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Mini

Recipes for Disaster · Road Rage · Action on the High Seas · Racism and Ecology

Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal
Eostar March-April 2005

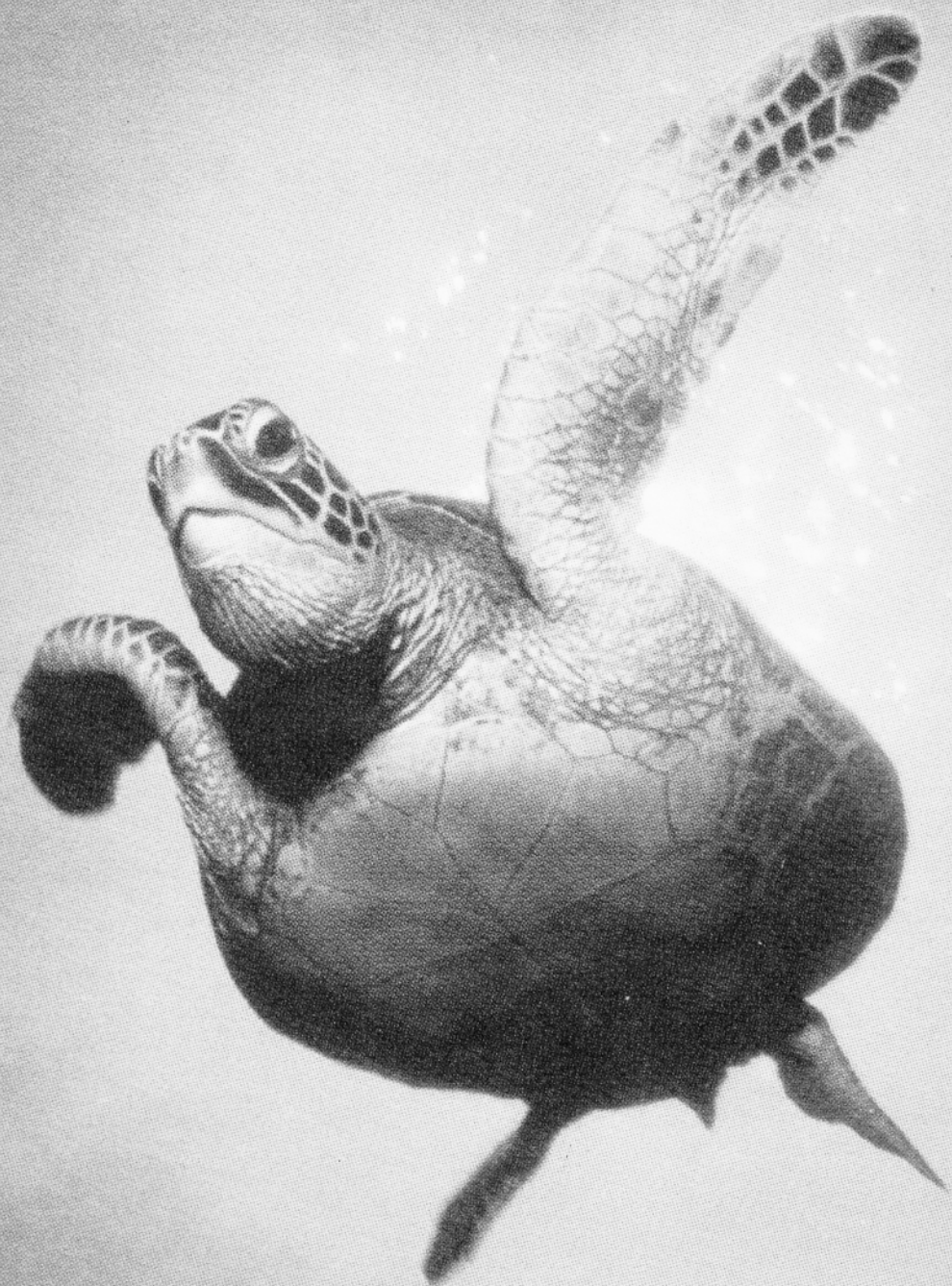


**BUSH: WE,
THE PEOPLE, ARE
SPEAKING.
WHY AREN'T YOU
LISTENING?**

\$4.50 US \$7 Canada · Volume 25 #3



0 74470 83085 6



*Seven sea turtle species
inhabit the Earth today...*

Leatherback—critically endangered
Green—endangered
Kemp's ridley—critically endangered
Loggerhead—endangered
Olive ridley—endangered
Flatback—critically endangered
Hawksbill—critically endangered

...will they be here tomorrow?

Earth



First!

Eostar March-April 2005

The *Radical* Environmental Journal

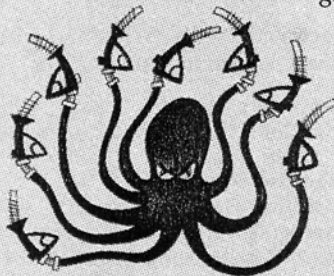
Fueling Grinds to a Halt

In Portland, Oregon, on January 20, a crowd of more than 200 people took over a Chevron gas station in protest of the ties between the Bush administration, the oil industry and the occupation of Iraq. Chevron has long been a target of activists due to its record of human rights and environmental violations in Nigeria and Ecuador.

The crowd ran over to the Chevron from a nearby park, where remaining protesters had congregated after a large, anti-Bush inauguration march. When they arrived at the station and filled the lot, it was immediately closed down for business by the manager. Two women locked their necks to the gas pumps with bicycle U-locks, while others sat in front of the pumps with them.

Protesters demanded that the City of Portland "initiate a world-class fossil fuel reduction program" to reduce dependence on the oil industry and that the city "expel documented human rights abusers" like Chevron.

The gas station remained shut down for more than three hours as a result of the protest, and 13 people were eventually arrested. A participant summed up the action: "We need to shut down the war-mongering Oil Empire. Our actions here were a symbolic first step."



Innards

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DEAR SFB

*please keep letters 300 words or less...
...because we obviously won't print it
if it's longer*

continued from previous page
activists kept running off the deer with air horns." And they were mad as hell! I wanted to crack up laughing I was so happy.

These people don't hunt for survival, they are some of the highest paid prison guards in the country! Probably about as far as a person could differ from an Indigenous person. And it hurts to hear about them slaughtering our animal relations for sport every hunting season.

So I just wanted to say thanks to whomever those hunt sabbers were... in the upper peninsula of MI in late November.

—AMIQUI OCELOTL

Valued Co-Workers,

Making sure you're aware of a bizarre situation that has arisen here for me. Having written similarly, just now, to the Forest Super, I can do no less with you.

As a forest resident since '90, I dismantled numerous permanent tree stands on our land,

erected "against code" by blood sports in their effort to slaughter our wild companions. Last winter (my only, and safest time for this activity), I broke pattern and reported an especially easily located stand to forest law enforcement (against the advice of my accomplice) just to see what, if anything, would occur. Please control your astonishment, but nothing has happened... except that I've been told by law enforcement that my activity is against code and unauthorized; that FS tree stand policy is on hold during "Risk Assessment."

I've told the Forest Super of my plans to continue as usual to dismantle these illegal structures and am even considering telling law enforcement of my intent to remove the reported stand and the timing so that I may get my deserved citation. It could be a dramatic way to alert the public to this bizarre situation...

but there's very little chance FS law would respond at the appointed time, much less to find the site.

