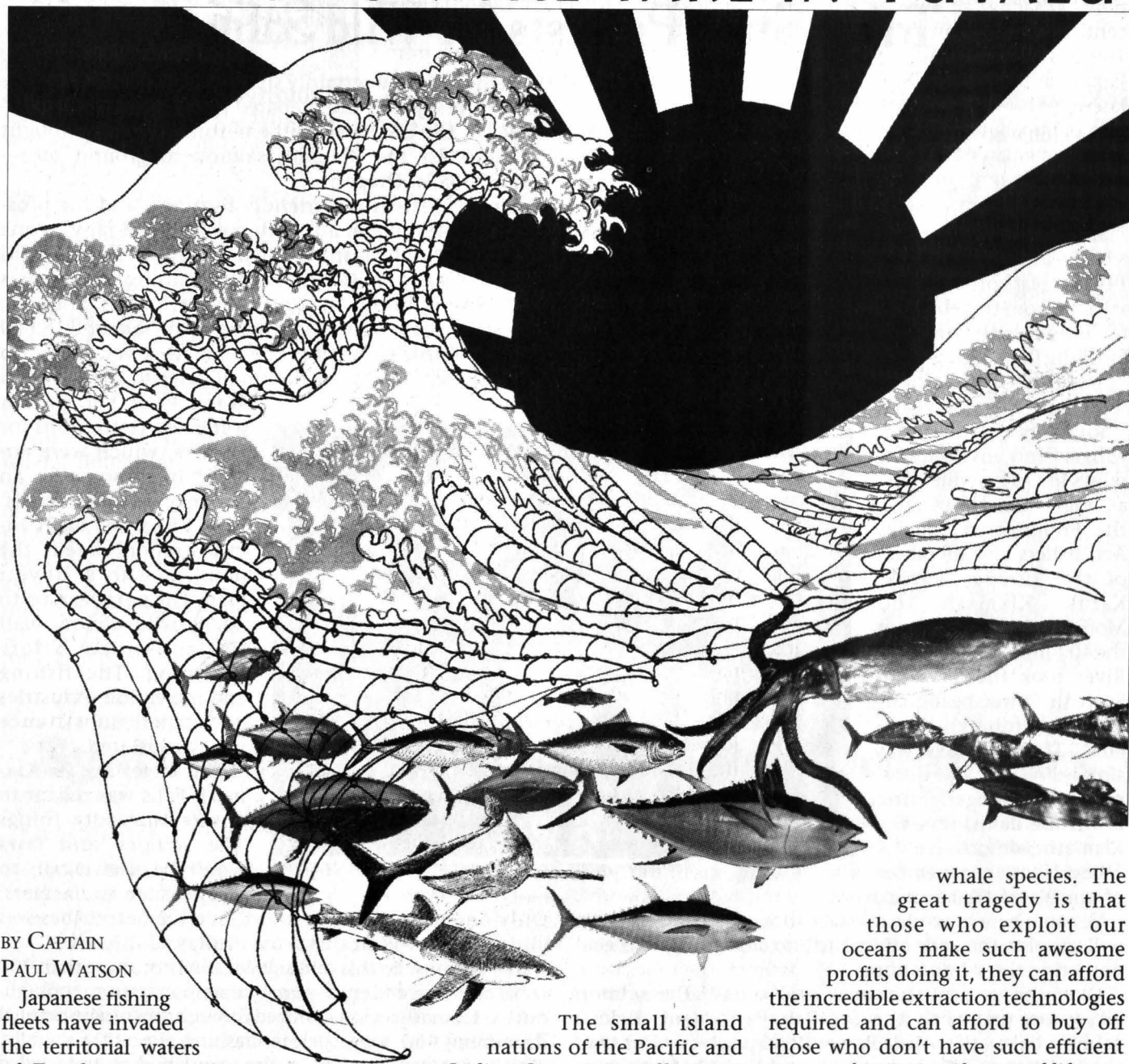
For more information, contact the Klamath Salmon Action Network, (541) 951-0126; salmonaction@cascadiarising.org.



Red power meets Scottish Power in Edinburgh, Scotland

photo by salmon

JAPANESE ON THE TAKE IN TUVALU



artwork by Jessica Lamsdon

BY CAPTAIN
PAUL WATSON

Japanese fishing fleets have invaded the territorial waters of Tuvalu, ruining the catch for local fishermen.

In a recent Associated Press (AP) article, a Tuvalu fisherman named Tanemuga Tenaë lamented that fishing is bad. "Too many boats! Too many Japanese boats!" he shouted.

"There's a lot less fish than when I started 15 years ago," fisherman Soloseni Penitusi told the AP reporter on Funafuti Atoll, Tuvalu, a strip of sand and coral in the remote mid-Pacific. Yet when asked if the government should stop issuing licenses to foreign fishing boats, Penitusi replied, "No, I can't say that. We need that money."

The small island nations of the Pacific and Indian Oceans are selling out their futures to large industrial fishing nations and depleting the Pacific of fish.

Yes, the money is needed. Of course it is needed. These countries do not have the resources or the means to afford the materialistic economies and the culture of Westernized nations. So they have resurrected the same attitude of cargo culturalization that impoverished their societies more than a century ago.

But now more than just culture is at stake. The island nations are pawns in the vicious global assault upon the last of the world's once bountiful fish and

whale species. The great tragedy is that those who exploit our oceans make such awesome profits doing it, they can afford the incredible extraction technologies required and can afford to buy off those who don't have such efficient means of stripping the sea of life.

Until recently, the only thing protecting fish and other sea life has been the legal sanctity of territoriality, and that is now available to the highest bidder—Japan.

Indentured Servitude

Tuvalu has not just sold out its fisheries to Japan. Along with nations like St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Vanatu and Grenada, Tuvalu has become just another Japanese vassal. It has been indentured to serve as a vote for Japanese schemes to resurrect whaling and to expand Japan's oceanic plundering.

And so in July, Tuvalu took a seat for the first time at the table of the International Whaling Commission, which recently convened in Sorrento, Italy. Tuvalu's membership dues were paid by Japan, and Tuvalu's representatives knew just how to vote. Without hesitation or apparent shame, they parroted whatever Japan wanted.

There are some countries that still uphold ecological values. The Marshall Islands, for example, have expressed concern that resources must be protected. But then the Marshall Islands are a pseudo-colony of the US, and they can afford to be seen as more concerned.

Yet even nations that sell out like Tuvalu are getting mere coins out of the deal. The sale of fishing rights is now funding 20 percent of the Tuvalu economy, but that works out to only one cent per kilogram of fish extracted by foreign fleets. The Pacific and Indian Oceans are being invaded by an armada of foreign ships in an insatiable quest for tuna, squid, shark fins, toothfish and pretty much any seafood that people want to eat in Tokyo, Paris, Taipei or New York.

New licensing deals have allowed for ships from the European Union to join the more than 1,000 Asian and US boats already plundering the fish in the Pacific nations' 200-mile-wide economic zones—those millions of square miles of sea that are encompassed in the so-called sovereignty of these scattered island nations.

These nations are the reason that the Pacific will be stripped of life. They lack the integrity to protect their natural treasures, not because of need but because of greed—and the desire to turn paradise into a materialistic hell. They can be bought, and they are being bought cheap.

For less than a penny on the dollar, the islanders are selling off the right to life of the fish of the sea. And the fish most sought after right now are the tuna.

Vanishing Tuna

The massive ships invading the Pacific are the longliners and the purse seiners. Their prime targets are the yellowfin and skipjack tuna, whose numbers continue to plummet as their sleek, fast, powerful bodies are caught, ground up and stuffed into cans for cats and people.

A decade ago the cry was to save the dolphins from the tuna nets. Now we must save the tuna from the tuna nets.

In the Pacific there are four species of tuna under constant stress from fishing. The bigeyes average 40 pounds and are a favorite in Japanese sushi restaurants. They are already considered to be severely overfished. The yellowfin, averaging 26 pounds, are on the decline. The albacore, which are considered the prime white tuna, average 20 pounds and have been severely depleted in many areas. The skipjacks are the favorite for canning, and three billion pounds of this fish are sold each year as cheap tuna. At an average size of only seven pounds, that means that more than 719 million skipjacks are caught annually. There is no way this can be described as a sustainable fishery.

The tuna fisheries are crashing, and the response from fishing nations has been to build more boats and catch even more fish. The lust for consumption is winning out over the rational need for conservation.

The sad reality is that these island nations have the legal and political power to protect tuna and other fish. They could all have a sustainable fishery for centuries to come by simply keeping the big nations out. If the Japanese want to eat Tuvalu fish, they can travel to the island, stay in a hotel and eat the fish in a local restaurant. That would benefit the Tuvalu economy.

But the present system will see the tuna fishery crash in just a few years and within a decade, the people of Tuvalu will have no more hand-outs from Japan and no more fish. They will be severely impoverished.

But not to worry, the Japanese have a plan. After they kill off the whales in Antarctica, they anticipate large harvests of the oceanic krill that the whales won't be around to eat. They intend to process this krill into a protein base to sell to Third World nations.

And thus Tuvalu islanders will be able to sit down to a meal of coconut, poi and protein krill paste, conveniently supplied from a toothpaste-type tube. Or they could just buy a Happy Meal—that is, if they have any savings left.

For more information, contact the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society; (360) 370-5650; (360) 370-5651 (fax); www.seashepherd.org.

BARE BONES

Endangered Species Act Weakened

On July 21, the Endangered Species Act received a blow when the House Resources Committee voted to approve the "Critical Habitat Reform Act of 2003." The new legislation, if passed by Congress, would require critical habitat designations to consider "the direct, indirect and cumulative economic impacts of the designation, including consideration of lost revenues to landowners." The act is sponsored by California Representative Dennis Cardoza, who cited the interests of California agriculture and ranching as the driving force behind the bill.

The committee also passed another bill, which restricts the use of statistical methods to assess the need for species protection. Although the "Sound Science for Endangered Species Act Planning Act" requires that more emphasis be put on peer-reviewed science and data, it will further slow the listing process, jeopardizing species that need immediate protection.

Mohave Desert Off-Roaders

On July 2, off-road vehicles got a green light from the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with its decision to keep trails on 91 percent of a 1.3 million-acre portion of the Mohave Desert open to off-roaders. Although the BLM contends that its plan will stop or limit access to nesting sites and other crucial areas, critics say that the BLM does not have enough funds to close and rehabilitate trails, many of which were established illegally to begin with.

"They're rewarding past illegal behavior by throwing this area open to intensive, destructive off-roading," said Daniel Patterson, desert ecologist for the Center for Biological Diversity.

The land is home to the desert tortoise, the southwestern willow flycatcher and the Bell's verio.

Transforming Dreams into Reality

The Struggle for Vieques Continues

BY ROBERT RABIN

On May 1, the people of Vieques, Puerto Rico, celebrated the first anniversary of the end of the US Navy's bombardment of our land (See *EF!* July-August 2003). After more than half a century of the US military's horribly destructive presence on Vieques, we celebrated 365 days without bombing and without the continued accumulation of military toxins that we believe to be responsible for our high rates of cancer. Music, vigils, prayer, ecumenical acts, poetry, folkloric dance and movies were the principal ingredients of the weekend's celebrations.

The Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques (CRDV) used the occasion to emphasize the need to continue the struggle for decontamination and the return of the people's lands, as well as for the democratic, sustainable development of Vieques. On April 30, Viequenses picketed in front of the former entrance to the US Navy's bombing range at Camp García, which is now controlled by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The new chants: "Ellos tienen nuestras playas, Fish and Wildlife que se vaya" (They control all our land, Fish and Wildlife go away) and "No queremos guardarraya, Fish and Wildlife que se vaya" (We don't want any more fences, Fish and Wildlife go away).

When military bases close, the US government often transfers contaminated lands to FWS in order to "conserve military contaminations." FWS's mission in Vieques is conservation with strict limitations on social use. Because of this, environmental cleanup will be minimal. Bird watching, for instance, mandates a soil cleanup only a few inches deep, whereas land for housing, schools and ecotourism requires a cleanup several feet deep. Our demands for sustainable development focusing on housing, schools, hospitals and tourism projects are not being met.

FWS claims that it is "taking care" of the natural resources of Vieques, includ-

ing endangered wildlife. Yet it is preparing a land management plan without consulting the local community. We are demanding genuine community participation in this and all related matters.

Recently published congressional documents describe Navy plans for a superficial clean up and the fencing off—forever—of the most heavily contaminated areas. We demand an environmental clean up of all of Vieques to levels necessary for future projects of housing, education and tourism. Thou-

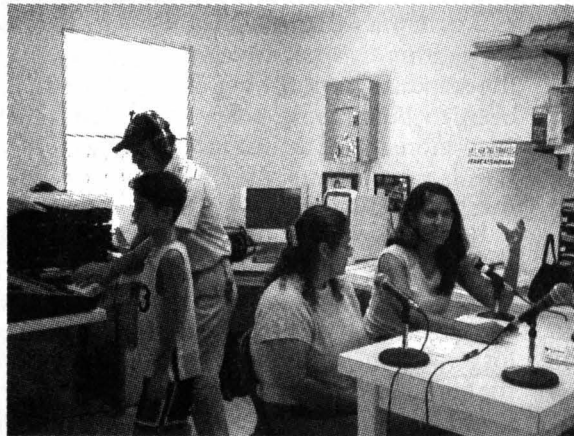


Photo by Deborah B. Santana

Instead of the wire cutters and night-vision binoculars used in the campaign to end the US Navy occupation, CRDV now operates computers and radio transmitters to continue the work for peace—a peace that requires much more than the cessation of bombing.

sands of unexploded bombs, dangerous amounts of heavy metals, unexploded depleted uranium projectiles and uranium oxides are part of the poisonous legacy of 60 years of US militarism. We won't rest until it's all cleaned up!

Demands for a Sustainable Vieques

CRDV demands that the US government immediately recognize Viequenses' rights over our land; the removal of the FWS from the island; the creation of a Viequense corporation with the mission to preserve and protect our natural environment without weapons; that strong

controls be included in the Vieques Master Plan for Sustainable Development in order to protect our lands from speculation and other inappropriate uses; community control over our lands through land trusts and land cooperatives; and active community participation in all these processes, including the total decontamination of our lands.

We propose community-controlled, environmentally and culturally sensitive development; small-scale *posadas*, bed-and-breakfast-type tourist development; integrated programs of fishing and agriculture; and strong legislation to guarantee that Viequenses are employed in administrative positions in tourism and other economic projects. Centers for the study of marine biology and archaeology would help promote positive tourism and further knowledge of our island and people.

Decontamination must take place under the supervision of our community, along with environmental scientists who are trusted by our people; we advocate the training of Viequenses in jobs related to the cleanup process. The founding of an International Center for Military Decontamination would allow the sharing of information and experiences in this area, as well as provide a unique tourist destination.

Scientific studies have found that Viequenses have a 27 percent higher cancer rate than the rest of Puerto Rico, and this is most likely due to high levels of heavy metals and other pollutants in the soil and water—the US Navy's toxic legacy. Therefore, we demand that the US and Puerto Rican governments provide the best possible health-care facilities to carry out testing and remediation.

Peace Work

Instead of the wire cutters, night-vision binoculars and sophisticated communications equipment used in the campaign to end the US Navy occupation, CRDV now operates computers,

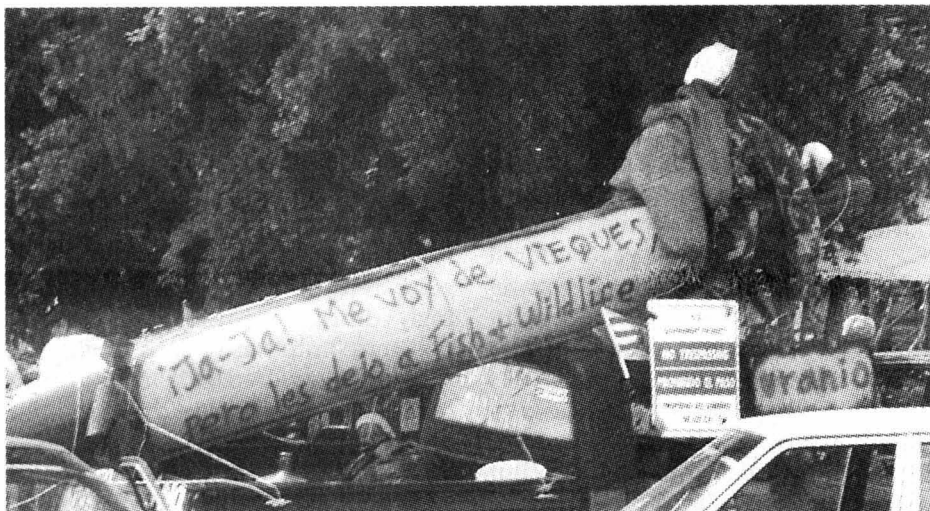


photo by Deborah B. Santana

"Ha, ha! I'm leaving Vieques, but I'm leaving you Fish and Wildlife." Viequeses kicked the US military off their island but now must deal with US Fish and Wildlife mismanagement.

fax machines and radio transmitters to continue the work for peace—a peace that requires much more than the cessation of bombing.

During the past year, CRDV held a series of workshops on the legislation related to the cleanup process. In March, the Military Toxics Project brought activists from US communities that have been negatively impacted by the military to network with people in Vieques. Last October, CRDV and the Caribbean Project for Peace and Justice hosted representatives from groups struggling against militarism in Guam, the Philippines, Korea, Japan and the Marshall Islands, as well as indigenous groups from North America.

We achieved a major victory in February 2003, when the Puerto Rican government adopted our guidelines as the basis for its Master Plan for Sustainable Development. However, we reaffirm our position that "we cannot trust the politicians, because history does not allow it."

La Lucha Continua

La lucha continua (the struggle continues) is the theme of CRDV's Sunday morning *Radio Vieques* program, transmitted since August 2003 from our headquarters at the Peace and Justice Camp (PJC). Located across the street from the entrance to Camp García, the PJC was a major hub for the community organizing and civil disobedience campaign that successfully stopped the bombing. In this "post-bombing" phase, the PJC is now a center for community education and organizing around the more technical issues of environmental cleanup and health, sustainable development and transferring the land to the people of Vieques.

CRDV is keenly aware of the need to involve more young Viequeses in the struggle. In response, we began two media training projects for young people this past June. The first project involves digitalizing thousands of hours of video footage taken during the past five years. A second project in July trained a team of young Viequeses to produce and transmit one of the Sunday radio programs each month. Through these initiatives, CRDV hopes to integrate students into the work of our committee to help them develop their leadership skills, and also to help us learn from the unique and often ignored perspectives of young people.

From May 15-18, CRDV and the Vieques Women's Alliance held a two-day conference in Washington, DC, on this new phase of struggle. At the conference, "Vieques: Transforming Dreams into Reality, The Struggle Continues," 100 activists gathered to discuss the future of the Vieques movement. Two days after the conference, the movement again showed its resilience with a protest in front of the Puerto Rican legislature in San Juan, demanding that the commonwealth's Health Department fulfill its promises for services, equipment, and testing children for the presence of heavy metals. *La lucha continua*.

For more information, contact the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques, POB 1424, Vieques, Puerto Rico 00765; (787) 741-0716; bieke@prorescatevieques.org; www.prorescatevieques.org.

Robert Rabin is a founding member of CRDV and spent six months in federal prison in San Juan for actions related to the campaign to stop the bombing.

BARE BONES

Court Upholds Restrictions Against Vanunu

On July 26, Israel's Supreme Court upheld restrictions against nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu, banning him from leaving the country or speaking with foreign media. Vanunu, who was released April 21, spent 18 years in prison for exposing Israel's nuclear weapons programs to the world (see *EF!* July-August 2004).

Since the court's ruling, he has told foreign media that the nuclear reactor in Dimona may be endangering nearby Jordanians and could begin to leak given a strong earthquake. The London-based Arabic newspaper *Al-Wassat* published an interview on July 25 with Vanunu in which he asserted that Israel has 100-200 nuclear weapons, including a neutron bomb and hydrogen bombs.

Vanunu is currently seeking asylum in any country that will grant it so that he can leave Israel and continue his life.

Security Breaches at Nuclear Facilities

Security lapses discovered at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico prompted US Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham to close other laboratories and nuclear facilities.

Concerns arose after two computer disks with classified information were found to be missing from Los Alamos. Many sites allow scientists to use portable and removable disk drives, which can hold large amounts of information and can potentially be used to take classified data out of a facility.

Security problems at nuclear facilities go back decades, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, which cited the appearance of a document titled "How to Design a Thermonuclear Weapon," in a public library in the late '70s.

Protesters Shut Down Guatemala

BY REBECCA BRIGHAM AND LENNY

A nationwide strike and day of protest effectively shut down the country of Guatemala on June 8. More than 100 groups, including indigenous rights groups, *campesino* (peasant farmer) organizations, human rights groups, women's organizations and labor unions organized the strike to protest a recent spate of violent evictions of indigenous peasant farmers, the signing of the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and a series of new tax laws targeting the poor.

Twenty of Guatemala's 22 provinces were affected by the strike. Vendors abandoned their markets and university students burned tires in the streets of Guatemala City. Thousands of protesters surrounded government buildings and the international airport, while thousands more blocked the roads in and out of the capital, as well as major highways leading to the coasts and out of the country.

"Peasant farmers are desperate," said *campesino* Emilio Set from a roadblock south of the capital. "We have no food and nowhere else to go."

The strike was planned for two days, but was called off after only 12 hours when the president of Guatemala, Oscar Berger, met with protest leaders and signed an agreement to address their demands.

The issue at the heart of the protest is the fundamental inequality built into the Guatemalan social system, especially in distribution of land. When the Spanish conquered Guatemala, they evicted the indigenous people from their lands and forced them into servitude. After independence in 1821, the bulk of Guatemala's land remained in the hands of the economic elite. In 1950, President Jacobo Arbenz Guzman began a program of land reform, seizing and redistributing unused land from wealthy landowners, including the

US-based United Fruit Company. In 1954, Arbenz was ousted by a CIA-sponsored coup that plunged Guatemala into more than 30 years of civil war, wherein all land reform was reversed and a concerted genocide campaign was waged against the indigenous population.

