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Meet EF! · Victoria's Dirty Secret · Protesting Plutonium · Hunt Sabs Continue

Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

Brigid January-February 2005

Free the Animals

401 Animals Liberated in Iowa

\$4.50 US \$7.00 Canada · Volume 25 #2





Plenty
of
Room
At This
Bottom
↓

Compassionate Conservatism
MASS

Plenty
of
Room
at
This
Bottom
↓

Plenty
of room
at this
Bottom
↓

No
NANO

Plenty
of
Room At
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↓

PLENTY
of
Room
at
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Bottom
↓

ARMY

Earth First!

Brigid January-February 2005

The Radical Environmental Journal



Special Pullout Section:

Earth First! Primer

*What is Earth First!?, Direct Action Gets the Goods, Monkeywrenching, Forming an Earth First! Group
...in English and Spanish...
see pages 25-32*

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No Excuses

The other day, I was browsing through a list of recent Animal Liberation Front (ALF) actions when it struck me: every day, somewhere in the privileged First World, there is an ALF action. Every day, a passionate and committed individual places herself or himself at risk to rescue another living being from a life of suffering.

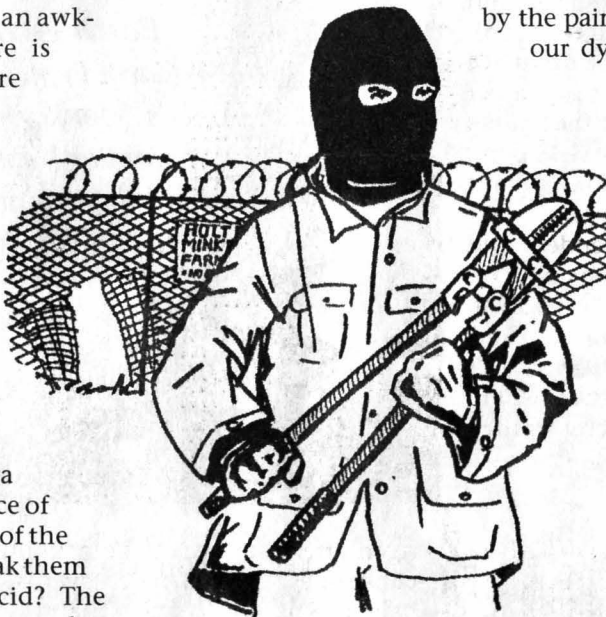
The dedication, creativity and fire of our brothers and sisters in the animal liberation movement is to be lauded, but it poses an awkward question: Where is the corresponding fire among radical ecologists? Why don't we hear of an Earth Liberation Front (ELF) action every day?

Maybe it's a lack of creativity. Maybe we think that an ELF action has to mean arson. But why not take a page from the ALF's recent raid on the University of Iowa and break into the office of Boise Cascade, find all of the company's files and soak them in paper-dissolving acid? The economic damage from such an action could easily surpass that of some fires. Why not infiltrate your local Earth-destroying government agency and use your access to slash the tires on all their cars—or better yet, smash their computers?

Maybe it's just overblown fear. We tend to believe that our enemy's security is invincible, but the ALF's record gives the lie to that. How much security can your local eco-terrorist really afford? Can you say "soft target?"

This is not to say that all of us should instantly abandon grassroots movement-building for a life underground. But it is a call to reconsider what's really keeping us from taking that next step, from upping the ante. Remember, even the FBI admits that a careful underground activist almost never gets caught.

So what's left? Does it come down to a lack of dedication? Are we really so much less moved by the pain of our dying



Earth than by the pain of a tortured beagle? Do we think that even effective sabotage just isn't worth the risk?

Just take a look around you. No matter where you live, you can see the Earth dying. And no matter where you live, you can connect with the awe-inspiring marvel that is life, the wondrous diversity that we are fighting this war to save.

Of course it's worth the risk.

Which leaves us with no excuses.

—LUTHIEN

Errata

On the inside front cover of the Samhain/Yule 2004 issue, we gave the incorrect date for the ELF arson at Vail. It actually occurred in 1998, not 1999. Thus, this past October 18 marked the sixth anniversary, not the fifth.

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Brigid

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

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

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

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

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Food Not Bombs



Resistance to Nanotech Grows

BY VIC

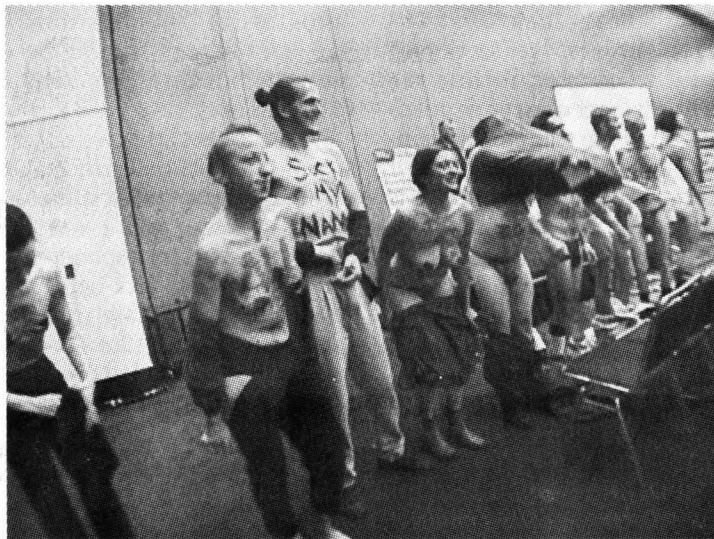
People around the world are taking notice of the fledgling nanotechnology industry's potential for atom-level control of virtually everything (see *EF!* November-December 2004). Nanotechnology is the manipulation of matter on the atomic and subatomic scale. This Fall, activists in Chicago, Illinois, and Leeds, England, gave nanotech executives a direct-action wake-up call.

Last year, Topless Humans Organized for Natural Genetics (THONG) showed the world that they'd rather run naked than eat biotech (see *EF!* September-October 2003). THONG took a similar approach at the NanoCommerce 2004 Conference at Chicago's Hyatt Regency on October 6. Nine members of THONG snuck in through the Hyatt's staff entrance during a cocktail party at about 6:45 p.m., dressed in business clothes on the outside and body paint and thongs underneath.

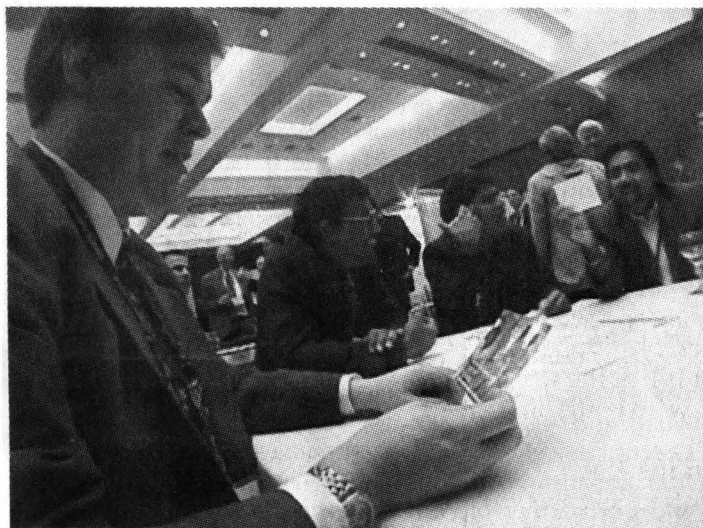
They lined up in front of conference attendees and began to strip, revealing the colorful slogans painted on their bodies: "Small wonder, it's not tested," "It's a small world, be careful" and "Plenty of room at *this* bottom." This last message was a reference to Richard Feynman's famous 1959 speech in which he considered the possibility of the direct manipulation of atoms. The activists then

But when the guards began to doubt them, the painted protesters threw down some postcards. The guards stooped down to pick them up, and THONG ran to the getaway van unscathed.

On November 12, in Leeds, England, anti-nanotech activists took action against the Micro and Nano Technology (MNT) Tradeshow at the Royal Armouries Museum. First, they entered the gathering to collect information



Plenty of room at this bottom!



Nanotechnology executives check out THONG's postcards

tossed postcards at conference attendees that depicted four painted THONG members and declared, "We're not guinea pigs: *test it!*"

The performance brought calls of appreciation, giggles and animated conversation, and the conference-goers enthusiastically snapped up the postcards. The show lasted about 30 seconds, then THONG made its escape.

The activists left through the lobby and told the security guards that they were the entertainment. True enough.

from attendees about the activities of nanotechnology companies. They then deployed rotten comfrey and fish-bait stinkbombs to make the museum an extremely unpleasant place to be. It was reported that many people had left the hall an hour later.

While the stinkbombs were being placed, the museum's intercom was seized, and an anti-nanotech statement was read and heard throughout the museum, drowning out the tradeshow proceedings. The message focused on the massive potential for social control and ecological damage that nanotech represents. Leaflets were also scattered about.

Two of the activists at the tradeshow were detained by security and held until police arrived. The cops took the activists' names and dates of birth, ran a warrant check and released them.

Untested nanoparticles are already being used in products that people consume daily, with unforeseen health and environmental risks. For example, DNA-damaging, nanoscale particles of titanium dioxide are used in many sunscreens. Nanoparticles coat pants to make them stain resistant. Bike parts are made with carbon nanotubes.

Nanotechnology has been billed as the solution to world hunger and disease, but it is no more likely to produce these results than the biotech industry. Hopefully, these recent actions are a harbinger of massive resistance to this new threat to freedom and biodiversity.



photo courtesy US Fish and Wildlife

Dear Shit fer Brains

*Please keep letters to
300 words or less*

Dear Shit Fer Brains,

The phrase, "get 'er done," which you used to title the editorial in the last issue, turns my stomach (see *EFJ* November-December 2004). To me it is obvious that the phrase is gendered, an abbreviation for "get her done." Is the *Journal* female? Is the *Journal* a female that you have to force, as your editorial title would imply?

Since I've been hearing this phrase a lot lately, I decided to look it up on the Internet to see where it came from and what it's about. Here's what I found out: "Git-r-done" was coined by Larry the Cable Guy, a standup comedian whose tour was aired on Comedy Central. When I did a search, I realized that the phrase has pervaded everything—from sports teams to personal ads, from square dancing to fixing computers, and from world-record scuba diving to getting out the vote and the name of alcohol shots. One interesting point is that in all of these cases, Larry the Cable Guy's stereotypical "blue collar" spelling (which is problematic in itself) of the phrase has been transformed by the public into the even more obviously gendered phrase "get 'er done."

On Larry's website, he re-futes that it is a "sexual phrase," but I think that he and the rest of the US are missing the point. No, it's not necessarily a phrase about sexual intercourse, but it is a gendered phrase. Given that our society is far from being non-sexist, I think that

"progressive" publications like the *Journal* should be more than a little reluctant to promote it.

According to Larry's website, a New York school principal wanted to ban "git-r-done" because he was told it was a sexual phrase. Larry responded, "Gimme a break! Lick-her-tits would be sexual phrase! (not a bad phrase either) But those folks who are schooled on the phrase Git-r-done know that it stands for give a hundred percent, never give up, whatever ya do just Git-R-Done!... It stands for good ole American work ethics and always will.... Every branch of the armed services have e-mailed me pictures of 'Git-R-Done' on tanks and hum-vees, I'm sure these dudes ain't chargin' a hill yellin' Git-R-Done as if to say to the enemy let's go nail bikini models! (Which ain't a bad thing!) They're kickin' ass and lettin' terrorists know America's gonna Git-R-Done on their ass!... Thanks to all the great American parents and students for rallying around Git-r-done and knowing what it means.... Thanks to the principle for thinkin' it was sexual even though it wasn't and makin' people say it even more than usual with a lot of fervor."

—SALMON

Hi,

I just wanted to email and let you all know how truly extraordinary the information in the *Journal* is, and how well written! My name is Amy Stewart and I subscribe to *Earth*

First! Journal (just sent in my renewal) and this one Samhain/Yule was so incredible to read I am speechless!

I actually learned things I didn't already know—essential things particularly about nanotechnology—mind blowing! Scary. I had my mom read this article as well. The websites in the *Journal* were so valuable for me because I've ordered some books and read more about nanotech. Also, the (great) artist Eric Drooker has a website, it's awesome! Thank you all so much for having the brains to research and even think about such topics as many in the *Journal*. I am a 4th grade teacher in Los Angeles, CA and believe it or not I try (cautiously) to incorporate the destruction of the planet and the ties to corporations within the prescribed curriculum (which can be mind numbing), and I do.

Thank you so much,

—AMY

Dear SFB,

Jeffrey St. Clair provides a compelling diatribe against what he labels the "Beltway Greens," as well as an insightful comparison of the differences, or lack thereof, between George W. Bush and John Kerry (see *EFJ* November-December 2004). But Mr. St. Clair does not know exactly when to stop and thus some of his wide-sweeping statements and suggestions undermine, rather than support, his efforts to bring about change.

Putting aside Mr. St. Clair's sophomoric and now moot suggestion that we engage in

"an act of supreme resistance" by not voting on Election Day, I address Mr. St. Clair's disparagement of Beltway Greens for their diminished commitment to wilderness areas and biological diversity in comparison to fifteen or twenty years ago. While wilderness areas are not given the prominence that they should and while we could certainly benefit from greater advocacy on behalf of endangered species, Mr. St. Clair takes issue with "environmental" lobbyists who display an apparent lack of zeal by diversifying their struggles and lobbying for other issues such as health care, abortion rights or trade policy. Here is where Mr. St. Clair loses my backing.

Health care, abortion rights and trade policy may not be wilderness issues. But they are environmental issues. This is not a novel concept. Principle 12 of the Rio Declaration calls upon countries to address environmental degradation in developing trade policy. Principle 20 speaks to the vital role of women in environmental management. The reelection of George W. Bush means that the wealthiest individuals in this country will continue to get tax breaks while the poorest individuals will be without health care. President Bush's second term in office will likely bring about further attempts to weaken, if not completely eradicate, a woman's right to choose. Another four years of George W. Bush translates into greater attempts to forge trade policy that is economically

and environmentally unsustainable—which furthers, rather than narrows, the divide between developed and developing countries. Sure, we need lawyers and lobbyists enraged about the future of our wilderness areas. But we also need advocates fighting for human health, abortion rights, and fair (not free) trade policy. In making this suggestion, I am not taking an anthropocentric view of the world. Rather, I am recognizing the interconnectedness of various policies and proposals—I am recognizing that everything which affects the environment is properly labeled “environmental policy.”

Mr. St. Clair is right to be up-in-arms about the environment and about the efforts to protect it. But his position runs the risk of divisiveness—of promoting one conception of environment over another. We simply cannot afford to do that during these dire times.

Sincerely,

—AVI BRISMAN

Dear EF!

After this election, I hope the moderate Democrats and supporters will realize they need to reach out to their base, which is the left (or the far right, if you include anarchy as the farthest right you can be), not the center. In addition, as a relatively centrist environmental organization, we realize that without the more radical groups like EF! and others, we don't have a chance.

Marginalizing the radical enviros gets the big moderate groups more funding from corporate America. I think we all realize that they are selling their souls by using that strategy. The Michigan Nature Association refuses to demonize radical groups and will continue to support them. However, we will also continue to raise support among citizens who may or may not be truly radical. We fill a niche in protecting nature through

“free-market” mechanisms, but we don't discount the amazing accomplishments of direct action. If Bush continues his policies, direct action and radical means may be the only things left that will work. We need to stand together to fight these ultra-conservative assholes, and not just with enviros. We need to stand with the other causes that share our worldview and support gay rights, people of color, women, animal welfare, and all the other things that are important in our world.



Basically, I believe we can and should work together in different ways. Because of our nature, being people who value diversity of opinion, diversity of culture, diversity of techniques, etc., we often find it hard to form a cohesive front. There will always be difference among diverse people, but that needs to be our strength, not our weakness.

The Michigan Nature Association was founded in 1952 and focuses on the preservation of rare and endangered species through education, direct land preservation, and activism. Our founder, a neo-Luddite with anarchist tendencies, founded our organization with a group of friends against the trend of the existing conservation organizations at the time. As a woman, she was ridiculed by the mainstream groups. Nonetheless, she and

the others persevered, and today, land protection through acquisition has become very mainstream, with land trusts and conservancies across the country being some of the largest nonprofits in the world. We try to keep to our roots as much as possible, and we also try to remember that we were once the outsiders. Though we don't use the tactics that some groups do, we won't denounce them because they are more radical than what we use.

Sincerely,

—JEREMY EMMI

Dear Racism for Brains,

Hey everybody who works for the Earth, Life and the Revolution: I am watching your back. It's part of my commitment to watch your backs.

—THE BUSHMASTER

continued on page 43



BY FAITH WALKER

Deep in the marshes live some rather chic chicks. Adults (usually males) of many species flounce about with embellished bits—luscious plumes, fleshy spangles, ruffles and tassels and frippery in rainbows of color—which females find sexy and sometimes signal health or genetic quality. However, in some bird species, particularly among the family Rallidae (rails, coots and gallinules), it is the downy young who are adorned with ornaments. The pom-poms, brilliant bills and bouquets of sequined skin are unlikely to feature in mate choice, since these bobbling babies are fresh out of the egg. Their beauty is ephemeral: In a few weeks, the dazzling décor disappears.



artwork by Krysti Melaine

Chicks only sport ornaments during the early days of full-on parental care. Chirpy cherubs thrust their feathery frills toward a providing parent's tasty tidbit. The pretty bird gets the worm and has a greater chance of reaching adulthood. In some species, hunger level is reflected by skin ornament color, and parents distribute food accordingly.

The most elaborately decorated chicks hearken from species in which there's fierce competition for parental attentions—those with large clutch size and polygamous mating systems. When females woo a few beaus, their chicks have different fathers and are more competitive with one another, flaunting their fleeting flamboyance in tussles for tucker. Further, in this family, low relatedness among chicks is encouraged by the tendency of females to dump

their eggs in other females' nests. This female tactic may have driven the Rallidae's glut of glamorous bambinos; that it occurred in this family is particularly remarkable, since many species (rails) are the most cryptic and unassuming amongst avifauna.

Protesting Plutonium on Both Sides of the Atlantic

Despite public concern about nuclear proliferation, on September 20, two commercial nuclear ships—the *Pacific Teal* and the *Pacific Pintail*—arrived at the Naval Weapons Station in Charleston, South Carolina, to load 300 pounds of weapons-grade plutonium. Almost immediately, the shipment was en route to Cherbourg, France, where it would be taken to a reprocessing plant in the La Hague peninsula and finally driven 660 miles to a plutonium fuel fabrication facility in Cadarache.

"How sensible is it to sail a ship carrying plutonium around the world?" asked Charleston resident Merrill Chapman. "In the event of an accident, plutonium could be dispersed into the ocean, poisoning people and the marine environment on which we depend."

Greenpeace International and the Charleston-based Citizens Against Plutonium expressed opposition to the nuclear shipment. Many in Charleston were angry not only about the shipment, but that the Department of Energy failed to produce an Environmental Impact Statement on it.

By October 3, the ships were near the coast of France, where an international flotilla of French, English and Irish protest vessels awaited their arrival. Three protesters from the Atlantic Nuclear Free Flotilla were arrested, including one of France's most famous sailors, Eugene Riguidel.

The protest was peaceful and nonviolent, but military personnel in fast, inflatable boats converged on Riguidel's small yacht, cut down its sails, commandeered the vessel and towed it into the military base.

After spending a night in jail, Riguidel said, "We have a military

exclusion zone in Cherbourg against small yachts, while plutonium transports are free to threaten the lives of everyone in their wake. It is the trade in nuclear bomb material that should be banned, not peaceful protest."

Between the Cherbourg military port and the Areva reprocessing complex, Greenpeace activists bolted and secured a truck in the middle of the road on October 5. Ten activists locked themselves to the truck to stop the plutonium convoy. Eventually, all of the activists were cut free by police and arrested. The truck, which had "Stop Plutonium" written across it, remained.

Two days later, on a bridge above the road to Cadarache, Greenpeace activists and members of the French Green Party continued to protest the shipment. Everywhere the convoy went, activists exposed the stark reality of plutonium transports in France. The shipment, which contained enough

plutonium to make up to 20 atomic bombs the size of the one dropped on Nagasaki during World War II, reached the Cadarache nuclear facility on October 8.

After being processed at the Cadarache plant, the plutonium will be shipped back to the US to use in an electricity-generating reactor.

"Greenpeace wants an immediate end to plutonium production and separation and believes current stocks, both civil and military, should be treated as nuclear waste, not shipped around the world as reactor fuel. Plutonium should be mixed with radioactive waste, solidified or vitrified, and stored. This approach would be cheaper, faster, safer and more secure," said Greenpeace International spokesperson Shaun Burnie.

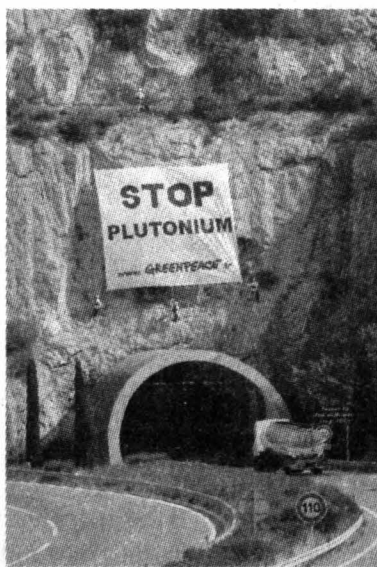
"Plutonium is bomb material whether it is in France, the US or North Korea, and its production and use must stop."

Areva is currently storing more than 70 tons of weapons-grade plutonium at its complex in La Hague, all of which will be transported to clients in Europe and Japan within the next 10-15 years.

For more information, visit www.stop-plutonium.org; www.nuclearfreeflotilla.org; www.noplutonium.org.



Greenpeace activists clash with police near Cherbourg, France



Banner hang near Cadarache, France

photo by Greenpeace/Michel Le Moine

photo by Greenpeace/Reyniers

Accident on the Rails

Anti-Nuclear Activist Dies in France

TRANSLATION FROM GERMAN BY DIET SIMON

On November 7, French anti-nuclear activist Sébastien Briat was killed when he was run over by a train carrying nuclear waste near the city of Nancy, France. The train was carrying 12 caskets of highly radioactive waste from the La Hague reprocessing plant in Valognes to the Gorleben storage facility in Dannenberg, Germany, where the waste runs a high risk of contaminating groundwater.

Direct action on a massive scale has taken place during every transport to Gorleben since it became a storage facility in 1995. Huge marches, street theater, road and rail blockades, and even farmers using tractors to block the rails and break through police lines have been common. The response by the police is often brutal and expensive; this year's police operation cost almost \$29 million. Despite the overwhelming security presence, it would have been easy to derail or otherwise attack the transport, according to many of the activists who were there.

The following is a statement that was released on November 13 by Briat's companions.

Sébastien died on November 7, when he was struck by the locomotive of the atomic waste train to Gorleben. A few weeks previously, he had decided with some of us to take action to reveal the vulnerability of these transports. The fact that he is dead should not make anyone forget that this action was nonviolent, thought-through and voluntary.

Even though this drama makes it appear that way, our action was not in the least irresponsible or an act of desperation. Our commitment results from the deepest conviction about the real and existing dangers that atomic power has represented for far too long. This action was prepared jointly and meticulously, with exact knowledge of the locality and taking into account an emergency stop.

We had considered several times that the train might not be able to stop. Since we were in a long-drawn curve with limited visibility, it was clear to us that we might have to leave the rails very fast. Four of us were lying with our arms inside two pipes under the rails. No one was lying between the rails, and we were not chained in, so we had the possibility to pull our arms out of the pipe and get away quickly in an emergency.

Unfortunately, the group that was supposed to get the train to brake 1,500 yards in front of us was unable to act. The helicopter that always flies ahead of the train

was "refueling," so it did not signal the arrival of the train. And because *Gendarmerie* vehicles were driving next to the tracks at high speed, the "stopping group" could not wave down the locomotive. The transport could not receive warning from either the helicopter or our stoppers, so it approached us at more than 60 miles per hour. This combination of circumstances brought us into danger. Thus the persons lying by the rails had very little time to notice that the train was not reducing its speed. We had practiced getting away in seconds.

Sébastien was struck as he was leaving the rails. His arm was not stuck in the pipe, as the investigations due to be carried out will prove. Everything happened so fast that we could not help him.

We had hidden in the cold for 10 hours, about 30 yards from the rails on the edge of the forest. During that time, neither we nor our advance information posts (almost 10 miles from the location of the action), nor the group that was to stop the train were discovered by security forces. Nor were we discovered when at five in the morning we laid the pipes under the rails. Clearly, the responsibility of every participant has to be ascertained, including ours. Right now, we are going through the worst moments of our lives.

Among the more well-known reasons for the action, we were primarily concerned with protecting our planet, which is being destroyed more and more year by year. But we were also concerned about the stifling of all questioning of this monolithic state. We did not try to stop the train out of

immaturity or lust for adventure, but because only in this way can this country's atomic policy become an everyday issue. Sébastien died in an accident; it was not his choice, nobody wanted it. He did not die after a visit to a disco, drunk at the wheel, but to make his conviction heard.

And so his death will never be some random event for us. In a situation where we were so alone and so lost, we would never have imagined receiving so much support. We thank most of all our friends and parents, but also thousands of anonymous German and French people, who organized demonstrations and devotionals in his memory. The strength of the solidarity overwhelms and touches us. Most important to us is to cry over a brother and to support his family. "Bichon" was full of the joy of living and energy, not just an anti-nuclear activist. This text is neither a confession nor an accusation, we only want it to report the truth of these events.

—SÉBASTIEN'S FEMALE AND MALE COMPANIONS



We did not try to stop the train out of immaturity or lust for adventure. Sébastien died in an accident; it was not his choice, nobody wanted it.

¡La Coca Se Defiende!

Resisting Herbicide and Genocide in Perú

BY LENNY

"I wish the Spaniards had never come here. Nothing they brought was good—only evil," our guide says. My family and I are visiting the pre-Inca tombs at Sillustani, more than 12,000 feet up in the Peruvian Andes. Although she says that almost no one in Perú has pure indigenous blood, our guide strongly identifies with her indigenous history and culture. "We still sacrifice the coca leaf to Pachamama—Mother Earth," she says. "We have preserved our traditions." Local people still come to these ancient tombs, she tells us, to offer coca in honor of their ancestors.