On a side note: also want to make sure you're

aware of the relationship of this situation to "tree spiking." You see, not only are large spikes usually

driven into the trees in the construction of these stands, but I'm told that past FS policy has been to leave them in the tree when the stand was dismantled. Do you see the implications and hypocrisy? Apparently, spikes driven with ecotage intent are extremely dangerous and the act severely punishable, but similar spikes driven by blood sports to slaughter our companions are quite harmless and that act worthy of but a citation, tho usually nothing whatever!

Well, dat bout does it fer now! Just wanted to share the humor of this minor act in the USFS circus!

In appreciation,

—MICHAEL J. RIEGERT

Dear SFB,

I have been a long time subscriber to the *EF!*. I believe in the fight to protect our planet, because ultimately our survival as a species depends upon it. I have gone from a Soldier, to a Cop, to a Hippie, to a direct action activist, to a backcountry guide and wilderness instructor, to an independent candidate for county sheriff, to now a responsible business man. I've gone from being a security cop in the Air Force, dragging nuclear protesters out of the road at F.E. Warren Air Force Base (in Cheyenne, Wyoming), to being a Nuclear Protester and staging sit-ins, blockades and demonstrations. One thing that I have learned in my colorful and ever evolving life is that "perception" is everything. It doesn't really matter what is actually going on, because people tend to respond or react more to what they believe is happening, or their "perception" of things. The

reason I bring this up is because I think it's the most important part of planning any direct action. Please, all of you young people, who's hearts may be in the right place (but brains have blinders on), do careful research! Gather valuable intelligence, and ensure that the action you take is, first, going to make a viable difference, and, second, cannot be "perceived" by the "mainstream" as anything other than a legitimate response to lunacy. Let's face it, we need to win everyone's "hearts and minds," or our cause will be futile and easily demonized by our enemies.

—SWAMP THING

Dear SFB,

I just read about the topless *EF!* activists disrupting a SCRIPPS meeting.

Sorry to hear that one of the world's leading environmental groups is turning into the neo-yippie environmental wing of PETA.

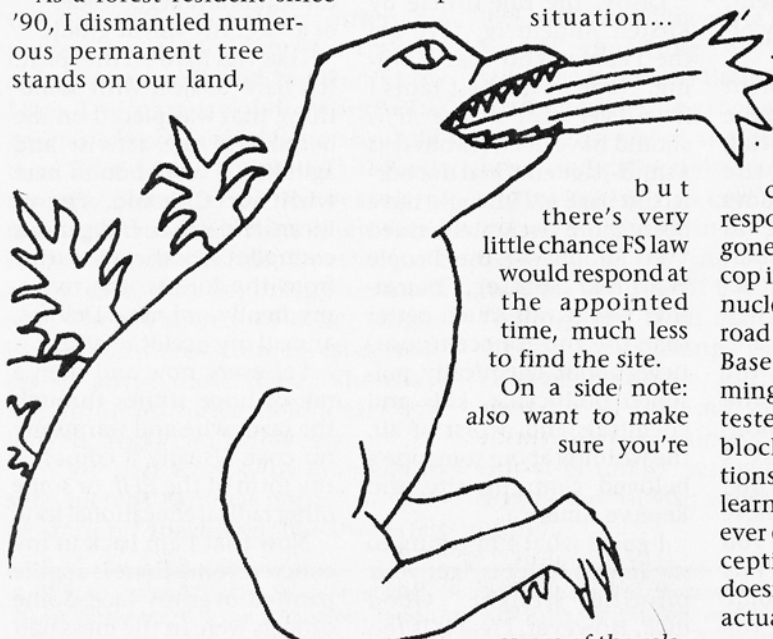
Best Regards,

—TUMBLEWEED

Editors' Note: Tumbleweed is referring to an action where a luncheon meeting of the Scripps' Research Institute board of directors was interrupted when two topless women ran in (see related article page 28).

Dear Luthien,

Let us pretend for a moment that your journal is not snitch infested. In "No Excuses" (see *EF!* January-February 2005), you rant about "creative" law-breaking. Why not take a page out of Tim Leary's memoir and realize that a short stint in minimum security sent him to Algeria, where he proceeded to eliminate his hosts, the Black Panthers. Are you trying to eliminate the ALF, the ELF, or



the wannabe “Merry Pranksters?” Can you honestly promote endangerment of humans over endangerment of any other species? The people you are endangering with your snitch-worthy taunts and “poser” rhetoric are the people who buy the “EF!” rag on recycled paper. What you are spouting would be better printed on hemp paper, but you don’t have the dedication or the creativity or the fire that the signers of the Declaration of Independence had. I called to cancel my subscription. Reading your editorial reminded me of all the imprisoned and beaten and maced and pepper sprayed friends I lost in the Kent State era. If you aren’t studying Abbie Hoffman, you oughta be.

Buena Suerte,

—KATHY NELSON

Dear SFB,

On January 6th, 2005, Craig “Critter” Marshall, my co-defendant, walked out of prison after serving 4 1/2 years. I can only imagine what that felt like. Back in the day, Critter was one of my closest friends, and while many are aware that he and I have had a falling out, I am truly glad his time is done and he has gone home. (My old friend if you are reading this, I wish you all the best.)

Now that Critter is out I can’t help but wonder why I am still here. We were arrested at the same time, charged with the same offenses. Up until the very end he and I refused to cooperate with the state. Yet, the state in Critter’s case decided that the exact same fire was only “conspiracy to commit arson” and “possession of destructive devices.”

I’ve half a dozen theories as to why things played out the way they did. The one fact I know is not once did the state offer to treat my case as Critter’s. I’m doing 17 years more for the same actions and same evidence. 22 years for actions that hurt

no one and caused less than \$50k in damages.

Critter is home now where he belongs.

I’m counting on this movement. I’m counting on you to bring me home. I can’t win this fight alone. I need your support. I need your agitation. Make the impossible reality. Rise up and free all political prisoners and prisoners of war.

We are in prison because we believe in dreams. We are in prison because we believe in freedom. We are in prison because we believe these things are worth fighting for. Dare to believe. Dare to resist.

—JEFFREY “FREE” LUERS

Dear SFB,

The slogan “Plenty of Room at this Bottom” painted on the backs of the THONG activists when they crashed the Nanocommerce 2004 Convention was a sarcastic pun for the nanotechnology industry (see *EF!* January-February 2005).