In the 1996 peace accords, the government promised to find land for *campesinos* displaced by the war. But two years later, 70 percent of the nation's arable land remained in the hands of one-seventh of one percent of the agricultural population. With 60 percent of arable land uncultivated and more than half a million rural families living below subsistence level, *campesinos* and unemployed workers

US corn, bankrupting small Mexican farmers and forcing them off their land. When farmers saved and planted the imported corn—much of which was genetically modified—they unknowingly contributed to the spread of modified genes into native corn stock.

Berger attempted to dismiss the protesters as a disgruntled minority, but only eight hours into the strike he agreed to meet with protest leaders. As a result of the meetings, Berger agreed to call for an end to the land evictions and to have Congress review the relevant laws. He also promised to open a special office on agrarian affairs and to distribute copies of CAFTA in all the Mayan languages. The Supreme Court agreed to investigate the legality of the recent evictions.

"Until [the strike], the government had given priority to the interests of the business sector, of which it is a faithful representative, but now it understands that it has to change directions and take public opinion into account," said Miguel Angele Sandoval, leader of the Agrarian Platform.

Critics point out, however, that all of Berger's promises have been made—and broken—before, and that he lacks the judicial authority to halt the evictions. Marco Antonio Barahona, a political analyst with the

Association of Investigation and Social Studies, called the strike a "waste of popular energy."

Cesar Davila, leader of the Social Organizations Collective, disagrees. "For us, the strike's main success was getting the government to agree to discuss our requests." Strike leaders agreed to a 90-day moratorium on strikes and protests in order to give the government time to implement changes. After that period, anything goes. And now that Guatemala's people have shown their collective power, the government may not be so quick to dismiss their concerns.

Rebecca Brigham is a senior at Wesleyan University and an intern at the Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA.



began reclaiming and cultivating unused land. Since Berger took office in January, government forces have evicted more than 1,500 people at the demand of land owners. Twenty-three of the 39 evictions have been carried out with extreme violence.

Also of concern to the protesters was the signing of CAFTA in May. An extension of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), CAFTA would loosen (i.e., eliminate) "trade barriers" between countries involved in the agreement. Guatemalan *campesinos* fear that CAFTA will further impoverish them and restrict their ability to compete in local and global markets. In Mexico, for example, NAFTA led to the mass importation of cheap

Victory in the Galapagos

BY SEA SHEPHERD CONSERVATION SOCIETY

In July, the highest Ecuadorian court ruled that limits on the harvesting of sea cucumbers are legal and must be upheld. "This is a great victory for conservation in the Galapagos," said Captain Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, whose ship, the *Sirenian*, is on permanent patrol in the Galapagos Marine Reserve.

Conflict between fishermen and reserve authorities erupted in early June. The fishermen had become disgruntled with the quota of four million sea cucumbers that the reserve imposed on their fishery in May. They occupied the Galapagos National Park offices, held hostages and threatened to kill a giant tortoise unless they were allowed a fishery with no limits (see *EF!* July-August 2004).

The fishermen challenged the national park in court on its right to set limits on marine resources. They won an injunction from a local judge, who ruled that the limits were unfair and impeded the ability of the fishermen to make a living. The judge struck down the limits, but in so doing struck down the fishery altogether. Without official guidelines and policy, the fishermen were not allowed to take even the four million that had been granted to them in May.

In the meantime, the park and the Environment Ministry of Ecuador appealed the injunction to the nation's Constitutional Tribunal. On July 22, the high court ruled that since the Galapagos Islands are protected as a marine reserve,

its authorities were correct to consider "aspects related to protecting biodiversity and the environment" when setting limits for fishing.

Edwin Naula, the director of Galapagos National Park, said that environmental authorities and fishermen would meet to discuss setting new dates for sea cucumber fishing this year, since the original

two-month season concluded in July during the conflict. However, the park has banned sea cucumber fishing for 2005 and 2006 in an effort to protect the species in the islands.

Watson is concerned that more and more

people are moving to the islands from Ecuador. "The islands are attracting fishermen from Ecuador who have already depleted coastal mainland fisheries," said Watson. "The rate of growth in the Galapagos is escalating. The Galapagos National Park is now the last stand. If we can't save these profoundly unique and treasured islands from being destroyed by humanity, we won't be able to save anything in this world from over-exploitation."

For more information, visit www.seashepherd.org.



Sea Shepherd crew with Galapagos tortoises

photo courtesy Sea Shepherd



The Sea Shepherd ship *Sirenian* patrols the Galapagos

photo courtesy Sea Shepherd

BARE BONES

Tribe Regains Sacred Land

The Wiyot Tribe received 40 acres of land from the city of Eureka, California, on May 18. The land, part of the 250-acre Indian Island, marks the site where Anglo invaders massacred Wiyots 144 years ago.

In 2000, the tribe purchased 1.5 acres on the eastern tip of the island, and it has been working to clean it up ever since. The Wiyot are now seeking the remainder of the island, working with the few landowners who currently live there.

The island is held as the center of the universe for the Wiyot. Since the 1860 massacre, no traditional ceremonial dances have taken place there.

"We lost our regalia, our elders, our weavers and our dreamers—all the things that make a community," tribal Chairwoman Cheryl A. Seidner said of the massacre. "We have not danced since that day. We have to relearn. I can't wait for that first dance," she said.

Setbacks for Buffalo Defenders

On June 2, Buffalo Field Campaign activist Akiva Silver was sentenced to two years probation and given a fine of \$170,000 after pleading guilty to shutting down a buffalo trapping pen in Montana in April. Silver shut down the pen by occupying a platform suspended from a pole set in the center of the main pen.

Two weeks after Silver's sentencing, the US House of Representatives voted down a measure that would have "[prohibited] the use of funds to kill bison, or assist in the killing of bison, in the Yellowstone National Park herd." The measure failed the House by a 202-215 vote. It is the second year in a row that such a bill has been narrowly voted down.

The America the Beautiful Pass

The New Gateway to Public Lands

BY JESSICA LEE

When Bob Bartsch escapes from the city into the Southern California wilderness, he always breaks the law. Refusing to purchase the Adventure Pass, a fee required to access public land, he often returns to his car to find another ticket of noncompliance.

Bartsch, an activist with Free our Forests Los Angeles, has gathered more than a handful of the unenforceable tickets over the years. When he heads out into the wilderness, he now tapes them up in the windows to encourage others to stop buying the pass.

Although thousands of Americans practice civil disobedience daily on federal lands by refusing to buy a daily or annual access pass, the future of the 1996 Recreation fee demonstration Program (fee demo) is likely to live or die in Congress this Autumn.

Meet House Resource Bill 3283, the proposed Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.

Introduced by Ohio Representative Ralph Regula, yet written largely by representatives of the American Recreation Coalition (ARC)—a group of more than 200 hundred businesses that benefit from marketing outdoor recreation (as admitted in their own May 6 Congressional testimonies)—the bill would do more than make all current fee demo sites permanent.

First, the bill proposes creating one pass for "any site of federal land management agency that charges a basic recreation fee." This would standardize the regional fee demo passes. Cheesy at best but disturbing nonetheless, the annual national pass would be named "America the

Beautiful" and would most likely cost \$85 or more.

The pass would not be the "buy all, end all." It would cover the entrance fee to a site, but the "recreationalist" would be faced with multi-layered fees to use campgrounds, interpretative centers, boat ramps and more once inside the fee area.

The legislation would decrease the amount of fee money that is required

legislation. "The guy from Ohio is going to tell us in Colorado that we have to pay to use our natural resources ... give me a break," she said.

Regula does not have any federal public lands in his Ohio district.

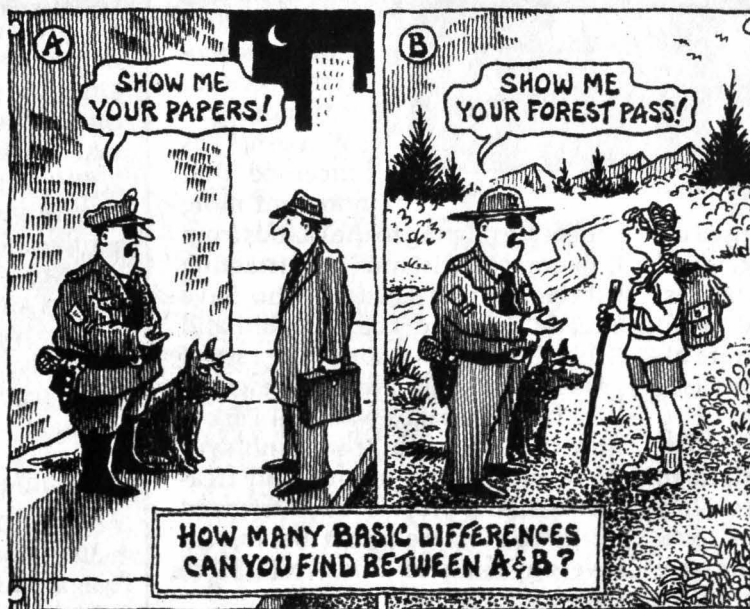
With election day looming, the corporate lobbyists who have held high ranking positions in federal land management policy for the last four years know that the time is now. The ARC and key pro-industry congressional representatives have made it clear that privatization is the goal.

Alaska Senator Frank Murkowski has said, "If the Forest Service policy won't allow [privatization], we'll change the policy. If we have to cut off the funds to get your attention, we'll cut off your funds."

"I can tell you right now that the American public feels that recreation on public lands is an incredible bargain, and is willing to pay substantially more," said Derrick Crandall, President of ARC, in testimony to Congressional Subcommittee Hearing on Forest Fees in February 1998.

In Northern Arizona, individuals have resisted the fee demo program since January 2000. "It is like logging, mining and grazing extractive agencies," says Jon Orlando, statewide coordinator of the Arizona No Fee Coalition. "This is the next extractive industry: recreation. It is a \$300 billion dollar agency in the nation. They see public lands as a cash crop."

Orlando and others have witnessed many of their favorite, once-free campgrounds in the Coconino National Forest turned over to Resource Management, Inc., a California company that profits from running campgrounds. It is difficult to hike in the area around Sedona without seeing the Red Rocks fee signs.



to be spent on-site from 80 percent to 60 percent.

In the eight years since fee demo was adopted, the enforcement mechanism to punish people who refuse to pay the fee has been weak. According to Bartsch, more than 250,000 notices of noncompliance have been handed out in Southern California, yet only two people have been prosecuted. If HR 3283 passes, failure to purchase a pass will be a Class B misdemeanor, which carries a \$5,000 fine and up to six months in jail.

The bill has seven co-signers, but not one is from the West, where the majority of federal land exists. Kitty Benzar, cofounder of Western Slope No Fee Coalition, is outraged over the

In Southern California, to even access public land you must display an Adventure Pass. Want to hike to the top of Mount Shasta? Dish out \$15. Colorado charges five dollars to stroll through patches of mountain wilderness.

Currently, the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service manage approximately 640 million acres of land. In September 2003, the Department of the Interior reported 637 existing fee demo sites. No fee activists dispute the number, saying the definition of a "fee demo site" is confusing because of the amount of access roads that lead into these areas. Anti-fee demo activists believe the number of sites is in the thousands.

Earth Firsters and others who are connected to the land know that national public lands are slipping into the hands of the recreation industry through federal agencies that have been swayed by private interests. Now leaders of the anti-fee demo movement are calling for ticked-off wilderness lovers to embark on a massive educational campaign.

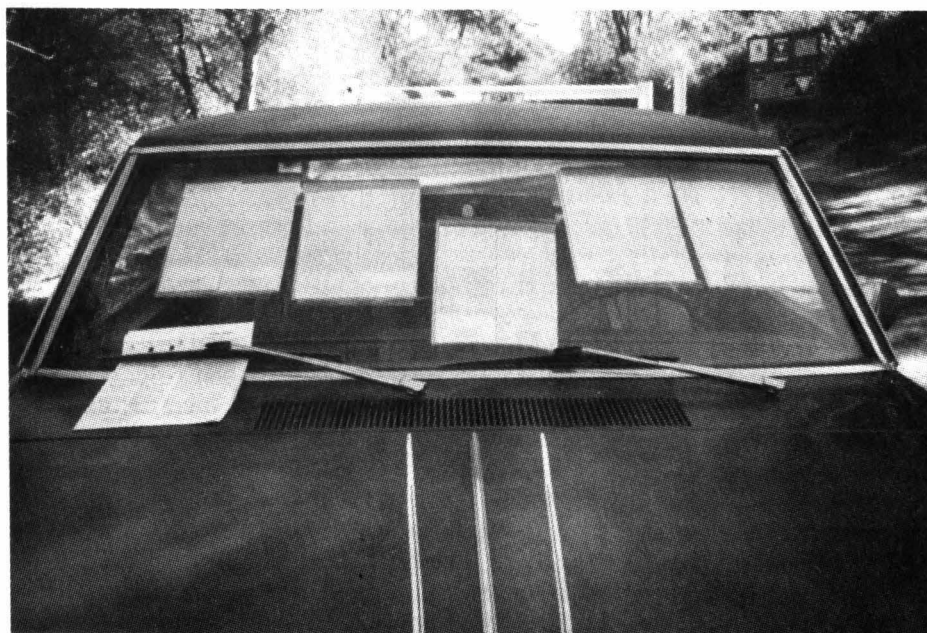
"The most effective thing is education. Visit the websites available, read the articles, spread the word, bring it forward," said Robert Funkhouser, Western No Fee Coalition cofounder and lobbyist in Washington, DC. "People who have become aware then bring it to the organizations where they work and play."

The beauty of the fee demo issue is that it outrages nearly everyone. Regardless of political ideology and economic class, individuals are protesting fee demo on the grounds of double-taxation, privatization, assault on our freedoms, affordability and that our forests will now be governed by a business plan, rather than a management plan.

It is time to get down and dirty in public education and policy work if we are to liberate our public lands from the fee demo program. Call your congressional representatives and tell them to not support HR 3283 or any possible in-the-works, rewritten versions.

Refuse to support fee demo and resist purchasing daily and annual access passes to our public lands. Boycott businesses who make a profit from selling Fee Demo passes and pressure them to drop their contracts with the forest service. Throw an outdoors party to get people out into the wilderness to appreciate why we want our lands to stay in the public domain. Public will and grassroots organization can topple the recreation management empire.

For more information, contact the Western Slope No Fee Coalition, POB 403, Norwood, CO 81423; wsnfc@hotmail.com; or visit www.freeourforests.org; www.wildwilderness.com; www.aznofee.org; www.sespewild.org.



Bob Bartsch encourages others to boycott fee demo by plastering his car with noncompliance tickets

BARE BONES

Mt. Graham Heats Up

Southern Arizona's hot spot, Mt. Graham, heated up this Summer with two fires that burned 30,000 acres, taking out two million dollars worth of communications equipment and coming within a quarter mile of a \$130 million telescope complex.

Arizona Representative Rick Renzi wasted no time before visiting residents in July to discuss land exchanges that would allow private property owners to thin the stands of ponderosa pines around their homes. Interior Secretary Gale Norton also visited the burned areas at the end of July, encouraging local and federal agencies to use the Healthy Forests Initiative to thin the forests.

Prior to the Summer's fires, on April 13, the San Carlos Apache Tribal Council rejected a bribe from the University of Arizona. The University proposed giving the tribe \$120,000 in credits for school programs in exchange for dropping opposition to development on Mt. Graham.

Tribal Councilman Myron Moses questioned the motives behind the proposition. "If it wasn't for the telescopes on top of Mt. Graham ... there would be no interest ... in the Apache tribes."

No ATVs in Adirondacks

ATVs are no longer allowed on any public part of the Adirondack State Park in New York after officials banned them on July 9. The ruling closed off more than 50 roads, affecting 150 miles of trails in the six-million-acre park. The only exceptions are for handicapped riders, hunters with special permits and those on private property.

"We've fought long and hard to try to get the administration to pay attention to the damage going on in these areas," said John Sheehan from the nonprofit Adirondack Council.

photo by Bob Bartsch

Roadless Rule Shredded

BY LISA DIX

On July 12, the Bush administration announced that it would move forward with a new Roadless Area Conservation Rule. The new rule would overturn roadless-area protection for almost 60 million acres that was put in place by the Clinton administration in 2001. This follows on the heels of the Bush administration's exemption of Alaska's Tongass National Forest from roadless area protection on December 23, 2003.

Administration officials have stated publicly that they are still "conserving roadless areas on national forests," and simply "modifying" the rule, but this is just more greenwashing. The Bush proposal undeniably eliminates the Roadless Rule in its entirety, ultimately opening up our national forests to logging. As written, the proposal could easily serve as the pretext for reducing protections to a level even lower than they were before the rule took effect in 2001.

Basically, the new rule will set up an optional, two-step petition process where governors with roadless areas in their states will decide what regions to

protect. Then they must petition the Department of Agriculture for that protection. If the Secretary of Agriculture accepts the governor's petition, the US Forest Service (USFS) would initiate a state-specific rulemaking.

There is absolutely no guarantee that this process would result in roadless area protection because according to the draft regulations, a governor's petition would not necessarily be accepted. Governors could also petition the administration to weaken protections, which is likely to happen in pro-development states like Idaho and Alaska.

Thus, governors will request what regions they would like to see protected, but in the end, the administration will have sole discretion over whether it will allow these areas to be protected. The administration will also control any details about how the state-specific rulemaking moves forward.

The Bush administration claims that it is making these changes because the process used by Clinton to establish the rule was unfair to states and local governments. It also claims that Clinton's comment period was

not sufficient and that it was a last-minute process.

However, the Clinton administration spent three years on public dialogue and comment processes, which included an incredibly thorough assessment of roadless areas, extensive scientific analysis, more than 600 public hearings nationwide, and comment periods in excess of those required. A record number of Americans wrote to the federal government—more than 1.5 million—and more than 95 percent supported the roadless rule. Not by any stretch of the imagination can it be accurately characterized as a last-minute process.

In contrast, the Bush administration has not issued any scientific analysis justifying a change in the rule, and it has not held one public hearing. Typically, the administration is completely ignoring public sentiment and participation.

The fact of the matter is that there are already too many destructive roads that crisscross our national forests—386,000 miles worth—enough to circle the Earth 15 times. American taxpayers are being forced to subsidize logging roads and timber sales that benefit

Frontlines

Gap Gets Trashed at DNC

On July 29, 12 activists stormed a Gap clothing store in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Once inside they turned over displays, threw clothes on the floor and spray-painted what they could.

According to a communiqué, the activists wanted to show the connection between corporate globalization and the Democratic Party, which was holding its national convention in Boston. The activists pointed out that the Gap is one of the biggest employers of sweatshop labor around the world and that it will stay that way under the Democrat-supported policies of "free trade."

The environmental damage caused by the Gap was also a factor in the actions. "They are closely connected to unorganic cotton, one of the most chemicalized crops on the planet, poisoning our Earth, air and water. The Fischer family, which owns the Gap, also owns Mendocino Redwood Company, which continues to cut the last of the old-growth redwoods," stated the communiqué.

The communiqué also highlighted the Gap's role in gentrifying Cambridge Square, telling of the company's

takeover of a building that the community fought to keep them out of.

Car-Free Events Across Germany

Almost a million people in Germany took part in car-free events this Summer. On June 6, nearly 250,000 cyclists converged on Berlin for the annual "Sternfahrt" (rally), which was organized by the German Bicycle Club. After the ride concluded, participants held a party and eco-festival.

Later in the month, 250 towns took part in a national car-free day to promote transportation alternatives. Among the actions was a blockade of the B 27 Highway between Heilbronn and Mosbach.

ALF Arson Gets Results!

On the night of June 30, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) left powerful incendiary devices on a construction site in Oxford, England, to target RMC Group, which is doing concrete work on a new medical laboratory at Oxford University. The incendiary

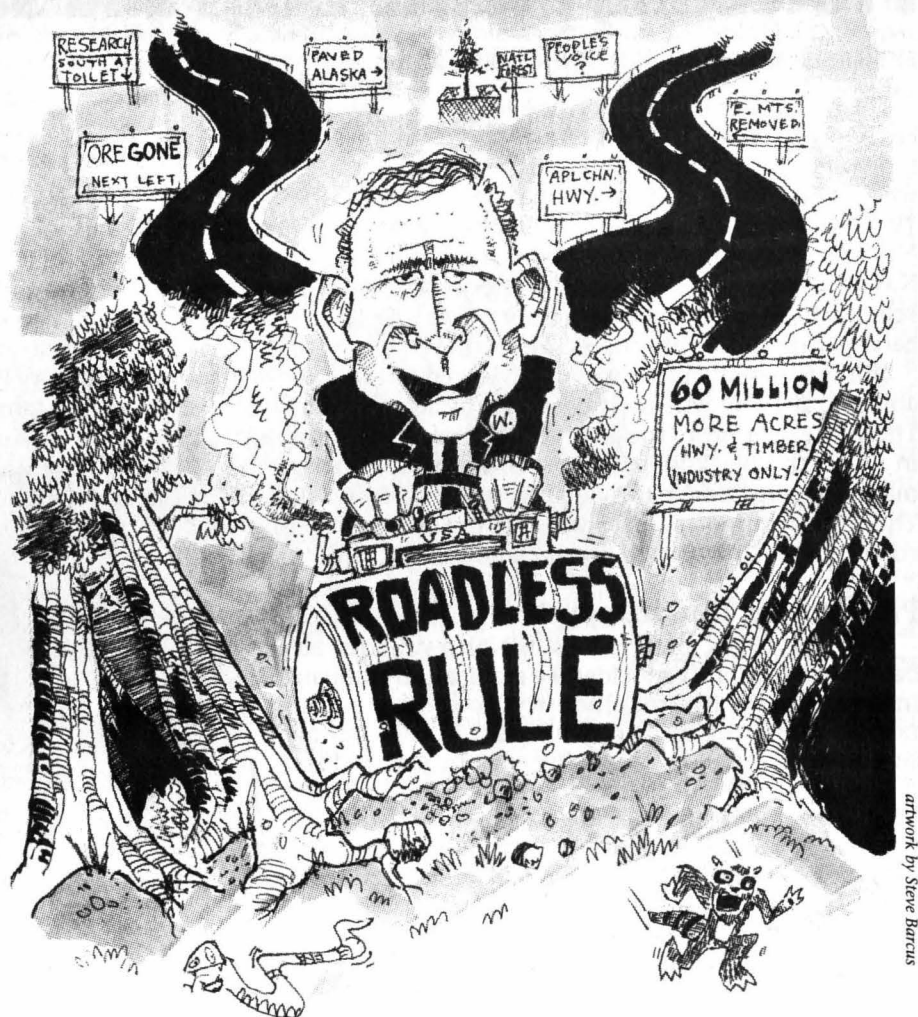
timber companies to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars per year—even though the USFS has a \$10 billion road-maintenance backlog. And, less than one-quarter of one percent of the nation's timber supply is located in roadless areas.