Two years later, the latest chapter in the battle over coca unfolds a few hundred miles north. A confrontation between police and coca farmers (*cocaleros*) ends with three farmers dead, while the US and Peruvian governments spin deceptive tales of drugs and terrorism and the herbicide spraying continues.

As a post on Perú Indymedia declares: "*La coca no se vende—la coca se defiende*. We don't sell coca—we defend it."

Sacred Leaf or Cause of Narcoterrorism?

What is so captivating about coca—that visually unassuming yet politically potent leaf? The plant, indigenous to the cloud forests of the eastern Andes, has been cultivated by humans for at least 2,500 years. It has only been used to make cocaine since 1859. Although the Incas attempted to restrict the use of this "divine leaf" to priests and royalty, coca has a long history of use by the common people. It is commonly chewed, brewed or used in spiritual ceremonies. It provides essential nutrients in a sparse habitat, and its mild stimulating effects fend off hunger, fatigue and altitude sickness. It can be used to treat digestive and respiratory ailments, and it has long been considered sacred by the indigenous people of the region. Multiple studies by First World scientists have established that the unprocessed leaf is not addictive and that lifelong use produces no health problems.

The Spaniards were the first to create a drug problem in Perú, when they discovered coca's fatigue-dispelling effects and used it to work their indigenous slaves harder and longer in the mines, literally to death. In modern South America, widespread poverty and a prohibition economy have created a lucrative illegal cocaine business. This business has often been used to finance revolutionary groups, terrorist and otherwise, thus providing a pretext for US and local governments to launch military campaigns against dissenters under the guise of fighting drugs.



"Long live coca, damn it!" A cocalero marches in Lima, Perú

In the 1990s, under pressure from the US, Perú stepped up coca eradication programs like those used in Colombia, spraying herbicides over vast sections of farms and jungle, although it has shied away from adopting the US goal of zero coca production.

You read that right—the US wants to kill every last coca plant in South America, bringing new meaning to the term *herbicide*.

San Gabán Rising

On October 18, more than 1,500 coca farmers demanding an end to the eradication of their crops descended on a hydroelectric generating facility in the town of San Gabán, blocking doors and roads and shutting off access to the turbine-turning canals. Later that day, *cocaleros* occupied a church in Cuzco with the same demand. Immediately, Perú's drug czar, Nils Ericsson, accused the farmers of working for narcotraffickers.

The situation is not so simple. Coca is not illegal in Perú—in fact, there is even a national coca agency that buys legal coca and resells it. It is also legal to maintain small plots for personal use. But Perú's two anti-drug agencies claimed to have found 7,400 acres of coca in the area around San Gabán and began to spray it with the aid of the US Drug Enforcement Administration.

Additional *cocaleros* occupied the San Rafael tin mine without any arrests on October 19. But in San Gabán, where the blockade still held strong, police launched an assault, firing tear gas canisters directly at protesters. Three hundred

cops charged the scattering crowd, seizing blockade equipment and setting it on fire. Provoked, the protesters fought back and found themselves gaining the upper hand. As *cocaleros* swarmed the police station in an attempt to seize control, police opened fire, killing three farmers and wounding 10 others. One of the survivors was left with a broken jaw from a bullet through the head, which destroyed part of his right ear. Another took a bullet in the eye.

Broken Promises: The *Cocaleros* Organize

The murders at San Gabán were the culmination of a steadily building struggle between a corrupt government and a desperate populous. In 2002, when the US first threatened that any "free trade" deals were contingent upon coca eradication, large protests rocked Perú. After a sit-in by 7,000 *cocaleros* in the city of Ayacucho, President Alejandro Toledo agreed to ease up on the eradication efforts. Emboldened by their success, the coca farmers began to organize on a national level, modeling their Peruvian Confederation of Coca Growers (CONCPACCP) after a similar group in neighboring Bolivia. Bolivian *cocaleros* had been so successful that their leader, Evo Morales, a radical indigenous socialist, took second place in the 2002 presidential elections.

The following year, as eradication continued undiminished, *cocaleros* again organized massive protests. The government responded by arresting CONCPACCP's leader, Nelson Palomino, for "apology of terrorism." Using a law from the era of ex-President Alberto Fujimori (now in exile), Toledo accused Palomino of supporting drug traffickers and *Sendero Luminoso* (Shining Path) rebels. The accusation was particularly absurd because during the height of Perú's civil war, Palomino actually took up arms against *Sendero Luminoso* in defense of his community.

Peruvians all across the country were outraged at Palomino's arrest. After blockades and riots broke out in Ayacucho and more than 15,000 *cocaleros* marched to Lima, Toledo agreed to invest in alternative crops for Andean farmers and to compensate those who voluntarily reduced their coca crops. These promises were quickly broken, and the development money never manifested—not altogether surprising in a country where government officials have regularly stolen vast sums of cash and have made private deals selling weapons and drugs.

In February 2004, *cocaleros* gathered in Lima to demand freedom for Palomino, investment in alternative crops and an end to coca eradication; in April, they blockaded highways to accent these demands. Still ignored, the farmers of San Gabán decided to step their resistance up a notch.

A Struggle for Survival

While Ericsson defended police actions and again accused the San Gabán *cocaleros* of narcotrafficking,



Toledo declared a state of emergency and sent in army reinforcements. The protesters abandoned the power-generating canals and withdrew to their road blockades. The mayor of the province, Adolfo Huamantica, expressed support for the farmers and condemned police actions.

By the end of the day, the farmers unblocked all roads and pulled out of the city, wrapping up their protest with a 250-person march to the nearby town of Chuani. On October 28, they released a statement denouncing

forced eradication as "unconstitutional and illegal, in addition to being unjust and inhumane."

In a country where more than half of the population is indigenous and poor, farmers are asking why the government blames them and their sacred leaf for the drug addiction of rich North Americans. They ask why so much money goes to crop eradication instead of pursuing the drug mafia and the expensive laboratories. They want to know why their lives and culture are expendable in the war on drugs.

Herbicide spraying kills everything—coca, food, wildlife and the *cocaleros* themselves. Among traditional practitioners of Andean spirituality, attempts to exterminate coca are seen as attempts to exterminate their indigenous identity.

"Because coca is one of our major treasures, [the whites] have abused it," says Morales. "Because they haven't been able to control it, they've decided to destroy it. We must rise to the occasion. The time has come for the first nations to take the power into our own hands. The time has come to redeem our sacred plant. From now on, we will no longer tolerate foreign forces bringing harm to our plant. We will be its sovereign guardians."

Three weeks after the bloodbath of San Gabán, 2,000 *cocaleros* threatened that they were ready to take over the National Police station in Mazuco. Denying charges of narcoterrorism, *cocalera* leader Elsa Malpartida said, "We will continue on battle footing, not because we seek to kill but because the police are killing us."

Or, as Morales says, "While the northern invader persecutes us, we... the first nations, must never forget the war cry that rises from the pain of the people: *Causachun coca! Wañuchun yanquis!*

"¡Viva la coca! Yankee go home!"

Lenny's ancestors were growing coca 500 years before Jesus was born.



Cocaleros drying their harvest

Wings Over Arizona

Chuk'shon Earth First! Takes on Sandhill Crane Hunters

BY VIC

At the end of October every year, thousands of sandhill cranes come to the Sulphur Springs Valley in southeastern Arizona to roost for the Winter. They are attracted to the area by the combination of wetlands and farms that have replaced their native grasslands. But hunters are also drawn to the cornfields and marshes around Willcox, armed with bows and arrows, shotguns and permits issued by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD). The hunters are intent on "bagging their limit" of sandhill cranes, but a group of activists from Chuk'shon Earth First! (CEF!) was also in the field this year with a distinctly different goal.

AZGFD states that the sandhill crane hunt is a sport hunt, which means that the hunters are killing just for fun. The agency sold 311 permits this year for two cranes each: 11 for archery and 300 for guns.

In the early morning hours of October 28, we headed out to the Whitewater Draw Wildlife Refuge near Elfrida, an area that we had discovered was a haven for roosting cranes. Our goals were to save the cranes from the hunters' aim and to document the hunt in order to expose its barbarity.

We set up our basecamp on the north side of the refuge, where we watched the sun rise. At first light, we began to hear the cranes waking up—their ancient, distinctive call ringing through the dawn. Then all at once, huge flocks made their exodus in search of the day's food; a group flying east, then another, and still others flying north. We were never able to find the cranes who flew east, but we knew that to the north lay the community of Kansas Settlement, where many of the birds land during the day to

eat grains and nuts in the cornfields and pecan groves that dominate the landscape. It's also where the hunters go.

After most of the cranes had left the refuge, we followed them to Kansas Settlement, marked by a small store with two gas pumps and a bar that was never open. We spotted some decoys and a hunter's blind next to a sprinkler in a cornfield. We parked the car and stayed there for almost an hour, "glassing" the hunters (observing them with binoculars), and our presence caused several flocks to veer off course.

The cranes have extraordinarily keen vision, and they're extremely shy of anything reflective. We realized that it would be easy to cause the birds not to land—or even come within shotgun range—by hiding camouflaged in the fields with a shiny object that the cranes, but not the hunters, could see. So we got permission to "hunt" on most of the land in Kansas Settlement and headed back to basecamp.

It rained that night, and it was freezing cold (for Arizona) the next morning. We had set an alarm for four a.m., and we rushed to get ready. Were we wearing enough layers? Did everyone have enough water? Hadn't we meant to get headsets for the radios? We rode sleepily to our destination—dawn was at least an hour away when we arrived at the cornfield and parked our vehicles behind a large water tank.

The corn in the field had been cut, and each stalk stood just over a foot high. We split up into two groups of two and built blinds from the corn stubble as close as possible to the place we thought the hunters would set up. At first light, a flock of cranes approached the field we lay in, but they saw us and turned away. It was an encouraging sign. Shortly after that, the hunters arrived. They had abandoned their overly conspicuous blind and were hiding next to the huge tires of the sprinkler instead. Judging by their brand-new truck and expensive gear, these hunters appeared to be quite wealthy. They sure didn't need to kill cranes to fill up their freezers.

Hours passed, and flock after flock of cranes was deterred from landing by our presence. At nine a.m., the hunters returned to their truck, but it wasn't over yet. They were glassing over the field, and they had spotted us. I think we had spooked them by hiding so close, undetected for hours. An unmarked SUV arrived shortly thereafter, and the hunters conferred with it at length from a new vantage point, watching us. We later learned that the SUV belonged to a hunting guide.

They drove off after that, and we met back up with the others and returned to the refuge. We wanted to ask the friendly AZGFD



photo by Cienega

Chuk'shon Earth First!ers survey the killing fields

ranch manager we had spoken with during our recon mission some questions, but a suspicious-looking Crown Victoria with blacked-out windows was parked at the bunkhouse. We were on our way out when the ranch manager approached us on the road. He said, "The regional supervisor from Tucson is staying here," and we tensed up. Our fears were confirmed when he added, "Yeah, Gerry saw some [cranes] land in that field over there last night." He was referring to Gerry Perry, who CEF! had locked horns with in the past (see *EF!* May-June 2004). We quickly excused ourselves.

Archery season was really just a warm-up for shotgun season. With archery, bow-hunters rely on the birds to land close to them, but shotguns have a greater range, and hunters can shoot the cranes while they're in flight. One person from CEF! went into the field alone on the first day of gun season and caught two uniformed AZGFD officials attempting to break into her car with a slimjim. The lesson here: Never sab alone. Also, never trust AZGFD.

We used the same strategy during gun season that we had before, except that we used a patrol vehicle to locate hunters while two teams lay in the field sabbing. Our patrol spotted one hunter as he left the field with his kill. We followed him to the check station, where we captured footage of the crane being measured and eviscerated to determine subspecies and sex.

At least three distinct populations of sandhill crane winter in southeastern Arizona, and the Rocky Mountain population, made up mostly of the greater sandhill crane subspecies, is considered federally threatened.

Armed with footage of these beautiful birds in flight, being shot and falling gracelessly from the air, as well as being measured and dissected, we went to the corporate news outlets with our story. One of the local television stations picked it up and aired a story that was very favorable to the cranes. CEF! also plans to produce a film to present to the thousands of avid birdwatchers who attend the annual Wings Over Willcox event in mid-January.

We returned for the last days of shotgun season for a kind of final blitz. At this point, AZGFD knew exactly what we were up to, but they didn't bother us the first morning as we redirected the cranes to safer fields.

The showdown came that evening when we checked in one last time at Whitewater Draw. We parked our vehicles on a public road, watched some hunters in the field to our right and listened for shots fired in the field to our left. The ranch manager pulled up at the exact moment the hunters to our left fired several shots, and a lifeless bird began its last spiraling landing as we watched through binoculars. There was an awkward moment as he got out of his truck to talk to us, all illusions dispensed with. He seemed like a

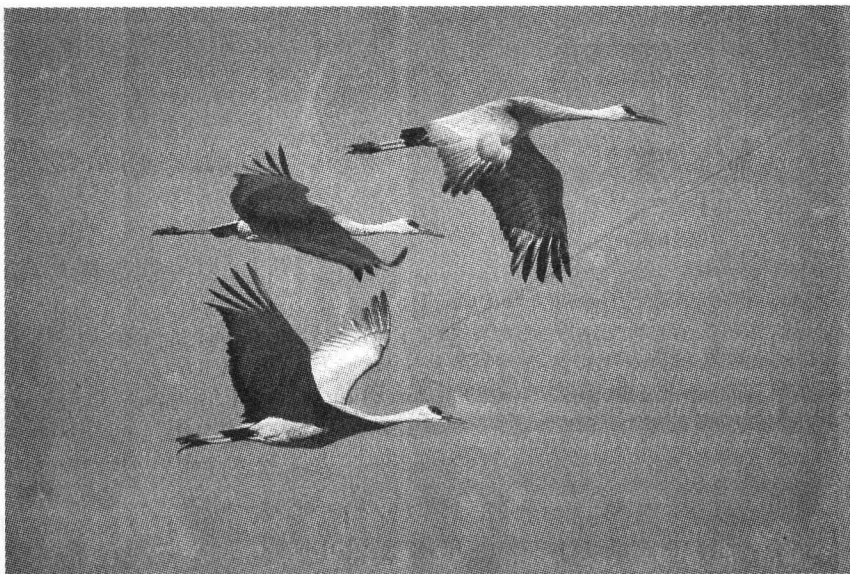


photo by Robin Silver

Sandhill cranes on the wing near Willcox, Arizona

decent guy, and he probably didn't relish harassing us, especially since we weren't breaking any laws. After he left, we cruised by the other hunters and videotaped them as they stared at us through their binoculars. They conferred with the ranch manager and a man in another truck for a long moment, then all three trucks drove away into the deepening evening. We felt victorious, despite having witnessed several deaths.

We knew that we couldn't save every sandhill crane from the hunters. But we also knew that we had saved as many as we could. Through direct action and grassroots campaigning, CEF! ultimately hopes to remove Arizona as one of the 13 states that allow the hunting of sandhill cranes.

In case you're curious, those states are: Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wyoming.

For more info., contact CEF!, sabthebastards@hotmail.com.

This was Vic's first hunt sab, and it won't be his last.



photo by Clemente

A hunter registers his kill at the check station
January-February 2005 *Earth First!* Page 11

Animal Liberation Front



Raids University of Iowa

Releases 401 Animals & Destroys Labs

The following communiqué was received anonymously from the Animal Liberation Front (ALF).

The ALF is claiming responsibility for the liberation of 401 animals from the University of Iowa (UI) in the early hours of November 14. All animals on the third floor of the UI psychology department—88 mice and 313 rats—were removed, examined, treated by a sympathetic veterinarian and placed in loving homes.

Additionally, two animal labs and three vivisectors' offices were entered, and all contents relating to animal research were destroyed.

Specifically, these are:

Fourth Floor, Spence Labs: Vivisector Ed Wasserman's lab entered. Dozens of computers and devices used in experiments on live pigeons were destroyed.

Basement, Spence Labs: Lab of vivisector Mark Blumburg and others entered. Surgical equipment and small animal stereotaxic devices, as well as "shock boxes" and other instruments of torture were destroyed.

Fourth Floor, Seashore Hall: Primate researcher Joshua Rodefer's office entered. Computer disks, hard drives, paperwork and photos showing Rodefer's work (confining drug-addicted primates in small glass boxes) removed. The remaining paperwork detailing his monstrous work addicting primates and rats to narcotics was

soaked in acid, and the computer was destroyed.

First Floor, Seashore Hall: Primate researcher Amy Poremba's office entered. Computers destroyed, documents removed, and the remainder soaked in acid.

This raid was carried out to halt the barbaric research of the UI psychology department's seven primary animal

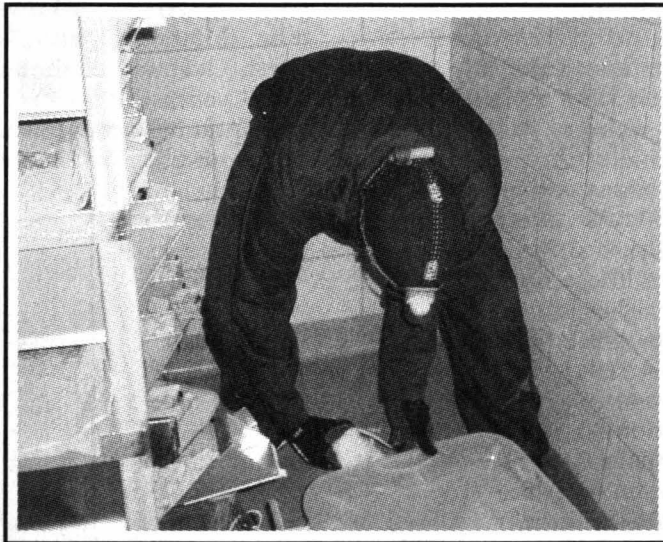
was targeted. Only computers belonging to or used in the work of vivisectors were destroyed. Only documents of animal researchers were doused in acid. The acid was a deliberately chosen, paper-dissolving agent.

Our goal is total abolition of all animal exploitation, achieved in the short term by delivering the 401 animals from UI's chamber of hell—and in the extended term, by shutting down the labs through the erasing of research and equipment used in the barbaric practice of vivisection. The entire raid was a careful and deliberate five-pronged assault on UI's animal research.

Behind the laboratory doors, we found drug-addicted rats, rats subjected to stress experiments involving loud noise, rats undergoing thirst experiments, unanesthetized rats with protruding surgical staples and oozing wounds, and mice and rats affixed with grotesque head implants. Inside the labs of UI's psychology department,

we found a bloody torture chamber showcasing the cruelest whims of our Earth's sickest minds. Professors Freeman, Poremba, Rodefer, Johnson, Robinson, Blumburg and Wasserman are monsters. Tonight, 401 animals are spared their reach.

Our deepest sadness is reserved for the animals on the fourth floor kept



researchers: professors Amy Poremba, John Freeman, Mark Blumburg, Kim Johnson, Scott Robinson, Joshua Rodefer and Ed Wasserman.

This was not thoughtless vandalism, but a methodical effort to cripple the UI psychology department's animal research. Only equipment in rooms where animals were confined and tortured

from our arms, those we were unable to save, including hundreds of mice, rats, pigeons, guinea pigs and eight primates.

No animals were released into the wild. All 401 were placed in comfortable, loving homes.

We acted as operatives not only of compassion, but good science. Animal research is not only cruel but hazardous—as data derived from animal models is not applicable to humans and therefore dangerous.

Our bypassing of UI's sophisticated, key card-access, four-walled security system (perimeter, elevator, corridor, animal room) should be interpreted as a two-fold message:

- Our utter seriousness in achieving animal liberation.

- If you torture animals, we will not be stopped from liberating them.

On the ears of these monsters who know only profit and blood, who hide behind unjust laws, our breath has been wasted. Justice for the victims of vivisection will not be achieved by the blows of boycott or protest—but by our sledgehammers to laboratory doors.

Let this message be clear to all who victimize the innocent: We're watching. And by ax, drill or crowbar—we're coming through your door.

Stop or be stopped.

Communiqué Addendum

The continuation of vivisection is maintained only insofar as it remains outside public sight and scrutiny. The ongoing research uncovered at UI's psychology department is of such a sadistic nature as to be inexcusable by all but the sickest minds. UI code requires that all animals be kept behind the locked doors of windowless rooms, and most often on floors locked to the public. UI has tagged this raid as mere vandalism and denied an animal liberation motive, despite numerous slogans left painted at the site, to divert attention from its animal research. We confiscated paperwork from UI's

seven primary researchers to give the public a glimpse into the sickness kept from their eyes.

Professor Freeman: Drills holes into the skulls of rats and affixes head implants in neurology experiments involving "electrical brain stimulation." Rats removed from his lab were grossly disfigured by surgically implanted devices on the skull.

All animals in his lab were rescued.

Professor Johnson: Exposes rats to a series of "chronic stressors" including loud noise and strobe lights for the aim of "experimentally induced depression." Also performs experiments involving the withholding of water from rats.

All animals in his lab were rescued.

Professor Blumburg: Subjects infant rats to prolonged cold exposure. Famously deranged mind on record as stating that the cries of animals in labs are an automatic response and convey no more emotion than a sneeze.

All animals in his lab were rescued.

Professor Poremba: Currently confines eight rhesus monkeys in the northeast corner of the psychology building's fourth floor, subjecting them to numerous stressors including reward/punishment experiments. Places primates in a "behavioral conditioning box," also known as a "shock box," where primates are subjected to shock experiments. Inside her office, we found pieces of primate brain encased in glass and blueprints to the building.

Professor Rodefer: Addicts primates and rats to cocaine, methamphetamine and PCP in redundant drug experiments. His drug possession license, filed with the Drug Enforcement Administration, stipulates that the drugs be kept in a locked safe in the building's basement. However, two stashes of narcotics were found in his fourth floor office, including in the inside pocket of a jacket, suggesting that he is himself addicted to the drugs that he has for years forced on animals.

BARE BONES

Does Hugs for Puppies = Terrorism?

On October 28, 16 agents from the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force raided a residence in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Authorities are investigating Nick Cooney, an animal rights activist, and his alleged involvement in protests against Huntingdon Life Sciences. The warrant targeted Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty USA and another Philadelphia-based animal rights organization, Hugs for Puppies, of which Cooney is a member.

Agents seized two computers, dozens of computer disks, cell phones, various fliers, books, spray paint and one sweatshirt.

"I think that the agents with guns and dogs in a house for a group called Hugs for Puppies is pretty much overkill," said resident Kate Zaidan.

All Quiet on the Rocky Mountain Front

On October 5, the federal government announced that drilling permits for Montana's Rocky Mountain Front would be halted, pending an eligibility study for designation under the National Historic Preservation Act. The Rocky Mountain Front is one of the last places where grizzlies and bighorn sheep come out of the mountains to wander the Great Plains.

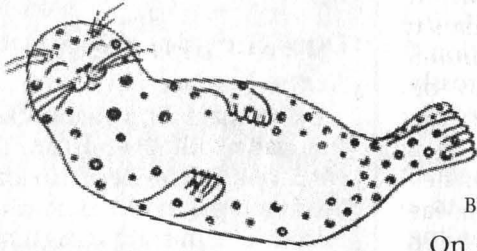
The Coalition to Protect the Rocky Mountain Front has worked to protect the area since 1913, by establishing the Sun River Game Preserve and several other state and private wildlife preserves (see *EFJ* July-August 2004).

Following 49,000 public comments and a government study stating that the front has less than a week's worth of natural gas and 20 minutes of oil for the US, the coalition thinks Congress should compensate leaseholders in exchange for preserving the front.



In Defense of the Seals

in La Jolla



BY CAPTAIN PAUL WATSON

Marine biologists believe that for thousands of years, seals and other marine mammals have lived in the waters off the coast of modern-day California, hauling onto the beaches to molt and nurse their young.

According to Friends of La Jolla Seals, Casa Beach, otherwise known as Children's Pool Beach, in La Jolla, California, is a "rich, natural setting with harbor seals on the beach, gray whales and dolphins offshore, brown pelicans on the rocks and cliff swallows darting about. A wide variety of shorebirds, ground squirrels on the bluffs, a wealth of invertebrate life in the tidepools and even an occasional young elephant seal make appearances on the beach."

The Casa Beach harbor seal colony numbers approximately 100-200 seals, and these seals spend their entire lives along the same stretch of coastline.

Animal rights organizations filed a lawsuit against the City of San Diego on October 12, challenging the City Council's September 14 decision to dredge Casa Beach and remove a rope barrier and signs intended to protect the seal habitat from humans. Seal advocates contend that the vote to dredge the beach is destroying one of the few federally recognized seal rookeries on the California coast, while the federal government does nothing.

Since the rope barrier was removed in mid-September, more people have used the cove for sun bathing, swimming and diving.

On the beach in La Jolla, a small colony of seals is trying to survive in a world that has been greatly diminished for its kind.

Along the entire coast of California, humanity has encroached on habitat that from time immemorial has sustained a wondrous diversity of life on land and in the sea.

And now, in a state where the majestic grizzly bear survives only as an image on the flag, a few shallow politicians and selfish citizens wish to diminish diversity even more by taking away a beach that the seals have chosen for their survival.

They say they have their reasons. They say that the beach was set aside for children and that the seals are preventing children from swimming in the ocean. They say that the seals are polluting the beach with their droppings and thus represent a health hazard to humans.

Such reasons are arrogant and hypocritical.

How can a species that has befouled the entire coast with chemically laced sewage and a deadly witches' brew of agricultural poisons presume to accuse the seals of polluting the ocean with their organic, natural waste? If the oceans are unsafe for children to swim in, the fault is entirely our own and the seals are blameless.

How can a species that has never

stopped taking, never stopped occupying, never stopped destroying, never stopped growing and spreading, so selfishly covet a few hundred feet of sand for recreation that another species requires for survival?