The conception of nanotechnology as a science is generally attributed to Richard Feynman, who gave a famous speech on the subject in 1959 to the American Physical Society, where he proposed a new avenue for research. The title of the speech was: “There’s Plenty of Room at the Bottom.” The speech can be found at this link:

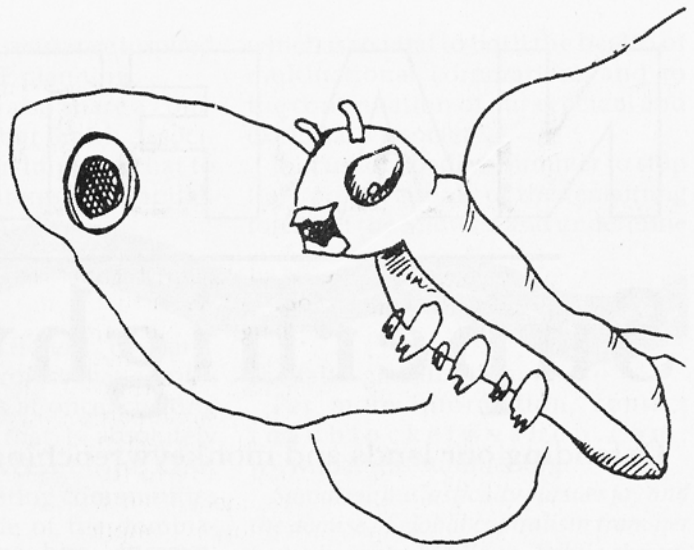
<http://www.zyvex.com/nanotech/feynman.html>

Painting “Plenty of Room at this Bottom” on their backs, with arrows pointing at their butts, was meant to show the conventioners just what THONG thought of their efforts.

We should have given you this background before. Without that explanation, we can see how people would draw all sorts of weird conclusions from our slogan.

Thanks for your great coverage of THONG’s action, and for all the other good work you do. Getting the word out to allies is so important to everything we do.

—THONG



BY DR. FAITH M. WALKER

Fauna: n. Animal life.

Cabala: n. An esoteric, secret matter or mysterious art.

For some, sex is a ménage à trois, unwittingly. Decorated crickets (*Gryllobates sigillatus*) have an involved sex life, wherein males manufacture a sperm-stuffed structure (an ampulla) that’s wedded to a proteinaceous popsicle (a spermatophylax). Following mating, the female enjoys a spermatophylax snack—her nuptial gift—then plucks out the ampulla. The size of the gift dictates the length of the meal, and hence the amount of sperm transferred. At high cricket densities, competition is fierce: Males deliver a larger gift, with the aim of swamping their rivals’ sperm; females mate with a chorus of males, ensuring their babes are cream of the crop.

However, there’s a third party to this happy story: the nematode (*Mehdinema alii*). Cricket genital chambers are a nematode abode, and baby nematodes toddle between partners during copulation. In males, the wee worms shimmy into the gut and mature into parasitic adults, whereas in females, the babes simply loll about waiting for a romantic enjoiner so they can jump ship to their favored gender. In male cricket guts, lewd, unmentionable acts occur between female worms, with their protruding vulvas, and their virile counterparts; cricket genitals are thereby redecorated with youngsters.

Because gut-dwelling adult nematodes slurp up their hosts’ nutrients, infected males produce puny presents. Nicked nutrients translate into a lower puny ability of fathering chirping cherubs. Females receiving dud offerings are more likely to mate multiple times, diluting fatherhood while lengthening the arm of the worm. Thus, the cricket and the nematode have wormed their way into being one of the best examples of an STD altering behavior and of a conflict of interest between a parasite and its host.

NAFTA

Superhighway

Defending our lands and monkeywrenching globalization

BY SPROUT

All over the planet, thriving forests, wetlands and other ecosystems are being paved in the name of "development." The proponents of these new roads attempt to assure us that highways will "further progress" by decreasing travel times for people and capital. Experience shows, however, that what these new roads actually will bring is the eradication of wilderness and wildlife, as well as increased fuel emission-based pollution. Now, in the US, politicians and neoliberal economic planners are pushing for one of the most threatening highway development projects in US history—Interstate 69.

I-69, the so-called "North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Superhighway," is a proposed infrastructure development project, the intention of which is to accommodate the increased flow of goods between North and South American countries along with the passage of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). At this point, I-69 exists as a stretch of highway connecting Port

passage, and end in Matamoros, Mexico, on the border with Texas. It is in Matamoros that I-69 would connect with the Atlantic corridor highway associated with Plan Puebla Panama (PPP), an even more notorious "development project" in Central America. Throughout its route, I-69 will mean the destruction of thousands of acres of vitally important forests and wetlands, the eviction of thousands of farmers from their family farms and the elimination of hundreds of rural communities. But I-69 can still be stopped.

I-69 has been on the drawing boards for more than 15 years. While its Michigan segment has already been completed, construction in Indiana has been obstructed by massive grassroots opposition for more than a decade. Farmers, residents and environmentalists continue to band together for one simple reason: I-69 is a disaster for everyone and everything in its way. Through the extension and growth of this resistance, this Summer is the time to finally shut down I-69.

Huron, Michigan (where nearly half of all NAFTA traffic crosses the US-Canada border) to Indianapolis, Indiana.

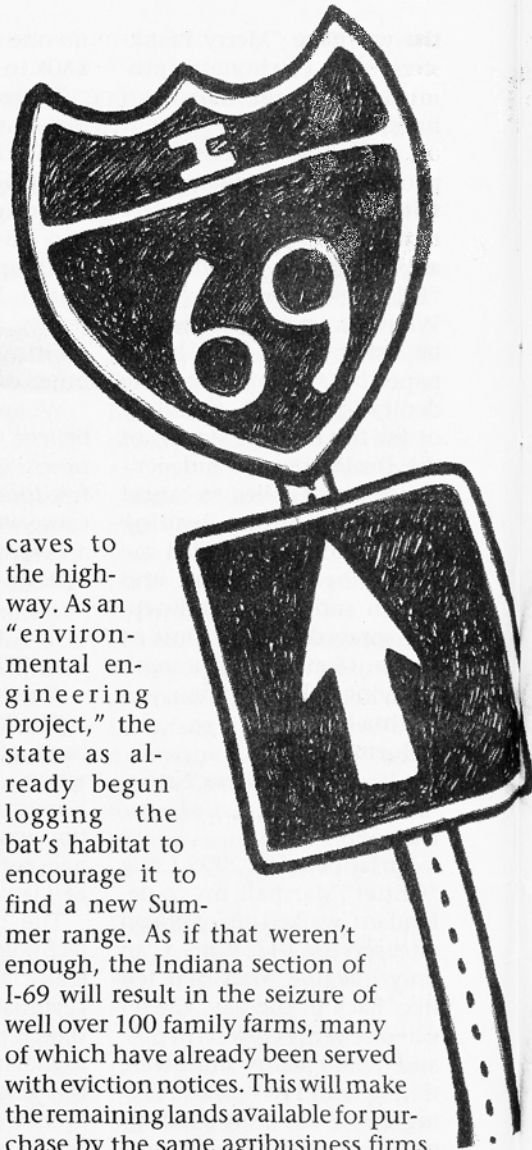
Stopping I-69's further construction now will cut off its potential for further environmental devastation. The superhighway is projected to continue through Indianapolis, where its construction has been resisted and delayed since the days of NAFTA's

In Indiana alone, the construction of I-69 will lead to the ravaging of 1,500 acres of forest and more than 300 acres of wetlands. Some of the destroyed land lies within the Hoosier National Forest and the Patoka National Wildlife Refuge, a habitat vital to multiple endangered species, including the Indiana bat, which stands to lose three of its most important

caves to the highway. As an "environmental engineering project," the state as already begun logging the bat's habitat to encourage it to find a new Summer range. As if that weren't enough, the Indiana section of I-69 will result in the seizure of well over 100 family farms, many of which have already been served with eviction notices. This will make the remaining lands available for purchase by the same agribusiness firms that need I-69 and similar highways in order to quickly move their products to distant markets. If the Indiana Department of Transportation and the private companies involved in assessing and developing the highway are successful,

I-69 will be similarly destructive within each of the states that it passes through. The superhighway will continue from Indiana into Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and, finally, Texas.