These roadless areas belong to all Americans, but this rule change benefits only a few timber and energy companies. Public comments on the new proposed rule will be accepted until September 14. After the comment period ends, the USFS is supposed to read and incorporate public comments and come out with a final rule. However, millions of Americans have already commented in favor of roadless area protection, and it looks likely that the administration will ignore the public during this period as well. Given Bush's track record, we should be prepared to see a final rule come out on Christmas Eve.

We need to mobilize our networks, memberships, friends and co-workers to help stop this latest attack on our national forests. Our goal is to generate more than one million comments!

For more information, visit www.americanlands.org or contact us at (202) 547-9400.

Lisa Dix is the National Forest Program Director for American Lands Alliance.



artwork by Steve Barrows

devices caused \$275,000 worth of damage and resulted in the destruction of three trucks and the site office as well as severe damage to associated industrial buildings and machinery.

Two weeks later the ALF struck again, slashing the tires on two vehicles and cutting cables on construction equipment. The subcontractor for RMC Group, Montpellier, pulled out of construction on July 19, thus ending RMC Group's construction on the lab—a temporary victory for the animals.

In the days after Montpellier pulled out, activists blockaded Oxford University's main phone line with more than 300 calls at various times during the day.

ALF Actions in Sweden

On June 15, the ALF planted several incendiaries in the main building at the Skyberga Mink Farm in Kumla, Sweden, burning it to the ground and causing \$400,000 in damage. The owner of this farm is notorious among fur farmers. He captured three animal rights activists on his farm in 1998, and has claimed since then that no one can get him.

Also in Sweden, nearly 90 animals were liberated from a rabbit-meat farm in Skåne on July 26. Many of the rabbits were pregnant or had wounds. ALFers also

vandalized the inside and outside of the building and destroyed water pipes to the empty cages.

"The war against the fur industry will get harder," read a Swedish ALF communiqué. "If we can't get the animals because of increased security then we are going after your buildings, homes and maybe the fur farmers themselves."

Hiroshima Day Actions

August 6 was the 59th anniversary of the US nuclear bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, during World War II. People from across the US marked the weekend with protests against US nuclear policy.

In Oakland, California, 300 activists marched from an elementary school to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory on August 8. The next morning, 23 people were arrested for blocking a road outside of the nuclear lab.

In Washington, DC, two people were arrested at the National Air and Space Museum for throwing ashes on the Enola Gay, the plane used to bomb Hiroshima. The museum was evacuated for 90 minutes while authorities rescreened all visitors.

In Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 200 people marched to the Y-12 National Security Complex, where 12 activists were arrested at the for obstructing a roadway.

Protecting Prairie Dogs and Saving the Ferret:

BY ROD CORONADO/CHUK'SHON EARTH FIRST!

The grassland plains of northern Arizona's Aubrey Valley are home to one of only six reintroduced colonies of black-footed ferrets (*Mustela nigripes*) in North America. The last wild black-footed ferret in Arizona was recorded in 1931. In 1996, with the cooperation of the Hualapai and Navajo Nations, 35 captive-bred ferrets were released on the Navajo Nation's 750,000-acre Boquillas Ranch near Seligman, Arizona. Since then, more than 165 ferrets have been reintroduced into the Aubrey Valley.

The survival rate of young, captive-bred ferrets and their ability to distribute themselves is currently being investigated. Thought extinct until the discovery of a colony in Wyoming in 1981, the black-footed ferret is the most endangered mammal listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ferrets cannot survive without healthy prairie dog colonies, which comprise 90 percent of their diet.

Prairie Dogs Under Assault

Since the 1930s, prairie dogs in North America have been the target of a genocide-like eradication campaign instigated by the livestock industry. According to many ranchers, breaking a leg in a prairie dog hole is the only supposed threat posed to grazing cows by prairie dogs. But an Arizona Department of Game and Fish (AZDGF) brochure about prairie dogs says the threat is "overstated" and that "documented cases of this are extremely rare." Still, the US Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and state agencies across the West continue to poison prairie dogs—even in Arizona, where Gunnison's prairie dogs have been exterminated from 98 percent of their historic range.

AZEF! in Action

While poisoning campaigns continue to threaten both prairie dogs and black-footed ferrets nationwide, recreational shooting and outbreaks of Sylvatic plague are the Gunnison's prairie dog's greatest threat in the Aubrey Valley.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Black-Footed Ferret Recovery Program's national goal is to establish 10 or more self-sustaining colonies by 2010, with approximately 1,500 ferrets in the wild. In Arizona, the primary goal of the



video stills by Rod Coronado

OBJECTIVE: Gunnison's prairie dogs make easy prey for weekend sport hunters. AZEF! plans to shut down operations.

Frontlines

French Activists Attack GM Crops

On July 25, 1,500 activists led by Jose Bové ripped up a field of genetically modified (GM) corn in Leignac, France. A US biotechnology company, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, owns the field. It is one of 48 parcels of experimental transgenic food crops in France.

Police were ordered to intervene, but instead they just took down the identities of a few activists. Bové, who became famous after helping to pull down a McDonald's in 1999, stated, "In the coming weeks, there will be other GM test fields that will be destroyed."

Fighting Missile Dismantling in Russia

Activists in Perm, Russia, set up a protest camp in July to keep a missile dismantling plant out of their town. They are not against the disarmament of Russia's old weapons, but they claim that the way missiles are processed is dangerous to both people and the environment.

The camp was organized by Autonomous Action, Anarcho-Ecological Resistance, Union for Chemical Safety and Yekaterinburg Movement Against Violence, and has

been active since July 2. It has featured creative performances, as well as speakers and pickets.

On the evening of July 14, the campers got a scary reminder of why they are fighting when a train carrying hydrochloric acid derailed 437 yards away from the protest camp. The train was on the same tracks that would carry hazardous materials to the missile dismantling plant.

Energy Czar Meets Biotic Baking Brigade

On July 29, an unidentified protestor wearing a Ronald Reagan mask plunged a cream pie into the face of Beth Nagusky during a "Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) in New England" forum. Nagusky, Maine's energy chief, was listening to another speaker when "Reagan" burst in and said, "This is for John," then escaped offstage. "Reagan" was referring to Maine Governor John Baldacci who, in early July, received a much smellier present than Nagusky (see page 29).

This incident, however, was not the only controversial aspect of the forum. Earlier in the week, the organizers of the forum chose to omit representatives of a community group and a commercial fishing organization on the

program is to establish at least one free-ranging, self-sustaining population in the Aubrey Valley. A federal wildlife biologist who worked with ferrets for 13 years believes that it takes at least 100 breeding female ferrets in a wild population for the colony to survive. Ten thousand acres of plague-free prairie dog colonies are necessary to achieve such a biologically independent ferret colony.

Bring Back the Wild Ferret

Arizona Earth First! (AZEFL) supports the return of uncollared, transponder chip-less black-footed ferrets to the plains of Arizona. According to FWS, the greatest limiting factor in ferret recovery is the availability of large, healthy prairie dog colonies. Hence, AZEFL also supports the legal petition filed by Forest Guardians in February, calling for ESA protection for the Gunnison's prairie dog.

AZDGF has an obligation to suspend any activities that threaten the lives of endangered animals. Until the black-footed ferret reintroduction program has met its primary goal of truly wild ferret colonies, and a federal judge can rule on the petition to protect Gunnison's prairie dogs under the ESA, AZEFL calls for an end to the AZDGF nine-month hunting season for Gunnison's prairie dogs.

Action in Aubrey Valley

In early June, AZEFL reviewed Velocity Films' "Prairie Dog Be Gone!," a video that promises "maximum dog blasting

action, outrageous humor and extreme prairie dog acrobatics." Complete with a heavy-metal soundtrack, the video includes Olympic-style scoring for prairie dogs ripped from their holes with high-powered rifles. Investigative research also led us to a sportsmen's Internet chat room, where we learned of local hunters' plans for a prairie dog hunt in the Aubrey Valley.

On June 26, members of Chuk'shon, Phoenix and Prescott Earth First! met at the Boquillas Ranch to volunteer for

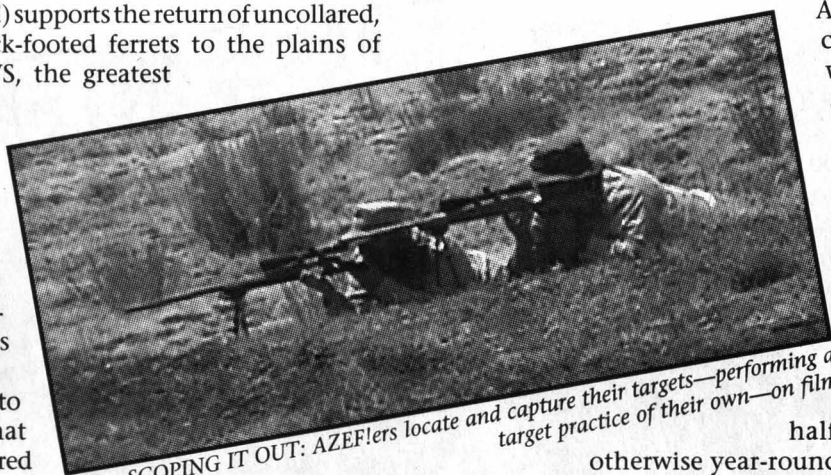
AZDGF's annual ranch cleanup. In the process, we hoped to document and stop the slaughter of Gunnison's prairie dogs. Our Earth First! group's collective objective was to document the hunting of Gunnison's prairie dogs during their pupping season, immediately after the two-and-a-

half month break in an

otherwise year-round hunting season.

After picking up trash, we found the Internet hunters—all US servicemen—on the edge of a prairie dog colony, shooting from folding chairs with scoped AR-15s and other high-powered rifles. Unbeknownst to them, we had camped next to their site the night before, the hunters having conveniently described online the vehicles and guns they would be using on their brave adventure. As we approached their group, the hunters quietly began breaking camp and putting their rifles away. A Chuk'shon Earth Firstler greeted the group and

continued on next page



SCOPING IT OUT: AZEFLers locate and capture their targets—performing a target practice of their own—on film

speakers list. The list was limited to energy industry representatives and former or current government officials.

The two groups not allowed on the list, Fair Play for Harpswell and Fishing Families for Harpswell, recently helped to defeat a proposal to lease Harpswell coastal land to LNG giant Conoco-Philips.

"Reagan" was not apprehended.

Hummer Torched in Washington

In an email message sent to four news organizations in Spokane, Washington, the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) claimed responsibility for burning a \$55,000 H2 Hummer on August 3 at a dealership in Liberty Lake, a suburb of Spokane. Two other Hummers at the same dealership were also damaged from the fire.

This was the fifth action claimed by the ELF this year and the second targeting Hummers. In January, the ELF claimed responsibility for vandalizing five Hummers in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Activists Retaliate for Arrest

On July 7, an animal rights activist was arrested for peacefully protesting outside of the New York home of Andrew Baker, chief executive officer of Focused HealthCare Partners (FHP).

On July 18, activists retaliated for the arrest by swarming Baker's Los Angeles, California, residence. Once there, they set off a strip of 1,000 firecrackers, broke planter boxes, destroyed a fountain and smashed windows and security cameras. They also tipped over garbage cans, leaving glass and garbage all over Baker's property.

Baker works out of FHP's New Jersey office as a consultant for Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS)—a notorious animal testing laboratory. FHP is allegedly a major force in keeping HLS afloat.

Cockfighting Arena Torched in Louisiana

In early August, The Hickory Recreational Club, a cockfighting arena in Hickory, Louisiana, was set on fire. The initials ALF were found spray painted in large red letters on an adjacent building. The arena, owned by John Short, held cockfights for 25 years and drew crowds of 200 every weekend. The fire was set just 10 hours after a fight.

The walls of the large metal building, which housed the 500-seat wooden arena, were reported to be heaving in and out from the heat when firefighters arrived.

Cockfighting is banned in every state except Louisiana and New Mexico. In May, a state House committee voted 9-5 against a bill that would have outlawed cockfighting in Louisiana.

continued from previous page

stated that we were making a documentary and would like to interview prairie dog hunters. They politely declined, continuing in silence to pack their gear before walking back to their trucks. One young hunter paused long enough to say, "I love coming out here because it is so peaceful."

Our next target was a group of four shooters located between Route 66 and parallel railroad tracks a quarter mile away. We drove our Trojan horse—a white 4x4 truck—directly into their field of fire and parked. We set up our video camera on the hood of the truck and retired to await their next move. After 15 minutes of scoping us with binoculars, the baffled hunters packed up and left in frustration. By simply looking official, being informed and authoritative and armed with nothing more than a camera, the presence of EF!ers in the killing fields was enough to influence most prairie dog hunters away from killing more animals.

When the hunters we approached didn't stop hunting, as was the case with a local rancher and his son, we engaged them in debate and distracting conversation. When we observed a hunter shooting prairie dogs from his truck window, we videotaped his license plate and confronted him about his illegal behavior until he left the area. Our biodiesel truck looked official, and some prairie dog hunters seemed confused as to our identity. Then again, shooting prairie dogs from the road in such an unsporting manner isn't something most hunters want captured on film.

Campaign Hunt Sab: AZE! vs. AZDGF

Without breaking any laws, AZE! uses some hunters' fear of being filmed while engaging in their bloody sport to save lives. We are equal citizens, some even with hunting licenses, exercising our right to access public lands. Only, AZE! offers no apologies when a citizen's desire to nonviolently enjoy wildness results in disrupting hunters in their violent sport.

The prairie dog hunters we spoke with claimed to shoot between 10 and 30 prairie dogs a day. Upon inspecting the shot-out colonies after the hunters left, we discovered the shattered bodies that attested to this

figure. The majority of the prairie dogs—which are shot and simply left where they fall—appeared to be young pups who had not developed a healthy fear of humans. A member of the Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club said that shooting prairie dogs is a great way to sight in your rifle for the upcoming Fall big-game season.

The only other argument we heard to justify the killing of prairie dogs was that there were simply plenty of them and that they were in no actual danger of

extinction. But as one hunter said in an Internet posting, "The prairie dog is a poster child for animal rights activists. AZDGF, as a way of pacifying animal rights activists, put a season on them hoping [the activists] would go away." We interviewed an AZDGF Commissioner at the ranch who confirmed that the Gunnison's prairie dog hunting season was implemented in response to the petition to list the species under the ESA. Yet no AZDGF biologists are presently investigating threats to prairie dog survival.

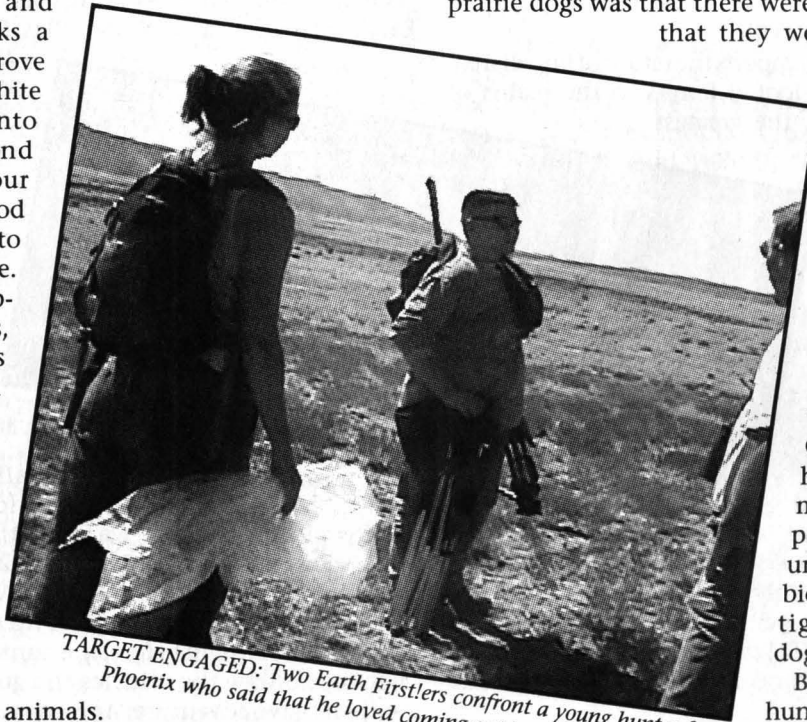
Back online, the Internet hunters discussed their encounter with AZE!, one hunter joking about being in the next Michael

Moore or People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals video, while another went so far as to say that he felt killing prairie dogs was a "guilty pleasure" and that, "I can't help but feel that God was looking down on us shaking His head."

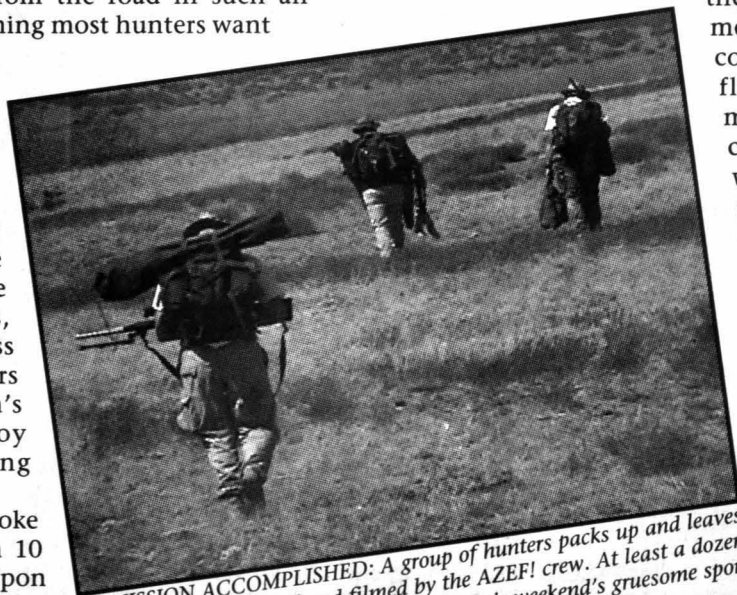
AZE! will continue to expose and challenge the mismanagement of our state's wildlife by AZDGF and continue

the call for the appointment of Game and Fish commissioners more reflective of our state's majority, non-hunting constituency who enjoy wildlife without killing. Only through public involvement can we challenge the wildlife agency's bias toward sport hunters. AZE! is planning further actions against AZDGF-sponsored trophy hunts starting in September. If you would like to join us in the field or can provide direct support, contact

Chuk'shon Earth First!,
sabthebastards@hotmail.com.



TARGET ENGAGED: Two Earth First!ers confront a young hunter from Phoenix who said that he loved coming out because it's so peaceful



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: A group of hunters packs up and leaves after being confronted and filmed by the AZE! crew. At least a dozen hunters were deterred from their weekend's gruesome sport

"Hey, Are You With That 'Earth Foresters' Group Down There?"

A 2004 Round River Rendezvous Reflection



photo by Lemmy

View across the lake near Franklin, Maine

BY PANAGIOTI EVANGELOS TSOLKAS

It was sometime mid-week during the 2004 Earth First! Round River Rendezvous (RRR) that I crossed paths with a crew of young folks on the trail to Caribou Mountain in Maine. Perhaps they were "outward bound" or "Eagle Scouts," or maybe they were just a group of friends out camping with an older brother. Their guide started a brief conversation, asking us who we were and what we were up to back at our camp.

At the time, the interaction with those other human animals passed quickly and casually, blending in with the week's encounters of sun-bathing snakes on the rocky trail, snapper turtles burying eggs on the shore of the pond where we swam, naked two-legged babies running amok, and hungry mosquitoes flying into my ear canal and meeting a bloody, waxy death at my fingertips. But in hindsight, that short run-in with the other hikers stood out as a significant reminder of what I was doing in the woods that week.

Aside from offering an excuse to escape the urban hell that dominates this planet, which we should be doing as often as we can anyway, the Earth First! RRRs serve another purpose. Anyone who has been to a rendezvous understands that pretty intimately.¹ This gathering is our invitation to the public to join the radical environmental movement, whether a person travels 2,000 miles to check it out or happens to be hiking by on accident. This is the place where many get their first glimpse at a whole community of people who have dedicated themselves to fighting for the wild. Along with reading the *EF! Journal* and attending regional EF! gatherings, the national Summer rendezvous is how most people find out what "Earth First!" is really about and how they can

get involved and stay connected. Many folks, myself included, came alive under the stars and around the campfires of EF! rondys.

My perception of the 2004 RRR is that it was an incredible success on several fronts. Movement development was coupled with individual and interpersonal growth, and a sense of rejuvenation and enthusiasm prevailed. One thing worthy of mention is that new folks severely outbalanced the presence of people with years of invaluable experience under their belts. Many of the organizers had never attended a specifically EF! gathering before. This had something to do with the location ("Maine? You can't get there from here.") but also the fact that movements tend to ebb and flow and there is certainly a new EF! generation on the rise.

In recognizing that fact, I tried to be pretty thorough in this account, attempting to avoid assumptions that new readers would know how one of these things looks or works. (Yeah, I'm talking about you, who just picked this *Journal* up off the rack at Borders to read while sipping your beverage at the bookstore cafe. Here's an idea: Go pick through that trash can for someone's leftover biscotti, grab a few good books and walk out of that hideous store—right past the cash register—as if you owned the place. Finish reading this article on the way to your nearest direct action campaign.)

The Camp Infrastructure

For those who have never had the honor of working on a RRR organizing committee and don't live in a bioregion that is likely to host one anytime soon, I highly recommend showing up early enough to offer your hands to the collective effort. I was fortunate enough to get into

continued on next page

Portland, Maine in time to assist in dumpstering food and collecting donations, help with local projects and party with the organizers before the stress and tension kicked in.