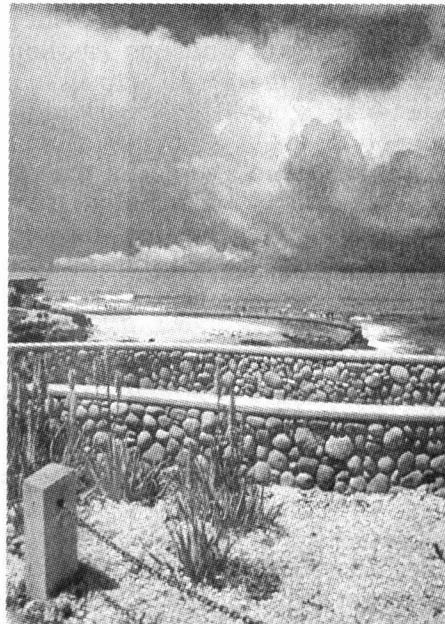
The seals choose their territory out of necessity, and they have little territory to select from. We have developed the wetlands, constructed marinas, piers, ports and cities. Our outboard

motors and diesel ships send a constant tremor of noise through the depths. Our fleets of fishing vessels have sucked more than 90 percent of the coastal fishes into cans and jars or onto plates. The once-myriad wealth of that finned and scaly nation of fishes now exists only in the pages written by Steinbeck and London.

We humans destroy, and then we conveniently forget. We have forgotten that

white beluga whales once swam free in Long Island Sound. We have forgotten that the great California condor once glided on the thermals over this great state. We have forgotten so much as we have steadily adapted to diminishment. In the not-too-distant future, will we also forget the seals of the wild and the places that were their homes? Will the seals exist only in places like Sea World and on the sterile pages of children's books?

It is the children who are most thrilled at the sight of these seals on the beaches. It is the children who understand that what they see



Viewing Casa Beach from the shore

photo by David Carr

provides more recreation for their minds, hearts and souls than the fleeting physical recreation they can experience in their public or private pools, or in other areas of beach.

What they see on the beach is real and three dimensional, and it is natural history on their doorsteps, not on two-dimensional sheets of paper. On that beach, the children can do more than look at dead images, they can smell and hear and observe life.

They can see a species that intimately links the reality of land to the reality of the sea. They can glimpse the wonders of diversity and understand the importance of interdependence.

I remember the seals on the beaches of my childhood, and those memories are more vivid, more exciting and more cherished than anything I ever learned in a book.

So just what are the motivations of those few politicians and citizens who are intent on destroying seals'

essential habitat and driving them into the sea, out of sight of the eyes of young people?

Is it the concern for children that motivates them, or is their concern merely a mask to enable humans to continue to sterilize the world around

us, to remove our links to nature and our ties to other realities? Or is it to appease the loud and influential voices of a few, to the detriment of the many?

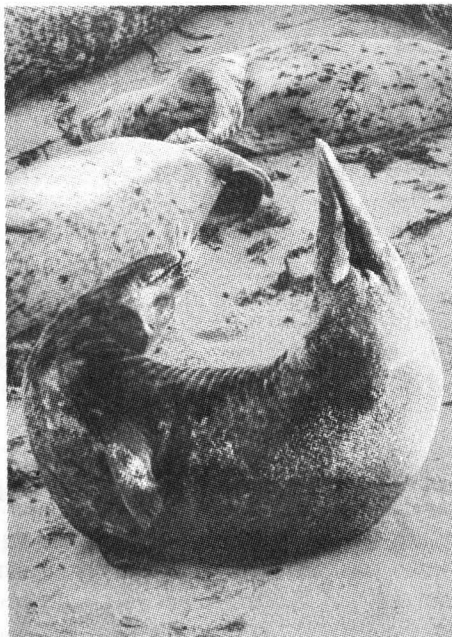
Unless we can learn to live in ecological harmony with other species, we will become increasingly alone in a crowded world.

The seals can teach us all—children, adults and politicians alike—that we need to

share this planet with other species.

The seals need their place, and they need our respect.

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



Harbor seal stretches on Casa Beach

photo by David Carr

San Diego city employees have refused to respond to complaints about seal harassment, and there have been numerous incidents of swimmers and beachgoers getting too close to the seals and mistreating them. Four seals have been attacked, three with sharp instruments, and at least two of the injured seals have died.

"If this continues to happen, the seals will completely disappear," said David Cotter, the attorney who filed the lawsuit on behalf of San Diego Animal Advocates, the Institute for Animal Rights Law and the International Society for Animal Rights.

City Councilman Scott Peters, the man who spearheaded the vote to restore full public access to Casa Beach, said he's disappointed by the strong reaction from environmentalists. "I wish this kind of effort and energy could be spent on climate change, over-harvesting of fish, deforestation—the issues that are really affecting the environment," Peters said.

While the City of San Diego is in violation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act as a result of its decision to lower the rope barrier, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society has announced that it will mount an international tourism boycott against San Diego—unless the council takes action to protect the seals.

For more information, visit www.savethesandiegoseals.com; www.lajollaseals.com; www.seashepherd.org.

BARE BONES

Micro-Chips Ahoy!

On October 14, the US Food and Drug Administration approved a Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) chip that can be inserted below the skin and can carry an individual's medical records or other personal information. The RFID chips are about the size of a grain of rice and can easily be read by an external scanner (see *EF!* November-December 2004).

Military bases, federal offices and nuclear plants have been mentioned as places that the chips could be used. Prisons in Ohio hope to attach chips to all 44,000 inmates in the form of wristwatch-sized transmitters.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has urged Virginia lawmakers not to insert chips in license plates, arguing that such a use would breach privacy. The ACLU adds that these devices would also allow authorities to "sweep up the identities of everyone at a political meeting or protest."

Jaguars Return to Arizona

According to Defenders of Wildlife and the Sky Island Alliance, photographs taken last Summer confirm the existence of between one and three resident jaguars in the Tumacacori Highlands of southern Arizona.

"This is tremendous news, a page in conservation history," said Scotty Johnson, a representative of Defenders of Wildlife. "It heralds the return of the American Jaguar."

One hundred years ago, jaguars roamed as far north as the Grand Canyon, but today they live primarily south of the US border.

A decade had passed without confirmed evidence of jaguars in the US until 1996, when two males were photographed in southeast Arizona. Since then, six more photographs of the species have been documented.

Back to the Grassroots

National Demonstration Against HLS

BY SHAC USA

From all corners of the country, dedicated activists traveled to take a stand against animal cruelty for the national demonstration against Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). The weekend of October 23-25 exhibited an evolutionary approach to this crusade against vivisection, as it saw none of the usual riots in the streets, pepper-spray in the face or glass-shattered floors—but rather good, old-fashioned organizing that focused press attention on the animals while inspirationally medicating the hearts and minds of those committed few.

The readily apparent theme that permeated each day and each action was a celebration of the devastating success that the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) campaign has already seen. Ninety percent of the lab's worth is gone; it has been saved twice from closure only by the grace of the UK government; and one of its four labs has shut down. The demonstrations illustrated activists' renewed vigor to drive that last nail in HLS's corporate coffin.

When the clouds parted early on October 23, the sun shone down on a human mass of compassion and ingenuity. Nearly 200 activists converged in the park across from HLS's laboratory in East Millstone, New Jersey, and formed a "human chain" image of a beagle and the words: "Stop HLS!" The image could only have been achieved through mass participation, much like that of the SHAC campaign in general.

Following the photograph, everyone got their chance to see the "Gates of Hell" at HLS. Just one glimpse of this compound of cruelty serves as a bitter pill, reinforcing our indignation. Groups of 50 made their pilgrimage in the face of hundreds of heavily armed police officers to see the buildings where the animals that have filled so many hearts and so many nightmares are tortured.

Then the newly formed Win Animal Rights (WAR) set its sights on Andrew Baker, chief executive officer (CEO) of HLS, and introduced all of New York City's posh Upper West Side to his dirty

deeds. With 100 activists holding a string of 500 empty dog collars all along Central Park West (symbolizing the 500 animals killed daily at HLS), no one in Baker's community could have missed the homage to those murdered or the stinging vitriol aimed right at HLS's CEO.

The next day, 150 activists crowded into an auditorium in Princeton, New Jersey, for the Dialogue on Dissent. The crowd heard first from Kevin Jonas, known as the vocal front for SHAC USA, as he told personal stories of repression and what keeps his perspective in check. With great clarity, Jonas contextualized the current attack on the animal rights movement (including the Animal Enterprise Terrorism charges against himself and six other SHAC USA activists),



Two hundred activists form a message for Huntingdon Life Sciences

dissected the appropriate response we should take and with touching sincerity shared what keeps him personally motivated and driven (see *EFJ* July-August 2004).

Dr. Jerry Vlasak brought the audience through his personal journey from an animal researcher (who killed many dogs in pointless medical pursuits) to his current position as trauma surgeon and champion of animal rights. Vlasak expounded on the myths of animal research and the vicious cycle that is vivisection, and how it

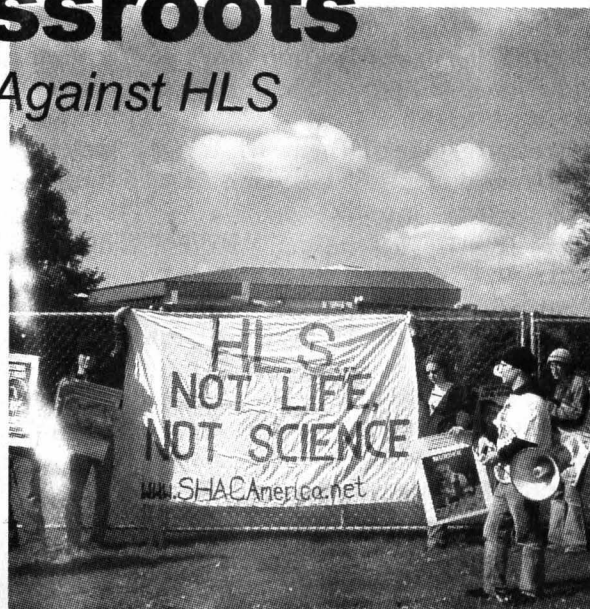


photo courtesy SHAC USA

financially rewards those without a conscience.

David Hilliard provided a much-needed historical look back at '60s activism and unconscionable state repression. As the "chief of staff" of the Black Panther Party in the '60s and '70s, Hilliard offered an unmatched inside look at the politics of radical activism and the devastating effects of FBI harassment. He gave words of advice, from hard lessons learned, on what the animal rights movement can do to confront and conquer similar disruptive assaults today.

The seminar ended with Captain Paul Watson sharing his "war stories" of high-seas activism as the 30-year head of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. The ramming and sinking of numerous whaling vessels, disrupting the Canadian seal hunt and menacing of marine poachers has earned him his share of time behind bars.

The crowd at the SHAC 7 support rally on October 25, chanted, screamed and broke the silence surrounding the case. The demonstration proved that "we," as the animal rights movement, will not let such an assault go without a response. It also served as the perfect ending to the weekend, showing that energetically and proudly, we understand what is at stake and what the risks are—and we will still march bravely forward to close down HLS!

For more information, contact SHAC USA, POB 22398, Philadelphia, PA 19110; www.insidehls.com.

Exxon Shackles Greenpeace

BY JESSICA COVEN

Since 2001, Greenpeace has been running a campaign against ExxonMobil. Exxon has been targeted as a result of its role in persuading President Bush to withdraw the US from the Kyoto Protocol and for its continued denial of the science behind global warming.

The day before ExxonMobil's annual shareholder meeting in May 2003, we decided that it was time to take our campaign demands directly to Exxon's decision-makers in Irving, Texas. The Greenpeace "Global Warming Crimes Unit" declared the ExxonMobil headquarters a "global warming crime scene" and shut it down. Dressed as tigers, we blockaded Exxon's gates, climbed to its roof and splashed through its corporate pond. At the same time, another group of people dressed in business suits went into the building to serve charge sheets to Exxon executives, accusing them of fraud and of sabotaging the solutions to global climate change.

Needless to say, ExxonMobil was *not* happy. Exxon prides itself on the fortress-like quality of its building, and we had literally pranced right in. In the end, 36 people were arrested and charged with multiple offenses, including a felony riot charge. ExxonMobil also sued the 36 individuals, Greenpeace USA, Greenpeace International (based in Amsterdam) and 50 "John and Jane Does" in a civil lawsuit. The company was also

granted a temporary, nationwide injunction against all of us.

From the beginning, we engaged in discussions with Exxon's attorneys to see if we could come to an out-of-court agreement. Exxon kept trying to get us to agree to expand the injunction past the boundaries of the US, making it global and permanent. However, we were adamant that we would only agree



Exxon's corporate headquarters invaded and blockaded, May 2003

to an injunction for a maximum of seven years and only within the US—in return for Exxon working with the state to dismiss *all* criminal charges. As negotiations progressed, we worked throughout the State of Texas (where many of the defendants live), rallying support from a variety of nonprofit organizations, individuals and state legislators. Eventually, Exxon must have figured it

wasn't worth going after us anymore and agreed to our terms.

Here's exactly what we're prevented from doing under this settlement: For a period of seven years, no employees of Greenpeace USA or Greenpeace International or the individual defendants can do anything illegal on ExxonMobil property or in meetings featuring ExxonMobil employees or directors. We can still protest; we can still birddog; we can still use a variety of other campaign tactics. And, of course, just because we can't organize illegal actions against ExxonMobil right now, doesn't mean *you* can't.

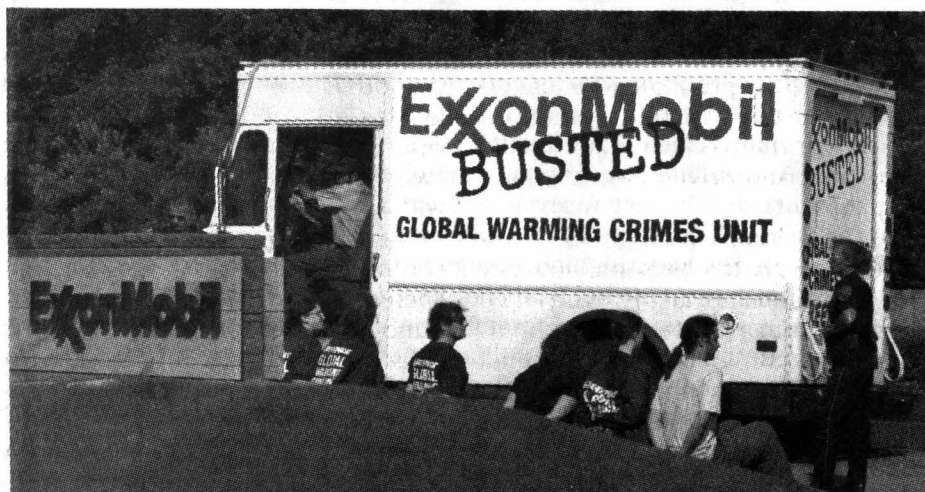
We're already letting Exxon know that pursuing outrageous legal charges won't shut us up. This year, the day before Exxon's annual shareholder meeting, we took a giant slide projector to Dallas, Texas, and went to the building where the meeting was going to be held. We projected 100-foot-tall images of the impacts from global warming—drought, floods, storms, etc.—onto the building with the text: "Global Warming Fueled by ExxonMobil."

We have also launched a new website, www.ExxonSecrets.org, which details the funding Exxon gives to Washington-based front groups and "scientists" who claim that global warming isn't happening. Next time you read an article written by a global warming skeptic, go to our website and see how much money they get from Exxon!

I've worked on this campaign against Exxon for two years, and I can honestly say that this settlement wasn't easy. But in the end, it is better to spend our resources fighting Exxon on global climate change, rather than in the courtroom. And since Exxon worked so hard to get Greenpeace to stay away, we're asking everyone to contact to Exxon's CEO Lee Raymond and let him know that you'll stay away too. Tell Exxon you won't go near its pumps until it stops spreading lies about global warming.

Contact ExxonMobil, Global Community Relations, 5959 Las Colinas Blvd, Irving, TX 75039; (972) 444-1106.

Jessica Coven works on Greenpeace USA's Clean Energy Now! campaign.



Greenpeace activists under arrest at Exxon's headquarters in May 2003

photo by Greenpeace/Virginia Lee Hunter

photo by Greenpeace/Lonahardt

Fire and Ice

A Polar Snapshot of Our Future

BY LENNY

Polar bears in the area around Hudson Bay, Canada, weigh an average of 55 pounds less than they did 30 years ago, and the species may well be extinct by the end of the century. This is only one of the warnings stemming from a series of recent studies, which chronicle how the effects of global climate change are already hitting hard at the Earth's poles. These studies offer a glimpse into the future of our planet, as the temperatures continue to rise.

On November 8, a team of nearly 300 scientists from eight countries and six indigenous organizations released what the *Christian Science Monitor* has called "one of the most urgent climate warnings to date"—the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, documenting a four-year study of climate change in the far north.

"The Arctic is experiencing some of the most rapid and severe climate change on Earth," said Robert Corell, a scientist with the American Meteorological Society and chair of the assessment. In fact, the assessment discovered that the Arctic is warming at a rate up to 10 times faster than the planetary average. As a result, average Winter temperatures in the region between western Canada and eastern Russia have gone up between five and seven degrees Fahrenheit in the past 50 years, and a further rise of up to 13 degrees can be expected in the next century.

The effects of this warming are many and far-reaching. Most obvious is the disappearance of Arctic ice floes during Summer. While the sea ice in the Arctic normally thins and melts in the warmer months, in the past 50 years the melting season has grown longer and the amount of ice melting has increased. Since the 1970s, the average thickness of the sea ice has decreased by three feet, and satellite measurements have recorded a steady decrease in the ice's surface area—four percent per decade. The assessment concluded that by 2100, at least half of the Arctic's Summer ice will have disappeared. In the worst-case scenario, the Summer ice will vanish completely by 2040. Whatever the level of melting, the report said, "This is very likely to have devastating consequences for some

Arctic animal species, such as ice-living seals, walrus and Arctic char," and the species that depend on them, such as polar bears and humans.

Twenty-two thousand polar bears in the Arctic Circle spend Spring and early Summer on the ice floes, hunting seals and building up their fat reserves for Winter. With less sea ice and with the annual melt coming earlier, the bears must swim farther and expend more energy to get between

ice floes, and they may be forced to cut their hunting season short. If this trend continues, polar bears are expected to be too thin to breed within 10 years.

The indigenous people of the Arctic may be in no less danger, the assessment concluded. "Our homes are threatened by storms and melting permafrost; our livelihoods are threatened by changes to the plants and animals we harvest. Even our lives are threatened, as traditional travel routes become more dangerous," said Chief Gary Harrison of the Arctic Athabaskan Council.

Yet the effects of the melting ice ripple far beyond the Arctic circle. According to Peter Wadhams, an Arctic sea ice specialist at Oban's Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory, "The ice-covered seas

represent the cold end of the enormous heat engine that enables the Earth to have temperatures suitable for human life over most of its surface." He and other climatologists worry that warming poles and melting ice will disrupt the ocean's major currents, possibly leading to new ice ages in certain northern regions such as England. And while the melting of floating sea ice does not raise ocean levels, the melting of continental glaciers does. The Arctic Climate Impact Assessment found that Greenland's glaciers have already begun to melt and that before 2100, temperatures may rise high enough to trigger a permanent meltdown.

On the other side of the world, two Antarctic studies released in September revealed that the recent breakup of major ice shelves has removed the "brakes" on glacier flow, causing nearby glaciers to melt more rapidly into the ocean. The studies, conducted using satellites, suggest that global warming can lead to abruptly accelerating polar melting. After the breakup of the Larsen B ice shelf in 2002 removed



If these warming trends continue, polar bears are expected to be too thin to breed in 10 years.

the barrier between glaciers and the sea, glacier elevations dropped by as much as 124 feet in six months. While the glaciers in the Larsen area are too small to significantly raise sea level, the same process will likely repeat as warming affects the large-glacier areas further south.

Satellite images from the Arctic make it almost certain that these warming and melting trends are real, according to Mark Serreze of the University of Colorado-Boulder. Warming in the Arctic, he said, is proceeding eight times faster than at any time in the past 100 years.

These trends are only likely to accelerate, even without increased greenhouse gas emissions. Because ice reflects sunlight back into space, polar melting will allow more solar radiation to reach the Earth's surface, thus speeding warming processes. As the Earth warms further, the methane gas trapped beneath the melting northern permafrost will escape into the atmosphere. This gas, which is even more efficient at trapping heat than carbon dioxide, will almost certainly lead to even more severe runaway planetary warming.

While US politicians deny the reality of global warming and environmental groups demand the implementation of the toothless, crippled Kyoto Protocol, radical environmentalists are faced with a serious challenge. How do we



photo courtesy US Fish and Wildlife

The Columbia Glacier in Alaska is retreating half a mile per year

confront—and yes, halt—global climate change before all of the planet's systems are damaged beyond restoration? If ever there was a time to stop chasing the phantom of reform and pursue revolution, this is it.

If Lenny hears another word about the Kyoto Protocol, he's going to hit someone.

Toxic Circle

Global warming is not the only force pushing polar bears toward infertility and extinction—toxic, hormone-mimicking chemicals are building up in their bodies, teaming with climate change to provide a one-two punch that may mean the end of the species. In fact, the Arctic circle is home to some of the most poisoned human and animal populations in the world, in spite of its great distance from human population centers.

In the past decade, scientists have discovered that many of the chemicals and other substances commonly used in industrial societies are not just poisonous or carcinogenic, they disrupt hormonal (endocrine) systems as well. These endocrine disruptors mimic hormones in the body, leading to a multitude of developmental and reproductive problems—from deformation to mental retardation to falling sperm counts and sterility. They are especially dangerous to immature or reproducing animals.

Endocrine-disrupting chemicals are produced as pesticides, as

byproducts of paper or other industrial manufacturing, in drain cleaners and even in invisible leachings from plastics. As with all waste products of industrial society, these chemicals eventually end up in the ocean, although they may first spread through the air and rain to all corners of the

their unpredictable effects on the body until the fat is removed—by being burned for energy, dumping the toxin into the blood; by being turned into breast milk, dumping the toxin into the offspring; or by being eaten, transferring the toxin to the predator.



photo courtesy US Fish and Wildlife

Toxic chemicals accumulate in the bodies of polar bears

world. In the ocean, endocrine disruptors and other persistent organic pollutants are absorbed into the aquatic food chain.

Most of these chemicals are fat soluble, and thus they concentrate in the fat cells of the animals that consume them. There they stay, wreaking

Seals are near the top of the aquatic food chain, eating predatory fish and storing energy in massive blubber reserves. When these seals are eaten by polar bears and indigenous Arctic peoples, their predators unwittingly absorb a toxic payload. In the 1990s, scientists searching for populations uncontaminated by endocrine disruptors accidentally stumbled upon the most poisoned populations in the world—the indigenous people of the Arctic Circle, many of whom had never used an industrial chemical in their lives.

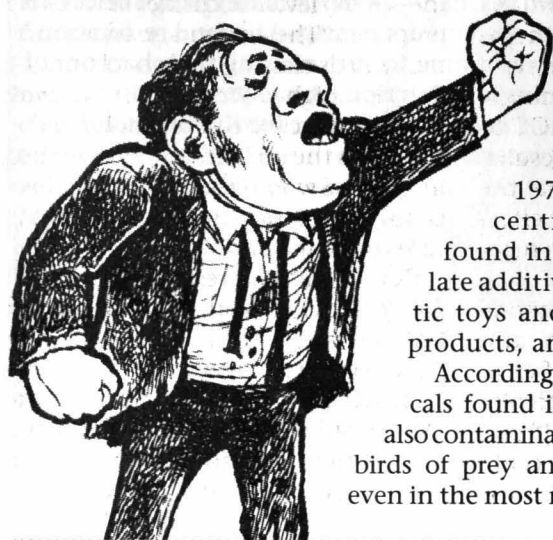
For more information on endocrine disruptors, read *Our Stolen Future* by Theo Colburn, Dianne Dumanoski and John Peterson Myers, or visit www.ourstolenfuture.org.

Chemical Cocktail Mixes with Politicians' Blood

Blood tests carried out on environmental ministers from 13 European Union nations revealed a cocktail of toxic chemicals, including DDT residue, according to a study released by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on October 19. WWF found 55 different traces of chemical pollutants in the blood samples—from sources such as sofas, pizza boxes, fragrances, non-stick pans and cleaning products.

WWF collected the blood samples during an international health conference in June and has used blood testing to shine a spotlight on the need for tougher regulations on the use of toxic chemicals. The tests were conducted on ministers from Britain, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden.

Each of the ministers bore traces of pesticides, flame retardants,



perfluorinated chemicals and polychlorinated biphenyls, a category of chemicals banned in Europe during the 1970s. The highest concentration of chemicals found in the tests were phthalate additive, used to soften plastic toys and found in body care products, and DDT.

According to WWF, "The chemicals found in the ministers' blood also contaminate polar bears, dolphins, birds of prey and many other species even in the most remote environments."

Banana Pickers Sue Corporate Giants

In October, thousands of Costa Rican banana pickers filed a lawsuit in Los Angeles, California, against two chemical companies and three US produce companies—Dole Food, Chiquita Brands, Fresh Del Monte, Dow Chemical and Shell Chemical. The workers' lawsuit contends that exposure to a toxic pesticide caused a range of health disorders.

The companies are accused of spraying dibromochloropropane (DBCP), a soil fumigant sold under the brand names Nemagon and Fumazone, on bananas in Central America after the chemical was banned in the US in the 1970s. Studies have revealed that the pesticide is linked to sterility, birth defects, liver damage and cancer when inhaled or absorbed through the skin.

"There is no debate about the hazards of DBCP, especially the fact that it can make males sterile. The chemical manufacturers knew in the 1960s that it would have this effect and speculated that DBCP could be a male contraceptive," said Erica Rosenthal of the public-interest law firm Earthjustice.

Although Dow and Shell stopped making DBCP in the late 1970s, the companies continued to sell it to Costa Rica "in conscious disregard of the health and safety" of workers, the lawsuit said.

Frontlines

Costa Ricans Say "No" to Shark Finning

Thousands of Costa Ricans took to the streets of San Jose on October 16 to protest the illegal landing of shark finning vessels at private docks. Protesters gathered at Culture Plaza with banners and signs, while school children performed music and dances focused on ending shark finning. After the rally, the assembly marched to the customs headquarters.