Given these impacts, in addition to the stated monetary costs of I-69 (about two billion dollars in Indiana alone, which will be paid almost entirely out of state funds), it has been



an extremely positive thing to discover that most people are not buying into the "official" reason for I-69's construction: a possible 10-minute reduction in travel time between Indianapolis and Evansville, the southernmost city

massive indigenous resistance inspired by all aspects of PPP planning.

I-69 and the PPP also share a common planner (Wilbur Smith Associates) and a common impetus: that to best further the interests of capital, it is most

which is so vital to both the health of multinational corporations and to the continuation of our ecocidal and exploitative society.

Join us for Roadless Summer to stop I-69, preserve some of the remaining forests of the Midwest and undermine

within the Indiana segment of the highway. This 10-minute reduction, in reality, translates into a 4,500-hour-per-day decrease in trucking hours within Indiana alone, and it is the impact on truck travel, not the travel time of the average driver, that is the most important rationale behind I-69. With the passage of the FTAA and the integration of the Western Hemisphere into a single economic zone to be dominated by multinational corporations, this proposed superhighway would provide a straight shot from the blossoming sweatshop zones of Latin America to the strip malls of the US and Canada.

I-69 shares many of its defining features—environmental destructiveness, social dislocation and the subjection of communities to the interests of multinationals—with its sister project, the PPP. Announced by Mexico's President Vicente Fox in 2001, partially as a means to excuse heightened military action against the Zapatistas, the PPP is a development project consisting largely of highway construction and electrical grid updates (to allow electricity produced in Central America to be sold more directly to the US). Other aspects of the PPP, such as the proposed construction of huge hydroelectric dams on indigenous lands and the creation of a Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (to be administered by Mexico's largest biotechnology firm, Grupo Pulsar), have either been downplayed or canceled in response to the

efficient to embrace a project that accomplishes two tasks at once: creating the infrastructure that is absolutely essential to the success of the FTAA and destroying existing communities that remain outside of the domination of the global economy. The PPP and I-69 will merge, literally, in Matamoros, the expected site of more than 45 percent of all FTAA-related traffic crossings in and out of the US.

I-69 will be devastating to the environment and to communities throughout the US; the real motivation for the existence of I-69 is to facilitate neoliberal capitalism's dominion over the Western Hemisphere and the Earth. Continued highway construction can only serve to encourage greater dependence on cars and trucks, and by stopping I-69 we can strike a serious blow to capitalist globalization.

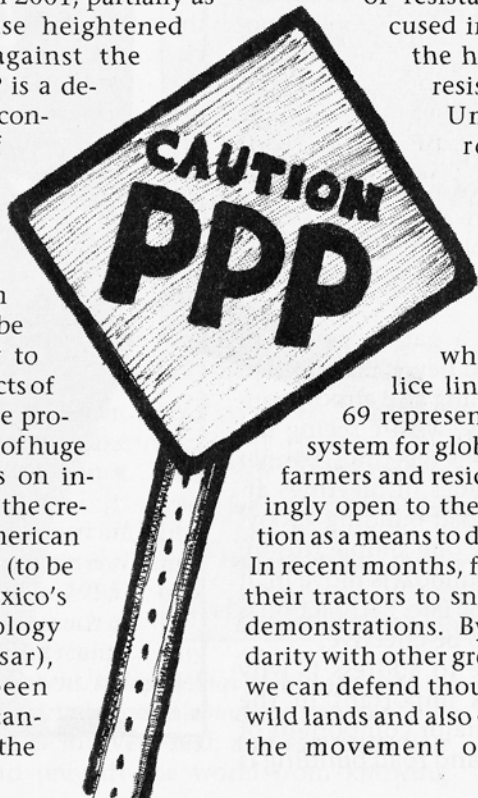
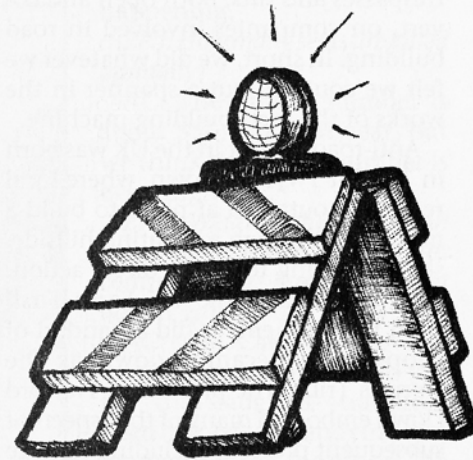
Thus we are calling for a Summer of resistance to I-69, focused in Indiana, where the highway has been resisted the longest.

Unlike free-trade rounds, where talks are largely symbolic and the outcome is easily predictable and unaffected by whether or not police lines are broken, I-69 represents a real support system for global trade. Indiana farmers and residents are increasingly open to the use of direct action as a means to defend their lands. In recent months, farmers have used their tractors to snarl traffic during demonstrations. By acting in solidarity with other groups and actions, we can defend thousands of acres of wild lands and also disrupt and delay the movement of commodities,

capitalist globalization.

For more information, contact roadblock@yahoo.com; www.roadless-summer.org.

Sprout enthusiastically pursues joy and the demise of global capitalism from her home in central Indiana. While she enjoys midwestern Winters, she eagerly awaits the pleasures of wandering through the brilliant greens of Spring and Summer.



Private companies pushing I-69

•Bernardin, Lochmueller and Associates—the firm responsible for donating tens of thousands of dollars to pro-I-69 lobbyists, setting up pro-I-69 "citizens groups" and producing the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the state of Indiana. www.blainc.com.

•Wilbur Smith Associates—a multinational transportation development firm involved in dozens of free trade highways around the world. www.wilbursmith.com.

UK Road Rage

BY HELEN B.

During the 1990s, anti-road protests dominated the UK-protest scene, and media images of the actions found their way around the world. The mass direct action inspired a generation of protesters, and names like Twyford Down, Newbury and the M11 Link Road became the stuff of protest legend. The images that spring to mind are of camps on the routes of bypasses, trees in the way of motorways, blockades and sabotage of earth-moving machinery, mass trespasses and hits, both open and covert, on companies involved in road building. In short, we did whatever we felt we could to put a spanner in the works of the road-building machine.

Anti-road protest in the UK was born in 1994 at Twyford Down, where local residents, outraged at plans to build a motorway through a beautiful hillside, starting taking tentative direct action. The then embryonic UK Earth First! soon joined them, as did a handful of people who became known as the Dongas Tribe. The protests at Twyford Down embodied many of the aspects of subsequent protests, including outrage at the destruction of landscape, wildlife and archaeology—much of which was supposedly protected by inviolable legislation. There was frustration with the legislative processes in failing to protect these sites and frustration with the mainstream environmental groups who walked away at the 11th hour.

By 1997, there was a fragile feeling of success as fewer big road schemes were planned, some were dropped and a government minister even said that the protesters at Newbury “were right.” Direct action moved on to other issues, but in truth, the protests have never gone away. This past year has seen camps at Weymouth, Bilston Glen, Blackwood and Nottingham. For various reasons, these have all been small-scale and (dare I say it) under-supported.