From what I gathered, the folks who hosted the RRR came from different regions of the state and split up the essential tasks: finding a site; doing local, regional and national outreach; having a well-stocked camp kitchen, medic tent and childcare area; planning and facilitating daily workshops and events; and organizing the post-camp action. The childcare and kitchen are particularly noteworthy, since both have been neglected or ignored elements of past EF! gatherings, which has caused legitimate controversy.

The lack of a communal kitchen or sufficient childcare is a great way to minimize the ability of people with families, or people who travel on low budgets or without personal automobiles, to participate fully or at all. This might have worked out just fine for the handful of wannabe cowboys who started up this beautiful movement in the 1980s, but EF! has evolved and changed quite a bit since then. In several ways, it is coming from a more holistic and inclusive approach and the fact that we take care of each other and share more responsibilities is a good example of that. From what I can tell, such efforts have furthered the multi-generational participation of these gatherings.

As far as the community kitchen went, there was a slight drawback in that we spoiled the few slackers who tended to sit around the snack table complaining that there wasn't enough soy milk for their third cup of coffee, which was necessary to sober them up after a hard night of drinking away the money that they sure as hell didn't contribute to the organizing fund (you folks know who you are, although I doubt you had the ambition to make it this far into the article). But without question, the beauty of mutual aid exemplified by our kitchens, childcare and field medics outshined the few jackasses who occasionally stumbled in the way.

Workshops, Skillshares and Activities

The schedule throughout the week was packed with stuff like: wild plant walks, action climbing, treesits, tri-pods, sexual consent discussions, song exchanges (props to the Hootenanny Songbook crew!), why cell phones suck, anti-oppression (confronting white supremacy and patriarchy), the Warrior Poets Society, a multigenerational EF! discussion, radical childrearing, a treasure hunt, cooking for large groups, sign language, alternatives to schooling, writing to political prisoners, community garden struggles, bicycle touring, a homebrew challenge, kicking fossil fuel addiction, mobilizing against the Republican and Democratic Conventions and tons more.

At the end of the week there was a regional roundup, giving folks a chance to find out what areas and environmental

issues were represented at the gathering. States/bioregions represented were: Arizona, Midwest (Ohio, Minnesota), Virginia, New England (Maine, Rhode Island, Massachusetts), Cascadia, Canadian boreal forests, Vancouver Island, Katúah (Tennessee, North Carolina), South Florida and Wild Rockies (Montana, Wyoming).

Issues and actions ranged a broad spectrum. From natural gas mines in the Rockies to natural gas terminals off the coast of Maine; from gentrification and displacement in South Florida to urban sprawl in Arizona; from deforestation by logging in Cascadia to deforestation by air pollution in Appalachia; from fighting the Ku Klux Klan in the South to fighting Olympic Ski Resorts in Canada. Trophy hunt sabotage, fighting factory farms, opposing new roads, blockading timber sales, occupying abandoned urban spaces, exposing high dioxin in rivers, indigenous solidarity, lockdowns against mountaintop

removal, buffalo protection and fighting the telescope on Mt. Graham were among the campaigns mentioned.

Wrap Up

As of the last day at the RRR, a couple of things were left unresolved, one being that no Winter Rendezvous/Activist Conference location was decided on. Next, we did not raise enough money to offer an equal contribution to next year's RRR committee in the Northwest. And last, if anyone knows that person who was passed out drunk around the campfire at the final action planning meeting, the one who sat halfway up and tried to take a piss in the middle of the crowd, please tell him to save that level of boldness with his urine for sprinkling on the cops or the corporate/political elite. It just seemed like a complete waste trying to piss on the people who busted their ass to put an amazing rendezvous together.

Hope to see y'all in Cascadia next Summer!

For more information about the 2004 Maine RRR and ongoing campaigns in Maine, visit www.maineef.org. To listen to an audio file of the regional roundup, visit www.maine.indymedia.org.

¹For those who have not yet been to an Earth First! Rendezvous, check out the two articles from the 20th anniversary edition of the *EF! Journal* (November-December 2000) for a more thorough—and hilarious—history of the gatherings.

Panagiotti is a Greek-American anarchist who hopes to someday shed the second half of his ethnic identity, head for the olive-covered hills of Kalamata and count himself among the rowdy ranks of the infamous Mediterranean rebels. In the meantime, he spends long, hot days fighting luxury condo development and nurturing tropical plant life on the coast of south Florida. His face was dripping in mango juice and avocado chunks the entire time he was writing this.

Lobster Guts to LNG

Post-Rondy Action

BY PANAGIOTI EVANGELOS TSOLKAS

We were sitting around the campfire at the Round River Rendezvous (RRR), with the fog rolling in across the lake. A few folks from the Maine EF! crew had gone to scout out the site for the post-rondy action, and we eagerly awaited their return. When they made it back, we crammed in around the fire to finalize the action plan. You know those late-night meetings where suddenly people realize that they don't know anything about the issue and everyone wants to argue about who goes first in the caravan? It took hours, but in time all the questions were answered, everyone had rides and we had a great plan ready to go.

Finally the day of action came, and on July 5, we descended en masse into the capitol city of Augusta, Maine. We threw a rowdy picnic in the backyard of Governor John Baldacci's mansion and declared our complete opposition to plans for a liquid natural gas (LNG) terminal off the coast of Maine. Such a terminal would destroy coastal ecosystems, further our dependence on fossil fuels from war-torn, Third-World countries and threaten coastal residents with an explosion potentially larger than the nuke dropped on Hiroshima.

After several years of successful local fights against these would-be coastal disasters, the governor made an announcement on June 27—the day before the RRR began—to push for the terminal to be built on the coast of Passamaquoddy tribal land. During the course of the gathering, local activists met with Passamaquoddy community members who confirmed their opposition, despite the corporate promise that this plan would bring much-needed economic resources to the reservation. The unanimous decision amongst the Maine EF! crew was that this was an excellent opportunity to push the local momentum already against LNG past the not-in-my-backyard mentality to complete rejection and no compromise against these offshore time bombs.

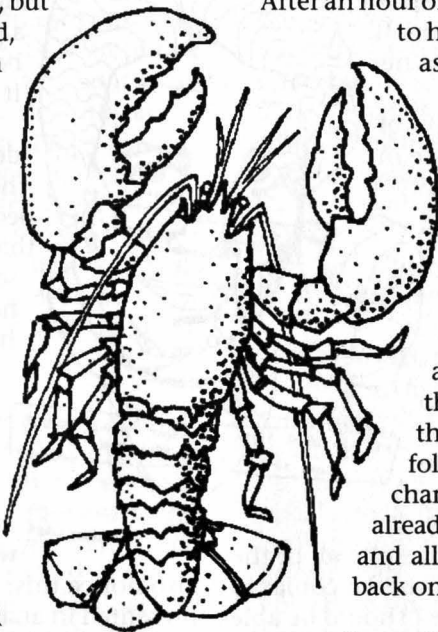
The action was composed of several self-organized affinity groups and a couple dozen active supporters, totaling about 100 people. To start off, participants erected a 20-something-foot tripod in the governor's driveway. A woman quickly climbed to the top and hung a banner reading "Kick The Fossil Fuel Addiction: No LNG!" This was followed by an anonymous crew of righteous vandals, known as the Lobster Liberation Front, who proceeded to dump a couple hundred pounds of rotting lobster carcasses on the governor's doorstep, porch and front yard.

Before long, a dirty horde—ripe from a week of rustic camping—swelled in over the fences and up the driveway

and commenced an EF! family reunion picnic, including a nasty oil slick n' slide, a dumpstered donut food fight and other wild, wacky games that involved tromping around the well-manicured lawn. A squad of eco-radical cheerleaders even made a guest appearance, performing cheers to rally the rowdy reunion of rabble-rousers. Meanwhile, some unknown climbers managed to make the US flag atop the state capitol disappear, replacing it with a flag that read "No LNG Anywhere." The Maine flag was raised from half staff to just under the "No LNG" flag. Sorry, Reagan.

After an hour of the outdoor occupation, (which seemed to hold the governor captive to his own fear, as he stayed in the house the whole time, allegedly missing an afternoon movie with his son) the police rushed in with little warning. They arrested five folks on the ground, cut off support and communication to the tripod sitter and then arrested her after talking her into coming down.

The jail support rally outside the police station was loud and inspiring. Inside, the arrestees maintained solidarity, and given the fact that the jail, like most every jail in this country, was already overcrowded, all six folks were released that day with minimal charges. Of course, the badass folks of Maine EF! already had a pro bono activist lawyer lined up, and all of us from outta town were confidently back on our own paths by the next day.



Some Words on Post-Rondy Actions

Post-RRR actions are my favorite part of EF! gatherings. They are an incredible chance to put some of those new skills and inspiration that were acquired at the RRR into use. The actions also tighten new relationships and build solidarity with campaigns and activists in other bioregions.

Since the first RRR that I participated in, I have always heard other folks complain about feeling "out of the loop" or ill-informed on the action plans, hence unsure if they really have the time or energy to participate. And since my first rondy, I've always felt like that excuse was a copout. This is where our "actions speak louder than words," where "action is the antidote to despair." This is the stuff that the bumper stickers in the EF! merchandise catalog are made of.

Post-rendezvous actions are where young, budding activists often find the courage and motivation to kick some ass for the first time in a big group—and then to go try this stuff at home. Plus a court date is a good excuse for another road trip. Yeah, it takes a little trust, and there will most always be a little uncertainty for security culture reasons, but give the local organizers some credit. When a rendezvous is as well put together as this year's was, it is a safe bet that the action will kick-ass too. And it did.

Facing Off the Radical Environmental Lynch Mob

BY PUCK
ARTWORK BY BILLY

"You'll see..." Those ominous words were all that my Chicana friend would say to me after I told her that I was going to accept the position as an editor on the *Earth First! Journal* collective. Up until I mentioned my plans, she had been talking about her experiences with racism in the forest defense scene. "Maybe it'll be different for you....," she trailed off, shrugging. But that's not what the look in her eyes told me.

That was two years ago. Since then, most of the people of color I know who were once in the *Earth First!* movement have left—all citing reasons of racism within the scene. Recently, while I was contemplating whether or not to attend the Round River Rendezvous this year, I had a moment of terrible clarity: I realized that while most of my friends of color have left the scene in disgust, many of the men who have sexually assaulted women and queer folks are still up in the trees, writing press releases or lurking at basecamps. I wonder: What the fuck does that say about our scene?

I decided to attend the Rendezvous. Despite all of the sketchy experiences I've had, especially when it comes to race issues, I went because I still felt like I should be able to call this scene home if I want to. I've had to deal with racist shit at previous actions and gatherings, and I didn't want to feel like those things had successfully pushed me out. So I decided to go and say something about it and then (theoretically anyway) I wouldn't care if you all hated me or wrote me off, because if you only liked me when I was quiet then you never really had my back anyway. From the feminist struggle to queer liberation to anarchism, I know that nothing ever changes without a fight. I knew that if I just silently dropped out, then some other person of color would have to deal with the same shit again. So I got on a bus headed toward Ellsworth, Maine.

I Dare You

Consider what it might be like, being a person of color entering an enclave of almost exclusively white people. Hopefully, we all realize that "race" is a social construct, not a biological one. We realize that as individuals we are

more than the sum of our assigned races, social classes and genders, and if we're friends then we probably value each other for reasons irrespective of our backgrounds. So let's say that although you (you're still imagining you're a person of color, right?) might feel slightly uncomfortable with how white the crowd is at any given event, race isn't what you're thinking of the most. You probably want to have a good time, do good work and not always be thinking about oppression and how much it sucks.

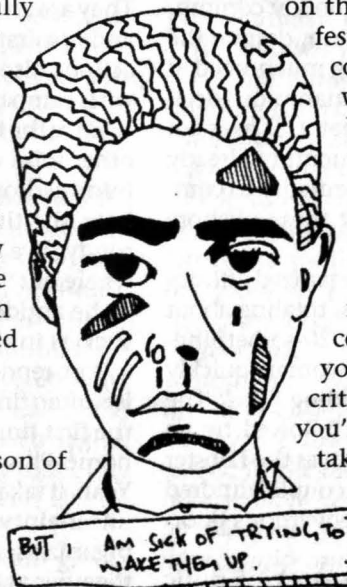
But throughout the years you've had to deal with hearing from folks who you thought were your allies that ignorant brown people are overpopulating the planet, and that racism isn't as important to address as sexism or clearcutting. White kids talk about how they've rejected their privilege, yet boast incessantly about their grand "Third World" adventures criss-crossing the globe. Some tell you that poor people of color should just escape the system by living in squats and eating trash. (Some of us do, and often it's not voluntary.)

As an isolated person of color in a white-dominated radical scene, you might also notice this: Out of the few images of people of color presented in anarchist and activist literature, the majority depict us as starving, being bombed, being incarcerated, or naked and holding a spear. Then if you dare to comment on this or any other form of racism that manifests, you're obliged to have the same boring conversation about white supremacy and what it means to be a person of color in the US again. And usually the person you're talking to doesn't care nearly as much about your hurt feelings and frustration as about wanting to prove that you're wrong; they're not racist, and you're just oversensitive.

More reasons to be wary of white-dominated groups: You are tokenized when it's convenient but ignored or contradicted when you share your experiences. Your insights and criticisms are rejected and blown off because you're "too angry and emotional." When you take a physical and emotional risk and confront racism within a majority white group, you are shouted down by some asshole bellowing "reverse racism." Imagine being left to fend for yourself while hordes of white people just watch. Now



MAURE WIDE



that you've dared talk to about race, people who you once thought were your friends only want to tell you about how oppressed they are individually by black people who are mean to them for living in all-black neighborhoods.

Well, this is what happened to me at the Rendezvous, and I found myself wondering: In what way do these people—my supposed friends and comrades—support me at all? Why the fuck don't they do something to help?

I wonder: Would it be okay with this same crowd if a rape survivor talking about her experiences with abuse and patriarchy was so brusquely interrupted by a barrage of defensive, arrogant men demanding, "Well, what were you wearing? You were probably asking for it, so shut up already."

Sure, it's not just the Earth First! scene, or even the environmental movement. One doesn't have to look far in this world to find examples of white supremacy. It's so etched into the patterns of our lives, consciousness, language and habits that it can easily be taken for granted as normal. This is especially true in spaces that are all or mostly white. I've learned the hard way that as an institution, white supremacy is just as present in "anti-racist" activist and anarchist circles as it is in the larger society. Even within the radical environmental movement, underneath the sprinkling of "politically correct" liberal language about "valuing diversity," many white supremacist ideas and influences—inherited from the white bourgeois origins of the conservation movement, as well as xenophobes like Edward Abbey—continue to go unchallenged.

Opportunists and Alliances

If you splash pictures of naked brown people ("noble savage porn") on your anti-civilization leaflets, this does not at all make you a race traitor or an ally to people of color. Rather, this is a disgusting example of tokenism. Do you know that naked man's name? Do you care about justice for his descendants who are alive today? Are there indigenous people in your group who make decisions? Or did you just want to use that image of the naked brown man carrying the spear for your own bizarre political purposes? It looks to me like more of the same old colonialist bullshit—more "fantasies of the Master Race."

It's true that all of us living in North America have an enormous responsibility to support indigenous struggles for land and freedom, and we will all be better off when this land is returned to their care. So rather than hanging dream catchers in our vans or romanticizing the poverty of reservation life, let's fork out some fundraised money and other tangible support for the Native Youth Movement!

Indigenous people are not the only people of color who are fighting against environmental destruction. We have allegiances to build in many of the most polluted, oppressive environments in the US and beyond. From Los Angeles to Detroit to Miami, people of color are always organizing against the corporations who dump and burn toxic wastes in their neighborhoods. Most people of color want clean water to drink, good organic food to eat, and beautiful forests, deserts and rivers to explore, and they would love to have time to contemplate all the grand philosophical questions of the day.

continued on next page

Resources for Challenging White Supremacy

Dealing with Racism

- www.whiteprivilege.com. An anti-racism education and activism resource published by the Monkeyfist Collective (monkeyfist.com).

- Challenging White Supremacy, 2440 16th St, PMB #275, San Francisco, CA 94103; (415) 647-0921; www.cwsworkshop.org. Anti-racist organizers working for social change in the US by building mass-based, multi-racial grassroots movements led by radical activists of color.

- www.activesolidarity.net. Anti-racism and movement-building resources, writings and links to various radical, people of color and anti-racist groups.

- Anarchist People of Color, www.illegalvoices.org/apoc. A resource created by and for anarchist and anti-authoritarian people of color: a network of organizers in communities across the US that grew out of frustration with the predominantly white radical movement and subcultures.

Multi-Cultural Environmental Resources

- Insurrectionary Anarchists, www.geocities.com/insurrectionary_anarchists. A Canadian and international radical news resource, including indigenous, immigrant and prisoner information. Resources and updates for Native Youth Movement actions in Canada.

- Indigenous Environmental Network, POB 485, Bemidji, MN 56619; (218) 751-4967; www.ienearth.org. Environmental justice resource for indigenous communities throughout the Americas.

Zines

- *Color Lines* magazine, PMB 319, 4096 Piedmont Ave, Oakland, CA 94611-5221, (510) 653-3415, www.arc.org/C_Lines/CLabout.html. Quarterly magazine about race, culture and organizing.

- *Red Wire* magazine, POB 2042, Station Main Terminal, Vancouver, BC V6B-3R6, (604) 602-7226, www.redwiremag.com. Media forum dedicated to Native youth expression.

- Zines by Zig Zag: *Colonization is Always War*; *Anti-History: An Indigenous Anti-Capitalist Analysis*; *We Shall Live Again* and others. Available through Green Anarchy Distro, www.greenanarchy.org/distro.php; Oak and Cactus Distro, www.omnipresence.mahost.org/ocdistro.htm.

- *Anarchist Panther* by Ashanti Alston, www.anarcnyc.net/anarchistpanther.html. Zines about black anarchists written by a former member of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army.

It's insulting as hell when white people talk about ecological issues like they're Great White Secrets that people of color don't care about and can't understand. I bet that wherever you live—if you try—you can find people of color organizing for a more just and sustainable Earth.

Beyond Dumping Piss Buckets on Loggers

I never got to have the discussion I wanted to during the Rendezvous: I was interrupted. Yes, I wanted to talk about my personal encounters with racism in the scene, but more than that, I wanted to brainstorm ideas (especially with people of color) about specific ways we could all fight for environmental justice and ecological preservation by using direct action and grassroots community organizing.

As environmental activists we choose campaigns to work on, corporations and politicians to target, allies to work with and issues to focus on. We decide who we reach out to, where we are based and how we frame our messages. Now, although some people can pull it off, most folks can't just quit their jobs, ditch their families and take off for days on end to hop a freight train to the old-growth forest defense campaign and dive dinner from the nearest dumpster. And if the race politics in the scene stay as they are now, why would anyone who isn't white want to join this fight?

So seriously, if we're talking about fighting for freedom for everybody, cultivating global resistance and having ecological sustainability and autonomous decentralization, there's plenty of direct action environmentalism to do outside of rural, forested areas. The More Gardens! Project in New York City is a great example of an ecologically-minded project that is based on multi-racial community organizing and civil disobedience. The whole campaign is about direct action—from growing food and establishing relationships with local people to challenging racist city policies and disobeying police. Organizing against such issues as water privatization—like the Water Allies Network does across the US—is a grand way to connect the horrors of capitalism to the murder of the planet and the absurdity of our unsustainable lifestyles. Genetic engineering is another issue with the potential to bring people with different backgrounds together.

We would also do well to destroy the stereotype of all environmentalists being white and middle class—because we aren't. However vehement our anti-capitalist or anti-consumerist rhetoric might be, we're all talk until we actively create campaigns that ally with working-class people and fight together for justice and a safe, healthy, thriving planet.

Next Time?

A few folks who went to the Rendezvous have asked me: "What could we have done? How can we do things differently next time?" For starters, you could create a space where marginalized people who call out shitty, oppressive behavior don't have to deal with a defensive and reactionary majority that uses the opportunity to attack and force a debate on their own terms. Again, would this be expected of a sexual assault survivor? Being an ally is not theoretical. Find the people who are doing good shit, and ask them how they need to be supported.

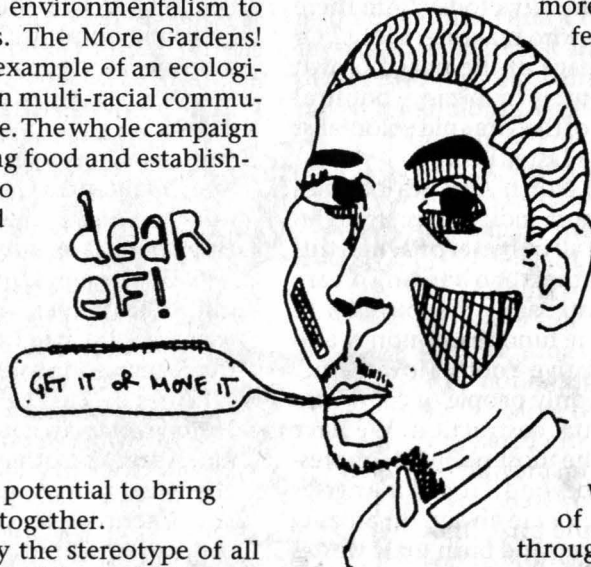
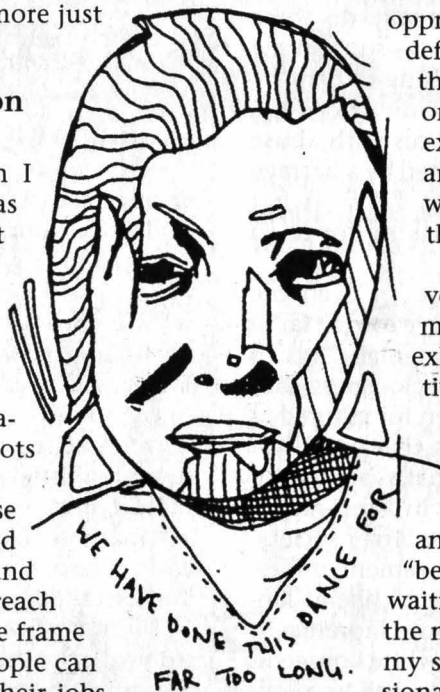
Right now, I feel like going to the Rendezvous and speaking out was a big fucking mistake. The whole ordeal makes me feel exhausted and terrible still. A few white activists who were at the workshop have since expressed sentiments like: "It was good for me to think about these things. It really challenged me."