The protest was prompted by outrage at the recent discovery that Costa Rican politicians had accepted large bribes from Taiwanese shark-finning corporations.

It is illegal to land shark-finning vessels in Costa Rica, but lax enforcement of laws at private docks allow Taiwanese boats to land hundreds of tons of shark fins every year.

Free Hannes!

A group of activists calling itself "Free Hannes" did just that when it liberated a young seal from Pieterburen Seal Asylum in the Netherlands on October 22. The male seal had escaped from a German zoo in late

August, and he tasted freedom for about a week before being recaptured by the asylum on September 3. The asylum wanted to release Hannes into Dutch coastal waters rather than returning him to the zoo, and a custody battle ensued.

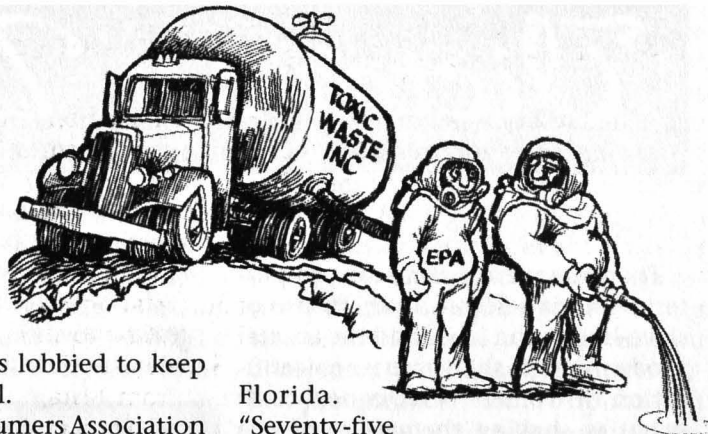
Free Hannes claimed responsibility for the liberation in a phone call to the asylum from a German payphone a few days after the seal's release. It claimed to have set him free "by daylight, into open salt water," an apparent reference to the North Sea.

2,500 Mink Freed in Italy

On November 12, Italian activists released 2,500 of 8,000 mink from a fur farm at Villa del Conte. According to the communiqué, the farmer was awakened by the barking of his dogs, only to discover thousands of mink running away from the sheds.

Graffiti reading, "From the cages to freedom—Animal Liberation Front (ALF)," was left on the site. Police stopped the activists' vehicle near the village and found cutting tools, but they were released the next day.

Toxic Chemicals to be Tested on Children!



"Paying families in Florida to have their homes routinely treated with pesticides is very sad when we at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) know that pesticide management should always be used to protect children," said EPA scientist Troy Pierce.

Pierce's comments came in response to a proposed EPA study in which infants in participating low-income families in northern Florida would be monitored for health impacts as they undergo exposure to toxic chemicals during the course of two years. The Children's Environmental Exposure Research Study (CHEERS) would look at how chemicals can be ingested, inhaled or absorbed by children.

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) donated more than two million dollars to the EPA in October to conduct the study. Yet for the past three decades, the ACC and EPA have known the high toxicity of the chemicals

being studied by CHEERS. In response, the ACC has lobbied to keep these chemicals legal.

The Organic Consumers Association states, "The trick here is that these products are known to have negative long-term health effects. There will be little to no obvious, short-term negative effects on these children at the end of the two-year period. The seemingly positive results will allow the ACC to announce positive 'EPA study results' to the public." Critics believe that the ACC would then be able to more effectively lobby Congress to weaken regulations on these toxic products.

The ACC is comprised of corporations, such as Dow, Exxon and Monsanto, that have a history of environmental crimes against people of color and low-income families. CHEERS participants would be chosen from six clinics and three hospitals in Duval County,

Florida.

"Seventy-five percent of the users of the clinics for pregnancy issues were at or below the poverty level," according to the EPA's proposal. "The percentage of births to individuals classified as black in the US Census is higher at these three hospitals than for the county as a whole."

Each of the 60 families participating in CHEERS would receive \$970, a video camera, a T-shirt and a framed certificate of appreciation.

Due to public pressure, CHEERS is going through another review process until Spring. Send comments to EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20460; leavitt.michael@epa.gov.

For more information, visit www.organicconsumers.org.

First ALF Action in Turkey

On October 15, activists in Izmit, Turkey, glued the locks at three leather shops. The activists claimed the action for the ALF.

Finnish ALF Dyes 2,000 Foxes

ALF activists in Finland dyed the fur of 2,000 foxes with henna at Åland's last remaining fur farm on November 18. Henna is a natural dye that doesn't harm the animals, but it cuts the value of their pelts in half. The ALF found some of the foxes with injuries to their eyes and legs, and others with bite wounds. All of the foxes had long claws that made it difficult for them to walk across the wire floors in their filthy cages.

The ALF also took all of the farm's breeding cards, making the economic impact of the action that much more stinging. They signed the communiqué, "You cannot tame what is wild.... Keep fighting!—The Wild Fox Brigade."

Dow Chemical Hoaxed by Yes Men

On November 29, the website www.dowethics.com received an email message from BBC World Television asking for a Dow Chemical representative to discuss the company's position on the anniversary of the December 3, 1984, Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal, India. The Yes

Men responded and booked an interview with a BBC studio in Paris. Dressed in a thrift-store suit, "Jude Finisterra" posed as a Dow spokesperson and delivered the news that Dow would claim full responsibility for the disaster at Bhopal, liquidate Union Carbide for \$12 billion and use the money to compensate local residents, many of whom require lifelong medical care.

Dow's stock value fell 4.2 percent in 23 minutes, causing an initial loss of two billion dollars before Dow released a statement declaring that the interview was a hoax.

Disobbedienti Raids Supermarket in Italy

Three hundred *Disobbedienti* protesters stormed a busy Panorama megastore in Rome, Italy, on November 6, demanding a 70 percent discount, swigging champagne and walking out with carts full of expensive food, clothes and computer equipment without paying. Police stood by, fearing a riot, as there was a 10,000-strong march nearby to protest the rising cost of living, unemployment and the price of the war on Iraq. Da Celeste restaurant near Venice was also hit that week. A group of 44 people ate a \$2,700 dinner and ditched on the bill. They left a \$110 tip for the servers and a message informing the owner that the unpaid bill was the price he must pay for agreeing to cater a North Atlantic Treaty Organization meeting.

Victoria's Dirty Secret

BY JOSHUA AND LEAH

There are plenty of reasons to protest Victoria's Secret, from its use of slave-like prison labor and the animal products on its shelves to its objectification of women. Now, a new campaign is shaking the rafters of the marketplace by taking on Victoria's Secret for being a leader in demolishing some of the world's remaining endangered forests, including the Canadian boreal forest and the forests of the southeastern US.

Stretching from Alaska to the Atlantic Ocean, the Canadian boreal forest is more than 12 times the size of California. Containing 25 percent of the Earth's remaining roadless forests, it is North America's greatest remaining conservation opportunity. Yet despite its importance, an area the size of Delaware is logged every year—the majority of which goes to make pulp and paper for export to the US. The US imports a staggering 80 percent of all Canadian wood and paper exports in

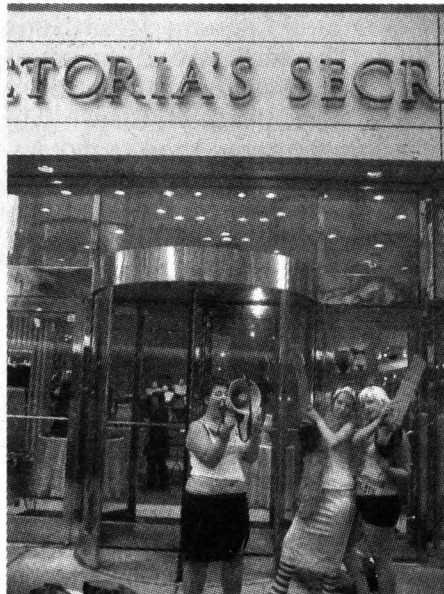
the form of catalogs, toilet paper, books, magazines, lumber, newspapers, office paper, paper towels, diapers and more.

What's Victoria's dirty secret? Approximately 395 million catalogs are mailed by Victoria's Secret each year—

that's more than one million a day, a sickening waste. Almost all of these catalogs are produced from virgin paper fiber with little or no recycled content. Victoria's Secret is driving the clearcutting of the Canadian boreal forest with its massive consumption, as well as destroying forests in the southern US.

After three years of hard work and hundreds of in-store protests, campaigns against Office Depot and Staples were successful in getting two of the world's largest office supply stores to stop selling paper from endangered forests. Now, it's Victoria's Secret's turn.

This Fall, ForestEthics launched the Victoria's Dirty Secret campaign. The demands are that Victoria's Secret and its parent company, Limited Brands, end purchases from any company associated with logging in the Canadian boreal or southeastern forests, increase use of post-consumer recycled fiber in its catalogs to at least 50 percent during the next five years, ensure that all



Catalogs = clearcuts! action in Chicago, Illinois

photo courtesy Portland Inpmedia

Frontlines

Day of Indigenous Resistance

On October 12, while most North Americans were celebrating the genocide of Native peoples that was started by Christopher Columbus, protesters from around the hemisphere rose up against it. In Denver, Colorado, 230 people were arrested for refusing to leave the road in front of a Columbus Day parade. More than 500 protesters from many backgrounds were present, and they managed to delay the parade for an hour.

In downtown Caracas, Venezuela, a group of young men and women used ropes to topple a 30-foot statue of Columbus and drag it through the city center toward the Teresa Carreño theater, where hundreds of indigenous people sang and danced. Protesters hung banners from the monolith and covered it in graffiti. Authorities later recovered the statue and arrested five people. The mayor of Caracas condemned the action, although he did attend a symbolic act of resistance in which indigenous people covered a statue of Columbus with a white sheet. He intends to present a petition to replace the shrouded statue with that of Guaicaipuro, an indigenous chief.

In 2002, Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez officially renamed October 12 "Indigenous Resistance Day."

Finnish Activists Storm Nuclear Site

More than 100 activists stormed the construction site of Finland's fifth nuclear reactor on September 3, wearing respirator masks and bright yellow T-shirts emblazoned with the nuclear symbol. Two groups on bicycles and one on foot scaled the fence surrounding the site and cordoned the area off with tape and signs warning of "the nuclear disease." As more protesters demonstrated outside the main gates, a group of climbers took over the information center maintained by the nuclear company and unfurled a banner. The company spokesperson was repeatedly embarrassed when it was discovered that not all of the activists were immediately apprehended. Eventually, all of the activists present were arrested and released after a few hours.

The demonstration was organized by several Finnish and international groups to raise questions about the efficiency and safety of nuclear power.

of its suppliers are shifting to Forest Stewardship Council certification, end the use of any products sourced from other endangered forests and reduce paper use. With a widespread grassroots coalition, the possibilities for creative resistance are endless.

In October, more than a dozen Cascadian EFlers were in Chicago, Illinois, and created chaos in the city's downtown Victoria's Secret store. They announced the company's link to forest destruction by stripping down to their underwear to reveal slogans painted on their bodies. Actions were also staged in Washington, DC, and at the Mall of America in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These included small-scale street theater with lingerie-clad lumberjacks cutting down protesters dressed as trees and an anti-forest destruction lingerie fashion show.

In November, when Victoria's Secret sent its top, superstar models on a multi-million dollar, cross-country tour, activists were successful in disrupting two of the events. At the tour's kick-off at Victoria's Secret's flagship store in New York City, protesters from the Activist Center at Wetlands Preserve forced the complete cancellation of the event. Facing a second demonstration in Chicago, the event

there was hastily moved to Miami, Florida, at the last minute.

On December 2, nearly 100 protests and events marked the grassroots day of action to expose Victoria's Dirty Secret. Activists coast to coast delivered awards, stumps and logs to stores while dressed in lingerie, hung banners, carried puppets, created "mall" theater and more.

As activists carry messages letting Victoria's Secret and its customers know that forest destruction is not

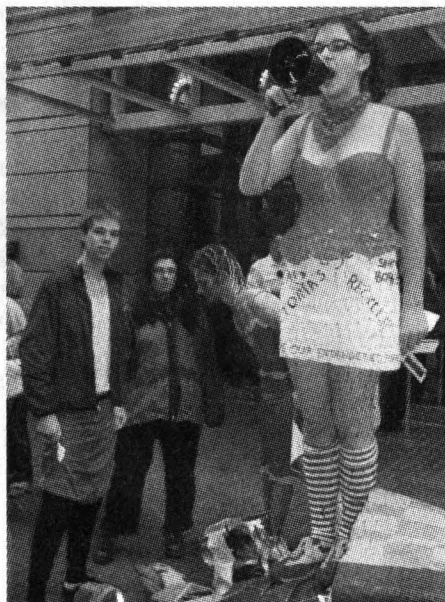
very sexy, they've been holding actions that mock and shatter the company's twisted marketing of what beauty really is. These sorts of actions are fun and easy to organize. There are more than 1,000 Victoria's Secret stores across the US. Stage an action at your local Victoria's Secret, or host a call-in day or postcard event. It can be just a few friends with signs or costume-clad hooligans rollerskating through the store with cardboard chainsaws. These demonstrations vividly communicate an environmental message while simultaneously disrupting business.

Individually, these actions may not transform the policy of one of the largest catalog distributors in the world. But when actions are simultaneously taking place throughout the country, they will have quite a significant impact. So head on down to the mall to raise a ruckus at Victoria's Secret. Confront corporate greed and protect the world's last endangered forests.

For more information, visit www.victoriasdirtysecret.net.

Leah is a Cascadian forest defender who is working to protect the remaining endangered forests by any means necessary.

Joshua is a paper campaign organizer with ForestEthics and lives in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Asheville, North Carolina.



Protest at Victoria's Secret in Portland, Oregon

Massive Protests at Free Trade Summit

Protests rocked the streets as President George W. Bush and the leaders of 20 other countries, along with innumerable corporate chiefs, met in Santiago, Chile, for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in mid-November. In January 2004, Chile became the first country in South America to enter into a free trade agreement with the US when it joined the 16-year-old organization.

On November 17, 70,000 marchers took to the streets to voice their opposition to globalization with banners and chants. Protesters also attacked at least two McDonald's, firebombed a bank, torched an armored police vehicle and barricaded streets throughout the city. Inside the summit, conflict ensued when a member of the Secret Service was barred entry to an official dinner because he lacked security clearance. Plans for another dinner had to be scratched when the Secret Service insisted that every attendee pass through a metal detector, a measure that Chilean President Ricardo Lagos considered humiliating for guests.

Brazilian Landless Demand Equality

On November 25, more than 8,000 Brazilian *Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra* (MST) activists surrounded Brasilia's central bank to demand more public money for land reform. They burned a US flag with "IMF"

written on it and called for Finance Minister Antonio Palocci's ousting. Protesters also delivered 10,000 letters written by landless activists demanding changes to President Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva's economic policy. Da Silva has promised to settle land claims for 400,000 families during his term, which ends in December 2006. To date, he has settled 106,000 families. The MST, which squats unused farmlands, threatened to step up land occupations if its demands were not met.

The protest came just five days after 15 hooded gunmen attacked an MST squat in the state of Minas Gerais, killing five and wounding 14 others. The MST has since taken over another property owned by the rancher suspected of ordering the massacre.

Day of Action Against CAFTA

On October 12, tens of thousands of Central Americans hit the streets to protest the US-Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA). In El Salvador, protesters shut down highways and bridges, and they marched to the presidential palace. Large demonstrations also took place in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Despite resistance from the people of the affected countries, Republican lawmakers in the US plan to force a vote on CAFTA during the lame duck session of Congress.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Things Grow Better with Coke

The use of pesticides on farms is nothing new, but farmers in India have come up with what they think is an even better poison. Instead of paying huge fees to chemical companies for patented pesticides, farmers have been spraying their fields with Coca-Cola.

"I think Coke has finally found its right use. Farmers have traditionally used sugary solutions to attract red ants to feed on insect larvae," said Devinder Sharma, a leading Indian agriculture analyst.

But that may not be the only reason for Coke's effectiveness. On February 4, a government committee upheld findings that drinks made in India by both Coca-Cola and PepsiCo contained unacceptable amounts of pesticide residue.

God Creates Big Hole

The Bush administration has approved a book claiming that the Grand Canyon was created by Noah's flood. *Grand Canyon: A Different View* by Tom Vail remains on sale at the park gift shop in spite of opposition by scientists.

Joe Alston, park superintendent, tried to block sales of the book but was overruled by the National Park Service. Top geologists charged that the sale of the book violated agency policy and undercut its scientific education programs, and the seven scientific societies sent a joint letter of protest.

"Promoting creationism in our national parks is just as wrong as promoting it in our public schools," said Jeff Ruch, executive director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. "If the Bush administration is using public resources for pandering to Christian fundamentalists, it should at least have the decency to tell the truth about it."

Passenger Weight Affects Airline Costs

With the weight of the average American going up one pound per year, a government study has determined that airlines may need to increase ticket prices to compensate for heavier passengers.

Over the last decade, the average passenger put on an additional 10 pounds of weight, forcing airlines to spend \$275 million annually on 350 million gallons of fuel to carry the extra load.

"The obesity epidemic has unexpected consequences beyond direct health effects," said Dr. Deron Burton of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Besides the economic impact, the extra fuel releases an estimated 3.8 million tons of carbon dioxide.

Have You Driven a Ford Lately?

Thanks to a growing autophile community, which has a website boasting more than 400 members worldwide,

the activist slogan "Fuck Cars" has found a new, more literal meaning.

"It shouldn't be shocking that some people find cars sexually attractive," said Gnxlover, who runs the Sex with Cars website. "After all, car manufacturers sell cars using sex. What do you do if you are sexually attracted to cars? You find ways to have sex with them!"

Dekhyr Dragon's "Guide to Sex with Cars (for Males)" illustrates how intercourse is achieved. First, affix a foam rubber soda can holder with some electrical tape to the inside of your tailpipe. Step two depends on what kind of car you drive and explains how to achieve maximum rocking, and step three entails kneeling behind the car and... you can figure out the rest.

Expensive Renovations

In November, a bag of money was torn open by beavers and woven into their dam near Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The materials for this expensive renovation came from a \$70,000 heist from the Lucky Dollar Casino in Greensburg.

Deputies received a tip that three moneybags had been thrown into a nearby creek.

They found two of the bags right away, but they could not find the third bag in the deeper water by the dam. They began dismantling the dam to search shallower waters, and that's when they spotted some of the currency in the current.

"The beavers hadn't even torn the bills up. They were still whole," said Major Michael Martin of the East Feliciana Parish sheriff's office. In fact, the only thing that wasn't intact was the dam the police destroyed.

Moose Caught in Wires

While running powerlines to a nearby gold mine, City Electric workers southeast of Fairbanks, Alaska, accidentally strung a moose 50 feet in the air by its antlers. The moose became entangled on October 5, before workers began raising the new powerlines. When they realized what had happened, the workers lowered the moose to the ground. Wildlife officials killed rather than tranquilized it to preserve its body for meat.

The moose had probably decided to challenge the powerline to a fight, as moose are known to do during rut. The animal weighed 1,200 pounds and had an antler spread of more than 62 inches.

"It's an unbelievable story. The only unfortunate part is [that] we had to shoot the moose," said Gabriel Marian, president of City Electric. "It would have been a more feel-good story if we had let it down and it had ran off."



artwork by Mike

Earth First!

No Compromise in

The very future of life on Earth is in danger. Human activities—from hunting to habitat destruction—have already driven countless species to extinction, and the process is only accelerating. The destruction of the Earth and its sustainable indigenous cultures has led to tragedy in every corner of the globe.

Meanwhile, scientists have confirmed what indigenous cultures have taught for thousands of years: all forms of life are vitally connected. Removing even a single strand from the web of life produces a widening ripple of catastrophe. On a more spiritual level, Earth First!ers understand that we can never be the healthy humans that we were meant to be in a world without wilderness, clean air and the howling of wolves under the moon.

It is not enough to ask politicians and corporations to destroy less wilderness. We need to preserve it *all*, to recreate lost habitats and reintroduce extirpated predators. We need to stop and *reverse* the poisoning of our air, water and soil, as well as the modification of life's genetic code. It is not enough to oppose the construction of new dams and developments. It is time to free our shackled rivers and restore the land.

Earth First! formed in 1979, in response to an increasingly corporate, compromising and ineffective environmental community. It is not an organization, but a movement. There are no "members" of EF!, only Earth First!ers. We believe in using all of the tools in the toolbox, from grassroots and legal organizing to civil disobedience and monkeywrenching. When the law won't fix the problem, we put our bodies on the line to stop the destruction. Earth First!'s direct-action approach draws attention to the crises facing the natural world, and it saves lives.

Guided by a philosophy of deep ecology, Earth First! does not accept a human-centered worldview of "nature for people's sake." Instead, we believe that life exists for its own sake, that industrial civilization and its philosophy are anti-Earth, anti-woman and anti-liberty. Our structure is non-hierarchical, and we reject highly paid "professional staff" and formal leadership.

To put it simply, the Earth must come first.



Defense of Mother Earth

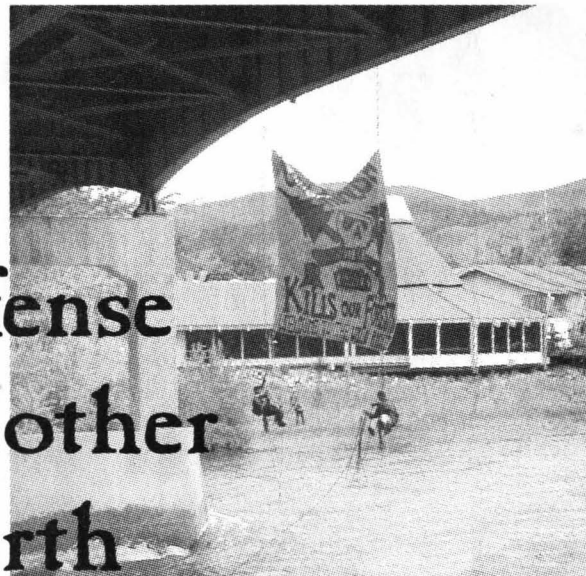


photo courtesy Wild Rockies EFi

Wild Rockies EFi!ers rappel from a bridge in Montana

No Ceder en la Defensa de La Madre Tierra

El mismo futuro de la vida en la Tierra está en peligro. Las actividades humanas—desde la caza hasta la destrucción del hábitat—ya han extinguido especies innumerables, y el proceso solo se va acelerando. La destrucción de la Tierra y sus culturas indígenas sostenibles ha producido tragedia en cada rincón del mundo.

Mientras tanto, los científicos han confirmado lo que han enseñado las culturas indígenas por miles de años: todas formas de la vida están imprescindiblemente conectados. Quitar hasta un filamento de la tela de vida produce un rizo de catástrofe que se va ensanchando. En un nivel mas espiritual, los Earth First!istas entienden que nunca podemos ser los humanos sanos que debemos ser en un mundo sin la naturaleza silvestre, el aire limpio y los aullidos de los lobos bajo la luna.

No es suficiente pedir a los políticos y las corporaciones que destruyen menos de la naturaleza. Tenemos que preservarla *todo*, reconstruir el hábitat perdido y reintroducir a los depredadores eradicados. Hay que detener y dar marcha atrás al envenenamiento de nuestro aire, agua y tierra, y tambien la modificación del código genético. No es suficiente oponerse a la construcción de presas y desarrollos nuevos. Es hora de liberar nuestros ríos y restaurar a la Tierra.

Earth First! ("¡La Tierra Primero!") fue formado en 1979 como respuesta a una comunidad medioambiental cada vez más corporativa, inútil y cediendo. No es una organización, sino un movimiento. No hay "miembros" de Earth First!, solo Earth First!istas. Creemos que se debe usar todas las herramientas en la mano, desde la organización local o legal hasta la desobediencia civil o el sabotaje. Cuando la ley no arreglará el problema, ponemos nuestros cuerpos en el riesgo para impedir a la destrucción.

Guiado por una filosofía de "ecología profunda," Earth First! no acepta una opinión del mundo antropocéntrico, que enseña que la naturaleza solo existe para los humanos. Al contrario, creemos que la vida existe por la vida, y que la civilización industrial y su filosofía se oponen a la Tierra, la mujer y la libertad. Nuestra estructura es en contra la jerarquía, y rechazamos al "personal profesional" de alta paga y a los líderes formales.

Poniendolo sencillamente, la Tierra tiene que venir primero.

Direct Action

Earth First! is a verb, not a noun. In order to be an environmental movement, you've got to move! Direct action means personal, spiritual and strategic efforts to defend the Earth. Earth First! is defined by action, the purpose of which is to:

Halt the Destruction: Force governments and corporations to stop their exploitive extraction of natural resources. Even the most "symbolic" action can stop the machine.

Raise the Stakes: Send a clear message to the despoilers: "No more business as usual."

Attract Media: You can't hope to change people's minds or put pressure on politicians without calling attention to the damage. Demonstrations "demonstrate" to the world that when all of our letters are ignored, our arguments mitigated and our legal appeals denied, we still refuse to accept the accelerating destruction of the Earth. Civil disobedience can expose an issue through print, television and radio media.

Strengthen Resolve: Direct action is the most empowering event imaginable, a rite of passage that fills the participant with a feeling of effectiveness. We learn to work in concert with others who put the Earth first.

Civil disobedience is a deliberate, thought-out act of conscience, even when decided on spontaneously. Whenever you show up to a demonstration, you risk arrest and physical attack by the police or opponents. Be prepared with nonviolence tactics, media spokespersons and jail support.

Demonstrations

Demonstrations include marches, costumes and street theater that present our position to reporters and make demands of corporate raiders and government pawns. Some Earth First! actions have included 200-pound stumps deposited on rangers' desks, manure from cattle grazed on public lands stacked against air conditioning vents, protests held outside the homes of timber executives, helium balloons hoisting placards inside convention centers, and 100-foot banners strung above highways, down smokestacks and across the facades of buildings.

To be most effective, a demonstration should be:

Dynamic and Uncompromising: Have clear intent, tactics and specific targets. Identify the perpetrators by name and target them.