Change of Tactics

Now, there are rumblings in the undergrowth amongst direct activists

and environmental groups alike. It appears that road building is back on the government’s agenda, with a wave of new roads and widening of motorways being planned. There is a need to reappraise our tactics and to act sharper and quicker this time.

First, there is the issue of the lack of support for camps. It is a hard life, especially during a UK Winter, and few are prepared to do it—while many who lived in camps in the past are not prepared to do so again. It is a life that is mentally and physically stressful, ending in the inevitable trauma of eviction. I know I’m not the only one who still suffers “yellow dreams,” reliving the fear of hundreds of security guards in high-vis jackets pouring through a woodland at dawn.

I don’t want to be cynical, camps have a lot to offer. But if there are not the people to make them, then we must consider other tactics without ever withdrawing our support from those that do get going. We need to find a way of engaging those people who do not want to live in camps and a way to inspire a new generation of protesters.

Many of the roads now being planned are at early stages, and camps are, arguably, not always the best use of our energy. In my opinion, at these stages, direct action is crucial. It is not only a taste of what will follow, but direct action demonstrates our rejection of the biased planning processes and inadequate protection for wild places.

In November, a gathering of UK activists discussed new tactics for opposing road building and airport construction. Already, we are seeing the disruption of public meetings, banner drops and blockades of meetings attended by the road-building lobby. This is crucial for one simple reason: By the time the bulldozers move in, it is nearly always too late. Early action is the most likely to be effective.

A central issue to address is why road building is important in the UK. Traffic is a major component of climate change, and road building is

a big threat to our already-pressured ecology. We are a small and heavily populated island, with our wild places under much pressure. Building roads fragments habitats and makes them less stable.

Will we see another wave of road protests? Perhaps. But it is my hope that we will see different protests, different tactics and, ultimately, no more roads!

In response to the new road-building proposals, Road Alert!, an information network for direct action against road building, has re-launched itself (visit www.roadalert.org.uk). A new network, Road Block, has also started up to support community opposition to roads (visit www.roadblock.org.uk).

Helen B. has been involved in direct action on environmental, animal rights and social justice issues since the 1980s, including helping to set up Road Alert! in 1993. Helen is also employed as an ecologist and works on rewilding and ecological network projects in England.



photo by Alex MacNoughton

Twyford Down, 1994

confrontation on the ice floes

An Interview with Sea Shepherd's First Mate

BY LEEANNE

Alex Cornelissen is a Dutch animal rights activist working with the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society—having participated in several campaigns since he joined the ship in 2002. In November 2003, he and Allison Lance Watson spent 23 days in Taiji, Japan, jail cells without communication with the outside world. Their “crime” was diving into a bay near Taiji to free 15 dolphins slated to be slaughtered the following morning. They swam for more than an hour, untying and bringing down sections of the net that formed the dolphin’s enclosure, thereby creating escape routes for the dolphins. After a valiant struggle in the water, Cornelissen and Watson swam to shore and were immediately arrested (see *EF!J* January-February 2004).

Cornelissen is currently onboard Sea Shepherd’s flagship, the *Farley Mowat*, set to intervene in Canada’s annual seal hunt in March.

EF!J: What is your position onboard the *Farley Mowat*?

AC: I am the first officer, therefore it is my job to take care of the ship in the absence of our captain.

EF!J: Canada’s commercial seal hunt was stopped for several years, until it resumed in 1995. As a result, it seems like much of the general public doesn’t realize that the seal hunt happens today. What would you like to communicate to *EF!J* Journal readers about the seal hunt?

AC: The seal hunt is still very real, and the Canadian government tries to prevent the world from knowing

about it by making it illegal for anyone to document the hunt. The so-called “Seal Protection Act” states that a person not involved in the hunt is not allowed to come within a half mile of the area where the killing takes place. Even though there hasn’t been much coverage on the seal hunt that doesn’t mean it isn’t happening.

EF!J: How many seals are killed annually?

AC: The official number is about 350,000 each year, but we think the actual number is even higher.

EF!J: What is the Canadian government’s justification for continuing the hunt, and what does it gain?

AC: The Canadian government has many excuses to justify the slaughter—tradition, need of food, demands in pelts, managing the numbers, to name but a few. It is obvious that the government is trying to cover up decades of mismanagement in fishing policies and depleted fish stocks from overfishing. They are now using the seals as a scapegoat for their own fuck-ups. There isn’t anything to gain from it, in fact, the hunt is subsidized. It costs the Canadian government millions of dollars each year.

EF!J: According to seal hunt supporters, harp seals have caused the collapse of cod fish stocks. Is this true?

AC: The seals don’t feed on cod but on the predators hunting the fish, therefore actually helping the cod population. I

fail to understand why anyone can blame the seals and be believed. The seals have been a part of an ecosystem that was in balance long before humans came to interfere with it.

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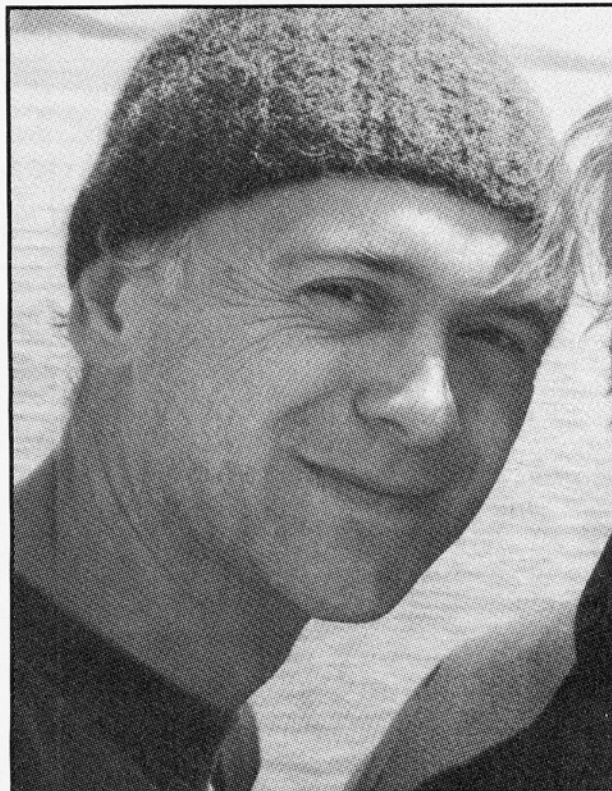


photo courtesy: Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

Determination is our most powerful weapon. We will keep fighting the biggest slaughter of marine mammals in the world until we put an end to it.

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Systematic overfishing is responsible for the collapse of the cod fish stock, but our anthropocentric way of thinking doesn't allow us to see it that way. What's next, start fishing for krill, blame the baleen whales for the decline in krill stocks and therefore kill the whales? It's already happening—with more ships going out fishing for krill, it's just a matter of time before baleen whales will be blamed for declining profits. I'm sure that the Japanese whaling fleet will gladly take care of that "problem."