Throughout the weekend, I felt awful and was often close to tears. I couldn't just "be myself"—I had to always be on guard, waiting for the next ignorant comment and the next attack to refute. Meanwhile, most of my supposed allies stood around and dispassionately commented on how much my pain taught them. I couldn't help but feel like a lab animal who is being sliced open, stared at and prodded by scientists who remark coldly about how much there is to learn from my insides. Does this sound too harsh? Well, I try to appreciate where some of you might be coming from and understand that this might be new for you, but being treated like an abstract theory or a lab experiment and not a human who deserves respect leaves me feeling even more isolated and alienated. My suffering shouldn't have to be your lesson plan.

Please do seek out resources that are out there for white people to deal with racist socialization. It sucks having to talk about issues that often directly impact our lives—like gentrification or immigration policy—on a purely theoretical level with people who've never had to deal with these things themselves. It sucks worse when those same people arrogantly insist that we're wrong about our understanding of the oppression that we live through and fight daily.

Healing and Decolonizing

The process of colonization is painful and dehumanizes both the oppressors and the oppressed. We all have so much healing to do. The dominant Western culture is killing the planet. We need to love the land, build real ties





Greenpeace Banner and Fish Pens in Canada

BY EMRYS

On July 10, Greenpeace activists and First Nations from Canada and Alaska led a sea-based action against the aquaculture industry in British Columbia, Canada. Activists called attention to the environmental destruction caused by fish farming in the Broughton Archipelago by floating a 60-foot banner reading, "Keep It Wild, No Fish Farms," by a set of fish farm pens.

In 2002, close to four million wild pink salmon died after contracting lethal levels of sea lice from fish farms in the Broughton area. At the end of April of this year, wild juvenile pinks were seen with deadly numbers of sea lice, higher than in 2002. Many of these small fish had more than 60 lice.

"We are watching a storm move closer ... that threatens to wipe out our traditional way of life and our livelihoods in Alaska," said A. Webster Denmert, president of the Klawock Cooperative Association, an Alaskan Native commercial fisheries group that participated in the action. "We are here to ask all Canadians to put a stop to this insanely risky endeavor."

"What's happening in the Broughton—the eradication of a major wild salmon run—is bound to happen on the north coast toward Alaska, where the BC and federal governments are now expanding fish farms," said Catherine Stewart, Greenpeace Canada's west coast campaigner. "Canada's agenda of fish farm expansion is completely disregarding the lifeblood of the entire west coast: the wild salmon."

with and learn from people whose ways of life are more in tune with the Earth and are less oppressive to people.

How will we able to do this if we're stuck in an insular scene, congratulating ourselves and pretending that nothing is wrong? We need to find ways to support each other, care for each other, rip off our blinders and talk frankly about the problems we face.

I wrote this so that no one can pretend that racism in the movement isn't a big deal, or that nothing happened or that everything was resolved. Nothing has been resolved for me. I think that if any of you care about these

things, then you should freaking change things so that people of color don't keep leaving. After all, talk is just talk, right? Actions—whether it's setting fire to corporate headquarters, putting your ass on the line in front of a logging truck, or deliberately choosing campaigns that ally with people of color and working class folks—are what matter in the end, not words.

Puck is a freelance independent journalist and is part of the Anarchist People of Color movement. She was an editor on the Earth First! Journal collective and has been involved in forest defense campaigns and land struggles.

ARMED WITH VISIONS

Goose Island Texas Park

Live oaks

that look like
they've lived a thousand years
weep and reach for the sky
in one triumphant, tangled sweep.

On the beach

laughing gulls celebrate life's comedy
while wintering pintails
huddle in the slivers of coast
not fumed with oil.

Mockingbirds

everywhere with their stop sign tails
greeters in the campground
where phoebes keep a quiet eye
seeing just as much.

Cool on my feathery bag

I wake hourly to watch
the stars wheeling me around
and in the morning vultures return
reminding me that
for all the changes humans have made
life is still pretty much the same.

—Jenny McBride

Silver King Creek and Lower Fish Valley

Moon's ripe crescent
thins west ridge silhouettes:
scarp shine—

Bark-yip coyotes yarp-howl
coming down, switch
back scree slides
crossing boulder slopes
scattering yip, yarp, yarl
streak aspen camouflage
snow brush thickets
cascade granite ledges
weave pine—sage brush
across grass meadow
runs prey down
encircling
mana!

Manifest!

Calls crack crisp air!

Crest line crags break light!

Yapping, yars, yar~yar~yar~yarp~yarp~yarp~
Yeeeoowwwrrrrllllllllls—

Ritual spiral coursing
the beat of the heart
the chant of the breath
clamp teeth kill!

Renewal aria chorusing
yip~yip~yip~yar~yar~yar~yarp~yarp~yarp~
Yeeeoowwwrrrrllllllllls—

Air-ice-clear—

Aspen!
Pine!
Breathe

—Chris Olander

~My Secret Fort~

Here I sit in my Secret Fort
trees to starboard, grass to port
A speckled sun comes shining through
a roof of leaves moist with dew
From outside, it's just a bush
but.. give the secret door a push
and.. inside, you'll find waiting there
a secret table, and secret chair
a place to sit, and watch the birds
or search my mind for secret words
and gaze out over secret pond
to snow capped mountains far beyond
read the paper, drink a cup
go and fill my senses up
Just make sure when all is done
my Secret Fort stays known to one!

—joey racano

...CLEAR AS CUT GLASS & JUST AS DANGEROUS...

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Send poems to

Warrior Poets Society

POB 14501

Berkeley, CA 94712-5501

Remedy in Olympia

There was Judi, there was Julia,
and now there's Redwood Remedy.
Take care, my wild friend,
beware Maxxam and their assassins,
remember Gypsy, Judi and Darryl.
I see you far on up your trail,
an honored Elder of the Tribe,
and I pray that I see true.

I put your posters everywhere
in and around Oly town
(and even by a federal tree
on a Forest Disservice bulletin board),
and we all came out to see you,
back at your old bookstore.
You gave us the real news
of the terrorist war against the Earth,
bigger by far than all the news
in the Sunday-morning papers.
You cried and so did we
as we watched your Earth First! video,
and heard the moaning agony
of the ancient falling trees.
I thought of creatures great and small,
the screaming songs of harpooned whales,
the mournful howls of the last wolves,
and the cries of a billion babies
on a hot and dying world.

Thanks for all your remedies,
you and Wren and the strong sisters
of the North Coast woman warriors.
Thanks to the Elders and X'ers, Y and Z'ers,
the treehuggers and treesitters
and treebards and treebeards,
the hobbits in the land of Mordor
and rebels in the New World Order.

(Let's put those words together—
we're in the New World Mordor!)

We'll dance to Joules Graves and Liarbird
and Sisters of the Revolution,
we'll sing when monkeywrenchers
stop the jack-the-ripper log trucks
that roar all day on West Bay Drive,
we'll break on through the wildest summer
since the fabled summer of '68,
and then we'll all come home
and dance around the fire again—
Earth Tribe, rock on to the end!

—Craig Oare



East Neck

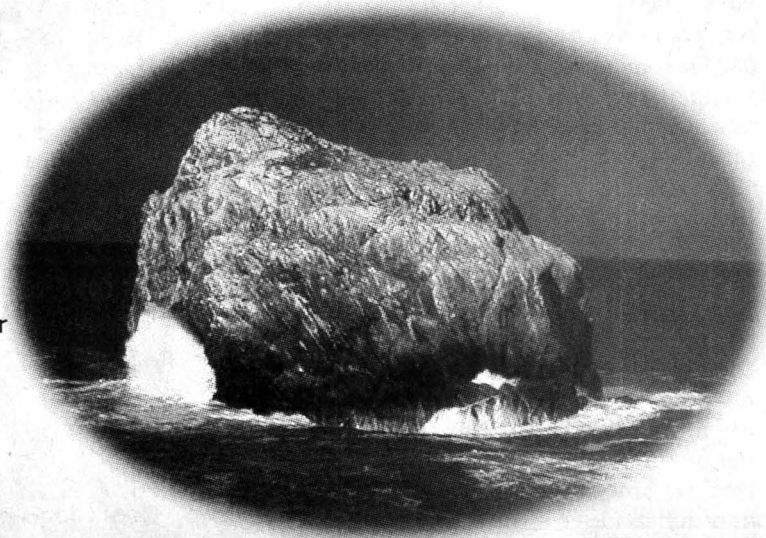
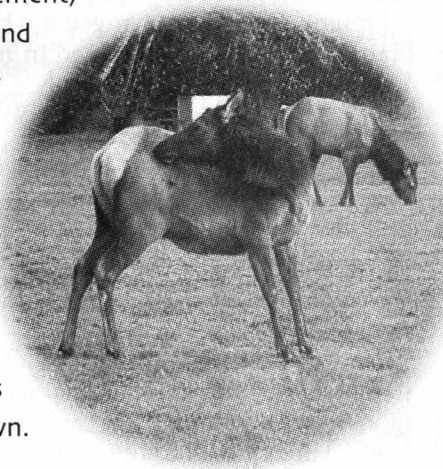
This morning the field
is full of trucks,
tractor trailers with
pieces of a house soon
to stand where last year
there was forest.
This morning the turtle who
spent the week laying eggs
in the sand beside the road

lies crushed on the pavement,
eyes open, still breathing and
just yards down the road,
the squirrel has already died.

These are the first signs.
We leave the earth a cleared place,
spaces where the woods were,
spaces where the turtles were,
what becomes of the world,
with us in it.
I will move the beautiful bodies
into a woods of their own.

—Gary Lawless

6/22/04



From Atheist to Treehugger

BY JEAN EISENHOWER

It began with a Douglas fir tree. I think. I've never had a mind for details like scientifically-agreed-upon names for things, so I had to call the US Forest Service seven years later, when I first wanted to write this story, and ask the ranger what the dominant tree was on Oregon's Humbug Mountain.

Earlier that Summer, in 1986, I heard an activist teasingly call another activist a *treehugger*. I'd heard that term used derogatorily about a fanatical, off-balanced sort of person, who would defend trees over even the plight of humans. These men, however, seemed to enjoy the word.

A few weeks later, as I hiked the trail, watching my long-legged partner disappear beyond a bend, I wondered if that word meant anything literal, whether anyone actually did hug trees for any purpose?

As soon as I'd articulated that question, I heard a stunning response from a nearby tree, *Why don't you try it?*

I might as well have banged my head into a low-hanging branch by the way I stumbled in my heavy-booted stride. *This forest is alive!*

Of course, I knew already that on one level the forest was alive, but this new level was an absolute shock to my reality, and I nearly cried out.

Not wanting to see anything different or hear anything more, I turned sideways on the path and looked at the trees standing there. My face, I imagine, betrayed my dread and probably a hint of submission—for what else can you do in the face of such a thing? Submission would be the only rational response, to not fight what you cannot change.

Still, I imagined the goofiest stereotypes of New Age people and thought, *Please, I don't want to be like that.*

A gentle part of me cajoled: *If I was truly a good empirical rationalist, then I couldn't ignore my perceptions just because I didn't like the corollaries.*

I had to agree, but I didn't like it. My heart was sick that I might have to give up my tough, proud, cynical atheism.

Defenseless, I accepted that I would do this thing, but I didn't want it made worse by someone coming around a bend and catching me in the act. The campground below wasn't crowded, and it was mid-afternoon, so most folks would have finished taking their morning walks and be back at camp, relaxing in their folding chairs before making dinner. It was unlikely that my partner would come back down the trail to find me, since he loved his solitude as much as I love mine today. *I should be safe.*

As soon as I'd imagined hugging a tree for real—no longer a concept, but now as a real physical act—I noticed that the roots of the trees were all humped hugely out of the ground and sloped steeply up into the trunk. It would be very difficult to get near one. It was impossible. *I was saved.*

But I'd demonstrated my empirical open-mindedness, and that was the important thing, I thought. Like Abraham about to slay Jacob, I wouldn't *really* have to do the dreadful thing, only prove my willingness. Relieved, I made a vow then and there not to be so cynical about issues of Spirit, and I turned to resume my walk, humbled and wiser. Then I saw that the tree directly in front of me displayed a perfectly-level, stair-step-height root that met the trunk at a neat right angle, making my task extremely easy to accomplish. I was stunned. (Today, I wonder, *Did that tree shape-shift? and just how flexible is this reality, anyway?*)

The challenge had returned, and I had no out. With a sinking heart, one last glance down the trail and a prayer for privacy, I stepped up onto the root and hoped it wouldn't take too long. My logical mind also wondered how I'd know whether whatever happened wasn't just my imagination. *This is just a test, I told myself, an empirical experiment.*

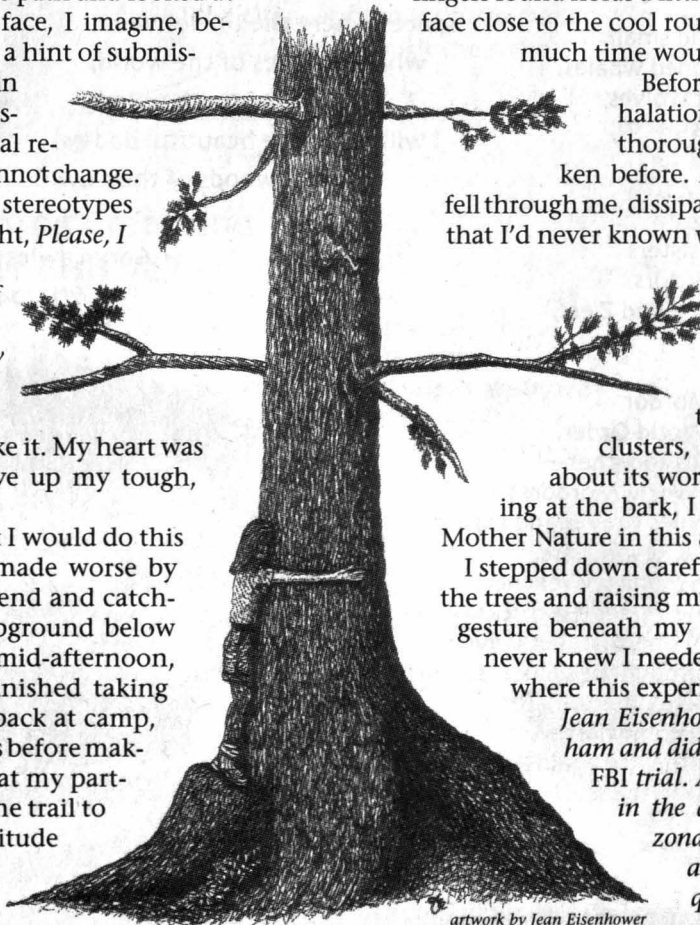
I reached my arms around the trunk as far as I could and embraced half its girth. I adjusted my stance, relaxed my torso against the trunk and stretched my arms a bit more. My fingers found holds a little farther around as I leaned my face close to the cool roughness. I wondered again how much time would constitute a fair test.

Before I had completed my first exhalation, my reality was broken more thoroughly than it had ever been broken before. A waterfall of crystalline light fell through me, dissipating something like radio static that I'd never known was in me until it was gone. In its place was emptiness, breath, wonder, beauty, silence, blessing, awe. *Ah....*

Tilting my face to the sky, I saw the yellow light beyond the silhouette-black fir needle clusters, spaced with perfection, each about its work of gathering sunlight. Looking at the bark, I saw the mute presentation of Mother Nature in this ancient tree.

I stepped down carefully, then backward, watching the trees and raising my hands into the classic prayer gesture beneath my chin, grateful for a healing I never knew I needed. Slowly I bowed, wondering where this experience would take me.

Jean Eisenhower worked to protect Mt. Graham and did media work for the Judi Bari v. FBI trial. A writer, artist and semi-hermit in the desert of Cochise County, Arizona, she succumbed to the Mystery and now communes with mesquites and oaks.



artwork by Jean Eisenhower

Gary A. Bennett Remembered

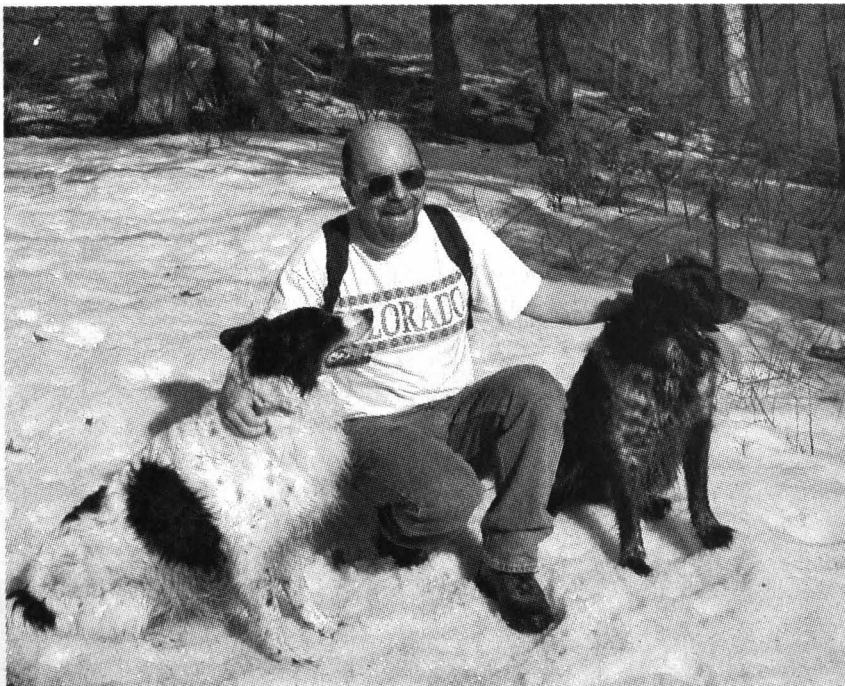
BY JOE CARMICHEL

Friends of the wild places lost a tireless and committed ally on May 21 when Gary A. Bennett of Penfield, New York, succumbed to a long illness. A lifelong outdoorsman and activist, Gary found creative ways to enjoy and protect the wilderness throughout his life.

I first met Gary at college in the 1980s. I was an idealistic teenager and Gary was a 30-something who, sick of the work-a-day life, returned to school to study geology. Already a veteran environmental campaigner, he introduced me to the world of environmental activism and to the notion, as radical as it seemed at the time, that all species share the same basic rights. To support these ends, he spent his time in peaceful direct action and protests against the corporate greed that was destroying the wilderness. By the end of that year, Gary was even proud to have been arrested for peacefully protesting the clearcut logging of old-growth forests in the West. He sent me a post card with a smiley face on it from the Arapahoe County Jail in Colorado.

Whether floating down the Amazon looking for pink river dolphins, hiking down a trail into the Grand Canyon or sipping moonshine from a sugarcane still in the rainforest, Gary always remained genuinely amazed at the plants, animals and people that make the wild places their home.

His selfless fundraising and advocacy work benefited many of his favorite groups, including the Adirondack



Gary Bennett enjoying the wilderness with his rescued dog companions, Shane and Skye

photo courtesy Joe Carmichael

Mountain Club, Earth First!, The Maine Woods Project and many others. In the last years of his life, he dedicated special effort to helping homeless and abused pets. He wanted people to remember him by supporting organizations like those mentioned above, and especially BestFriends animal shelter of Kanab, Utah (bestfriends.org).

The next time you are hiking down an Adirondack trail, or staring up at the rim of the Grand Canyon (another of Gary's favorite places), or if you happen to hear the wilderness call out to you in the form of a coyote howl in the night, remember Gary Bennett. Remember Gary and people like him, who believe that wilderness is the essential spirit of the Earth. Remember them if only because they are right, and they had the guts to speak up for the animals throughout their lives.

BY LISA

On July 11, a US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) officer gunned down one of only 55 Mexican gray wolves in the wild. The wolf was the second to be killed by federal agents since the Mexican Gray Wolf Reintroduction program began in 1998.

A male from the Saddle Pack, the wolf eluded capture for four months, even digging up traps that had been set for him. Before being brought down, he freed the land from five cows.

The Death of a Wolf



An anonymous pickup-truck driver shot this wolf in the Gila National Forest

photo by David Parsons

As part of the reintroduction program, the wild population of wolves is considered "experimental" and "nonessential," denying it full Endangered Species Act protection. Wolves may be killed in self-defense or if seen attacking livestock, and many have been lost to rancher vigilantism. In this case, FWS agents killed the wolf on the ranchers' behalf.

For more information on how you can help protect the remaining wolves from this murderous policy, contact the Center for Biological Diversity, www.biologicaldiversity.org.

Preservation or Privatization

Big Enviros Covet Latin American Wilds



photo by Simone Bruno www.simonebruno.name

In July, 500 indigenous people from across the Americas converged in Ecuador to share their experiences and struggles and to develop a unified front

BY AGAVE

It's about 5:30 a.m. and I want to sleep some more—but my roommates, Kichwa indigenous *compañeros*—have started a good-natured chatter while getting up and gathering their bedding off the fiber mats we sleep on. I arise in pre-coffee grogginess and follow the flow of people up the stairs to the rooftop terrazzo, where this morning's ceremony has begun. We are about 100 people in the hazy, Andean dawn light; the city of Quito sprawls out below us while a Bolivian Aymara man performs a coca leaf ceremony to usher in the day.

It's the Second Continental Summit of Indigenous Pueblos and Nationalities, held July 22-25 in Ecuador's capital city of Quito. Five hundred people from across *Abya Yala* (the Americas) have converged to share their experiences and struggles and develop a unified indigenous front. The summit is held in a monastery. While nuns fuss and cluck over breakfast, I take in the colorful and intricate vestments; there's also a fair number of indigenous people in jeans and baseball caps, or sporting cell phones.