Colorful and Creative: Create unique and surprising actions that challenge and amuse.

Informative: Get out the clear goals of your campaign with factsheets and handouts, news releases, songs, skits and chants.

Flexible: Be ready on a moment's notice to revise plans as the situation changes, taking advantage of unforeseen opportunities, as in the sudden appearance of an offending executive or an unwanted piece of heavy equipment. Come up with a quick alternative when the governor is not in, when the building is sealed off, when the cops are out in force or when the meeting has moved to another location.

Occupations and Sit-Ins

Take over the boardrooms, offices and even the homes of unresponsive decision makers and bureaucrats. EFlers have put up tents in land managers' offices and locked ourselves to their furniture, invaded the homes of industry CEOs and put cardboard on the air conditioning intakes of a district ranger's office, forcing them to shut down their computers in the more than 100-degree heat.

Blockades

The proper place for an Earth Firster is often directly in the path of the machinery that is destroying the wilderness or your community. This may be a symbolic gesture of defiance; it may also stop them in their tracks. Either way, it is a sure-fire way to take the focus out of the boardrooms and hearing chambers and put it back where it belongs—in the

wilderness at the scene of the crime.

Targets can include logging equipment, radioactive waste shipments, livestock trucks, dam sites and mines. Methods include sitting in the road or chaining yourself to cattle guards, gates, doors or equipment. Other actions may call for locking yourself to concrete-filled barrels or raising and sitting in tripods. The longer a blockade lasts, the more effective it is—though even brief, symbolic blockades have proven very effective in building public support.

Treesitting

Treesitting has been used successfully to shut down logging of ancient forests for months, even years, at a time. Earth Firsters have rigged cables to surrounding trees to prevent them from being cut and to cross over to different parts of the canopy. For this you will need experienced help and safety tips, which various Earth First! groups can provide. Workshops are generally held at EF! gatherings.



Blockades on Arizona's Mt. Graham foil a major telescope project

photo by Dwight Metzger

Gets the Goods

Nonviolent Direct Action

Nonviolence requires a code of integrity. Everyone involved must agree to a common set of principles or the media and police may focus on the conduct of a few participants rather than the original intent of the action. Be careful who you work with and get everyone to agree to a set of guidelines, whatever your tactics.

At no time should anyone physically or verbally assault anyone or contribute to escalating violence from the police, workers, management or general public at an Earth First! action.

If you are committed not to move—even if it means your arrest—stand your ground. To break and run might defeat the purpose of your action and endanger others. Don't put yourself in a dangerous position unless you are willing to face danger without moving. Otherwise, choose a less risky method of protest.

No drugs, alcohol or weapons should be carried at the site of any Earth First! action.

Identify potential arrestees ahead of time and have a list of their names and addresses. Pair each of them up with a support person who can be responsible for their keys and identification. Monitor and record their arrest using a camera or video if possible and follow them through the legal process until they are released.

Plan your actions well. Prepare street theater, songs, chants, costumes, signs and handouts in advance. Make a news release for all of the radio, television and newspaper outlets in your area. Stick to a few short paragraphs describing the destruction you plan to stop or the wilderness you propose for protection, making clear the desired result of your actions. It is a good idea to put in a few quotes attributed to one or more of your spokespersons. A good news release should be no more than two pages, although one page is preferred. It is better for the media to call for more information than it is to issue a long, rambling news release.

Send out news releases a few days before your event. Withhold sensitive information until the action occurs. Follow up with phone calls to the media the day before the action. Never assume they've read your release. Get the name of the reporter and ask them if they plan to come. You might hint at the more radical (photo opportunity!) aspects of your action, but don't tip them off to anything that the cops shouldn't know ahead of time. Don't promise a more radical scenario than you can really come up with or the press may not cover your future events. Look for the reporters that promised to

Monkeywrenching

Monkeywrenching: Ecotage, ecodefense, billboard bandits, desurveying, road reclamation, tree spiking, even fire. All of these terms describe the unlawful sabotage of industrial extraction and development equipment, as a means of striking at the Earth's destroyers where they commit their crimes and hitting them where they feel it most—in their profit margins.

Monkeywrenching is a step beyond civil disobedience. It is non-violent, aimed only at inanimate objects. It is one of the last steps in defense of the wild, a deliberate action taken by an Earth defender when almost all other measures have failed.

Although Earth First! is often associated with the practice and mystique of monkeywrenching, the organized elements of the Earth First! movement do not engage in monkeywrenching. Any person openly spouting off about sabo-

tage should be avoided, as they may either be a wingnut or an *agent provocateur*.

Monkeywrenching is not mindless—targets are carefully picked for their strategic value. There is a time and a place for everything. Knowing when not to engage in sabotage is equally of value. For instance, monkeywrenching during public civil disobedience jeopardizes all who are present.

Although some individual Earth First!ers may be active monkeywrenchers, the Earth First! movement officially neither advocates nor condemns monkeywrenching.

Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching (available from the *Earth First! Journal*) contains detailed information on monkeywrenching techniques as well as discussions of security, safety, strategy and justification. Any potential monkeywrencher would do well to study it carefully before embarking on the clearly illegal and potentially dangerous path of ecotage.



Sitting high at the Buffalo Field Campaign

photo courtesy EFi Journal archives

show up and make sure that they have someone in your group to talk to who is knowledgeable, well-spoken and presentable.

Meet before the action to circle up and focus on the emotional, biological and spiritual motivations for your urgent work. Circle up again afterward to make sure that no one is unaccounted for, discuss what did or didn't work and plan a time to meet to do it again!

La Acción Directa Obtiene Resultados

Earth First! es un verbo, no un sustantivo. Para ser un movimiento medioambiental, ¡tiene que moverse! La acción directa significa esfuerzos personales, espirituales y estratégicos en la lucha por la salvación del planeta. Earth First! se define por acción, el propósito de la cual es:

Detener a la destrucción: Forzar a los gobiernos y corporaciones a parar su extracción explotiva de los recursos naturales. Aun las acciones simbólicas pueden detener a la máquina.

Mandar un mensaje a los explotadores: "Las cosas no seguirán así."

Atraer a los medios de comunicación: No podemos despertar al pueblo o forzar la mano de los políticos sin hacerles ver a la destrucción. Las manifestaciones manifiestan el hecho que cuando no hacen caso a nuestras letras y negan a nuestras apelaciones legales, aún no aceptaremos la destrucción de la Tierra. La desobediencia civil expone el problema por la televisión, radio y los periodicos.

Reforzar la Resolución: No hay otro evento que nos llena con el sentido de nuestro poder como la acción directa. Con ella aprendemos como trabajar con otra gente que pone la Tierra primero.

La desobediencia civil es un acto de conciencia deliberado, aun cuando uno se resuelve a hacerlo espontáneamente. Cada vez que asisten a una manifestación, están arriesgando el ser arrestado o atacado por la policía o los adversarios. Prepárense con tácticas no violentas, vocero para los medios y apoyo para los encárcelados.

Manifestaciones

Las manifestaciones incluyen las marchas, los disfraces y el teatro en la calle. Presentan nuestras opiniones a los reporteros y exigen concesiones de las corporaciones piratas y sus instrumentos gubernamentales. Algunas acciones de Earth First! han sido: gigantescos tocóns depositados en los escritorios de guardabosques; protestas en frente de las

Monkeywrenching: "Echarlo la Llave Inglesa"

Monkeywrenching: *Ecotaje; ecodefensa; bandidos de carteleros; desagrimensar; recuperación de caminos; treespiking (clavar a los árboles); aun el fuego. Todos estos términos describen el sabotaje ilegal del equipo de la extracción y el desarrollo industrial, como una manera de dar golpe a los destructores de la Tierra donde cometen sus crímenes, pegandoles adonde lo sienten mas—en sus margenes de beneficios.*

Monkeywrenching va fuera de la desobediencia civil. Es no violento, solo dañando a objetos inanimados. Es una de las últimas tácticas para defender a la naturaleza silvestre, una acción deliberada tomado por el defensor de la Tierra, cuando casi todas otras medidas han fallado.

Aunque Earth First! muchas veces está asociado con la práctica y el misterio de *monkeywrenching*, los elementos organizados del movimiento Earth First! no participan en el.

Cualquier persona que habla sin cuidado sobre el sabotaje debe ser evitada, pues tal vez será un loco o un agente del estado.

El ecotaje no es sin sentido—los blancos se escojen cuidadosamente para su valor estratégico. Hay un tiempo y un lugar para todo. El saber cuando no ocuparse en el sabotaje es igualmente valioso. Por ejemplo, cometer ecotaje durante desobediencia civil pública pone en riesgo a todos los que están presentes.

Aunque algunos Earth First!istas individuales estén activos en el ecotaje, el movimiento Earth First! oficialmente no aboga ni condena el *monkeywrenching*.

Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching (Ecodefensa: Una Guía del Campo Sobre Monkeywrenching), es disponible por la *Earth First! Journal*. La guía contiene información y detalles sobre técnicas de *monkeywrenching* así como discusiones sobre la seguridad, estrategia y justificaciones. Cualquiera ecoteador potencial ganará mucho de estudiarla cuidadosamente antes de embarcarse en el rumbo peligroso e ilegal del ecotaje.



casas de los ejecutivos de negocios; estiércol de ganados que fueron pastarados en tierra pública amontado junto a rejillas de aire acondicionado; globos de helio elevando cartelones en reuniones públicas; y gigantescas pancartas atados sobre carreteras, en chimeneas y en grandes edificios. Para máximos resultados, una manifestación debe ser:

Dinámico y Sin Ceder: Que la intención, tácticas y objetivos sean claros. Identifiquen a los ofensores por nombre y señálenlos.

Creativa y Pintoresca: Compongan acciones únicas y sorprendentes que sean retos y que divierten.

Informativa: Comunican sus metas claras con folletos, comunicados de prensa, cantos, teatro y gritos.

Flexible: Estén preparados para cambiar sus planes en cualquier momento si cambia la situación. Aventájense de oportunidades si estas se presentan, como si aparezca un ejecutivo culpable o alguna máquina ofensiva. Inventen alternativas si el gobernador esté ausente, el edificio esté inaccesible, la policía aparezcan en grandes numeros o la reunion cambie de lugar.

Ocupación Prolongada

Invadan a las oficinas o aun las casas de burócrates u oficiales indiferentes. EFlistas han instalado carpas dentro de oficinas de los directores de tierras públicas y se han encadenado a sus muebles. Han invadido las casas de ejecutivos y han tapado las rejillas de aire acondicionado en la oficina de un guardabosques, forzandole a apagar sus computadores en el calor de 40 grados.

Bloqueos

Hay veces que el lugar de un Earth First!ista sea directamente delante de una maquinaria destructora. Quizás sea un acto simbólico; quizás detendrá a los ofensores. De cualquier modo, es una táctica garantizada a llamar la atención fuera de las oficinas y dirigirlo otra vez al medio ambiente, donde se cometen los crímenes.

Los blancos posibles incluyen la maquinaria que destruye los bosques, envíos de material radioactivo, transportes de ganado, las presas y las minas. Podrían sentarse en la carretera o encadenarse a las puertas, verjas o el equipo. En algunos casos, la situación exige encadenenarse a barriles llenos de cemento o erigir trípodes y sentarse en ellos. Cuanto más dura un bloqueo, más eficaz es, pero aun los bloqueos breves han creado mucho apoyo público.

Bloqueos en los Árboles

La táctica de ocupar una plataforma en los árboles ha detenido la destrucción de los bosques ancianos por meses, y a veces por años. Earth First!istas han conectado cables a los árboles cercanos para impedir que estén cortados y para moverse por el dosel. Antes de atentar esta táctica, necesitarán ayuda con experiencia y consejos de seguridad. Varios grupos Earth First! pueden ayudarles con esto, y se puede conseguir entrenamiento en las asambleas de EFl.

Acción Directa No Violenta

La acción no violenta exige una norma de honor. Todos los participantes tienen que consentir en principios comunes, o los medios y la policía tal vez concentrarán su atención sobre unos cuantos participantes y no la intención de la protesta. Tengan cuidado al escoger con quien trabajan, y asegúrense que todo el grupo está de acuerdo sobre los directrices, cualquier táctica que usan.

En una acción de Earth First!, no se debe asaltar a nadie físicamente ni verbalmente, y tampoco se debe intensificar violencia comensada por la policía, trabajadores, directores o el público general.

Si la acción requiere de no moverse, aunque estés arrestado, quédate en tu sitio. Huir en ese momento podrá dañar el espíritu de la protesta y poner a otros en peligro. No se pongan en una situación peligrosa si no estén preparados a enfrentarlo sin moverse. Si no, escogan otra manera de protesta.

Nadie deber traer las drogas, el alcohol, o las armas de fuego a una acción de Earth First!.

Antes de su acción, identifiquen a los quien puedan estar arrestados y preparen una lista de sus nombres y direcciones. Ellos deben hacer pareja con alguien que se responsabilize de sus llaves y identificación. Alguien debe grabar los arrestos con cámara o video, y todos deben apoyar a los compañeros hasta su liberación.

Planeen sus acciones con cuidado. Preparen teatro, canciones, gritos, disfrases, cartelones y folletos por adelantado. Preparen un comunicado de prensa para todos los periodicos y las estaciones locales de radio y televisión. Enumeren en unos cuantos párrafos la destrucción que desean detener o el bosque que desean proteger, poniendo en claro cual es el resultado que buscan con sus

acciones. Es buena idea incluir unas citas atribuidos a su vocero. Un comunicado bueno debe ser dos páginas máximo, pero una es preferible. Mejor es que la prensa les interroge despues buscando más información, y no redactar un comunicado indeciso y errante.

Despachen los comunicados unos dias antes del evento. ¡Nunca revelen los detalles secretos! El dia antes del evento, confirma con una llamada. Nunca supone que han leído al comunicado. Habla directamente con un reportero, fija su nombre, y pregunta si asistirá al evento. Alude a los aspetos radicales de la acción (¡oportunidad para fotos!), pero nunca revela información que la policía no debe saber. No prometan un evento mas dramático que puedan producir, o tal vez la prensa no asistirá a sus eventos en el futuro. El día del evento, busqua a tus reporteros y asegura que hablan con alguien entendido, presentable y que se expresa bien.

Reúnanse antes de comenzar su acción y recuérdense de las razones emocionales, biológicos y espirituales para su obra urgente. Reúnanse después para asegurarse que no falta nadie, evaluar lo positivo y negativo de la acción, y ¡planear para la proxima!



Campeños mexicanos luchan contra una presa

foto por Adolfo, Chiapas Indymedia

Forming an EF! Get It Group Together

Earth First! is an international movement composed of small, bioregionally based groups. Earth First!ers become intimately familiar with the ecology of the area they inhabit and defend. They apply "direct pressure" to stop the bleeding, with a potent combination of education, organizing and creative action. Nothing is more empowering than standing defiant against the destruction of our Mother Earth with other like-hearted people.

To start an Earth First! group in your area, consider the following:

Campaigns: Earth First! campaigns target human actions that adversely impact biological diversity. This can include ancient forest defense, endangered species protection, opposition to urban sprawl and the preservation of sustainable indigenous cultures. To protect a bioregion, Earth First!ers connect with it through our hearts and souls. To become acquainted with that which we fight for, we spend time exploring our watersheds, mountains and canyons, just feeling the wildness of these places.

Contact: Your group needs a contact person with a mailing address, phone number and email who will respond to inquiries and share them with the group. This information is also listed in the *EF! Journal*. Maintain a mailing list and phone tree for announcing meetings and events.

Security: The importance of responsible security with personal information and associations must not be

underestimated. Be smart, be aware and get to know the people in your group. Read *Agents of Repression* by Ward Churchill and J.J. Vanderwall, which chronicles the effects of state repression on other resistance struggles. *If an Agent Knocks: How to Deal with the FBI* is a helpful pamphlet available from the *EF! Journal*.

Money: Some of the most common funding needs are for printing, postage, logistics of actions and demonstrations, legal fees and court fines. You may want to set up a special bank account for your group, with at least two people allowed to sign checks.

Fundraising: Some ideas include benefit concerts, slideshows and tabling;

Meetings: Gather for potlucks, hikes, music, swims, etc. Meet to strategize, plan and carry out your actions!

Tactics: Education through handouts, news releases, articles, public presentations, attending and commenting at public meetings, etc.

Grassroots organizing through building coalitions with like-minded groups and generating public participation and input.

Litigation by utilizing the laws that exist to protect what is threatened.

Demonstrations and Civil Disobedience: These are what won women the vote, emancipated slaves and retracted the US military-industrial machine from Vietnam. The quickest and surest way to get a new EF! group going is to do a fun, nifty action! Bold, creative, confrontational actions generate media coverage and announce your presence to friends and foes.

The EF! Journal: All are encouraged to submit articles to the *EF! Journal*. Use the *Journal* to update the movement on your campaigns. Announce opportunities to attend your gatherings. If you do an action, write about it and send it in.

Free copies of the *EF! Journal* are traditionally mailed out to contacts to be sold at full cover price as a fundraiser for local groups (the *Journal* only requests a postage reimbursement). Contact the *Journal* office to arrange to have a bundle of magazines shipped to your group each issue. Individual EF!ers are expected to subscribe, since the *EF! Journal* depends on subscriptions to survive.

A regional newsletter can augment the *Journal* and focus on



Anti-grazing lockdown at the offices of the Tonto National Forest

photo courtesy Phoenix Earth First!

public requests for funding support via radio shows, newsletters and the Internet; auctions of goods and services; bicycle pledge rides; foundation grants; school money from campus clubs for EF! presentations; EF! work parties; sale of EF! merchandise and *EF! Journal* sales.

local issues, list local events and demonstrations, and provide more leeway to fit in other items. Production, writing and mailing should be done as a group to get the maximum number of voices represented and to keep all of the work from falling on a few people.

Unamonos: Como Formar un Grupo de EF!

Earth First! es un movimiento internacional compuesto de grupos pequeños con alcance bioregional. Los Earth First!istas se ponen a conocer intimamente la ecología de la región que habitan y defienden. Aplican "presión directa" para poner alto a la hemorragia, con una combinación potente de educación, organización y acción creativa. Nada puede llenarnos con el sentido de nuestro propio poder como pararnos en contra la destrucción de nuestra Madre Tierra, con aire de desafío, al lado de otra gente que siente lo mismo.

Para formar un grupo de Earth First! en su región, considere lo siguiente:

Campañas: Las campañas de Earth First! apuntan contra todas las acciones que dañan a la biodiversidad. Pueden incluir la defensa de bosques ancianos, oposición al crecimiento urbano, la protección de las especies en peligro de extinción y la conservación de culturas indígenas sostenibles. Para proteger una bioregión, conectamos con ella con toda nuestra alma y corazón. Exploramos nuestras cuencas, montañas y cañones, solo para sentir la naturaleza pura de estos lugares que luchamos para proteger.

Intermediario: El grupo necesita un individuo cuyo dirección, número telefónico y email esté disponible para que pueda responder a las preguntas del público. Esta información también aparecerá en la *EF! Journal*. Mantenga una lista de las direcciones y números telefónicos para anunciar a los eventos y las reuniones.

Seguridad: Nunca subestimen la importancia de tomar seriamente la seguridad de sus asociaciones y de la información personal. Sean astutos y conscientes, y conozcan bien a todos que componen su grupo. Lean *Agents of Repression* por Ward Churchill y J.J. Vanderwall, una crónica de las actividades represivas por el estado contra otros movimientos de resistencia. *If An Agent Knocks: How to Deal with the FBI* es un folleto bien útil que se puede conseguir de la *EF! Journal*.

Finanzas: Los gastos mas comunes incluyen la impresión, el correo, la logística de sus acciones y los costos legales. Tal vez quisieran abrir una cuenta de cheques y nombrar a dos personas que puedan firmar los cheques.

Recaudación de Fondos: Algunas ideas incluyen conciertos; presentaciones de diapositivas; estaciones de información; peticiones públicas por el radio, los boletines y el Internet; venta de artículos contribuidos; buscar patrocinio para viajes de bicicleta; subvenciones de los fundaciones; fondos recaudados por clubs al nivel escolar; agrupaciones trabajando con el fin de donar el fruto de sus labores; y venta de mercancías de EF! y de la *EF! Journal*.



foto cortesía de Acción Ecológica

El primer árbol bloqueo en Sudamérica, en el bosque nuboso Mindo en Ecuador

Reuniones: Reúnanse para cenas, viajes al campo, música, ir a nadar, etc. ¡Reúnanse para planear la estrategia del grupo y realizar sus acciones!

Tácticas: Educación por folletos, comunicados de prensa, artículos, presentaciones públicas, discursos en los mítines gubernamentales, etc.

Organización de base por aliarse con organizaciones de filosofía parecida y animar a la participación pública.

Litigación usando las leyes que ya existen para proteger al medio ambiente.

Manifestaciones y Desobediencia Civil: Así se liberaron esclavos, la mujer se ganó el derecho de votar, y se quitó el ejército norteamericano de Vietnam. ¡La manera mas rapida y segura de iniciar un grupo de EF! es con una acción divertida y audaz! Acciones valientes, creativos y conflictivos atraen a la prensa y anuncian su presencia a los amigos y enemigos.

La EF! Journal: Todos se animan a someter artículos a la *EF! Journal* (la Revista de Earth First!). Usen a la *EF! Journal* para avisar al movimiento como van sus campañas. Anuncien las oportunidades de asistir a sus asambleas. Si hagan alguna acción, escriban algo sobre ella y sométanlo.

Los grupos de Earth First! reciben copias gratuitas de la *EF! Journal*, que se puede vender al precio regular para recaudir fondos (la *EF! Journal* solo pide reembolso por el correo). Pónganse en contacto con la oficina de la *EF! Journal* y pongan su pedido. Los EF!istas individuales deben suscribirse, porque sin estos fondos la *EF! Journal* dejaría de existir.

Un boletín regional es un complemento excelente a la *EF! Journal* y puede centrarse mas en los asuntos y anuncios locales. Su producción, escritura y envío se debe hacer por un grupo, así garantizando la inclusión de una variedad de opiniones, y también evitar que todo el trabajo les cae a unos pocos.

The EF! Round River Rendezvous

The Round River Rendezvous is the annual tribal gathering of Earth First!. Each Summer, this week-long campout attracts several hundred Earth First!ers from around the world. The gathering is coordinated by a volunteer committee and includes workshops, campaign discussions, campfire music and a rally with performers and speakers. Perhaps the most important part of the Round River Rendezvous is the informal networking that goes on.

In addition, many international, national and bioregional rendezvous are held throughout the year. Announced in the *Earth First! Journal*, these gatherings are particularly important for developing a cohesive activist network and planning actions on a local level.

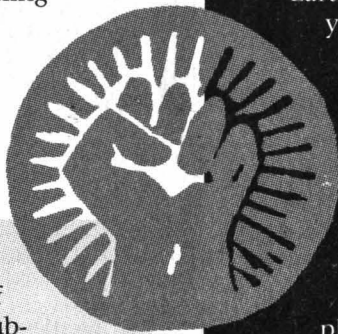
EF! activists in North America also get together in the Winter for the EF! Organizers' Conference. This allows EF!ers to converge and strategize about upcoming campaigns, actions and events.

The Earth First! Journal

The *Earth First! Journal* is the voice of the radical environmental movement. Published six times a year, it contains reports on direct action; articles on the preservation of wilderness and biological diversity; news and announcements about EF! and other radical environmental groups; investigative articles; critiques of the entire environmental movement; book and music reviews; essays exploring ecological theory and a sometimes-lively letters to the editor section. The *Earth First! Journal* is an essential forum for discussion within the Earth First! movement. It is meant to be bold, controversial, amusing and diverse in content and style. You won't find hard-hitting news like this anywhere else.

The *Earth First! Journal* also markets t-shirts, stickers, music and books advancing the Earth First! message. All merchandise is available by mail order.

For more info., visit www.earthfirstjournal.org.



The EF! Direct Action Fund

Direct action requires courage, commitment, training and the ability to focus on urgent issues. It also requires money. Since 1985, the Earth First! Direct Action Fund has assisted in planning, coordinating and funding the frontline activists who are the backbone, indeed the heart and soul, of the Earth First! movement. Without this financial support, many actions would never get off the ground. The Earth First! Direct Action Fund provides donations so that activists will have access to action resources: tools, climbing equipment, props, banners and transportation.

With support from the Direct Action Fund, Earth First!ers have "cracked" the Glen Canyon dam on the Utah-Arizona border; occupied tiny platforms for weeks, months and even years to protect old-growth Douglas fir trees in Oregon, coastal redwoods in California and the Sitka spruce rainforests of the Canadian coast; buried themselves up to their armpits to prevent roads from being cut into wilderness areas in Idaho; locked themselves to concrete-filled barrels at a nuclear plant under construction in Tennessee and snowshoed across treacherous terrain in British Columbia to videotape wolf hunting. Activists have frequently shown up dressed as bears, owls, sea turtles and trees in the offices of legislators and agencies to remind them to do their jobs.

The Earth First! Direct Action Fund has no fancy office, no professional staff, and to avoid cumbersome and restricting regulations against free speech, no nonprofit status. This way, our meager resources can be put where they will do the most good—on the frontlines to defend the wild.

So, if you can't be out there on the frontlines yourself, please help support someone who is by sending a contribution to the EF! Direct Action Fund, POB 210, Canyon, CA 94516.

Se puede encontrar una traducción de esta página en www.earthfirstjournal.org

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...the radical environmental journal

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blast from the past

Brigid 1994 *Earth First! Journal*



UPRISING IN OHIO!

BY WHALEY MANDER

Sean let me use a bike lock to attach myself to the desk at the US Office of Surface Mining (OSM). Several thoughts run through my head. Why am I sitting here, neck squeezed uncomfortably, back aching, suits all around with smirks on their faces? Amused? Proud? Whose responsibility is it to stop the strip mine anyway? Mine by default.

Why hadn't I practiced with the lock before the protest, in the truck with Joe as we discussed sound bites and stapled press packets? What a classless Earth First!er I must seem, as it's taken me more than two minutes and the help of Dana to get myself securely locked down. The OSM secretary gawks at me with a mixture of disapproval and embarrassment. Another employee bends down to offer a word of support.