EF!J: *Many people have seen the historic, tragic footage of a seal pup being clubbed to death. Are images such as this what motivates you to be with Sea Shepherd?*

AC: Images like that certainly help fuel the rage within me. One particular image that is on my mind is of a seal being clubbed with her own baby. The story behind it being that the sealer, after killing the pup, was attacked by the mother and used the freshly killed pup to fend off the attack, thus killing the mother as well. When I joined the Sea Shepherd, I planned on staying for a year. But after that year, I felt like I couldn't leave—there is too much going on. The more I know, the more I feel obliged to do something about the destruction of our oceans. I am an animal rights activist and feel very fortunate to meet a lot of people from all around the world with stories about issues in their countries, very dedicated people.

EF!J: *Why are clubs used by the sealers to kill the pups?*

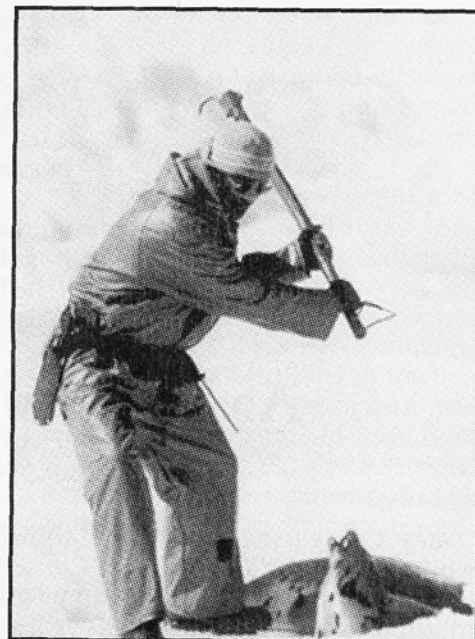
AC: The sealers use clubs or hakapiks (sticks with a pointy hook on it) simply because bullets would be too expensive. Some would say it is also tradition to kill the seals in that manner, I say it shows just how far mindless slaughter can be taken. Anyway, there is no "humane" way to kill an infant, whether or not in front of the mother, whatever species you talk about.

EF!J: *Seal pelts are now banned for import into the European Union and are not sold in the US. Where are the pelts going?*

AC: Once again, there is simply no market for seal pelts. In fact, most of the pelts are left on the ice to rot in the sun. I heard that there are more than a million pelts in storage in Norway that there is no market for. Still, Norway is more than happy to buy the pelts from Canada

because it too blames declining fish populations on the seals and will do whatever it takes to save its struggling fishing industries. Young fashion designers are promised lots of money and are helped by the fur industry to establish a name if they use fur in their designs.

Obviously, this doesn't just apply to seal fur.



Hunter with a hakapik poised to slaughter a seal

photo courtesy International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

I don't think anything can prepare you for such a brutal and senseless killing field.

EF!J: *Are there other "products" that result from the hunt? Is there a black market for these products?*

AC: Canada has been marketing seal-oil pills as a food supplement because it is high in Omega-3 fat.

There is also a demand for seal penises to be sent to the Asian market to be used as an aphrodisiac. You would think that the development of Viagra would put an end to bogus products like seal penis or rhino horn, but unfortunately the demand is still there. These products are all widely available on the Internet or in shops in Canada and Asia (mostly Korea, China and Thailand).

photo courtesy International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)



EF!J: *What knowledge did you gain in Taiji and on previous Sea Shepherd campaigns that you can apply in Canada?*

AC: Determination is our most powerful weapon, and we will not give up the fight to save the seals. We will keep fighting the biggest slaughter of marine mammals in the world until we put an end to it.

EF!J: *Are there similarities that you've noticed from one campaign to the next?*

AC: Every campaign that I have been a part of has shown me that humans are driven by short-term greed. We want to take as much out of the oceans as we can before our competitors do. The fact that we leave a desert in our wake doesn't seem to bother us.

EF!J: *What does Sea Shepherd hope to accomplish this year at the seal hunt?*

AC: We hope to once more get international attention drawn to the hunt; the media on board will take care of that. Obviously, we will try to stop the hunt. In the '80s, the media proved to be our primary method to shut down the hunt.

EF!J: *Sea Shepherd has not been to the Canadian seal hunt since 1998. Why?*

AC: We actually have been to the ice floes since '98, we just haven't been there with our ship. We have been using helicopters with media to document what happens, but it seems we only get full attention when we actually send our ship over there. Unfortunately, we don't have the means to take the *Farley Mowat* into the ice annually—we're a small organization with a limited budget, and there are other areas that need our attention. We've been spending a lot of time on the preservation of Galapagos National Park in the past five years; we were in the Faeroes in 2000 to intervene with the annual slaughter of pilot whales; we did an anti-whaling campaign in Antarctica in 2002; and we've done campaigns in the Caribbean, Brazil, Cocos Island, Malpelo Island and have spent a lot of time in the Pacific retrieving longlines. Besides all of these campaigns, we have had to spend quite some time in drydock fixing the ship. She is an old lady who needs a lot of attention. All this is costing us money that we unfortunately cannot spend on the seal hunt.

EF!J: *Greenpeace has recently decided not to oppose the seal hunt. What do you and Sea Shepherd think about that decision?*

AC: I think we are missing yet another opportunity to combine our resources. We have asked Greenpeace many times in the past to strive side by side, but every time our offer has been declined. Unfortunately, Greenpeace is worried that working with Sea Shepherd might result in the loss of members (and therefore money). We seem to be

too radical in its point of view. This shows that Greenpeace is more interested in its own image and not so much in saving the seals. Strangely enough, some people I have met, who have worked for Greenpeace or who are still working there, would love it if Greenpeace would participate in Sea Shepherd's actions. It seems that the people with the six-digit incomes are blocking that, the people that have never themselves participated in any actions worth mentioning.

EF!J: *I can imagine that the seal hunt is a very intense and obviously depressing atmosphere to be in. How are you and the rest of the crew preparing for the heartbreaking sights you are about to see?*

AC: I don't think anything can prepare you for such a brutal and senseless killing field. At the moment, we only have long-timers on board who know why we are here and

who know that the best thing to do is to stay focused on our mission to shut down the seal hunt. Of course, we will prepare new crew members so that they too will know what to expect.

EF!J: *What do you personally hope to accomplish at the seal hunt?*

AC: Besides hoping to shut down this horror, I hope to meet some more interesting people on board our ship. I know I will get enough fuel to keep the fire burning that keeps me going.

EF!J: *You and the ship's crew have an advantage*

over most activists that want to end the hunt because you are on the Farley Mowat. What can others do to help from afar?

AC: Contact our office and look on our website, we are working on several projects to boycott companies that sell seal products on the Canadian market. Send letters to the Canadian government, and tell everybody that will listen about the hunt still taking place. Or quite simply donate money so that we can keep doing what we are doing.

EF!J: *Is there anything else that you want to communicate about the hunt, the campaign or your involvement?*

AC: Just like most activists, I have been wanting to oppose the seal hunt for a long time. My time has finally come, and I feel very fortunate to be a part of it. The crew is one of the best I've seen, and I'm looking forward to sailing with them.

For more information, visit www.seashepherd.org; www.harpseals.org.