One pivotal theme of the Indigenous Summit is that of lands, territories and natural resources, which I follow with interest. The moderator of this working group speaks of an "Ecological Debt" that the US and other consumption-heavy "First World" countries owe to Latin America: The environmental destruction caused by industrial production, overconsumption and the production of greenhouse gases has created an unequal exchange between the North and the South in terms of sustainability. This concept of an ecological debt directly references the external debt that Southern governments pay, which cripples national economies and contributes to chronic poverty. Further along in the presentation, Rudolfo Recop of Guatemala makes the point that

"territory" is a Western concept nonexistent in the traditional worldview of his people, the Maya. Their pre-Columbian conception of lands was that of a single territory, unmarred by national borders.

Commentary from Aldo Gonzalez, a Zapotec man from Oaxaca, highlights for me a major underlying debate within the Indigenous Summit. He says that entering the fight for intellectual property rights is a trap—"property" is a Western concept that if accepted, negates traditional cultural beliefs. He states, "The concept of property is not of indigenous people—we are not proprietaries of plants or animals. Rather, we belong to and are guardians of living things in the natural world, and as such, cannot sell them." Viewpoints within the summit are characterized by both a struggle by indigenous people to assert autonomy—by developing systems of governing based on cultural traditions, designed by their own pueblos or nationalities—and on the other hand, an effort to reform the dominant system, working to better their lot within it.

Throughout the discussion, privatization comes up time and again—I keep hearing mention of environmental groups taking over natural preserves to commodify the resources available there. Disturbing. I decide to conduct a little research.

The Indigenous Summit was in part a prelude to the First Social Forum of the Americas, held in Quito July 26-30. The Social Forum is a grand-scale event—nearly 8,000 people are in town to participate over four days. Listings for the multitude of seminars alone fill 20 pages of the 50-page schedule of events. On the 26th, I'm at the "Alternative America Fair," part of the Social Forum, marking the differences from the Indigenous Summit. For one, it's more commercialized. Scores of green tents showcase *artesanía*

(traditional crafts) from all over; there are also books, information booths, fair trade chocolate, vegetarian food and the like. The number of panel discussions, testimonials and seminars are flat-out overwhelming. I decide to follow the indigenous and environmental threads.

In the first conference of the event, entitled "Indigenous Pueblos and the Construction of Another America," Humberto Cholango of the Ecuarrunari states that, "change is not just a problem of indigenous people." Rather, people have to work in coalition to achieve social change. For example, the Ecuarrunari is part of a triumvirate of organizations in Ecuador that has maneuvered strategically for several decades to achieve considerable influence upon the politics of the nation—up to a complete regime change in the uprising of 2000. Indeed, indigenous movements in South America look upon successes in Ecuador as an example and inspiration for Native peoples of the continent. Cholango promotes the reformist point of view: "In this process of constructing a new America, we need to participate actively in government."

In the course of the summit and forum, I get to know Alfredo Luna, a biologist. I meet with him to better understand the recurring theme of privatization in the name of preservation. He passes me a number of documents, including one entitled, "Water: Together We Can Take Care of It!" On the surface, it appears to promote the conservation of a complex of natural, protected areas north of Quito—nearly 2.5 million acres composed mostly of *páramo*, or high-altitude Andean steppe. These areas contain a rich variety of flora and fauna, including endangered species such as the Andean condor. Around these zones also live nearly 800,000 inhabitants, with several thousand within the actual protected areas. These populations include 40 indigenous communities that practice ways of life that fall between subsistence agriculture and the cash economy, raising dairy cattle and growing traditional crops.

Hydrologically speaking, *páramos* are vast sponges, trans-fusing water from permanent mists into the sloping ground, where it eventually drains into hundreds of streams and rivers—including those that provide drinking water to Ecuador's growing capital city of Quito. In the name of preserving these watersheds, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), funded by USAID, has produced a plan to "clean up" land tenancy in and around these areas while simultaneously assessing the monetary value of hydrological resources within them. In this plan, a raise in consumer water prices would fund an undefined private entity and give it the authority to manage these reserves, including controlling access to them.

The TNC's plan places private organizations such as their own in control of natural protected areas in order to sell

"environmental services"—that is to say, water from nature—to local and neighboring populations, leaving them excluded from their own land. Basic laws of economics would dictate that to preserve a diminishing resource, the price should be raised. But should water, a basic human need, cost more to those who cannot afford it? Should water ever be subject to the laws of the market and meted out by a private entity?

Ecuador is also the stage for a new "Biodiversity Law," proposed legislation that would open protected areas to multiple use, authorize infrastructure projects within them, and turn their management over to private entities through a fund that includes public moneys. Negotiating this proposed law are not transnational corporations, as one would

expect. In this model, environmental non-governmental organizations like TNC become the "technical experts," or intermediaries, to the global market.

Water privatization is a global issue and crisis we all face—after all, water is life. Joseph Stiglitz, former vice president of the World Bank, has stated, "The next world war will be about water." As freshwater resources become scarcer and the global population

continues to grow, scenarios such as this one in Ecuador will continue to be replicated around the globe.

Resistance to the privatization of water is also global, and indigenous people have been at the forefront. In Bolivia in 2000, a united front of *campesinos* (peasant farmers), indigenous people, students and citizens in the city of Cochabamba raised a ruckus when Bechtel, one of two major players in the global water market (the other being Suez), tried to privatize the

municipal water supply in accordance with the structural adjustment policies of the World Bank. In a popular uprising lasting four months, rioting citizens filled the streets, traffic was stopped for four straight days and several government and water buildings were damaged and burned. When the tear gas finally cleared, some 150 people were left dead as a result of military and police violence.

It appears that the global water wars have already begun, and here in Latin America, where people and land have been so tremendously exploited for over 500 years, resistance is—simply put—a matter of life or death.

TNC's plan to take over Quito's water supply does not stand alone in terms of the global scenario. Conservation International (CI), another biggie in the international "conservation" scene, has done similar work in Chiapas,

continued on next page



photo by Simone Bruno, www.simonebruno.name

The environmental destruction caused by industrial production and overconsumption has created an unequal exchange between the North and the South in terms of sustainability, and the US and other consumption-heavy countries owe Latin America an "Ecological Debt."

Nuclear Waste, Gold and Land Theft in *Neuwe Sogobia*

BY LISA

On July 7, President Bush signed into law the Western Shoshone Distribution Bill, the latest chapter in a long history of indigenous land theft. The bill authorizes the US government to pay the Western Shoshone Nation \$145 million for 24 million acres of land in Nevada, despite heavy opposition by the majority of Western Shoshone tribal governments.

The Shoshone land, *Neuwe Sogobia* in the Shoshone language, has been occupied by the tribes for thousands of years, and the Western Shoshone Nation holds official title to 60 million acres via the Ruby Valley Treaty of 1863. The US government has ignored that fact for decades, illegally using Shoshone land for nuclear, mining and ranching interests against the will of the tribes. In 1979, the US proposed to buy the land for 15 cents an acre, but the Shoshone refused. The new distribution bill simply disregards Shoshone opposition—granting them the 1979 amount, plus interest—in order to escalate the exploitation of *Neuwe Sogobia*.

Dump Your Waste and Rob the Resources

The Nevada nuclear test site was developed on Western

Shoshone land in the early 1950s and was used for full-scale nuclear detonations until 1992, severely irradiating local communities. In February 2002, the Bush administration officially designated Yucca Mountain, also located within the treaty boundaries, as the repository for all the nation's nuclear waste. Bechtel has been awarded a \$1.2 billion contract to build the facility.

The Western Shoshone, scientists and other concerned citizens have opposed the Yucca Mountain project since it was first proposed in the late 1970s. Geological and hydrological features of the area make it highly unsafe for the storage of nuclear waste. There are also concerns about the effects of radiation on nearby populations and possible accidents during transportation of the waste.

Disregarding significant evidence of dangers as well as the illegality of using the land, the US government is pushing through with the waste repository project. The Bush administration has also hinted at resuming nuclear weapons testing on Shoshone lands, despite strong international opposition.

Neuwe Sogobia is also rich in mineral deposits. A 1999 report by the US Geological Survey called it the "number one investment opportunity" for extraction companies. Ten

Preservation or Privatization

continued from previous page

Mexico, pressuring Mexico's National Commission of Protected Areas to displace communities in the Montes Azules Biosphere Reserve in the Lacandona jungle (see *EF!* March-April 2004). In Guatemala, CI works in the Maya Biosphere Reserve with Texaco and Exxon to develop a methodology relating the potential existence of petroleum with the density of certain flora.

Indigenous communities, though living within national systems of government, are fighting for the survival not only of their cultures, but also their lands. Aldo Gonzalez sums up the polemic with a proposed solution: "The imperialists will continue to try and rob our culture and the Earth. But it will

be harder if we are united against them—it's a question of resistance."

Indeed, resistance to the commodification of nature and the "transnationalization of conservation" must continue. Americans need to know how



Indigenous people unite at the First Social Forum of the Americas in Ecuador in July

US players influence land management in other parts of the world. But simply knowing is not enough. Those living in the US must work in solidarity against privatizing forces originating in their own country.

I flash back to an evening of intercultural entertainment during the Indigenous Summit. A group of men and women from Nampa, Perú, perform a solemn circular dance. They are wearing clothes with neon embroidery and rows of decorative buttons, shawls with bits of mirror sewn onto them and tall headdresses of long tan feathers. The men carry in their left hands a drum, in their right hands an Andean panpipe held to their lips.

The music is haunting, a slow steady rhythm and low woodwind tones. Each man plays only every other note—the music as a whole is comprised of all these individual sounds put together. For me, this symbolizes the indigenous way of integrated living with each other and the Earth. Perhaps it may also symbolize how global resistance can be built.

Agave is an autonomous journalist from Tucson, Arizona, who is traveling in South America.

percent of the world's gold production (two-thirds of US production) occurs on Western Shoshone land. The US has awarded mining contracts to Barrick, Placer Dome, Newmont, Kennecott and Marigold multinational companies.

A new privatization scheme currently in Congress, HR 2869, would award yet another mining contract to Placer Dome. The proposed contract for Mt. Tenabo—a sacred mountain in Crescent Valley, Nevada—is expected to yield seven to eight billion dollars in revenue for the company.

Nevada legislators are also trying to develop the many hot springs located on Western Shoshone treaty lands for geothermal energy production. Federal bill HR 2772 would open up the area to massive geothermal production, granting preliminary subsidies to the energy industry with the option to convert energy leases into mineral claims.

Another Lousy Deal

All of these actions by the US government and multinational companies are degrading and poisoning the land of the Western Shoshone. They are also completely illegal. Now, with the passage of the distribution bill, the US is trying to terminate all Shoshone claims to 24 million acres of *Newe Sogobia* by "buying" it.

Based on a straw poll completed by a handpicked group of Shoshone, the Bush administration claims that the "vast majority" of people in the Western Shoshone tribes want to sell the land.

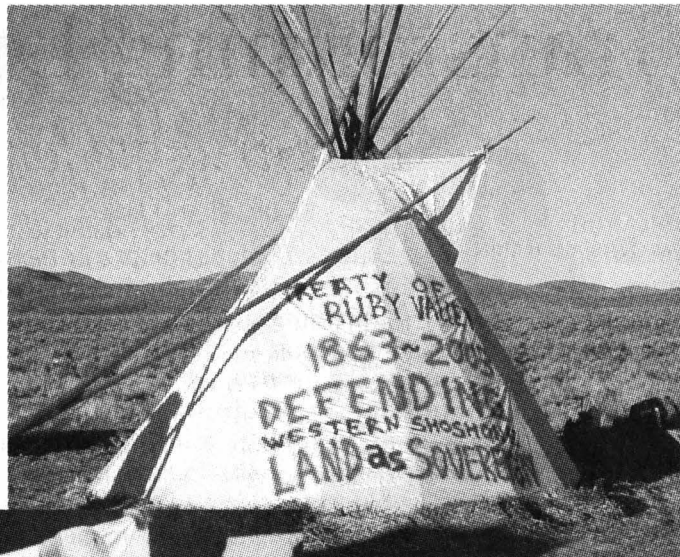
Tribal leaders call the vote a sham, and even the Bureau of Indian Affairs has not validated the results.

"A fraud is a fraud," said Western Shoshone National Councilmember Raymond Yowell. "The [people] who pushed for this money are not members of any federally recognized council and have no authority to speak on behalf of the Western Shoshone nation. The Nevada legislators and the Bush administration have been well-advised of this fact."

Six members of Congress attached a dissenting view to the legislation, arguing that the administration did not prove that a majority of Shoshone support the distribution. In fact, eight resolutions opposing it have been passed by various Western Shoshone governing bodies, representing more than 70 percent of the Western Shoshone population. In addition, the National Congress of American Indians, the United Nations and Amnesty International are against the bill.

The US government claims that the original Ruby Valley Treaty was invalidated by the so-called "gradual encroachment" of miners who squatted the land during the 1800s, but this justification cannot be upheld legally.

The tribes believe that the legislation may be unconstitutional due to the fact that the funds will be distributed amongst individual members of Western Shoshone tribes. Tom Leubben, an attorney for the Yomba Shoshone tribe, claims that "there is a legal issue, which is whether Congress



photos courtesy Western Shoshone Defense Project



Western Shoshone people are prepared to fight against a buy-out of millions of acres of their land, which Bush authorized in July

has the constitutional right to individualize Western Shoshone assets without Western Shoshone tribal concurrence."

As many as 10,000 Western Shoshone could be entitled to payment. However, some have said they will not accept the money because doing so would suggest that they accept the legislation robbing them of their land.

"I'm not going to sell my dignity, my spirituality, my culture. No way," said Carrie Dann, a traditional tribal member.

Dann claims that the government has stolen and exploited more than 60 million acres of *Newe Sogobia* across Nevada, California, Utah and Idaho, and a lawsuit challenging past land seizures is currently before the US District Court in Washington, DC.

Yowell echoes her sentiments. "What this bill does is give [the US government] an out," he said. "Now they can say that they paid the Shoshone for their land. I cannot be a part of it."

Unfortunately, many Shoshone will probably accept the payments, but tribal authorities still refuse to recognize the US government's claim to the land. "The fight is not over," said Yowell. "Individuals cannot sell out a nation, and the bill, although a threat politically, does nothing to change our inherent rights or our treaty rights.... We will use the Treaty of Ruby Valley to stop Yucca Mountain and to protect our lands."

Elders and traditional tribal members won't give up, because they cannot. "As Western Shoshone, we have been fighting for many years to simply remain who we are—Western Shoshone," said Dann. "The Earth is our mother and land provides us with life, like the water and the air. To take this land from us will be to lead us into a spiritual death."

For more information, contact the Western Shoshone Defense Project, POB 211308, Crescent Valley, NV 89821; wsvp@igc.org; www.wsvp.org.

Utah Heats Up

BY OSCAR AND LISA

Utah has been a hotspot for FBI concern this Summer after a slew of Earth and Animal Liberation Front (ELF and ALF) actions took place there within a span of three months. Since the incidents, there has been only one arrest. To make matters worse for the feds, the 2004 Total Liberation Tour's bands and speakers

performed in Salt Lake City on July 17.

On June 14, the ELF targeted a lumberyard in West Jordan. According to a communiqué received by the ELF press office: "Stock Building Supply ... was targeted because it has ignored several warnings to repair [its] forklifts ... [which] put out far more pollutants than average diesel engines.... If the consequences of early Monday morning are what it takes to bring their negligence to the attention of the media and the people of the world, then it is well worth it.... If you build it, we will burn it! Stop destroying Mother Earth."

The arson inflicted \$1.5 million in damage to Stock Building Supply, in the fourth action claimed by the ELF this year.

Less than a month later, a fire was set in an empty barn at Brigham Young University's (BYU) Ellsworth Meat and Livestock facilities in Provo. The fire damaged two tractors and a nearby building, inflicting more than \$30,000 in damage.

In the past few months, the ALF has claimed responsibility for two other actions at BYU facilities. On May 17, the ALF rescued doves, rabbits and finches from the

Ellsworth Farm lab. Two weeks later it sabotaged vehicles, spilled chemicals and sprayed graffiti on walls and equipment. No one was injured in these actions.

Harrison David Burrows, 18, has since been arrested for the arson action and is under house arrest in West Virginia pending a September 27 trial. Burrows allegedly confessed to setting the fire as well as past ALF actions. According to an FBI affidavit, Burrows called a local television station and claimed the arson for the ALF. The FBI alleges that a search of his house turned up physical evidence including a birdcage taken from the farm.

Burrows was first questioned when he and a companion were seen watching the fire while on a walk. He faces the charge of destroying property by fire, which can carry five to 20 years in prison. He has pleaded not guilty.

Not to be deterred by increased federal surveillance and repression, the Total Liberation Tour pulled up to perform at BYU mere days after the ALF's most recent action. The performance included speakers from Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty, CrimethInc. and other liberation groups. Jakob Nyberg, who helped put together the Utah show, said that organizers held it at a public library because venue owners in other cities had been intimidated by police and FBI agents.

Even though the FBI claims that it didn't send agents to monitor the Total Liberation Tour event, Ray Mey, supervisor of the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force, said "The increase in [ELF and ALF activity] may be tied to the planned stop," which he claimed would feature top leaders of both the ELF and ALF.

The combination of underground actions with public educational events, like the Total Liberation Tour, creates an aboveground base of support, without which underground actions and cells wouldn't be able to survive. The aboveground support networks are essential to help those arrested by the government.

Oscar wants the ALF to liberate him from the Journal office.

New Ecoterrorism Bill in Congress

In response to what it characterizes as an increase in "violent rhetoric and tactics," the FBI has requested that Congress expand the 1992 Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA). In a May statement to the Senate Judiciary Committee, the FBI and federal prosecutors specifically cited the difficulty of using AETA to prosecute Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty activists as a reason for the changes.

The US House of Representatives is currently considering HR 4454, the "Ecoterrorism Prevention Act," in committee. The legislation, introduced by Washington Representative George Nethercutt, would, among other things:

- expand the AETA to include destructive acts against plant enterprises, such as agricultural centers

- mandate a five-to 20-year sentence for any AETA offenses that involve arson

- designate groups that violate AETA as "domestic terrorist organizations" a la USA PATRIOT Act and make it illegal for individuals or other groups to provide safe harbor or material support to such organizations

- amend the Hobbes' Act, which deals with obstruction of commerce, by stating that groups which threaten to violate AETA are guilty of extortion, effectively overturning a recent Supreme Court decision that said the opposite.

Similar legislation failed to pass Congress in both 1998 and 2001, but the FBI and other supporters of the bill hope to push it through on the coat tails of recent "anti-terrorist" efforts.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Treehuggers Gone Wild

In Europe, a new environmental group called Fuck for Forest is off to a great start in its efforts to raise awareness and funds for forest defense. During a Cumshots concert in Oslo, Norway, two Fuck for Forest members had sex on stage, imploring the crowd, "How far are you willing to go to save the world?"

Although the fuckers, Tommy Hol Ellingsen and Leona Johansson, raised \$14,677, no environmental groups were willing to accept the money. Norway's Rainforest Foundation refused the donation because it came from an illegal activity. "I cannot see that this helps the work for the rainforest," explained Lars Løvold, head of the foundation. The World Wildlife Fund rejected a donation offer more kindly, citing policy restrictions and wishing Leona and Tommy the best of luck.

Despite criticism by mainstream environmental groups, Fuck for Forest will continue in its work using sexuality to raise money for nature. "The goal is to take over the entire commercial porn industry and transfer all the money to protection of the environment," Ellingsen said.

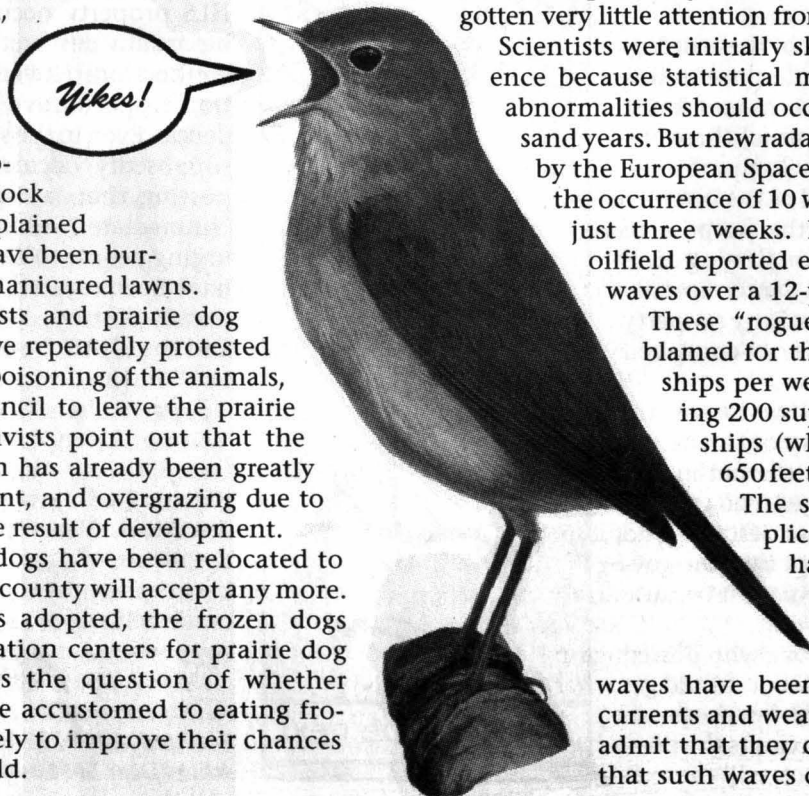
As a show of international solidarity, the fucking *Earth First! Journal* would be more than fucking willing to accept a fucking donation from the group.

Frozen Dogs

The town council of Superior, Colorado, a suburb of Boulder, is considering selling unwanted prairie dogs as frozen food. The town says that the native prairie dogs are overgrazing a federally protected wetlands system, which was built by the Rock Creek neighborhood to make up for all the wetlands destroyed by the development. In addition, Rock Creek residents complained that the prairie dogs have been burrowing into people's manicured lawns.

Animal rights activists and prairie dog sympathizers, who have repeatedly protested the trapping and legal poisoning of the animals, are pressuring the council to leave the prairie dogs as they are. Activists point out that the prairie dog population has already been greatly reduced by development, and overgrazing due to predator loss is also the result of development.