"Lock it in front of you, so you can see what you're doing," Dana explains. Frustrated, we try to shove the two pieces together, hoping that by some denial of physical reality the one would snap into the other. "This isn't working...." This wouldn't happen in Idaho or Clayoquot, I'm thinking. If these bureaucrats wanted to, they could have made this job much more difficult. Each second might be critical....

But they had been taken by surprise; this was probably the first time that they'd had their office taken over by the likes of us. "This stuff is not supposed to happen in Ohio," thought the OSM. "People's lives are either too busy or dull to really care." In time, the lock jammed together.

Ohio will be silent no longer. The Buckeye Forest Council, which is the Ohio extension of Heartwood, has taken on the agencies and profiteers who are responsible for the plunder of our state. It's a struggle because so little of what is really Ohio is left to protect. The chestnut, once dominant in these Central Heartwoods, is all but gone. With it, we lost our elk, bison, wolves, bears, mollusks, salamanders. And that is why the protection of what is left is so crucial.

In December, the Buckeye Forest Council, with the help of Greenpeace and Earth First!ers, demonstrated at the OSM in opposition to a proposed 1,800-acre strip mine in the Wayne National Fragment (managed by the same Freddie

who have brought Ohio clearcuts, oil wells and ORV trails aplenty). The Wayne is the only national forest in the East to allow strip mining, due in part to the incompetence of the likes of the OSM and the US Forest Service.

The mining should not even have been an issue, because of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA or "smackra"), which prohibits such mining on public lands. As with many of our half-assed, half-implemented laws, the loopholes pass the buck to often-inept agencies. In this case, SMCRA allows those with "valid existing rights" (VER) to hold their deeds to the minerals under the land. Sixteen years later, the government has still not rendered a definition of VER. The result is that these rights have been tied up in the courts and linger as a constant threat to public lands.

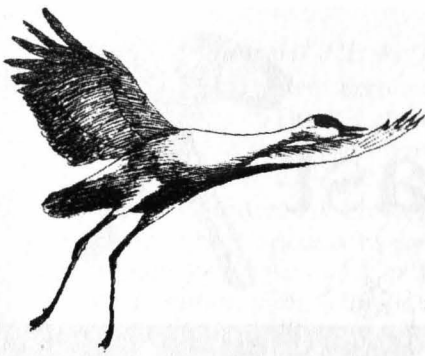
Belville Mining Company of Ohio possessed some of these sub-surface rights (wrongs). Belville's deed, which expired in 1989, afforded it a five-year extension only if it was engaged in commercial mining operations between 1984 and 1989. Although the land was not mined, and the language of the deed was not met, OSM granted that Belville had VER and could still mine the land.

In the takeover of the OSM Columbus office, we learned that the folks employed there ("90 percent of us are environmentalists; we don't want to see this") have their hands tied, and they are receiving orders from above in Pennsylvania. OSM's lack of control at the local level leads us to assume that this direction can only be part of a greater scheme to open up more public lands for strip mining.

The devastation of Ohio's ecosystems has come and gone and come again. And without much of anything left to admire, most Ohioans lack the vision that seems much more prevalent in the West. The Wildlands Project is incomprehensible to most in our stripped, cut and poisoned state. ("We got zoos, don't we?") But we struggle on. We are convinced that the abuses must stop here, and growing numbers (including the Sierra Club and Greenpeace) are uniting with the likes of us, committed to preserving the Wayne.

Back issues of the EF! Journal are available for five dollars each. Order our near-complete, 24-year set for \$500.





Armed with Visions

clear as cut glass & just as dangerous

If Everyone in Phoenix...

One-hundred million vertebrates
die
Every year on the highways
of America.

Frogs and Mountain Lions
Bears
and Snakes.

Ravens
Meadowlarks
Bannertail Rats

Deer solemn
Javelina skittering
Coyotes and their babes

Raccoons and Barn Owls
Baby Quail
Turkey Vultures—
oh, you Buddha birds....

Divvied up evenly
each state
kills
two million.

Every year.

If everyone in Phoenix
were a non-human vertebrate
and everyone died
each year,
and it happened
in every state,
we would get
the idea.

We could all stay home....

—DJINN

Wild and Free

Who has the right
to cut down the ancient trees?
Who has the right
to steal these mysteries?
Who has the right
to take the air we breathe?

The Earth does not belong to man
Keep it wild and free

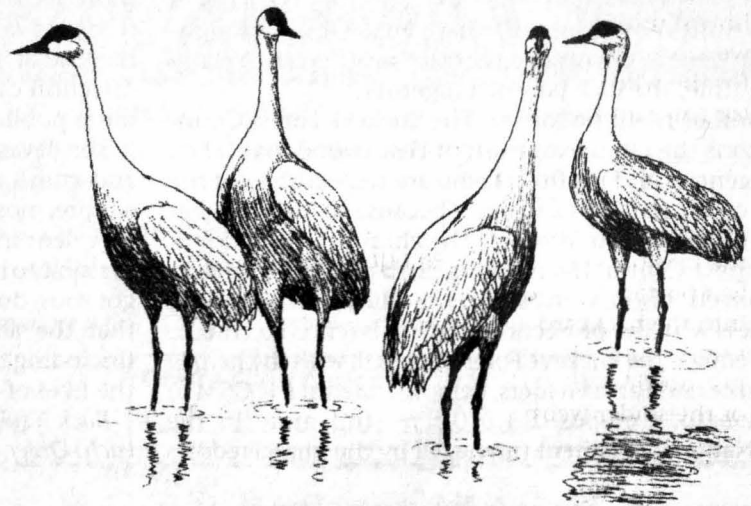
Who has the right
to push aside the owl?
Who took the rights
from salmon and Rainbow Trout?
Where are these rights
when people over-crowd?

The Earth does not belong to man
Keep it wild and free

Where is the hawk?
Where did the eagle go?
Where is the bear,
the deer and antelope?
What does it mean
to sell our very soul?

The Earth does not belong to man,
Keep it wild and free.

—ERIK OLAF



Mantis

The stylish, long green bug
made it
all the way
across the office
over the
digital/wooden
and cement
terrain
as silent
and undetected
as a belly-crawling survivor
of
Verdun

until his
supplicating pose
and sheer green élan
were
discovered
a scant
two inches
from my publisher's neck
after alighting
on her
chair

He was greeted
with a chorus
of surprise
and
delight

his emerald presence
reacted to
as if we'd seen
a wolf
in the cul-de-sac

It was then
I realized
how starved
we are
for the wild
for true surprise

for not-special-effects

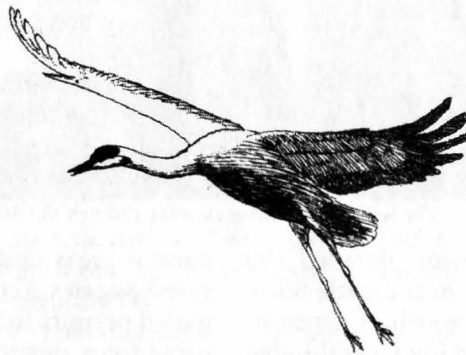
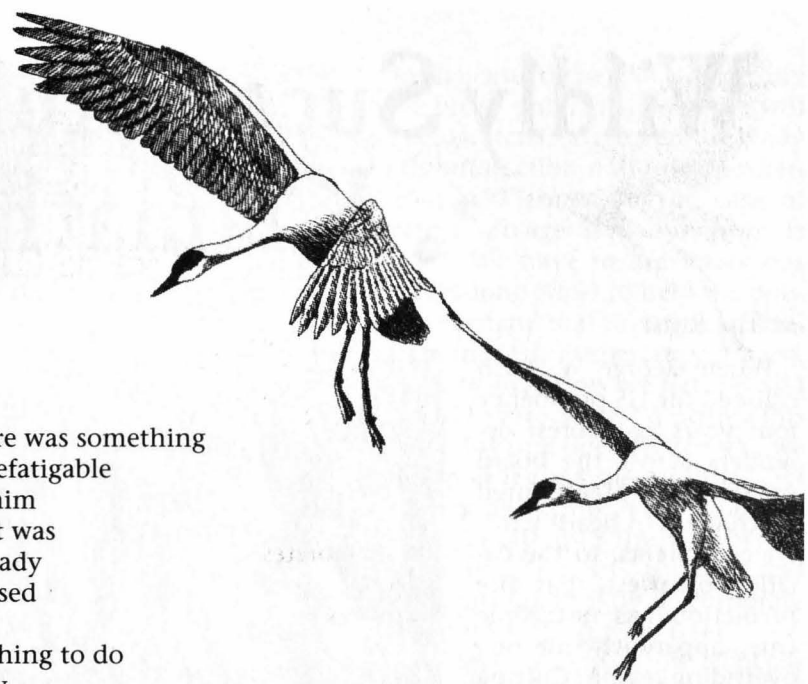
And when
the mantis
was ported
into the backyard
under the wasp nest
just north
of the spider webs

there was something
indefatigable
in him
that was
already
missed

nothing to do
now
but wait
for that wolf
after all

—MLW 9/2004

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

For the Coneflowers

For thousands of years
The Midwest sun woke to prairie.
For hundreds of years
These coneflowers have breathed here
Knowing searing summer's heat
And fires
Knowing wolves and bison
Knowing a long, hard day
Where relentless winter sleep is night
And now they're all that remain
Of all that remains
Of the flickering remnant of railroad prairie.
Mowed for the "safety" of bicyclists
The prairie is fading into thickening teasel,
Which the cyclists assume is a prairie plant.
This is getting dangerous.

—JENNY McBRIDE

Wildly Successful in the Klamath-Siskiyou

BY TIM REAM

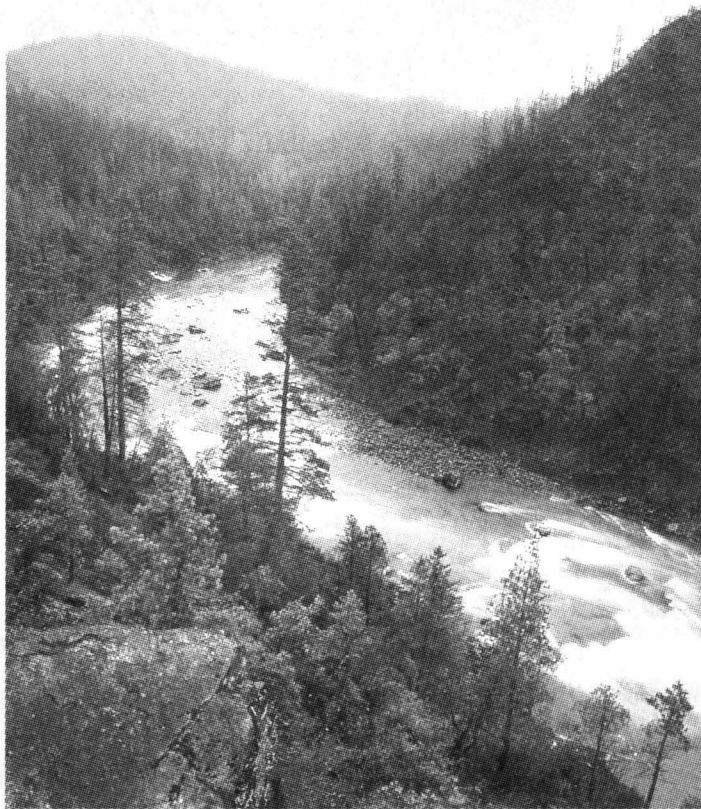
When George W. Bush claimed the US presidency four years ago, forest defenders across the board predicted unprecedented destruction of healthy forest ecosystems. In the Pacific Northwest, that dire prediction has not come true, apparently for one overriding reason: Cutting ancient forest is largely illegal. The Klamath-Siskiyou region of northern California and southern Oregon has recently been the site of several sweeping legal victories.

In November, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, California, stopped four timber sales and ordered the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to examine cumulative impacts from logging before allowing any more cutting. This decision derailed the Medford BLM's plans to log extensively in the Little Butte Creek area near Mount McLoughlin in southern Oregon. The same court also overturned pro-logging federal Judge Michael Hogan of Eugene in yet another decision, ruling that BLM Environmental Assessments "do not provide sufficient information to permit meaningful public scrutiny" of the logging proposals, nor "a reasonably thorough assessment of the projects' cumulative impacts."

The ruling, *Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild) v. BLM*, sets a precedent for a number of western states. A stymied and flustered BLM admits that having to look at cumulative impacts changes everything—it won't be nearly so easy for agencies to draw a little circle around logging "project areas" and ignore the outside impacts.

Forest defenders recently achieved another important court victory in the Timbered Rock area, where the Elk Creek watershed was set to be "salvage logged" this Summer by the same Medford BLM. In 2002, this area burned in a familiar pattern. According to the Oregon Department of Forestry, areas with trees more than 200 years old experienced 10 percent mortality. Areas with trees younger than 35 years (i.e., plantations) burned with 100 percent tree mortality.

Federal Judge Anne Aitken found that the BLM's attempt to log the big trees in Elk Creek were "arbitrary, capricious



The wild Illinois River running through the Biscuit fire area

and otherwise not in accordance with the law." A slamdunk for KS Wild and the five other plaintiffs.

It is not just the BLM that is feeling the wrath of the courts. In October, a ruling in *KS Wild v. US Forest Service (USFS)* was handed down by a federal court in Sacramento, California. The USFS had sought to log ancient forest in the Beaver Creek watershed in the Klamath National Forest. The court found that "the USFS violated the National Environmental Policy Act by arbitrarily and capriciously disregarding and discounting" the project's impacts.

Perhaps the biggest victory for northwest forests came earlier this Fall in a Ninth Circuit decision favoring the Gifford Pinchot Task Force and others. Activists had sued to protect

habitat areas designated as "critical" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). For years, the government has issued permits to logging companies to ignore the ESA in these areas, destroying critical habitat and killing endangered species. Ruling against the widespread practice of issuing "take permits," the court instructed the USFS that the ESA is meant "not merely to forestall the extinction of a species but to allow a species to recover to a point where it may be delisted."

Encouraged by this victory, forest watch groups are now reviewing critical habitat maps throughout the Northwest. Agencies appear to have delayed projects likely to be affected by this precedent-setting ruling. No one can be sure how far the courts will take this ruling, but it could shut down a great number of timber sales now in planning.

These legal victories have serious implications for forest activists in a second Bush term. The slow rate of cutting thus far is not for a lack of trying on the administration's part. The pressure these next four years will be even greater.

Our most important goal will be to hold onto the laws that we already have. Nationally, that means the ESA. There are attempts to gut the act every year. The most recent attempt was just turned back in mid-November during budget negotiations.

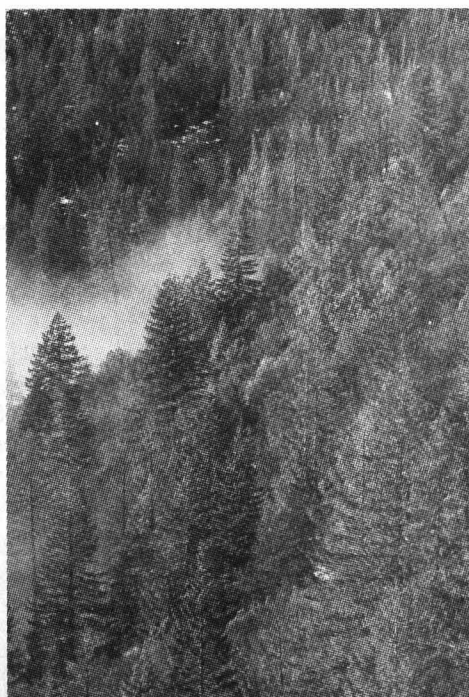
In the West, we have a second hazard looming on the horizon. Oregon Senator Gordon Smith plans to propose a

photo by Rolf Skar

bill that would require that *all* national forest areas must be logged and converted to plantations within two years of a fire. Of course, every acre of western forest has burned and will burn again. Therefore, every wild forest outside Wilderness would sooner or later be lost to tree cropping. In fact, just like the 9,000-acre arson fire at Warner Creek in 1991, there will be incentives to undo environmental protections with the strike of a match.

In the Pacific Northwest, we will face a third major threat. The 1994 Northwest Forest Plan promised that owls would be protected and that the timber industry would get a lot of timber. Neither has happened. Spotted owls are in steep decline and the industry has only been given a small fraction of what was promised. There will be intense industry pressure to revisit the plan to further loosen protections.

Our movement to protect the last wild forests in the US must be prepared to defend these imperfect laws. They will certainly not be getting any better for a while. That defense will happen in the political arena, where our actions can affect outcomes.



Near Fiddler Mountain in the wild Siskiyou

photo by Rolf Skar

In the case of the ESA, we already have broad public support. We will need to watch Congress and be ready to fly into action nationwide when the attacks come. In the case of Smith's salvage law, our work is harder. We have to accelerate our decades-long effort to help the public understand that thinning around communities is the best preparation, but that forest fires are natural and inevitable. Fire doesn't destroy a forest, but logging does. In general, we need to articulate the essential fact that logging ancient forests is all but illegal. Yet despite the will of the public and the courts, the BLM and USFS continue to provide corporate handouts of old-growth trees.

As all forest activists know, all of our victories are temporary, all of our losses are permanent. Despair and fear are rampant, but if we let our guard down now, the game is over. Every day that a

forest stands, it is that much closer to the day that this whole ugly system collapses under the weight of its own greed and shortsightedness. Four more years.

Tim Ream will celebrate 10 years defending forests with EF! at the Round River Rendezvous on Mt. Hood this Summer.

Mildly Successful at the Biscuit

Last Summer, the US Forest Service (USFS) released a plan to convert 19,000 acres of ancient forest to plantation within the perimeter of the 2002 Biscuit fire in southern Oregon. Beyond that acreage, through a "categorical exclusion" from environmental review, it managed to destroy 1,000 acres of burned Biscuit forest. The areas logged were deemed "roadside hazards" but often included inventoried roadless areas and ancient forest reserves.

The 19,000 acres left to be logged remain under legal review. In September, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a temporary injunction preventing cutting in ancient forest reserves. This successful court action appears to have backed the USFS off of inventoried roadless areas, thereby taking about 15,000 acres off the table for now. To appear "reasonable" to the public and politicians, environmental

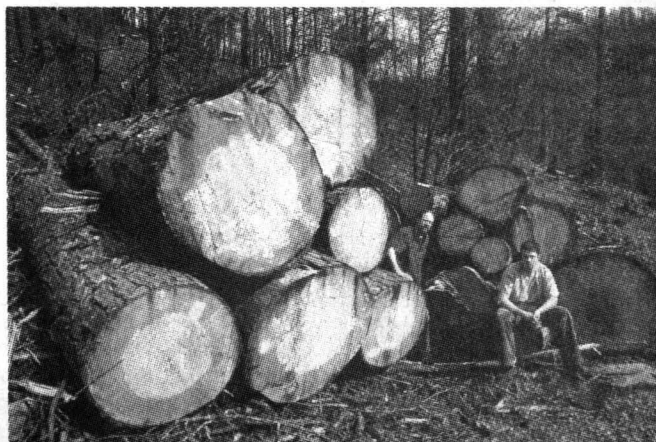
groups involved at Biscuit chose to let 4,000 acres be logged without a legal fight.

That was not reasonable enough for Oregon Senator Gordon Smith, though. In October, he threatened to attach a "rider" to a spending bill that would have closed the courthouse doors to defenders of the forest. If passed, it would have thrown out all

environmental review and mandated the cutting of the entire project.

A rapid, thorough and sustained campaign to fight the rider was successful in late November. Each of the four major daily newspapers in Oregon editorialized against Smith. A huge volume of phone calls flooded his and Senator Ron Wyden's offices. For now, the rider threat is diminished.

The Horse Timber Sale of the Biscuit Project, however, has been cut. Indi, former site of an EF! rendezvous and a July direct action, is being cut. Flat Top, site of a 2003 Memorial Day rendezvous, has just been purchased. More sales comprising the 4,000 acres are on the way. As this issue of the *Journal* goes to press, a breakaway set of environmental groups is preparing to file a lawsuit to stop these and other timber sales that have been compromised away by the rest of the movement.



A log deck in the Biscuit fire area

photo by Rolf Skar

The Strange Case of National Coal

The Struggle Continues!

BY JOHN JOHNSON

In late September, Katúah Earth First! (KEF!) set its sights on a new company called National Coal Corporation (NCC), after NCC purchased mineral rights, equipment and permits from the Robert Clear Corporation for the disastrous mountain range removal project at Zeb Mountain in Campbell County, Tennessee (see *EF!* November-December 2004). Mountain range removal is a mining practice in which entire mountains are literally blown up and dumped into adjacent valleys to scrape off the coal underneath.

KEF! held a small protest on October 3, with about five folks holding signs in front of NCC's office in Knoxville. Action alerts circulated around the country calling for folks to contact NCC every Monday in October to express disapproval with mountain range removal and all destructive methods of strip mining.

On October 8, two different KEF! activists awoke to find auxiliary sheriff's deputies delivering lawsuit papers and a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO).

The TRO banned all known and unknown members of KEF! from contacting or protesting NCC or from coming on any of its property. In the legal documents, NCC employees lied and claimed that protesters had waved "bludgeons" and blocked traffic. NCC also claimed to have been verbally threatened by callers and in email messages.

On October 15, *NCC vs. KEF!* came to Knoxville Chancery Court. NCC's lawyer, Charles Kite (also a shareholder in the company), dramatically dropped a 1.5-foot-tall stack of printed email messages on the table and claimed

that they had been sent to the company on the previous day. He also claimed that NCC had been receiving hundreds of phone calls at the office, interfering with the employees' ability to get work done.

KEF!'s lawyers successfully thwarted NCC's attempt to link KEF! activists with specific threats, and Kite literally threw up his hands and said "I give up." The judge threw out the TRO, but she allowed the lawsuit for a permanent injunction and damages (for supposed security costs and lost time) to proceed. NCC has hired a high-powered attorney from Nashville and has presented some very intrusive questions to the activists as part of the "discovery" process. These questions include demands for mailing lists, bank account information, access to computers and admissions that KEF! harassed the company. The funny thing is, although I circulated the original alert, NCC jumped to sue us so fast, I never got a chance to make a call myself! This lawsuit is obviously a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP). It is designed to make people afraid to express their views on mountain range removal.

Meanwhile, a student group from Kingsport held a candlelight vigil in front of NCC Chief Executive Officer Jon Nix's house at 3127 Keller Bend Road in Knoxville on the evening of October 10. They held signs, shouted at the house for more than an hour and left a banner in the driveway reading, "Hands Off Zeb Mountain." Then, on the night of October 18, Hillbillies from Hell held a boisterous protest at Nix's home. This time, things got weird. Nix came out shouting and got his neighbors to



The Hillbillies from Hell ain't no liberal bullshit

photo courtesy Hillbillies from Hell

Coal Contacts

Please contact the following and express your disapproval of mountain range removal and all other forms of destructive mining (and be smart about it!).

- National Coal Corporation (NCC), 8915 George Williams Rd, Knoxville, TN 37923; (866) 703-COAL; (865) 691-9982 (fax); info@nationalcoal.com; www.nationalcoal.com.

- Crestview Capital Funds (invests

in NCC), 95 Revere Dr, Ste A, Northbrook, IL 60062; (847) 559-0060; (847) 559-5807 (fax); www.crestviewcap.com.

- Cunningham & Company (NCC's public relations firm), 730 W Randolph St, Sixth Floor, Chicago, IL 60661; (312) 876-1070; (312) 454-0261 (fax); www.cunninghamcomp.com.

- Massey Energy Company (destroys mountains in West Virginia

and Kentucky; viciously anti-union), 4 N Fourth St, Richmond, VA 23219; (888) 424-2417; (804) 788-1870 (fax); www.masseyenergyco.com.

- West Virginia Coal Association, POB 3923, Charleston, WV 25339; (304) 342-4153; (304) 342-7651 (fax); www.wvcoal.com.

- Friends of Coal, POB 3923, Charleston, WV 25339; (866) 982-2625; www.friendsofcoal.org.

help block the road, preventing the 15-plus protesters from leaving. Knox County sheriffs arrived and began to question the protesters. Nix reportedly ranted about threats and bombs, and eventually, three men claiming to be FBI agents (but who "forgot" their government identification) arrived and also began questioning the activists. Apparently, both Nix and Kite claim that someone left "explosive devices" in their mailboxes. The claim seems suspect because there has been no media coverage, no Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents or postal inspector presence and, tellingly, no harassment of KEF! activists by the federal government.

NCC is aggressively moving into the mining business in southern Appalachia. Its website brags about recent land and mineral rights purchases—77,000 acres in East Tennessee and another 40,000 acres in southeastern Kentucky. Rumor has it that NCC also has the inside track to mine the Tennessee Valley Authority's Koppers Coal Reserve. To quote NCC's website: "The majority of this property has been mined minimally over the last 100 years or so, but to nowhere near the extent to which NCC plans on mining it."

NCC is already engaged in large-scale clearcutting of the forests on its land. Presumably, the wood is being sold to International Paper's Royal Blue Chip Mill, a facility renowned for its role in the destruction of Tennessee's forests and a past target of KEF!.

Recently, members of KEF! and several student and community groups met with coalfield residents and activists in West Virginia. We saw Massey Energy's coal preparation facility 100 yards or so away from an elementary school. This school also sits under a valley fill and billion-gallon sludge pond. If the valley fill and dam fail, the school and everyone downstream is doomed. After viewing the effects of this kind of coal mining in West Virginia, we decided that an even more apt name for it than mountaintop removal is "mountain range removal." Typically, the industry is trying to change the name to "peak reduction."

While in West Virginia, KEF! and other groups began discussions for "Mountain Justice Summer." Inspired by Freedom Summer in the South in 1964 and Redwood Summer in California in 1990, KEF! hopes to bring environmental and human rights activists to the coal fields of Appalachia to support our homegrown resistance to mountain range removal. KEF!, Mountain Justice, the Rising Up! Collective and Coal River Mountain Watch are in the beginning stages of organizing. We want to invite traveling activists, concerned citizens, residents of Appalachia and others to get involved in the defense of our mountains. We envision a summer of education, advocacy and nonviolent direct action across the coal fields of Appalachia. Join us.