The Farley Mowat, Sea Shepherd's flagship

Photo courtesy: Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

Action Needed on the High Seas

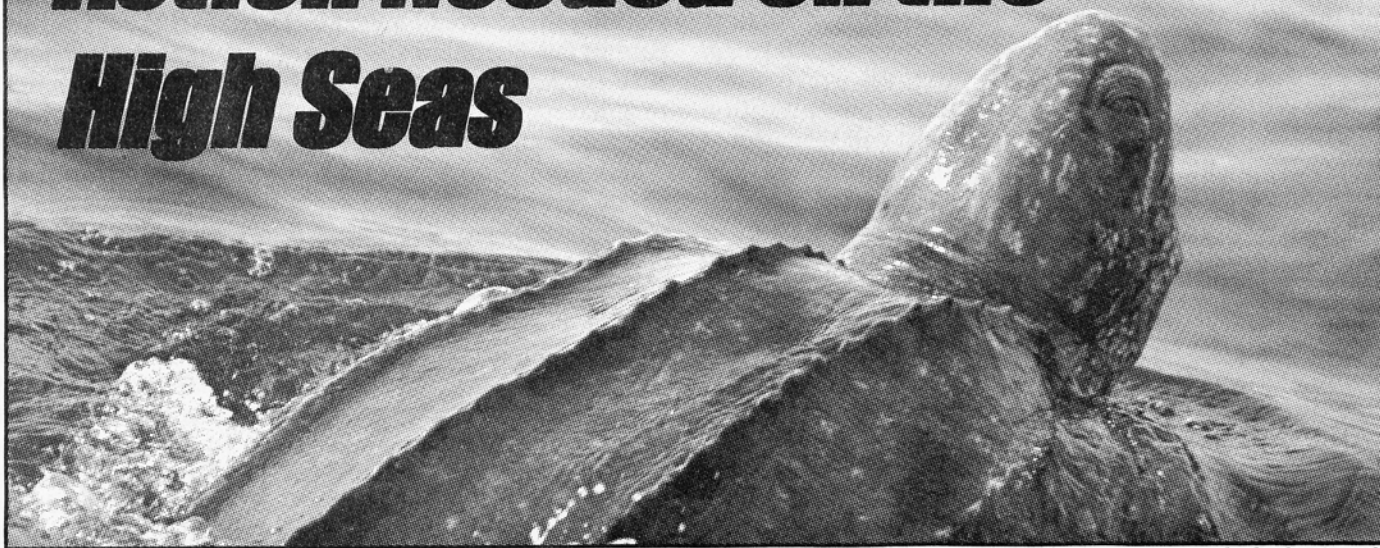


photo by John Sorensen

Leatherback sea turtle

Turtles on the Precipice of Extinction

BY LEEANNE

The largest living reptile on Earth, weighing up to 2,000 pounds and reaching as much as nine feet in length, the leatherback sea turtle has been around for more than 100 million years. Not until humans began our destruction of the Earth did the leatherback start a precipitous decline in number. Female nesting leatherbacks have declined by 97 percent in the Pacific just in the past 25 years. Overall, the species is currently facing extinction within as little as five years.

The highest sources of adult mortality amongst leatherbacks are due to industrialized fishing practices, particularly longline fishing methods. Other sea turtle species, such as loggerhead and green sea turtles, are also suffering in numbers—partially because of longlining. *All* of the world's seven sea turtle species are in danger of extinction.

Longline fishing is a practice that kills millions of sea animals annually, many of whom are not even the target species but rather "bycatch" or "incidental take." Sea turtles fall into the latter category. Every year, an alarming number of leatherback sea turtles get caught on

longline fishing hooks that are primarily used to catch swordfish. Sea turtles need air to breathe. When they get caught on a hook and are unable to surface for air, the turtles drown before they're hauled onto the fishing boats. Longlining became a popular method of fishing back in the 1980s, partly in response to the increasing demand for high-quality, high-value swordfish destined for the clientele of upscale restaurants in Japan, Europe and the US.

Many nations have fishing vessels engaged in longlining, and the fisheries of particular concern are those targeting swordfish, tuna, sharks and the Patagonian toothfish (also sold as Chilean sea bass, Antarctic black hake or mero). During line setting, longliners set a single line that stretches up to 60 miles behind the boat. Attached to it are literally thousands of baited hooks. An estimated one to 10 billion hooks are set annually by the world's longline fleets—more than five million hooks per day.

The industry claims that longlining produces very little bycatch and that many species are still alive when caught and then released back into the ocean. In most cases, however, this is far from the truth. The National Oceanic

Tsunami Damages Sea Turtles

Endangered green sea turtles were also casualties of the tsunami in Southeast Asia this past December, possibly hastening their extinction. At least 26 sea turtles swept up by the waves were found on the shores of Phuket Island,

Thailand. Some were found dead, while others had cuts, scrapes and broken shells. The stranded sea turtles were returned to the ocean.

Since sea turtles move slowly, breathe through their lungs and need to surface

regularly for oxygen, they were particularly susceptible to the tsunami. The waves also carried away two dozen endangered olive ridley turtles that were part of a breeding program that had been aiding their population numbers. Debris and steep sand banks left behind by the tsunami's destruction could further affect the nesting of sea turtles in the months to come.

Another Reason to be Vegan?

and Atmospheric Administration conservatively reports that shallow longline fishing captures and kills more than four million sea turtles, sharks, seabirds (such as albatross) and billfish (including blue marlin) annually. More than 1,000 marine mammals are killed daily by industrial fishing methods, including sea lions, whales, dolphins and porpoises.

While some countries either partially or fully ban longlining within their waters, there are at least 40 countries engaged in longlining and additional illegal operations pillaging the high seas. Even seemingly small operations are contracted out to large-scale corporations, and many times these vessels are essentially pirate operations, changing their country of registration at the drop of a hat whenever they are caught in an illegal act.

As direct action activists, we need to confront this issue where it began—with the greedy corporations exploiting our oceans for profit. And as Earth First!ers, we need to step up and cause the ruckus that we are so famous for. An amazing species such as the leatherback should not be allowed to go extinct just because we couldn't act in time.

Groups like the Sea Turtle Restoration Project (STRP) are doing a great job educating the public about this issue and pushing the powers that be for stricter regulations (such as working to encourage the United Nations and President Bush to enact an international ban on destructive fishing practices, including longlining). STRP also occasionally hosts demonstrations—for example, the time they deployed a massive banner and hung notices on the doors of executives' hotel rooms at a National Fisheries Institute conference that said: "Do Not Disturb the Oceans."

The work of the crew onboard the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's ship, the *Farley Mowat*, is an example of another tactic that could be utilized. While patrolling the world's oceans, the crew will confiscate longlines and free any critter that has had the misfortune of being caught on one of the lines' huge hooks. But this is only one ship, with limited resources, and there are thousands of miles of longline set every day. Those with the proper resources, especially a boat and navigation experience, could undertake marine-based actions. SCUBA divers could enlist their

Mercury poisoning in shellfish, linked to coal-burning power plants and automobile use, continues to rapidly accumulate in the marine food chain. Coal burning is the largest emitter of mercury into the atmosphere, which is transformed into methylmercury in the ocean. Predatory fish at the top of the food chain accumulate methylmercury levels considered unsafe for consumption even by US government standards.

Swordfish contain mercury levels 500 percent higher, on average, than levels considered safe by the Environmental Protection Agency. However,

powerful lobbyists—such as the National Fisheries Institute and the US Tuna Foundation—are pushing for a more lenient standard of health regulations and watered-down inspections.