In the past, prairie dogs have been relocated to other counties, but no county will accept any more. If the current plan is adopted, the frozen dogs would go to rehabilitation centers for prairie dog predators, which begs the question of whether predators who become accustomed to eating frozen food are really likely to improve their chances of surviving in the wild.



Illegal Birdsongs

To overcome traffic noise in cities, urban nightingales have to sing louder to find mates. In fact, the birds can sing up to 14 decibels louder, according to a recent study by the Free University of Berlin.

This is becoming a problem in Europe, where labor regulations forbid exposing workers to sounds louder than 87 decibels without ear protection. The nightingales have been reported to sing at up to 95 decibels.

The UK Royal Society for the Protection of Birds does not think that this is a problem, however. "Breeding levels for some birds is lower close to roads," said the society's spokesperson. Therefore it is a good sign that the birds are increasing their volume to attract mates.

Walking DNA Robots ... Not Kidding

In May, the *New Scientist* reported that New York University chemists have successfully built a walking robot out of DNA. The robot consists of two strands of DNA, united in a double helix. The two strands act as the legs.

Researchers hope to induce cells to assemble these tiny robots, which would provide an easy mechanism for nanoscale manufacturing. The hope is that these DNA robots can be used to manufacture even more nanomachines. The next task is to program them to move and carry atoms. A planet covered by gray goo may be closer than we thought.

Nature Bites Back: Rogue Waves

Freakishly high waves in otherwise normal ocean waters have been reported by mariners for centuries, but they've gotten very little attention from scientists until recently.

Scientists were initially skeptical about their existence because statistical models showed that such abnormalities should occur only once every thousand years. But new radar measurements collected by the European Space Association documented the occurrence of 10 waves taller than 80 feet in just three weeks. Data from one offshore oilfield reported encounters with 466 such waves over a 12-year period.

These "rogue waves" are now being blamed for the sinking of at least two ships per week globally and for sinking 200 supertankers and container ships (which measure more than 650 feet long) in the last 20 years.

The safety and economic implications of such a frequency has European authorities worried, prompting them to research ways to forecast such waves. Rogue waves have been associated with ocean currents and weather fronts, but scientists admit that they do not know all the ways that such waves could arise.

Ask an EF! Lawyer

He's Working on *Your* Side!

BY STU SUGARMAN

Dear EF! Lawyer,

I just read Lenny's and Andrea Lindsay's stories on the SHAC 7 in the Journal's last issue (July-August, pages 2, 12-13). Do you think these charges will stick?

—STOP HUNTINGDON ANIMAL CRUELTY NOW!, NEW JERSEY

Dear Stop Huntingdon,

On May 26, armed FBI agents launched unannounced pre-dawn raids across the country, ultimately arresting seven Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty USA (SHAC USA) activists, including SHAC USA's president and campaign coordinator. The Bush administration charged the SHAC 7 and SHAC USA, a non profit organization, with felony Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA) offenses and conspiracy to commit AETA felonies.

The government also charged three of the SHAC 7 with three counts each of aiding and abetting interstate stalking. The charges carry a maximum penalty of three years prison for the AETA counts and statutory maximums of five years in prison for each of the interstate stalking counts. Fines could total \$250,000 for each count per person. I regret I do not have the space for a complete discussion of all the charges, but I've written some thoughts below.

To prove its case that any of these defendants committed animal enterprise terrorism under AETA, the government must prove (to paraphrase the statute) three elements: (1) the person knowingly traveled between states, or used mail or the Internet across state lines; (2) for the purpose of physically disrupting the functioning of an animal enterprise; and (3) intentionally damaged or caused the loss of any property used by the animal enterprise, or conspired (agreed with others) to do so.

On element one, it seems that the government cannot prove that any of the defendants traveled or used the Internet in any way relevant to these charges. The government, in its charges, does not describe who posted what message. I think that the government omitted this information because it does not know who did what.

Without being able to prove who posted what messages, the government should get nowhere at trial. This truth raises the possibility that the government expects the pressure of a criminal prosecution will cause at

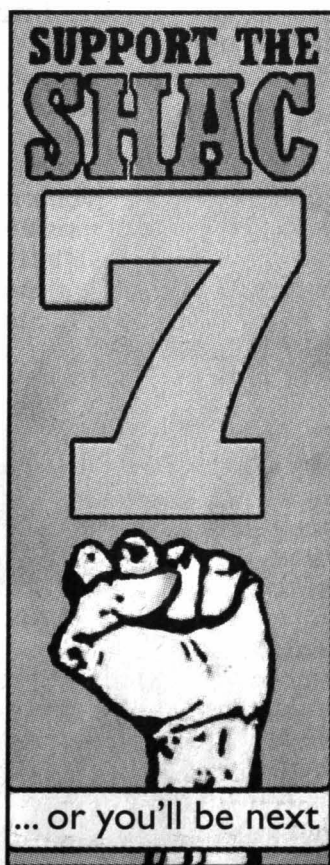
least one of the SHAC 7 to "get on the bus" as prosecutors say, and rat on the other six—possibly by making up a story where all seven did not violate these statutes. It is more likely, though, that this will end up being another case of "nobody talks, everybody walks."

On elements two and three, the government also must prove that the posting itself was intended to cause, and did cause, the physical disruption of Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), Chiron or other corporations qualifying as "animal enterprises." A person who posts the home address of an HLS executive does not necessarily intend to, and cannot possibly succeed in, physically disrupting HLS because HLS is not the target. The same is true for a person who posts information about the many evils of HLS and Chiron because this information is constitutionally protected—there is nothing a jury would find criminal about it. Even the statements urging the destruction of HLS property are protected speech because of the remoteness of the speech in time and place to the target and the receiver. Under *Texas v. Johnson*, a US Supreme Court ruling, the government must show that the speech was directed at inciting or producing immediate lawless action and that the speech is likely to incite or produce such action.

In almost all cases, according to the government, posts urging people to damage HLS property occurred weeks or months before any destruction occurred. Thus, any connection between the post and the action is speculative and likely to be coincidental. Even in the single case where damage supposedly occurred hours after such a posting, that damage is still not considered "immediate." Additionally, while the post urging people to destroy HLS property may have been created by the person who ultimately destroyed the property, SHAC USA and the SHAC 7 would have played no role at all in the destruction.

John Ashcroft's recent prosecution against Greenpeace crashed and burned (see *EF!* July-August 2004), and it looks like his SHAC attack is headed in the same direction. Please support SHAC USA and the SHAC 7, and show that you stand beside them in their fight against animal cruelty. If any of us are to succeed, we must support each other!

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.



artwork courtesy www.shac7.com

Prisoners in the Struggle: Support Them!

Regulations for mail sent to prisoners vary according to individual prisons. Before sending monetary donations, stamps, books or packages, ask prisoners what the regulations are. Assume that the authorities read everything that you write to a prisoner. The following list is a small sample of the total number of political prisoners and prisoner support groups worldwide. The EF! Journal offers discounted subscriptions for prisoners. Please contact us for more information.

Prisoner and Legal Updates

•Tre Arrow, c/o Rudy Kischer, Embarkation Law Group, 609 W Hastings St, 6th Floor, Vancouver, BC V6B 4W4, Canada. Awaiting hearing on possible extradition to the US to stand trial for alleged involvement in arsons on logging trucks and an Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arson on vehicles owned by a sand and gravel company. He is also awaiting trial for charges of shoplifting and providing a false name in Canada.

In late June, Arrow was deemed admissible to Canada, making it possible for him to appeal for refugee status to prevent his extradition. Bail has been denied again, and he may remain imprisoned in Canada for up to a year

before his refugee hearing. Authorities have refused to accommodate Arrow's raw food diet, and he has lost more than 50 pounds.

For more information, visit www.trearrow.org.

•Sherman Austin was released from prison on July 12 after serving one year for maintaining a website that contained a link to another website with information on how to make explosives. He now begins three years of strict probation, in which his access to phones, computers and other digital communication devices are strictly limited and supervised. Furthermore, he is banned from any contact with "anarchist groups," or groups that "advocate violence as a means of disrupting order and achieving social, economic and political change."

For more information, visit www.freesherman.org.

•Dr. Yuri Bandazhevsky, Valiuk for Bandazhevsky Y.I., 231318 Grodnenskaya oblast, Lidski raion, Peskovtsy ul. Oktibrskaya, 2, Belarus. Bandazhevsky has been transferred from prison to a penal colony after serving 3.5 years for telling the world that the nuclear radiation around

Chernobyl was worse than the Belarus government reported. He is expected to remain at the colony until he is paroled in December.



•Marco Camenisch, Postfach 3143, CH-8105 Regensdorf, Switzerland. Serving 27 years for using explosives to target nuclear facility power lines and for the alleged murder of a Swiss border guard, which he denies. He reads French, German, Spanish and Italian. Camenisch has been transferred to the address above.

•William "Billy" Cottrell, #29526112, Metropolitan Detention Center, POB 1500, Los Angeles, CA 90053, USA. Awaiting trial for alleged involvement in a series of ELF actions that damaged approximately 125 SUVs.

In an attempt to pressure Cottrell to implicate others, authorities have threatened to add between one and seven more charges of "using a destructive device during a violent crime," each carrying a minimum 30-year sentence. Cottrell continues to maintain his innocence and refuses to cooperate with authorities. His trial is scheduled for October 26.

Please note that Cottrell's prisoner ID number has changed and his mail was confiscated upon his transfer, so he has lost touch with many of his

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Indigenous Forest Defenders Released in Mexico

Two Tarahumara forest defenders were released from prison in northern Mexico on June 23, after a campaign of national and international pressure led to the dismissal of their charges.

Isidro Baldenegro and Domingo Rivas Carillo were framed for marijuana and weapons possession in March 2003, after they took part in a campaign that successfully prevented the Fontes family drug cartel from illegally logging an old-growth forest on Tarahumara land (see *EF!* May-June 2003). The police commissioner was allegedly bribed into arresting the two activists by Artemio Fontes. Fontes has also been accused of conspiring in the assassination of Tarahumaran forest defenders including Baldenegro's father, Julio Baldenegro, in 1986.

Baldenegro and Rivas' case attracted international attention and calls for their release. Relieved to be free, Baldenegro and Rivas have vowed to continue their people's struggle for land and self-determination—but they have also expressed concerns for their safety. "I think that in any moment [the Fontes family] might take revenge for what we have publicized," Baldenegro said.

For more information on supporting Baldenegro and Rivas or on the Tarahumara's struggle, visit www.sierramadrealiance.org.

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correspondents. For more information, visit www.freebillycottrell.org.

•Ibai Ederra, Carcel de Pamplona, C/San Roque Apdo 250, 31080-Iruñeaz Pamplona, Navarra, Spain. Awaiting sentencing for sabotaging a dam construction site.

•Manase Furima, Lembaga Pemas-yarakatan Manokwari, Jl. Sabang No 4, Manokwari, Papua, Indonesia. Awaiting trial for taking part in a March road blockade to prevent illegal logging.

•Thomas "JJ" Hicks, #18231058, FCI McKeen, POB 8000, Bradford, PA 16701, USA. Hicks has been sentenced to nearly six years for marijuana and weapons charges. He was formerly active with Katúah Earth First! (KEF!) and Zapatista support groups. Because of his activist history, federal and prison authorities investigating ELF actions pressured him to take a plea bargain involving FBI interviews, which he accepted. However, no evidence of snitching has surfaced as far as KEF! has seen. The loose consensus among KEF!ers is that they support him as individuals and not organizationally.

•Matthew Lamont, #T90251 / D3-140, 44750 W. 60th St, Lancaster, CA 93536, USA. Lamont, an Earth First!er, is serving three years for possession of an incendiary device. He has been transferred to the address above.

•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. Free recently expressed appreciation to everyone who participated in his first annual international day of solidarity and action on June 12. Activists in 25 cities around the world held events to raise awareness and support for Free. In Moscow, Russia, a group of anarchists painted "Free Jeff Luers" in large letters on the side of the US Embassy.

•George Mashkow III and Jared McIntyre were sentenced in July for a series of ELF actions that damaged nine homes under construction in New York in 2001. Mashkow and McIntyre acted as informants against Conor Cash, who was acquitted of all charges in May (see *EF!J* July-August 2004). Mashkow was sentenced to nearly a year, while McIntyre received 3.5 years and has

been ordered to pay \$300,000 in restitution. The *EF!J* editorial collective condemns snitching and has deliberately omitted their contact addresses.

•Matius Nasira, Lembaga Pemas-yarakatan Manokwari, Jl. Sabang No 4, Manokwari, Papua, Indonesia. Awaiting trial for taking part in a March road blockade to prevent illegal logging.

•Sergio Maria Stefani, c.c. Regina Coeli, via della Lungara 29, 00165 Roma, Italy. Awaiting trial for allegedly damaging fur stores and butcher shops. Stefani is also under investigation for allegedly planting an incendiary device in front of a butcher shop. Authorities are now attempting to link him to a recent letter-bombing on the basis of an imaginary similarity between incendiary devices and letter bombs. He has been transferred to the address above.

•Robert Thaxton, #12112716, MCCF, 4005 Aumsville Hwy, Salem, OR 97301, 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. Thaxton, aka Rob Los Ricos, has been transferred to the address above.

•Kerry Whitburn was released from prison on June 10 after serving less than a month for unspecified actions

against Newchurch Guinea Pig Farm in England.

•Helen Woodson, #03231-045, c/o Bates County Jail, POB 60, Butler, MO 64730, USA. Awaiting sentencing for parole violations, including dumping a cup of red paint over the security apparatus of a federal court and making warnings ("threats") of weapons of mass destruction. Woodson recently completed 20 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.

Animal Liberation

•Dave Blenkinsop, EM7899, HMP Bullingdon, Oxfordshire OX60PZ, UK. Serving 10 years for attacking the managing director of Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), rescuing 600 guinea pigs from a lab supplier and planting incendiary devices under slaughterhouse vehicles.

•Hanna Ekegren, Box 1005, 718 92 Frobi, Sweden. Serving 10 months for damaging equipment at a chicken processing plant and destroying the eggs of thousands of chickens that would have been bred for the industry.

•Paul Holliday, KA9328, HMP Lindholme, Bawtry Rd, Hatfield

Censorship Raids in Italy

Italian authorities have recently stepped up a campaign of repression against the radical group Il Silvestre, which publishes the eco-anarchist magazine *Terra Selvaggia*. In January, 13 Il Silvestre members were accused of participating in an alleged riot, which broke out when police tried to suppress a protest against genetically modified crops. In June, police raided a house in Pisa and arrested five more members of Il Silvestre. A few days later, they arrested a sixth.

All six of the activists arrested in June are accused of promoting revolutionary activities such as sabotage. They are also accused of having links with a Marxist group, the Cells of Revolutionary Offensive (COR), which has carried out politically inspired direct actions. The Il Silvestre 6 are not Marxist, of course—they are anarchists.

One of the six was freed soon after her arrest, and four others were placed under house arrest. One activist, Alessio Perondi, remains in prison.

Supporters allege that the charges against the Il Silvestre 6 have more to do with censorship than with any serious attempt to stop COR activity.

The activists under house arrest are being kept in complete isolation and cannot receive mail. However, Perondi can receive letters addressed to: Alessio Perondi, Casa Circondariale di Prato, Via La Montagnola 76, 59100 Prato, Italy.

The trial of the 13 activists arrested in January is scheduled to begin in December.

For more information about Il Silvestre and *Terra Selvaggia*, contact Il Silvestre, via del Cuore, 1, 56100 Pisa, Italy.

Woodhouse, Doncaster, Yorks DN7 6EE, UK. Serving nine months for making phone calls to animal abusers, including HLS shareholders, hunters and agricultural suppliers.

•Paul Le Boutillier, KA9326, HMP Hull, Hedon Rd, Hull HU9 5LS, UK. Serving 2.5 years for making phone calls to animal abusers, including HLS shareholders, hunters and agricultural suppliers.

Ecodefense

•Angela Marie Cesario, #66522-065, Federal Prison Camp Dublin, 5675 8th St, Camp Parks, Dublin, CA 94568, USA. Serving 41 months for arson attacks on logging trucks in Oregon.

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

•Craig "Crittter" Marshall, #13797662, SRCI, 777 Stanton Blvd, Ontario, OR 97914, USA. Serving 5.5 years for conspiracy to commit arson and possession of incendiary devices to destroy SUVs.

•Jeremy Rosenbloom, #66521-065, Federal Prison Camp Sheridan, POB 6000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA. Serving 41 months for arson attacks on logging trucks in Oregon.

•John Wade, #38548-083, FCI Petersburg Low, POB 1000, Petersburg, VA 23804, USA. Serving 37 months for a series of ELF actions against McDonald's and Burger King, urban sprawl, the construction industry and an SUV dealership.

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.

•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.

•Edward Goodman Africa, #AM4974, SCI Mahanoy, 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

•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.

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

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

Prisoner Support Groups

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

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

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

•Break the Chains Prisoner Support Group, POB 12122, Eugene, OR 97440, USA; www.breakthechains.net.

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

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

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

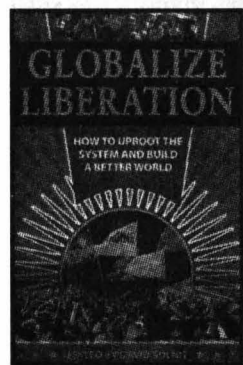
•Friends of Free, www.freefreenow.org.

•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, USA; www.prisonactivist.org.

•Prison Book Program, 110 Arlington St, Boston, MA 02116, USA; www.prisonbookprogram.org.

•Prison Moratorium Project, 388 Atlantic Ave, 3rd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 1217, USA; www.nomoreprisons.org.



Globalize Liberation: How to Uproot the System and Build a Better World edited by David Solnit, City Lights Books, 2004.

What the now-classic *Ecodefense* manual is to the Earth First! movement, *Globalize Liberation* is to the global democracy movement. This manual is like having a *Lonely Planet Guide to the Revolution*, complete with subject tabs like "strategy" and "corporate power" to make skimming both easy and productive.

Globalize Liberation was compiled by long time direct action organizer David Solnit. "As a carpenter, I have packed this book like a tool belt," explains Solnit. The book is uniquely solution-oriented, and contains tools, ideas, insights and understandings of how to uproot the system and build a better world.

The book opens with a communiqué from Colombia's indigenous U'wa people declaring, "the monkey king is an illusion," and its varied contributors continue to weave Earth-centered and ecological themes throughout. It is divided into three overarching sections: "What's the Problem?," "How to Change Things," and "Ideas in Action." The "What's the Problem?" section is sweeping and broken down into 12 different issue-based perspectives, including frameworks like Indigenous, Ecology, Capital, Feminism, Corporate Power and War.

Inside you'll find excellent resources on direct democracy, participatory economics and applying "Zapatismo" to your local organizing. The book gives voice to a wide range of fascinating organizers from around the world, including the best English-language accounts published to date of the revolution in Argentina and its far-reaching implications.

Cultural resistance—culture that is used to resist and change the dominant structure—shows up as a recurring theme. *Globalize Liberation's* designer, Jason Justice, utilizes numerous photos and illustrations of cultural resistance in action. The result is that you wind up getting two books in one: the "other book" is an incredibly inspiring photographic scrapbook of global revolutionary movements.

"I see two parts of cultural resistance," explains Solnit, "The first part is to bring culture into the streets ... communicating not just to people's heads, but to their guts and their hearts. The other is to bring ... creativity and innovation into our organizing.... *Globalize Liberation* is an effort to learn from the experiments of the last decade."

Now it's up to you to take these lessons learned and try them out for yourself. Share your successes with the *EF! Journal*. Build your own laboratories of resistance and let your experiments run wild.

James John Bell (LastWizards.com) is a Pacific Northwest writer and cofounder of *The smartMeme Strategy & Training Project* (smartMeme.com).

Books: C

BY MICHAEL DONNELLY

Been Brown So Long It Looked Like Green To Me by Jeffrey St. Clair, Common Courage Press, 2004.

"They say we can't win without the funders. Yet, that's the only way we've ever won."

—MIKE ROSELLE

Jeffrey St. Clair's book, *Been Brown So Long It Looked Like Green To Me* is a 400-page verification of Roselle's testimonial.

After a brilliant "Opening Statement," the book starts out with a summary of the events that led to the modern environmental movement, going on to chart the rise and fall of the Big Greens as they tepidly challenged Reagan and Bush-led depredations and then completely collapsed in a spasm of Clinton sycophancy—illustrated perfectly by their surrender of the grassroots ancient forest victory.

From there, it's the same thing over and over again in campaign after campaign. St. Clair charts how local activists rise up to challenge corporate assaults on nature only to see the Groundhog Day-like script repeat: The Big Greens and their foundation masters come in, take credit for the grassroots' hard work, use the issue to raise funds and then cut a "compromise" friendly to Democrats and corporations.

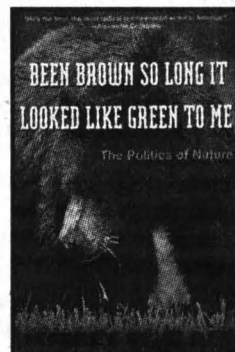
Been Brown So Long covers so many issues, it could very well be the definitive history of every ecological issue since the first Earth Day.

Wilderness issues appear first, as they did for the early environmental movement. The slaughter of Yellowstone's bison, the strip-mining of the oceans, the suffocating of salmon streams and the murder of activist David Chain all come under much-needed scrutiny, as do Big Agriculture and the energy industry.

The book's excellent reporting of the continued assault on America's indigenous people is perhaps its most essential section. That the spineless Democratic Senate "leader," Tom Daschle, is able to get Big Green support for yet another raid on the Sioux's sacred Paha Sapa (the Black Hills) is just about all one needs to know about the rot that permeates the Democrats and the DC-based environmental establishment. It's enough to make one throw up one's hands and run for a cave in the hills.

But in the end, hope is all over the place. As St. Clair notes time and again, hundreds of real activists are valiantly working to hold off the predators and their political and nonprofit enablers. Reading their stories is the antidote to despair.

This is an important book. Unlike so many cautious tomes about environmental issues, it names names and has the facts to back it all up. It also names places—places that deserve better. With this fine compilation out there, hopefully we'll see more support for these special places, and an even greater vision that will motivate generations to come.