For more information, contact katuah@riseup.net.

John Johnson is a longtime member of KEF! who loves the mountains, forests and waters of Appalachia and detests the fear-mongering, greedy cowards in the coal and paper industries who would destroy them.



A mountain range removal mine in West Virginia

Activist Tragedy in Appalachia

Activists Sue Daniels and Niklan Jones-Lezama were reported missing on November 18, after police found their cars at the site of Daniels' burning cabin near Blacksburg, Virginia. The sheriff's office investigated the fire but despite evidence to the contrary, it concluded that Daniels and Jones-Lezama had gone to the annual anti-School of the Americas protest in Georgia.

Friends of Daniels' obtained permission to do their own search and found Jones-Lezama's body on the morning of November 20. His wrists had been slit, and there was a knife nearby. At that point, the state began a large-scale, highly professional search. The search was called off when the medical examiner reported that remains found in the burnt cabin, which county authorities had previously identified as a "stray dog," were instead human remains.

"I am getting calls from colleagues... all over the world who knew [Daniels] and her work," said Jeff Walters, a professor in the Virginia Tech biology department. "Her passing will be viewed as a tragedy in the fields of wildlife and conservation biology. She was a brilliant scientist, and I think it is important that this be pointed out."

Both Daniels and Jones-Lezama had served federal prison sentences in 2001 for trespassing on Fort Benning, the notorious base where many Latin American death squad leaders are trained. They had recently attended events opposing mountain range removal, and Daniels was helping to organize the upcoming Mountain Justice Summer.

Jones-Lezama had worked with several social justice organizations, including the Coalition for Justice in Central America, and he had traveled to Haiti and Nicaragua as part of relief efforts.

Friends of the two suspect the case to be a murder-suicide. Jones-Lezama was obsessed with Daniels, and she had set up a support network to deal with his unwanted attention.

Activists across Appalachia are dismayed and saddened by the loss of these two activists. For more information, visit www.richmond.indymedia.org; www.tnimc.org.

RESERVEAMERICA

They've Sucked the Joy Right Out of Camping

BY JESSIE

I've been to the same state forest campground two to four times a year for about eight years now. A lovely, peaceful place, Pinewoods is tucked away in the Southern Kettle Morrain State Forest in southeastern Wisconsin. In the past, you just found a site that you liked that wasn't taken, filled out a slip, paid the ranger and set up camp. Three years ago or so, they changed that. There were still a few non-reservable sites that you could show up and camp in, but for the most part, you had to make reservations ahead of time through a Canadian company called ReserveAmerica. I've done it a few times now, and the fees weren't too bad (four or five dollars).

After what happened last Summer though, it is my firm belief that ReserveAmerica sucks. I'll never do business with ReserveAmerica again.

When we went to the ranger station in June, they told us that they no longer have any sites that can be reserved in person and that all reservations are now made through ReserveAmerica. Fair enough. Using a website to reserve a campsite is progress, and I like progress. So I went to ReserveAmerica's website and made my reservation. I winced as I paid the \$9.50 reservation fee it tacked onto my bill. That's more than the eight dollars a night it takes to camp there in the first place! (I found out later that its parent company also owns Ticketmaster, so go figure.) So I paid the \$25.50 for two nights and the fee, and I got really excited thinking about our upcoming camping trip.

Toward the end of the following week, for unforeseeable reasons of family illness, we realized that there was just no way we'd be able to go camping in three days as planned. I called ReserveAmerica to reschedule our reservations, which its website says you may do up to three days ahead of time. However, the young lady I spoke with informed me that

That's roughly a 90 percent penalty fee for canceling the reservation, even though I hadn't wanted to cancel at all, simply to reschedule. Shocked, I tried to politely inquire about what could be done to rectify this already disappointing situation and was told "absolutely nothing."

At this point, I'm no longer disappointed; I'm just feeling irate. I said something to the effect of, "So you're telling me that I'm not allowed to reschedule, and there's no real reason except 'that's how we do it, sorry, there are no exceptions.'" Because ReserveAmerica forces you to cancel instead of letting you reschedule, I had to pay \$13 in cancellation fees in addition to the \$9.50 non-returnable fee?

I mean, come on! I understand that there are rules and all, but this just seems ridiculous! I asked if there was anyone else who would be able to authorize it, and she said that I could ask the customer service department, but they would definitely say no so it wouldn't do any

good (and they have kind of a long wait time today).

But she'd be happy to refund my three dollars, and then I would just have to pay another non-refundable \$9.50 fee to make another reservation right away, plus the eight dollars a night (that I already paid, darn it) bringing my total to \$25.50, and would I like to do that now on the phone?

I told her to leave the reservation as it stood and hung up, seething and wondering how many campgrounds I'd be forced to boycott now. I went to the website and logged into my account so I could look up the exact



photo by Jessie

Being forced to deal with ReserveAmerica to camp in our forests is pretty much the equivalent of selling your soul to Satan at gunpoint.

we could not, in fact, reschedule because it was technically about an hour past the three days. We'd have to cancel the first reservation and then make new reservations.

I knew that the \$9.50 fee was non-refundable, and I told her that it was okay. She replied, "No, there's the \$9.50 non-refundable fee, and another five dollar cancellation fee, and then there's the...." At that point, I was too shocked to process anything else. Basically, the fees totaled \$22.50, and I had paid \$25.50 originally, so my refund would be a whopping three dollars.

policies that she had referenced, but I found that she had gone ahead and deleted the reservation—even though I had told her to forget it. She did refund my three dollars when she canceled it.

If there's one thing I've learned from this ordeal, it's that I really truly hate ReserveAmerica, and I never want to give it another cent of my hard-earned money. Never again will I go to a campground that forces you to use ReserveAmerica because quite frankly, it sucks.

I've decided that I'll use my angry energy constructively and ask people to join me in boycotting all campgrounds that use ReserveAmerica until it rethinks its policies. I just can't help thinking that there has to be a better system than the one currently in place.

I love camping with all of my heart and soul. It makes me feel happy and alive, but ReserveAmerica just sucked the joy right out of it for me. I find it completely disheartening that our state forests are only accessible by doing business with ReserveAmerica.

The only reason I'm even ranting on about this is that I'm really heartbroken. Pinewoods was my favorite place in the entire world. My sanctuary, if you will. Once again, something really amazing and beautiful is now ruined for the people who loved and supported it, and somebody else is profiting off of that fact.

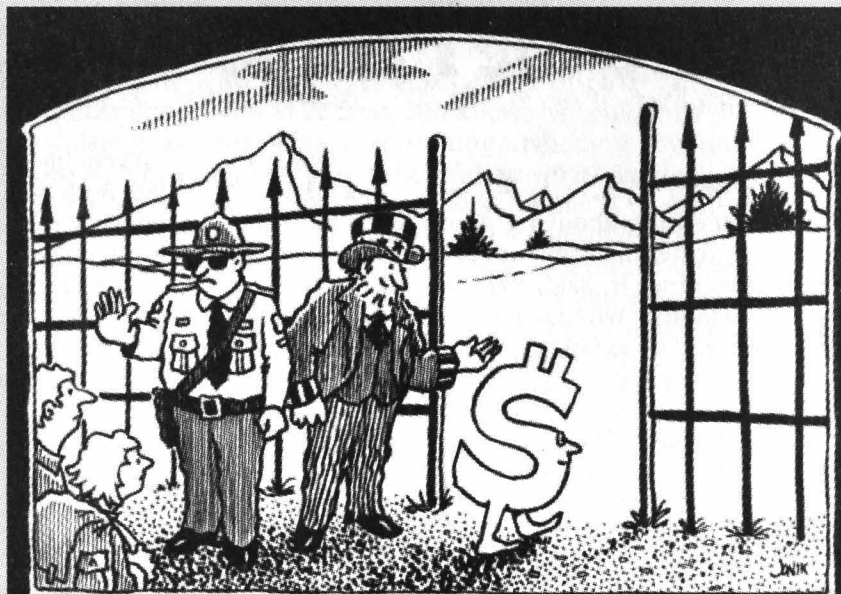
Please, I beg you, don't ever use ReserveAmerica. Being forced to deal with ReserveAmerica to camp in our forests is pretty much the equivalent of selling your soul to Satan at gunpoint.

For more information, visit www.reserveamericasucks.com.

Jessie is the owner of Green Web Design in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, www.greenwebdesign.com. She is also a technical analyst and webmaster for a large software company. Jessie, her husband Bob and their two-year-old black lab live to camp, hike and play in the sunshine whenever possible.



photo by Jessie



Can't See the Forest for the Fees

Fee Demo on Steroids

The controversial Recreational Fee Demonstration Program has been widely expanded and given 10 more years of life, thanks to a rider forced through by Representative Ralph Regula of Ohio in a lame duck session of Congress.

On Saturday, November 20, Congress passed the Omnibus Appropriations Bill, as required to prevent the government from shutting down. Regula, the original architect of Fee Demo, had attached his Fee Demo expansion as a rider to this vital bill. When the bill goes into effect at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2005, all recreational users of land managed by the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Reclamation will be required to pay access fees (see *EF!* September-October 2004). The Fee Demo program has been renamed the Recreation Access Tax.

Fee Demo has been widely opposed by hundreds of organizations, state legislatures, county governments and rural Americans. Critics charge that Regula, who has no public lands in his district, does not care what impact the Recreation Access Tax will have on people in the West.

Drivers, owners and occupants of vehicles failing to display a daily or annual access pass will be presumed guilty of violating the law, with the government under no obligation to prove their guilt. Noncompliance with the fee will be a federal crime carrying a sentence of up to six months in prison and a \$5,000 fine. Annual "America the Beautiful" access passes are expected to cost \$85-\$100.

Although Regula had initially gotten a Fee Demo expansion bill passed by the House of Representatives in September, it was never successfully introduced into the Senate. Regula's later attempts to introduce a Fee Demo rider in the Senate also met no success—until he struck a deal with Alaska Senator Ted Stevens. Stevens agreed to introduce the rider in exchange for Regula's funding a road project in a remote community in Alaska. Regula is expected to become the next chair of the House Appropriations Committee.

"This was a victory of pork over principle," said Robert Funkhouser, president of the Western Slope No-Fee Coalition. "[Regula] and Senator Stevens have sold out America's heritage of public lands for the price of a road."

For more information, visit www.wildwilderness.org.

We are the People Who Fear Nothing

BY KIRSTEN ANDERBERG

There is something about righteous defiance. It has a power that is greater than the sum of its parts. As Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "When you are right, you cannot be too radical; when you are wrong, you cannot be too conservative." Or as Gil Scott Heron said, "If you don't stand for something, you'll go for anything."

As I feel the icy winds of the Bush administration blowing down my back as an outspoken activist and independent journalist, I find I am becoming only more resolute in my beliefs and my strength to speak until they gag me. During my lifetime, I have witnessed many people risking their own personal safety for what they believe. I have also watched many of those people mowed down in senseless deaths early in life. But as Holly Near sings, "You can kill a man, but not a song, when it's heard the whole world round."

Near wrote that line in the 1970s for Victor Jara, the famous Chilean folksinger and activist. In 1973, Chilean President Augusto Pinochet had Jara's hands broken in his final moments, taunting him in public to play his guitar with broken hands. But Jara then started singing magnificently, a song of the people's power, until the government machine-gunned him to death. Near continues in her song saying, "It could have been me, but instead it was you, so I'll keep doing the work you were doing, as if I am two."

In the Winter of 1943, seven prisoners at the Nazi death camp Treblinka dug a tunnel from their barracks to the outside of Treblinka's first fence. The guards pursued the escapees, following their footprints in the snow. One prisoner did escape, but the rest were caught, tortured and hung. The last prisoner to die shouted political statements from the gallows. It is this lack of fear, right up to death, that haunts me when I fear risking my little bit of American safety and security for issues like world famine, war, the environment and free trade. I feel a responsibility to those who died without fear. So what if goons in riot gear paid by the state want to assault me for speaking out? I feel an obligation to go on, "as if I were two."

I watched Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King, Jr. in jail. Both won Nobel Peace Prizes in the end. I watched the police who beat Rodney King on television walk free and the resultant riots that had to happen. I watch now as George W. Bush tears my country and the world to shreds. I have begun to feel that there is no room for fear as an American. Not with this blood on our hands. No justice, no peace. For real.

This is the time to be that metaphoric defiant and brave

teenager, unafraid of your parents' threats and wrath. This is not about your personal safety anymore. This is about the safety of the world. This is about disease, pollution and the degradation of the Earth for a few rich families. This is about American gluttony and American cowardice.

Americans are afraid to take action. They are afraid to stand up for what they know is right the moment that riot

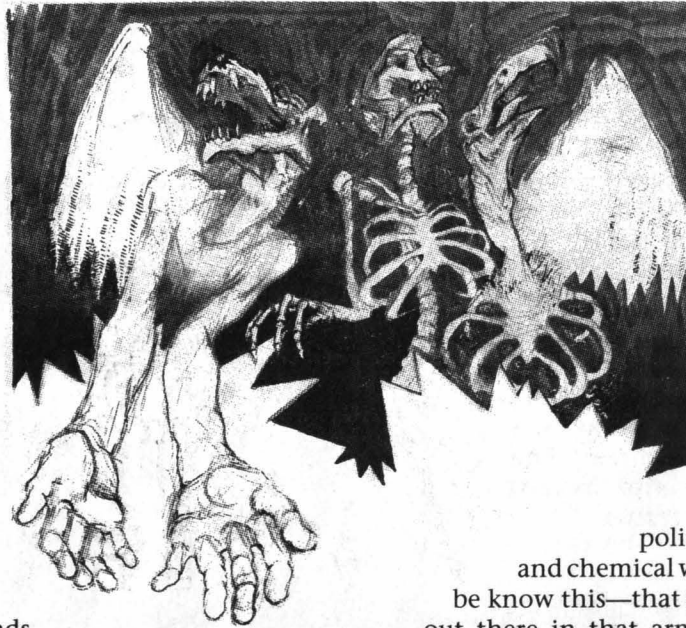
police show up with big sticks and chemical weaponry. The powers that be know this—that is why they send the cops out there in that armor. Yet when I see that militarism against free speech on American streets, it only strengthens my resolve. And I am not alone.

I remember being a teenager and figuring out that the whole authority game had limits. For instance, once I was "grounded," meaning that I could not use the phone, do anything after school or see my friends. Kind of the type of thing that the government has sentenced Sherman Austin to, now that he is out of

jail. Austin is "grounded" with respect to his "anarchist" friends and the use of his computer and the Internet. So I remember being 16 and being grounded. My dad was twisted and enjoyed his authority. The phone

rang in my bedroom while I was grounded. I was amazed that my dad had left it connected. I picked the phone up and discovered that he had left the phone intact but had taken out the part that you talk into. I could hear my friends, but they could not hear me. Twisted.

I remember thinking that I was already in as much trouble as I supposedly could be in. I was expelled from school; I was grounded. Then it hit me. If I snuck out and defied the punishment, all they could do, basically, was



artwork by Eian Wilson

You cannot control people who are not afraid. You cannot control people who have replaced that fear with anger.

expand the grounding—which I was already defying! I remember thinking that they could beat me and kill me, but that was about where we had gotten to. If I did not mind them and did not follow their punishments for really stupid things, all they could do was laud on more meaningless punishments that I would not obey or escalate it to physical violence to try to control me. And the violence just made me hate them more. When my dad threatened to “beat me bloody blue,” I remember thinking, “You just go for it, you sick bastard.” You cannot control people who are not afraid. You cannot control people who have replaced that fear with anger.

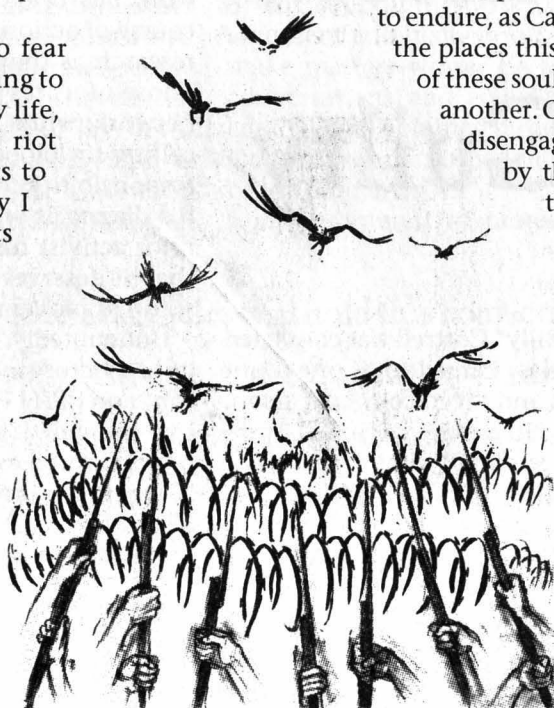
My mom used to say that the time to fear civil unrest is when the people have nothing to lose. That is very true. At this point in my life, I see the Bush administration’s use of riot squads with machine guns in the streets to silence real free speech in the same way I saw my parents’ ridiculous punishments for doing nothing dangerous as a kid. It does not scare me; it enrages me. And just like I realized that the worst my parents could do was beat and kill me, I realize the worst that the Bush administration can do is jail and torture me. Since I was raised in poverty and have little to lose, I can tell you that I am as defiant against the USA PATRIOT Act and Bush’s vision for the world as I was against my groundings as a teen. And like my mom said, those with the least to lose are the most dangerous.

In Anne Cameron’s *Child of Her People*, she describes leaving one’s body to avoid letting the white men rape her soul along with her body. She describes that feeling I have felt and expressed, that the worst they can do is kill me. “She looked at them and knew she could only die, that was all, that was the worst thing anybody or anything could ever do to her. And if she died, so what? She only lived inside her body and her body was not her. If they killed the body, so what; she would become something else, or she would be or become nothing—it didn’t matter.”

There is a point where the soul has to disengage to endure, as Cameron describes. Jails are one of the places this occurs. Poverty is another one of these soul-disengaging situations. Rape is another. Once people have learned how to disengage their souls when being abused by the powers that be, the powers that be lose traction rapidly. This

is the breeding ground for anarchy. This lack of fear, mixed with sincere and righteous hatred of abusive and brutal authority, is as old as humans. Mix that with some hopelessness and nothing left to lose, and you have raw power. This is the cocktail that Bush and his cronies have brewed for the world.

Kirsten Anderberg is an activist journalist based in the Pacific Northwest.



artwork by Eian Wilson

Dear Shit fer Brains continued

continued from page 5

Dear SFB,

I'd like to thank you for running Puck's article in the Mabon issue regarding racism and white supremacy within the movement and at the RRR (see *EF!* September-October 2004). But just as important, I'd like to thank Puck for writing it and persisting in her attempt to work with and educate the movement. The piece was articulate and should be recognized as timely and beneficial.

Solidaridad! Solidarity means your struggle is my struggle! That's a two-way street. The anarcho-enviro movement needs to do more than just enlist people of color into the ranks. We need to embrace and assist non-white people in their struggles as well, even if those issues seemingly have nothing to do with our own campaigns. It truly is all connected. And by assist-

ing their campaigns by following their lead and *not* telling them what they *need* to do, we can begin to build trust and a real friendship.

We also need to be polite and sensitive to the cultural differences that exist both in our camp and in theirs. I can't tell you how many times I've been embarrassed and outraged at the audacity and ignorance demonstrated at various gatherings and events. Like that time at the '95 *EF!* Activist Conference when some people thought it would be cool to have a "party sweatlodge" with beer and other drugs brought into the sweat with no respect for the native religion or the native peoples at the conference who pointed out the sacrilege. I remember I was told during the Katúah *EF!* sponsored Southeast Move Tour that we couldn't swing by a local co-op to get Ramona and Mario Africa some good organic food because "they're on our

time." I insisted and we made the time. Then there was the time a bunch of white activists were dancing around all crazily at the Indigenous Environmental Network's Intertribal Dance Ceremony and had to be asked to leave the ceremony because it was so rude and disruptive. I could go on.

To the movement's credit, I have also witnessed just as many amazing contributions made by a lot of genuine anti-racist white activists. But there's always room for improvement, myself included. I also appreciate the "resources" for challenging white supremacy." I've been sharing the list with my fellow prisoners.

Hasta La Victoria!

—THOMAS "JJ" HICKS
#18231058
FCI MCKEEN
POB 8000
BRADFORD, PA 16701

Billy Cottrell Turns Snitch, Found Guilty

BY ELP AND FBSN

On November 19, William "Billy" Cottrell was convicted on eight of the nine counts he was charged with: one count of conspiracy to commit arson and seven counts of arson. He was accused of involvement in a series of Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arsons that targeted SUV dealers in the Los Angeles, California, area in August 2003 (see *EF!* May-June 2004). Cottrell escaped the most serious charge, relating to the use of a destructive device during a "violent" crime.

That charge, if convicted, would have carried a mandatory sentence of 30 years to life in prison. Sentencing is expected on March 5.

Unfortunately, on November 17, Cottrell took the witness stand. During his testimony, he extensively detailed the alleged actions of others, identified pictures and placed the blame for the arsons solely on other individuals. The other individuals who Cottrell identified in court, Tyler Johnson and Michie Oe, are now sought by authorities.

Due to Cottrell's testimony in court, his support network has been dissolved. Further explanation for this course of action is below. We urge people to do as much research as they can and come to their own decisions. Those of us previously involved with Cottrell's support network, while condemning him, are not among those calling for blood. There are many factors that shift full responsibility for this away from Cottrell, among them his diagnosis with Asperger's syndrome and his lack of prior activist history. With that said, we do not believe that he deserves any support or resources from an already strained movement.

Undoubtedly, federal agencies will hold this conviction up as a victory in their war against "radical environmentalism" and the ELF, but ultimately their conviction is against one individual who engaged in an ELF action, and no more. Cottrell was simply a kid who didn't like SUVs. That is where his involvement with the underground Earth Liberation movement began and ended.

The following is a joint statement written by the former

British Civil Servant Sentenced for Abuse of Office

On October 25, Barry Saul Dickinson of Kent, England, was sentenced to five months in prison after pleading guilty to misconduct in a public office. Between June 2002 and December 2003, Dickinson used his employment at the Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) to find out the home addresses of animal abusers and pass them on to animal liberationists. In spite of his jail sentence, Dickinson refused to tell authorities the names of the people he had given information.

Activists working to close the notorious Darley Oaks Guinea Pig Farm in Newchurch provided Dickinson with the license plate numbers of cars visiting the farm, which they allegedly obtained by hiding, camouflaged, along the road. Dickinson then used DVLA computer records to look up the home addresses of 13 people,

including farm employees and friends of the farm's owners. According to Dave Bird of the Staffordshire police department, "Four of the 13 addresses passed on were subjected to criminal damage—windows smashed, paint daubed on cars and one house was subjected to having a water hosepipe put through the letterbox."



"He should have got five years," said Nick Sanders, a farm employee. "Two cars of mine have been badly damaged, and my home has been attacked many times." Sanders moved to escape from frequent protests and actions at his home, but Dickinson revealed his new address. A week before Dickinson's sentencing,

Sanders discovered an effigy of himself outside his new home—with a noose around its neck.

The Darley Oaks Farm, which breeds guinea pigs for vivisection research, has been targeted by militant animal rights activists for the past five years.

For more information, visit www.liberation-now.org.

Letters of support can be sent to Barry Dickinson, LJ7846, HMP Blakenhurst, Hewell Lane, Redditch B97 6QS, England.

Free Billy Support Network (FBSN) and the Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network (ELP) addressing this situation. As stated below, we extend our sincerest apologies to those who dedicated their time, money and energy to Cottrell's support campaign. Your efforts did not go unnoticed.

As many people reading this will be aware, William "Billy" Cottrell went on trial in November. What is less known is that a week before the trial began, Cottrell's support network learned that his lawyers intended to run a defense argument that involved blaming two other named individuals for the arsons. We have confirmed that law enforcement identified these additional people without any cooperation from Cottrell. It is believed that the information was obtained through grand jury testimony and from various forms of electronic surveillance. Cottrell's attorneys filed a motion to exclude these additional names from court and the media, but Judge Klausner denied the motion.

Before activists were involved with the legal side of Cottrell's case, non-movement attorneys were hired, and a direction for court strategy was developed. Neither Cottrell, his attorneys nor his community received any support from local activists throughout the grand jury and investigation processes. It should also be noted that Cottrell was never part of any movement or activist community. As a result, serious mistakes were made both in testimony before the grand jury and in the handling of alleged evidence.

As it turned out, the defense strategy that subsequently developed was to admit that Cottrell was at the scene of the actions and spray painted ELF slogans, but to deny that he participated in the planning or execution of the arsons. His defense would argue that Cottrell had Asperger's syndrome—a form of high-functioning autism—and he therefore did not have the mental state required to engage in conspiracy. They would claim that he was the innocent dupe of the two other named individuals. However, the trial judge rejected a defense plea of Asperger's syndrome and ruled to exclude any mention of the syndrome from the trial.

As soon as the full defense strategy was known, FBSN was shocked to learn that the defense lawyers intended to name other people as being responsible for the arsons. FBSN had received assurances throughout Cottrell's imprisonment that this would not be the case. FBSN strongly advised Cottrell, his family and his lawyers against this strategy. FBSN also informed ELP about what was happening, and ELP likewise raised concerns with Cottrell about the implications of such a strategy.

It was decided at that time, by FBSN and ELP, not to publicize this defense strategy in order to allow Cottrell and his team time to alter their course. However, despite

the advice of both FBSN and ELP, this did not occur.

In court, Cottrell's lawyers alleged that Tyler Johnson and Michie Oe were responsible for the arsons that Cottrell was charged with. Due to various factors, including his diagnosis with Asperger's syndrome and imprisonment at the Metropolitan Detention Center, FBSN believed that this decision was made largely without the input of Cottrell himself.

However, on November 17, William "Billy" Cottrell was called to testify. This testimony was witnessed by members of his support network. Cottrell stuck to his lawyers' argument and blamed Johnson and Oe for the arsons. To make matters worse, he also extensively detailed their conversations and actions, providing information that could not be obtained by authorities in any other manner. Cottrell even confirmed their images when shown pictures of Johnson and Oe.