The "New Radicalism" Through Global Eyes

It's the Life Support System, Stupid

K 'EM OUT

BY K.SEE AND Kv

Stencil Pirates by Josh MacPhee, Soft Skull Press, 2004.

Josh MacPhee's collection and documentation of street stencils from around the world is showcased in his book, *Stencil Pirates*. With more than 1,000 photos, *Stencil Pirates* provides an impressive look at stencil-based street art. Included among the photos are narrative text, a how-to section and templates for the reader to cut out and stencil with.

MacPhee's writing is accessible and engaging as he takes you through an extensive history of stencil culture. From fabric printing in China, to political poster campaigns in Nicaragua, to Crass record covers and Hip-Hop graffiti in New York City, the book illustrates a non-linear web of influences. You'll find his thoughts on computer technique infiltration, pop culture, class, censorship, mass media and the evolution of the art.

Stencil Pirates also addresses the backgrounds of the artists, their diversity, and their motivations much better than previous street art books. It represents more womyn artists, identity politics, and class issues, including gentrification. It's good to see that an art-school-educated, gallery-represented male may find graffiti liberating for different reasons than a disenfranchised kid or a young womyn, who may all be dealing with oppression in different ways. For example, Stain and Scout, two Albany, New York-based artists, consider their stenciling a "civic duty" and place images of kids from their neighborhood over abandoned spaces and windows. Their pieces alter and beautify the urban neighborhood they belong to, creating a more colorful and playful atmosphere.

Stencil Pirates is the most thorough book out there on stencils and the culture surrounding them, and it should be on the book list of anyone who is curious about making stencil art. It will inspire you to get an Xacto knife and some paint and hit the streets with your own eye-catching creations.

Kv enjoys time spent with her feline friend Oliver and fending off weeds from her tomato plants. She found street art a much needed relief from the suffocating nature of art school, as well as a liberating way for women to reclaim space. k.see is a chronic traveler who can be found slinging cheap art in the streets, posting the same pieces on your clothes at a conference or painting it on those unsightly electrical boxes.



Street Stencils with Conscience

BY ROBERT OVETZ, PhD

The Victories, Letdowns and Visions of our Movements

Insurrection: Citizen Challenges to Corporate Power by Kevin Danaher and Jason Mark, Routledge, 2003.

Published soon after the Cancún World Trade Organization ministerial collapsed in September 2003, Kevin Danaher and Jason Mark's new book—*Insurrection: Citizen Challenges to Corporate Power*—is an inspiring, energizing and informative ode to movements against corporate domination.

Danaher and Mark offer thoroughly researched, blow-by-blow accounts of the anti-sweatshop, dolphin-safe tuna, anti-Big Tobacco, Burma democracy and anti-corporate globalization movements. Each of these have enough detail and critical insights into tactics and strategy to be required reading for any activist.

The authors have an ambitious, if not practical, objective of setting out tactical and strategic successes side by side with the inherent limitations of movements confined to national boundaries in an increasingly globalized world. Victories by the corporate accountability movement, as they call them, "have been half-wins, precarious victories vulnerable to reversal." While Danaher and Mark celebrate our ability to disrupt corporate rule, "the task must now be to dismantle corporate rule."

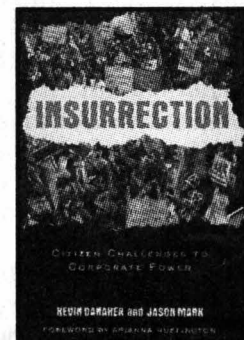
Yet from even "half-wins," a couple of the movements the book highlights are genuinely lacking any indicator of success. One that hardly qualifies as an "insurrection" is the anti-sweatshop movement, which garners a lengthy chapter and yet amounted at its height to no more than a few dozen campuses, protests no larger than a few hundred students and a mere hundred universities eventually signing onto credible sweatshop monitoring. Examples of real cooperation with the workers themselves are rare and cooptation is rife.

The authors would have been better off giving space to movements that have realized actual success in linking the local to the global in fighting corporations. The independent music, anti-dam, anti-GMO food and the immensely successful environmental justice movement have engendered some of the most powerful domestic examples of an insurrection against corporate globalization in the past two decades.

Eventually, the authors call for a "deep transformation of global corporate capitalism" rather than an actual "dismantling." This effort would include a colorful mix of revoking corporate charters, alliances with small business and the anti-corporate right and promoting what they call a "green/fair economy."

Despite its limitations, *Insurrection* is an invaluable new chapter in the account of the increasingly successful, global grassroots resistance to corporate domination that is being written at this moment by people from California to Bolivia to Quebec to India and many places in between.

Robert Ovetz, PhD, is a member of the faculty of the Art Institute of California, San Francisco and works with the Sea Turtle Restoration Project. He can be contacted at ultrasound000@hotmail.com.



announcements

Defend Community Gardens

Fall • New York City

Community gardens in the Bronx are being threatened by developers. More Gardens! is calling for people to come and help defend the gardens from the bulldozers and do community outreach.

The More Gardens! Coalition is a group of community people, gardeners, and environmental and social justice activists committed to protecting and creating community gardens.

For more information or to make a donation, contact More Gardens!, 79 Clinton Street, Apt 17, New York, NY 10002; (917) 518-9987; (718) 585-2109; www.moregardens.org.

Help Stop University of Minnesota Telescope Project on Mt. Graham

Your best chance to persuade the University of Minnesota (UM) to divest from the Mount Graham telescope project is now!

Mt. Graham is an ecological wonder in southern Arizona and is held sacred to Western Apaches. The University of Arizona (UA) and investors from Germany, Italy and the Vatican are building three telescopes on Mt. Graham's Emerald Peak. The UM recently joined the controversial project, and a campaign to stop its \$10 million investment is building steam.

The case against the telescopes is clear. San Carlos and White Mountain Apaches are opposed to the telescopes' desecration of the mountain. The telescopes are destroying the fragile mountaintop ecosystem, threatening endemic species like the Mt. Graham red squirrel with extinction.

The Minnesota Mount Graham Coalition is preparing for a vigorous campaign during the upcoming school year at the UM campus in Minneapolis, with the goal of getting UM to divest from the project by June 2005. We are looking for help from enthusiastic and motivated individuals and groups, as well as folks with divestment campaign experience.

For more information, contact (612) 872-4995; rrmn@ziplip.com.

The Mountains of Katúah Need Your Help!

Come to Appalachia to help fight Mountain Top Removal (MTR), a mining process in which coal companies dynamite the tops off of mountains, dump the waste into adjacent valleys and extract the coal underneath.

These companies are altering the geology of our home to feed an ever-expanding coal market. More than 1,000 miles of streams have already been buried under blown-up mountains in West Virginia. Now the coal companies are expanding southward to blast the mountaintops in Tennessee and Alabama.

Katúah Earth First! is utilizing lawsuits, demonstrations and direct action to take down these greedy coal addicts. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the largest buyer of coal in the country, is headquartered in Knoxville, as is the Office of Surface Mining. There is no shortage of local targets.

If we can break the back of MTR here in Katúah, we can affect coal mining practices nationwide.

Come to Katúah before it's too late! Send us money! We also need Kinko's copy cards, phone cards, cameras, videotape, colored duct-tape, welding torches, climbing rope and most importantly, volunteers.

For more information or to send donations, contact Meagan Carter, 2131 Riverside Drive, Knoxville, TN 37915; zorgonus@yahoo.com.

Cycle Circus of Impending Doom

September 5-October 9 • New England

Focusing on environmental issues and George Bush's impending second term, the Cycle Circus of Impending Doom will be touring New England this Fall. In between skits, musical acts and puppet shows, trained and experienced puppets will shock and awe you with their death-defying tricks!

Form a troupe with your friends or come to circus camp in Glover, Vermont, from September 5-11 and join one. Troupes will bike separately and then meet up in towns to perform, share meals, camp out and tell adventure stories.

To join the ride or host a show in your town, contact mblue@riseup.net.

Buffalo Field Campaign Road Show

September, West Coast • October, East Coast

In the coming months, we will embark on our annual Buffalo Field Campaign roadshows, visiting communities across the country and sharing buffalo-inspired stories and video footage to generate support for protecting the Yellowstone herd. Contact us if you'd like to organize an event in your town!

For more information, contact Buffalo Field Campaign, POB 957, West Yellowstone, Montana 59758; bfc-advocate@wildrockies.org (West Coast); bfc-media@wildrockies.org (East Coast).

World Carfree Days

September 22

Every September, people around the world join together for victorious days of action, reclaiming their streets and lives from the automobile.

Organize an event in your town or city!

For more information and organizing resources, visit www.carbusters.org/wcfd.

Northwest Social Forum

October 1-3 • Seattle, Washington

The Northwest Social Forum will be a broad-based gathering of people and organizations with a desire to learn from each other and build relationships that will benefit everyone in the struggle for social justice.

For more information, contact (206) 448-7348; www.nwsocialforum.org.

Zine Fest

October 6-10 • Madison, Wisconsin

This year's Madison Zine Fest will feature tables, workshops and zine-related film screenings in conjunction with Wisconsin Book Festival events. Invited guests include Davy Rothbart of *Found Magazine*, Daniel Raeburn of *The Imp*, Chris Dodge, street librarian of the *Utne Reader* and McSweeney's.

People making zines, zine librarians and others interested in alternative print resources are encouraged to get involved.

For more information, contact Alycia Sellie, 139 E Johnson St, Madison, WI 53703; aasellie@wisc.edu.

Global Walkout for Peace and Justice

October 22

The 9-11 Commission didn't see the obvious. If the US stopped killing people in other countries, we wouldn't have to worry about terrorism at home. It's that simple. It is only through unity and solidarity that we can regain power from the greedy, corrupt, polluting military-industrial complex. Join us in walking out of your jobs and classrooms before the US election.

For more information, contact (800) 884-1136; www.consensus.net/walkout.html.

National Demonstration Against Huntingdon Life Sciences

Hammer HLS! Support the SHAC 7!

October 23-25 • New Jersey

In May, seven Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) activists were indicted under the controversial federal Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act.

The SHAC 7 are alleged to have operated a website that reported on and expressed support for protest activity against Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), a notorious animal testing lab. For this they are charged with "terrorism" and face 23 years in federal prison.

This case is meant to pave the way for the silencing of activists involved in all issues. It is imperative that the broader social justice movement stands behind the SHAC 7 in a communal defense of free speech.

Join us in New Jersey in October to show united support for the SHAC 7 and to let HLS know that we will not back down until they back down.

For more information, visit www.shac7.com. To make a donation to the SHAC 7 Defense Fund, send checks to SHAC 7 c/o NJARA, POB 174, Englishtown, NJ 07726.

EarthVision Environmental Film Festival

October 27-30 • Santa Cruz, California

The focus of the seventh annual EarthVision Festival is the use of film and video as tools for raising environmental awareness and uncovering environmental issues. The films shown at EarthVision are the work of passionate individuals with cameras who have documented a broad spectrum

of environmental problems along with the diverse grassroots efforts to solve them.

For more information, visit www.earthvisionfest.org.

International Gift Economy Conference

November 12-14 • Las Vegas, Nevada

People from across the US are coming to hear international women speakers discuss a different point of view—one that will offset the negative and exploitative mentality of our times while challenging the global patriarchal capitalist system. Proposing to unite the women's movement, the movement of indigenous peoples for social change, the antinuclear and peace movements and many others, the gift paradigm envisions social change stemming from an economic and cultural model based on women's practice.

Registration is \$50. Scholarships are available and no one will be turned away for lack of money. For more information, contact the Center for the Study of the Gift Economy, 109 W Johanna Street, Austin, TX 78704; www.gifteconomyconference.com.

Drawing Resistance: A Traveling Political Artshow

Looking for hosts in 2005-2006

Drawing Resistance is a show of two-dimensional artwork by 31 political artists from North America. Since its inception in September 2001, it has traveled more than 5,000 miles to 25 cities in the US and Canada.

Drawing Resistance is currently looking for hosts and contacts for 2005-2006 in cities in the Southwest, Texas, the Southeast and Europe.

For more information, contact Nicolas Lampert, animaltrap@yahoo.com; www.drawingresistance.org.



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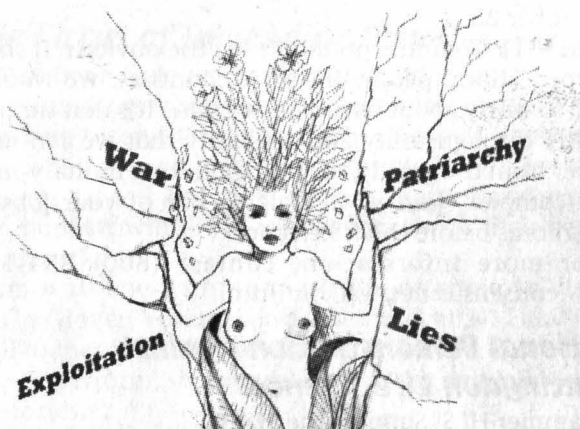
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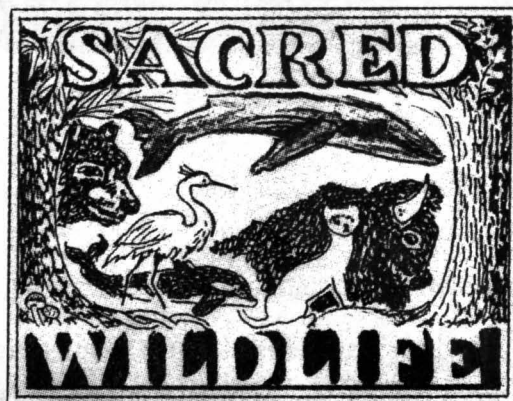
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Will the Sage Grouse be the Next Spotted Owl?

BY LENNY

Energy, mining and ranching interests are in a panic over the potential Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing of the greater sage grouse, and so is their most important lackey—Interior Secretary Gale Norton. The sage grouse “could become the spotted owl of the intermountain West,” Norton warned at a June 22 meeting of western governors. As a result, the exploitation industries of the West are gearing up to fight the grouse’s listing tooth and nail.

The sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is a ground-nesting bird that lives at elevations of 4,000 to 9,000 feet. Its survival depends on large, uninterrupted stands of sagebrush for food and cover from predators—in fact, the adult birds eat nothing but big sage during the Fall and Winter months.

The sage grouse may be best known, however, for its distinctive mating rituals. During late Winter and Spring, the males flock from miles around to gather at their traditional strutting grounds (leks), where they perform an elaborate courtship dance. Females visit the leks to choose a mate from among the displaying males.

Early white settlers reported that flocks of sage grouse darkened the skies when roused into flight. The bird’s range once spanned 16 western states and three Canadian provinces but as their habitat has been increasingly fragmented and destroyed, the sage grouse population has plunged from two million to only 140,000. They are now only found in 11 of the original 16 states.

According to Pat Deibert, a biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, even a single road or telephone pole can be damaging to sage grouse populations. Added to these woes are a century of cattle grazing, mining, oil and gas exploration, and the deliberate destruction of sagebrush for development. More recent threats include large wildfires, off-road vehicles and West Nile Virus—an exotic disease to which the birds have no known immunity. As Ben Deeble of the National Wildlife Federation says, the sage grouse are “facing death from a thousand cuts.”

But some cuts are bigger than others—and richer. At the heart of the current debate lies the fact that sage grouse territory coincides with some of the country’s prime gas drilling areas, especially in Wyoming, Montana, Colorado and Utah. In fact, the Bush administration’s energy plan prioritizes oil and gas exploration in these very

areas. With a major gas boom in the making—the Bureau of Land Management is calling for 3,100 gas wells in the Pinedale, Wyoming, area—the industry is determined to prevent an ESA listing from threatening its potential profits. For example, a listing would require an increase in the size of no-development buffers around grouse leks.

Listing of the sage grouse would also protect other species

that depend on sagebrush habitat, such as the pygmy rabbit, mountain quail and white-tailed prairie dog. Animals that have their migratory routes disrupted by gas drilling—like pronghorn antelope and mule deer—would also benefit.

“The sage grouse occupies nearly 12 times as much land as the northern spotted owl,” Norton said. To head off a listing, she has encouraged western governors to tailor economic activities to reduce their impact on the sage grouse. But that’s not enough for those who profit from exploiting our wilderness.

Energy, mining and ranching interests have banded together to form a nonprofit group called the Partnership for the West (PW). An internal PW memo that was leaked to environmental groups reveals a planned campaign to discredit the sage grouse’s ESA listing.

The memo made it clear that PW intends to “unleash grassroots opposition to a listing, thus providing some cover to the [Bush administration] political leadership.” The reason? “Such a listing would cause economic disruption that would make the northern spotted owl decision look minuscule by comparison.” And who wrote this memo? PW’s director Jim Sims—the former director of communications for Vice President Dick Cheney’s energy policy development group.

PW and other industry groups claim that local conservation efforts will be hampered by a federal ESA listing, but local efforts can easily continue in addition to an ESA listing. PW’s true concern is that current ineffective local efforts will indeed be superseded by legal protection with some teeth.

In the sage grouse’s ability to protect large stretches of habitat under the ESA, it might indeed resemble the spotted owl. It is up to us to work for that listing, but it is also up to us to fight the deception and division that big industry will once again try to sow.

When Lenny enrolled at Pomona College, they told him his school’s mascot was extinct. Not if we can help it!

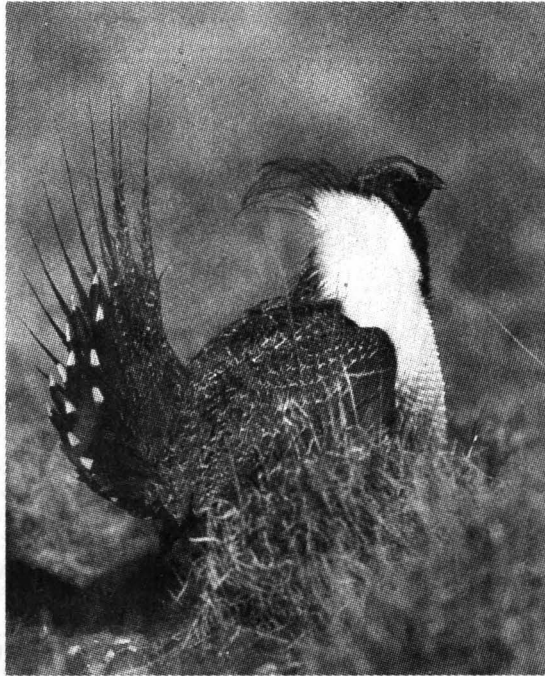
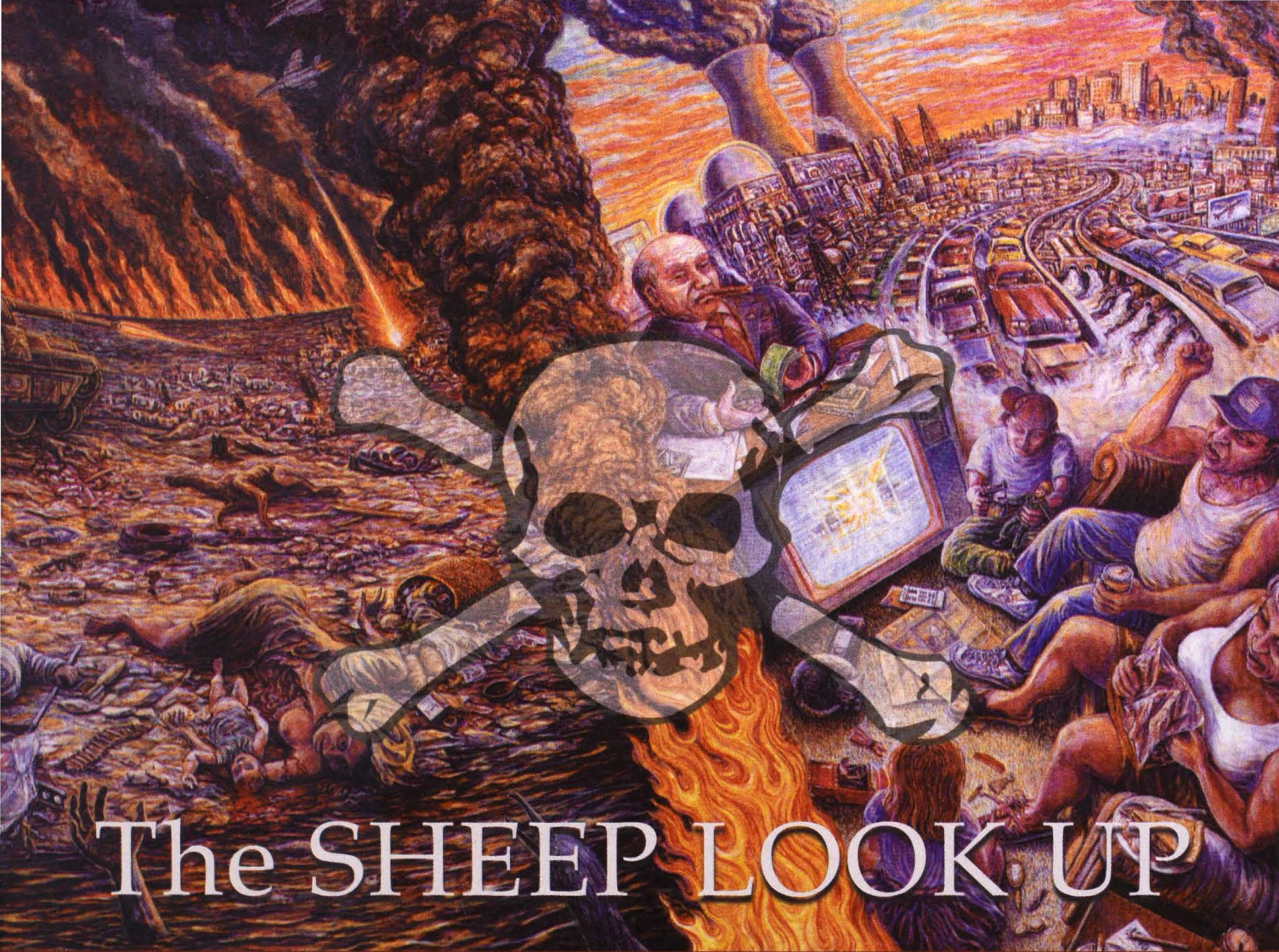


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