In the interest of protecting all individuals currently under investigation for the ELF actions of August 2, 2003, FBSN and ELP cannot condone any court strategy that implicates or exposes others. This is particularly important considering the brutality and wrongful prosecutions that characterize previous investigations by the FBI and associated agencies.

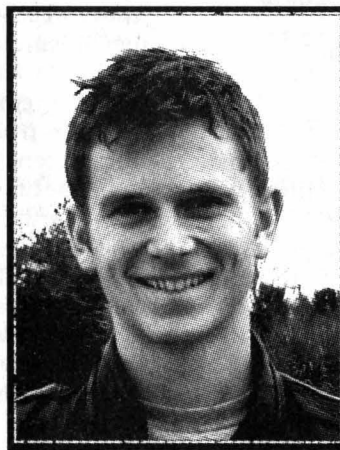
Because of Cottrell's actions in naming and implicating two other people for the arsons, ELP has been forced to withdraw all of its support for Cottrell and instead has named him as a police informant. Likewise, FBSN cannot approve of Cottrell's actions and as such, the Free Billy Support Network has been dissolved.

Both ELP and the former FBSN would like to apologize to all those people who have supported Cottrell due to our efforts. Throughout his imprisonment, Cottrell received amazing support from liberationists across the globe. We sincerely apologize to everyone who contributed; we had no idea, until the very end, that Cottrell intended to testify against others. We did everything that we could to dissuade him from his testimony.

We would also like to remind everyone that although Cottrell has turned traitor, there are many other good prisoners who need our support. We hope this will not put people off from supporting them.

For more information, visit www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk.

Undoubtedly, federal agencies will hold this conviction up as a victory in their war against "radical environmentalism" and the ELF, but ultimately their conviction is against one individual who engaged in an ELF action, and no more. Cottrell was simply a kid who didn't like SUVs.



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.



artwork by Christian Liao

Prisoner Updates

•Tre Arrow, CS# 05850722, North Fraser Pretrial Centre, 1451 Kingsway Ave, Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 1S2, 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. Arrow is also awaiting trial for charges of shoplifting and providing a false name in Canada, and he has applied for refugee status to prevent his extradition. He can now be written to directly at the address above, and he asks that people writing to him please use recycled or scrap paper. For more information, visit www.trearrow.org.

•Sherman Austin, who served one year for maintaining a website with links to other websites with information on how to make explosives, was threatened with new charges by the State of California upon his release. In early November, however, the California district attorney rejected all aspects of the case as groundless.

•Dr. Yuri Bandazhevsky is due to be released in December, after serving 3.5 years for telling the world that the nuclear radiation around Chernobyl was worse than the Belarus government reported.

•José Perez González, #21519-069, Federal Prison Camp, POB 725, Edgefield, SC 29824-0725, USA. Serving five years for actions taken during a celebration of the end to the US Navy bombing of Vieques, Puerto Rico. González has been transferred for the fourth time, this time to the above address.

•Néstor de Jesús Guishard was released on December 9, after serving one year and two months for actions taken during the Vieques victory celebration.

•Daniel Hedqvist, Torsgården, 618 33 Kolmården, Sweden. In October, Hedqvist was sentenced to 10 months for openly damaging equipment at a chicken processing plant and destroying the eggs of thousands of chickens that would have been bred for the industry.

•Il Silvestre. Three members of this Italian eco-anarchist group—Betta, Gioacchino and Leo—have been released after 4.5 months under house arrest. Their charges of promoting sabotage have been dropped.

•Justus Ireland was arrested on September 4 and charged with an ELF-claimed arson at a lumberyard in Utah (see *EF!* September-October 2004). Ireland, a known sex offender, was on parole for a violent sexual attack on a female child at the time of his arrest. Furthermore, the Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network believes that Ireland only spray painted "ELF" at the lumberyard to draw attention away from himself. Because the *EF!* Journal has a policy against supporting known sex offenders, Ireland's address has been omitted.

•Iñaki Garcia Koch was released in November, after serving nearly five years for allegedly sabotaging a dam construction site in Spain.

•Craig "Critter" Marshall, serving 5.5 years for conspiracy to commit arson and possession of incendiary devices to destroy SUVs, has been given a release date of January 5.

•Michael "Mike D" McCullin was convicted of disorderly conduct on October 25, as a result of July 2002 actions protesting Oregon's Solo Timber Sale. He was sentenced to time served and community service, and released.

•Andy Santiago was released on December 11, after serving more than a year

for actions taken during the Vieques victory celebration.

•Peter Schnell, #04056440, DRB047, Santa Clara County Jail, 885 N San Pedro St, San Jose, CA 95110, USA. In August, Schnell was jailed for breaching the conditions of his probation. He had previously served two years for possession of incendiary devices, which the prosecution claimed were intended to destroy dairy trucks.

•Sergio Maria Stefani, casa circondariale di Palmi, via Trodjo n°8, 89015, Palmi (Reggio Calabria), Italy. Awaiting trial for allegedly damaging fur stores and butcher shops and for involvement in the planting of an incendiary device outside a butcher shop. Also accused of involvement in a letter-bombing campaign. Because he was deprived of his vegan diet, Stefani recently went on a hunger strike and lost 29 pounds. He has been moved to the above address.

•Fran Thompson, #1090915, WERDCC, POB 300, Vandalia, MO 63382-0300, 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. She has been transferred to the above address.

•Helen Woodson, #03231-045, c/o Bates County Jail, POB 60, Butler, MO 64730, USA. On November 25, Woodson was sentenced to four years and three months 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. In March 2004, Woodson 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. At her November sentencing, she told the judge, "What you will be doing today is setting the date for my next action, and I invite you to be there on that day."

Awaiting Trial or Sentencing

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

•William Frediani, Carcere Don Bosco, Via Don Bosco 43, 56100 Pisa, Italy. Awaiting trial, accused of promoting sabotage, participating in direct action and using firebombs. Frediani is a member of *Il Silvestre*.

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

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

•Alessio Perondi, Via Pianeza 300, 10151 Torino, Italy. Awaiting trial, accused of promoting sabotage and participating in direct action. Perondi is a member of *Il Silvestre*.

Animal Liberation

•Dave Blenkinsop, EM7899, HMP Bullingdon, Oxfordshire OX6 0PZ, England. 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 Frowi, 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 Le Boutillier, KA9326, HMP Hull, Hedon Rd, Hull HU9 5LS, England. Serving 2.5 years for making phone calls to animal abusers, including HLS shareholders, hunters and agricultural suppliers.

Ecodefense

•Marco Camenisch, Postfach 3143, CH-8105 Regensdorf, Switzerland. Serving 27 years for using explosives to target nuclear facility powerlines and for the alleged murder of a Swiss border guard. He reads French, German, Spanish and Italian.

•Angela Marie Cesario, #66522-065, Federal Prison Camp Dublin, 5675 8th St, Camp Parks, Dublin, CA 94568, USA. Serving three years and five months for arson of logging trucks in Oregon.

•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.

•Jeremy Rosenbloom, #66521-065, Federal Prison Camp Sheridan, POB 6000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA. Serving three years and five months for arson of logging trucks in Oregon.

•John Wade, #38548-083, FCI Petersburg Low, POB 1000, Petersburg, VA 23804, USA. Serving three years for a series of ELF actions against McDonald's, 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.

"What you will be doing today is setting the date for my next action, and I invite you to be there on that day."

—HELEN WOODSON TO HER SENTENCING JUDGE

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

•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.

•Robert "Rob Los Ricos" 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.

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.

•José Vélez Acosta, #23883-069, Federal Correctional Complex, US Penitentiary, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521-1033, USA. Serving two years and nine months.

•José Montañez Sanes, #26317-069, MDC Guaynabo, POB 2147, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00922-2147. Serving one year and six months.

•Jorge Cruz, #26318-069, Federal Prison Camp, POB 725, Edgefield, SC 29824-0725, USA. Serving one year and six 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 11217, USA; www.nomoreprisons.org.

Ask an EF! Lawyer

He's Working on *Your* Side!

BY STU SUGARMAN

Dear EF! Lawyer,

What are the keys to a foolproof alibi?

—HUGH DUNNIT

Dear Dunnit,

An alibi is a defense against a criminal charge where the defendant claims that she or he was elsewhere at the time the offense occurred and therefore could not have committed the crime. The burden is on the defendant to prove an alibi at trial, so the defendant must have strong evidence that she or he was elsewhere at the time of the offense. If a judge or jury did not believe the defendant's alibi, they almost certainly would not believe the defendant's denial of the charge, and conviction would follow. This high-risk reality means that the defendant should present an alibi defense only when their evidence is strong enough to practically ensure that they will be successful at trial.

Time and date-stamped video proving that the defendant was elsewhere when the crime occurred would be powerful alibi evidence. Such evidence might arise from a birthday party, a street protest or a vacation. Even better, many stores have security cameras that might have filmed the defendant running a routine errand while a crime was occurring somewhere else. Any video the store produces would be especially believable because the store would have no motive to alter the tape.

If there is no videotape, other compelling alibi evidence could include a recorded, time-stamped phone message or a time-stamped store receipt supported by the store clerk's convincing description of his or her interaction with the defendant. Note the common thread in all of these examples is that the source of the alibi evidence is highly reliable and is not interested in the outcome of the trial.

In most alibi cases, this evidence does not exist. Instead, the defendant relies upon his or her own testimony, as well as testimony from family and friends, that the defendant was somewhere else when the crime was committed. When relying on any witness testimony, it is important to ensure that the witness has no criminal convictions that could be used to attack that witness' credibility. For example, all

felony convictions (convictions of crimes punishable by more than a year in prison) and misdemeanor convictions (convictions of crimes punishable by up to a year in jail), such as theft and giving a false statement, can be used in many states to attack a witness' credibility. The government can also attack alibi witnesses by using their reputations for lying (if such exists) against them. The witnesses must be convincing when describing to the judge or jury what happened and when. It usually helps to have a clean-cut witness, though I have found dreadlocked, pierced and/or tattooed forest defenders who are also very effective.

Using multiple sources of information at trial to prove the alibi, also called "corroborating evidence," helps make the defendant's evidence more believable. So, showing the jury a store's security video and providing the store's clerk

who was there to support the video and to explain what is going on in the video may be a good idea. If you are relying only on witness testimony, then get several witnesses to tell their version of the facts and back each other up. Remember that witnesses are almost always excluded from the trial so that one witness cannot watch another witness testify.

Defendants using alibi evidence must notify the government well before trial of the place where the defendant claims to have been along with a description of the evidence—such as the names and addresses of witnesses that the defendant will call to support the alibi defense. This requires the defendant to have the alibi evidence organized and ready to go weeks before trial. On the other

hand, in response to a defendant's notice of alibi evidence, the government must provide, also before trial, a similarly detailed description of the evidence it will offer to disprove the defendant's alibi evidence. This advance notice will allow the defendant's lawyer time to investigate the government witnesses' criminal histories and reputations and use that information to attack those witnesses at trial.

The alibi is one of countless ways to win a criminal case. By working before trial to ensure that the judge or jury will believe your alibi, you can improve your chances for victory at trial!

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.





alienation or connection?

earth first! organizers' conference 2005

february 18-21 ♦ southern arizona

A wild environment is inspiring, because all species of flora and fauna live together to their full potential. Contrast this with a society where the majority of human animals are so estranged from nature that they are systematically destroying their own habitat. Yet, we, too, are a part of nature, so our culture alienates us not only from the wild but from each other as well. It is a recognition of this loss that distinguishes eco-radicals from environmental reformers.

Environmental problems have been caused by human behavior and beliefs, therefore a radical eco-psychological approach is crucial for finding solutions. Presently, our human ego not only destroys the environment but inhibits our movement's ability to protect it. To overcome this, we all need to find roots in a personal practice that holds life sacred and encourages an engaged intimacy with our fellow beings. Otherwise, facing the challenges ahead is nearly impossible. Activists on any front throughout history have seen the dire need to create sustainable communities of resistance.

Intellect alone will never really serve the cause of wildlife, for those of us who act to save a wetland or defend a river are not really motivated by reason. We are motivated by what we care for. We simply inhabit a world in which actions of this sort make sense.

The premise for the 2005 Earth First! Organizers' Conference is to find a place for humanity within the EF! movement. We will meet in the

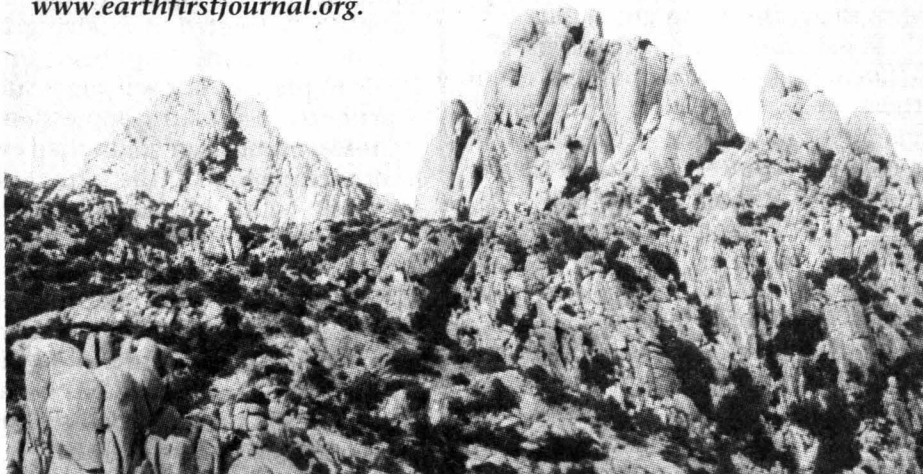
Dragoon mountains of southern Arizona to create a unifying experience, one that strengthens the bonds between active Earth First! groups and supports the coordination of new ones. We will look at ways to build motivation from a positive source rather than a negative one. We will also investigate ways to work with more diverse social groups, getting perspective from past campaigns and guest speakers.

A representative from every active Earth First! group is expected to attend, and we welcome anyone who is interested in strengthening the core of the radical environmental movement. Through sharing our experiences, we will evaluate our organizing and action styles to see where we can improve our efforts to create an authentic, life-serving subculture that can sustain environmental advocacy.

For more information, directions or if you need financial or logistical travel support, contact (520) 792-6472; az_earth_first@hotmail.com; www.earthfirstjournal.org.

EF! North America organizes two gatherings a year: the Summer Round River Rendezvous, which is more of a jamboree and orientation to EF!, and the Organizers' Conference and Winter Rendezvous—a strategy and organizing event. We hope that folks will arrive on Friday afternoon and stay until Monday's day of action.

What to bring: camping gear (if you don't know what to bring, just ask), warm sleeping bag, warm weather and freezing weather clothes (you may find yourself hiking naked all day long and in the evening have icicle boogers), rain gear, a couple of personalized water containers, a dish, utensils, mug, toilet paper, snacks, musical instruments and information about your bioregion and campaigns.



announce

Northwest Regional Rendezvous · February 26-27

A decades-old tradition of EF! regional rendezvous' every season is returning to the Puget Sound/Olympic Vancouver Island bioregion this Winter. The next gathering is on the east side of the Olympic Peninsula. For more information, contact olyef@cascadiarising.org.



National Conference on Organized Resistance February 3-6 · Washington, DC

For the last seven years, the National Conference on Organized Resistance (NCOR) has served as a vibrant meeting space for radical activists of all varieties. The conference has gotten a little bigger, better and perhaps even a bit predictable each year. This year, organizers want to shake things up.

Look for amazing workshops, discussions, skillshares and more. Workshops that go beyond the basics will be featured, as well as long-term movement strategizing discussions and critiques. Workshops in which participants have an opportunity to make connections with each other are highlighted.

Of particular note, organizers are actively seeking contributions from those voices that have often been marginalized or under-represented in radical conferences, media and visible movement events.

At NCOR, participants will strategize for 2005, continuing to build toward a future beyond electoral politics and protest hopping.

NCOR is held at American University in Washington, DC. For more information, contact NCOR, POB 33977, Washington, DC 20033; ncor@mutualaid.org; www.organizedresistance.org.

GRASSROOTS ANIMAL RIGHTS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 18-21 · NEW YORK CITY

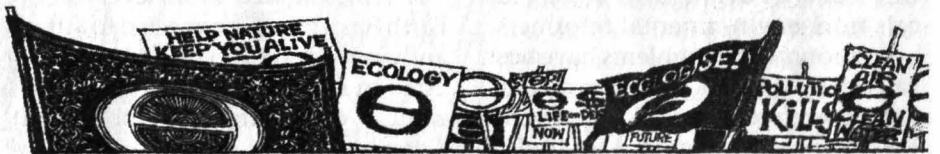
Liberation movements throughout history have relied on the energy, passion and creativity of grassroots activists. Now, it's time for grassroots animal rights activists to join together to take the animal rights movement to the next level. The first annual Grassroots Animal Rights Conference (GARC) will provide the forum for doing that.

GARC is unique in its focus on breaking down the barriers between audience and organizer; its strong focus on the link between animal abuse and other forms of oppression; its orientation toward activist skill and strategy sharing; and its particular focus on the grassroots segment of the movement.

The conference will also feature regional summits where grassroots activists can come together and build alliances and coalitions to more effectively promote animal rights issues at home.

All animal rights activists are invited to attend. Women, persons of color and persons born outside of the US are particularly welcome. Housing and food costs will be kept low, and a limited number of travel scholarships are available.

For more information, visit www.grassrootsar.org.



Institutionalized Youth Speak Out Against the Psychiatric Establishment

PROZAC GENERATION

The Youth, Interrupted collective seeks submissions for an upcoming anthology on the psychiatric oppression of young people. The collective is especially interested in receiving submissions from people whose stories include the experience of being institutionalized during the period of the 1990s to present, but welcomes submissions from people of any age who experienced psychiatric oppression as youth.

Greater numbers of youth than ever before are being forced into "mental health treatment," in the form of residential "treatment" centers and the for-profit youth incarceration industry, which includes managed care "behavioral health" hospitals and "behavior modification" boot camps.

Too often, young people have been the subject of someone else's research. The Youth, Interrupted collective seeks to create the opportunity to break the silence. This book will not only be a resource for kids, but for parents as well, who may feel pressure to turn to psychiatry to "fix" their kid.

The deadline for submissions is March 31.

For more information, contact Youth, Interrupted, POB 6281, Washington, DC 20015; youthinterrupted@yahoo.com.

ments

The Buffalo Need You

The Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) is on patrol all day, every day, defending the Yellowstone buffalo in their native habitat. BFC documents every action taken against the buffalo: Any buffalo outside the Yellowstone National Park boundary is in danger of being shot on sight, hazed or captured and shipped to a slaughterhouse. If you want to help create a legacy where the wild buffalo roam free, volunteer your time with BFC.

BFC has immediate openings for field volunteers. There is a great need for folks during the Winter, when the buffalo migrate to lower elevations in search of forage, and in the Spring, when the mothers venture to their traditional calving grounds outside the park boundaries.

Winter in Yellowstone can be harsh, but it is also extremely rewarding. It's a great time to get oriented with BFC's daily patrols. Winter field patrols run sunup to sundown, November through February. Spring is also a demanding time for the buffalo and BFC volunteers. The days are long, and buffalo are everywhere in need of help and witnesses. Volunteers are *badly* needed at this time of year. Spring patrols run March-June.

BFC asks that volunteers dedicate a minimum of two weeks. All volunteers are provided with room and board, as well as meals. BFC promotes a substance-free environment.

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

Beyond Boundaries: 13th Annual Forest Conference

January 28-30 · Ashland, Oregon

Forest activists and conservationists will gather to share information, network and strategize about how to protect public, industrial and private forests throughout the Americas. This annual forest conference will explore international efforts to protect temperate rainforests in Canada, South America and the US.

As our understanding of the complexity of forest ecosystems has increased, so has the need to discover strategies that push the forest protection movement beyond the political. Conference sessions will probe the challenges inherent in efforts to protect industrial and private forestlands. Activist workshops will also be offered to teach skills critical to effective forest protection campaigns.

For more info., visit www.headwaters.org.



A Day of Remembrance in Coventry · February 5

On February 1, 1995, 31-year-old Jill Phipps was crushed under the wheels of a livestock transporter carrying baby veal calves into England's Coventry Airport. Protesters had tried to stop the truck by attempting to chain themselves to it and by sitting in the road. A protester on the scene commented, "The police were so keen to protect the business of this filthy firm that they made little effort to ensure the way was clear. The truck driver moved off at speed, knocking Jill down and crushing her under his wheels." A special remembrance will be held to mark the 10th anniversary of Phipps' death and to celebrate her life. Her actions against the misery of live exports continue to give courage to everyone who knew her and to thousands of others since her death. For more info., visit www.jillsday2005.co.uk.



Ecological Restoration Project Looking for Volunteers

The Michigan Nature Association owns 160 nature sanctuaries in Michigan. One of these sanctuaries, in southwest Michigan, has an old farmstead on the north part, including a barn and trailer home. The volunteer caretaker lives nearby and has been working with other volunteers to restore the farmstead to nature. The other part of the sanctuary is wooded, with the Black River running through it, and contains the largest blue heron rookery in southwest Michigan.


Up to three volunteers are needed for the Spring and Summer to help restore the area to its natural roots. Housing is provided in the trailer. The caretaker will work with the volunteers and educate them about the sanctuary.

The Michigan Nature Association's goal is to give volunteers at least as much out of the experience as they put into it, including a thorough

education in the plants and animals of the area.

For more information, contact Michigan Nature Association, 326 E Grand River Ave, Williamston, MI 48895-1418; (517) 655-5655; jeremyemmi@michigannature.org; www.michigannature.org.






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2005

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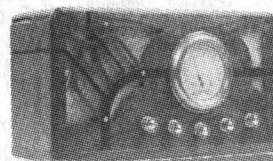
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Wildroots

Wildroots is a collective radical homestead focused on bringing people together to share skills for rewilding and reconnecting to nature and to affect cultural change from a biocentric perspective. We are seeking like-minded prospective collective members and are open to visitors and work traders. Contact us for details: (866) 460-2945, wildrootsnc@ziplip.com, www.wildroots.org.



THRESHOLD

the movement magazine of the Student Environmental Action Coalition

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Delicious Mischief

Ann Coulter Fed a Heaping Helping of Humility

BY AL PIEDA

This is Al Pieda. On October 21, our agents served Ann Coulter a heaping helping of humility as she was leaving the University of Arizona's Centennial Hall in Tucson. This was done in the spirit of humor and political satire. Coulter was chosen for mockery because she spews dangerous fascist dogma while posing as a journalist.

As always, Al Pieda's actions were nonviolent, vegan and organic.

Ann Coulter speaks of the necessity of war. Al Pieda believes that war is avoidable. Ann Coulter speaks callously of war in a manner that illustrates just how far her life is from the reality of war:

"Liberals are always talking about why we shouldn't go to war for oil," said Coulter. "But why not go to war for oil? We need oil. Of course we use most of the world's oil; we do most of the world's production." Al Pieda believes that war is ugly and gruesome. We believe that civilian populations, in particular the poor, always suffer in war. Coulter is an unapologetic racist and imperialist crusader. She appeals to people at their least rational.

Al Pieda believes in nuance. We believe in discourse. We believe that emotional appeals can be made to people's higher virtues—their compassion, their sense of justice, their desire for liberty—rather than to their darkest emotions—their fear, their xenophobia, their rage. We believe that shallow pun-dits and the carnivals they manage deserve mockery.

For the above reasons, we chose Ann Coulter for pieing. We listened to Coulter's entire speech before letting loose with the pies. Our resolve was only strengthened by listening to Coulter. Her words are strikingly ugly in written form, but her venomous delivery to a live audience made them even more intense.

The atmosphere of the talk was one of pageantry. Pyrotechnics, perhaps a burning cross, would not have seemed

out of place.

The audience hooted and hollered in agreement as Coulter insulted Arabs, Muslims and gays.

They laughed uproariously at each of her clever zingers. Clearly, we were not witnessing political discourse, but political theater. Our improvised final act seemed entirely appropriate.

Coulter delivered a mix of hate speech, one-liners and bad puns while the audience rejoined with applause and "amens." An Al Pieda favorite was, "I'm tired of having the gay agenda shoved down my throat. Apologies to all my gay male readers." Come on folks, that's funny. So is pie. In all seriousness though, homophobia is gay.

Right now, two Al Pieda operatives, Zach and Phil, are being charged with assault, disturbing the peace and criminal damage. We ask everyone involved, where is your sense of humor? If Ann Coulter wants to tell towel-head jokes, Al Pieda will be the first to laugh. We will also be the first to retaliate with jokes of our own. No one was hurt, however something in the neighborhood of 40,000 Iraqi soldiers, 15,000 Iraqi civilians and 1,000 American soldiers have been killed in the war in Iraq that Coulter cheerleads. Also, no Al Pieda agents have been found in Iraq.

Special thanks to Agent Apple and everyone else of the Biotic Baking Brigade (BBB) for the inspirational book, *Pie Any Means Necessary*. Pie high!

For more information, visit www.alpieda.org.

The BBB cookbook, *Pie Any Means Necessary*, is more than 100 pages of stories from pie-rect actions around the world, the theory and history of political pie throwing, the BBB's rules of crumb and the agents' favorite pie recipes for maximum sploosh effect. *Pie Any Means Necessary* is available from the EF! Journal for \$12.

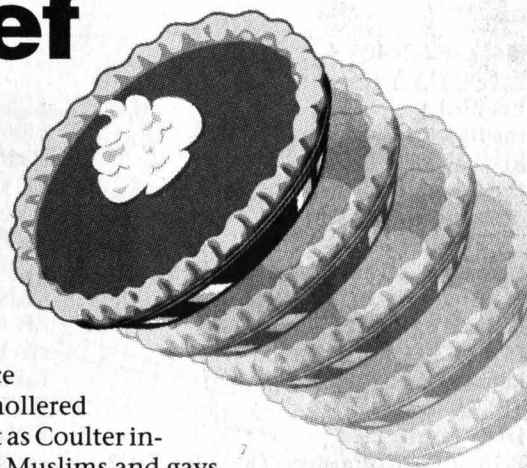


photo courtesy Al Pieda

"Never doubt that a small and dedicated group of people with pies can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

—MARGARET MEAD

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