Exposure to mercury vapor can result in nervous system damage, including tremors, mood and personality alterations, numbness or tingling in the extremities, sensory loss, loss of coordination and kidney damage. A developing fetus exposed to contaminated fish through maternal intake can have neurological abnormalities in cognitive and motor functions as a result.

dive buddies and dive boat operators for assistance in locating and confiscating longlines.

Actions at the headquarters of the companies profiting from the sale of target species is another tactic. And, of course, if you eat "seafood," you are only contributing to the problem. Stop now, and get your friends and family to do the same. Hold demonstrations at restaurants and grocery stores that sell longline-caught species such as swordfish. (STRP recently led a successful campaign against Red Lobster

to drop swordfish from its menu.) Write letters to the profiteers of this industry. Let them know that you won't be purchasing their products, tell them why and that you'll be encouraging others to do the same. Be creative and vocal while communicating that there's no more room for compromise. With only five years left, it's either them or the turtles. I'm cheering for the turtles.

One potential target is the National Fisheries Institute (NFI), "the leading trade association for the fish and seafood industry."

NFI can be reached at 7918 Jones Branch Dr, Ste 700, McLean, VA 22102; (703) 752-8880; (703) 752-7583 (fax). NFI's 2005 spring conference is April 16-19 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

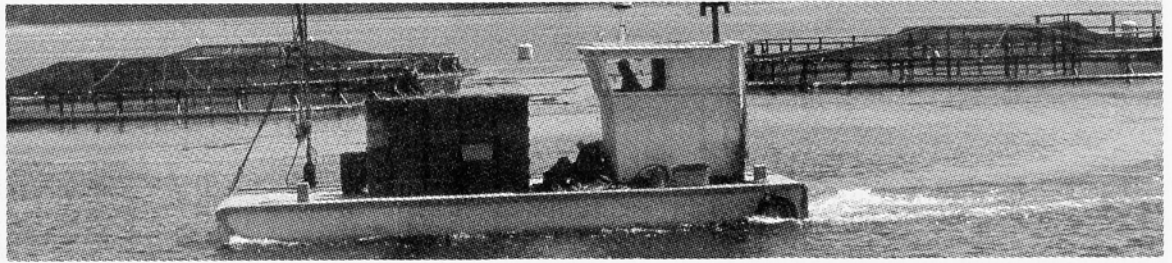
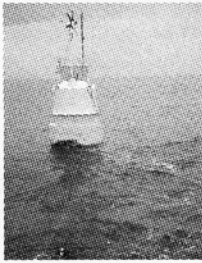
For more information, contact STRP, (415) 488-0370; www.seaturtles.org; or the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, (360) 370-5650; www.seashepherd.org.

Leanne is happiest when she is out at sea with only the stars, her best friend and bioluminescence to marvel at.



Leatherback caught in fishing net

The Salmon Farms



BY G. DE LAMAR

A small motorboat anchored near an Atlantic salmon farm in Cobscook Bay, Maine. The skipper cut the engine, and a SCUBA diver rolled over the side, splashing into the cold water.

He sank below the surface, drifting down through the jade-green murk past the mooring lines that held the vast net-pen system to granite blocks set in the mud. Underwater, the heavy wires streamed long ribbons of black kelp that wrapped fleetingly around his legs and then slipped off as he descended.

Sinking into the gloom, the pressure increased, and the diver lost touch with any spatial reference points beyond the light above and the darkness below. He became aware of a terrible noise, an intermittent electronic ratcheting like the amplified scraping of fingernails on a blackboard—a sonic seal deterrent, meant to keep seals away from the fish. Without seeing it coming, he touched bottom. The visibility had been less than six feet, but when his flippers hit the sediment, it exploded up into a cloud that blinded him. Keeping off bottom, he swam out of the cloud into a desert smothered under fine silt—a mix of salmon excrement, uneaten food and medications. A scattering of sea urchins and polychaete worms, the last holdouts in a stressed environment, dotted the sparse landscape.

The diver spent 30 minutes under the two-acre cage system, surveying an area that had once been home to a diverse marine community. Above him hung the net pens, densely packed with farmed fish swimming in circles. The 70-foot-wide, 50-foot-deep net moved in the current, a vast cloud of black mess ready to tangle in his tank and regulator, possibly drown him. Two divers working for the farms had been lost like that, caught in the nets until their air supply ran out. He made his way carefully out from under the shadow and back up to the boat, the seal deterrent ratcheting incessantly. He broke the surface and spit out his regulator. "Let's get out of here," he said to the skipper.

Welcome, Salmon Farms!

Beginning in 1986, locals watched the Atlantic salmon aquaculture industry take over eastern Maine's Cobscook Bay and destroy what was left of a rare marine ecosystem

of extreme tides and abundant productivity. By the mid '80s, over-harvesting of scallops and other resources had exhausted much of the wealth of the bay, and desperate fishermen welcomed the opportunity to join "the blue revolution." State officials touted salmon aquaculture as a source of jobs and an eco-friendly means of reaping a new harvest from the sea.

A member of a long-standing fishing family in Lubec, Maine, obtained the first private lease in 1987, and during the next 14 years, he watched the industry betray its promises to local entrepreneurs, communities, the environment and the world at large.

"We could have made it," he said, looking back on the history of the ill-fated venture. "If the state had protected the small growers and focused on quality instead of quantity."

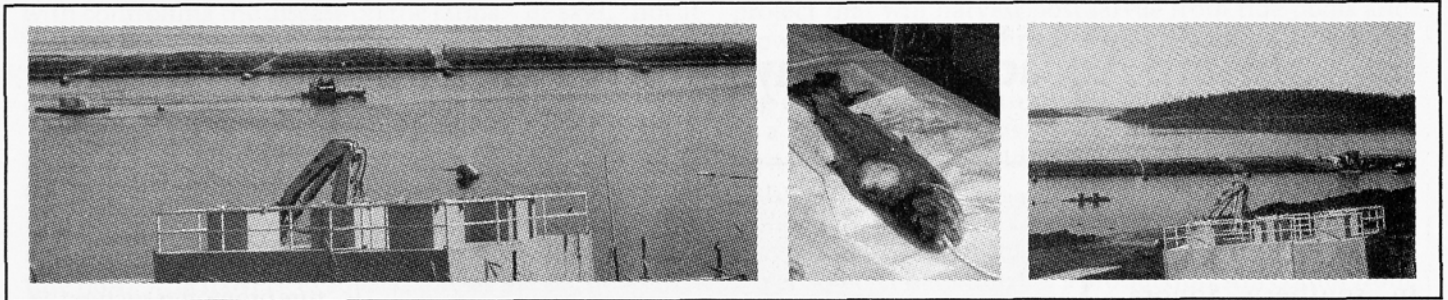
Instead, state officials limited the size of salmon farms to 200 acres, favoring economies of scale and the multinational takeover of the sea. By 2000, three foreign-owned companies, Stolt Sea Farms of Luxembourg, Fjord Seafood of Norway and Canada's Heritage Salmon—respectively the world's third, fourth and 11th largest Atlantic salmon growers—held all 44 leases on the US side of the bay. By stocking at high densities and medicating heavily, Maine fish farmers produced a record 36 million pounds of salmon that year.

The crash came in 2001. A viral disease, infectious salmon anemia (ISA), which had already devastated the salmon aquaculture industries in Norway, Scotland and Canada, spread to the US side of Cobscook Bay and forced the destruction of more than two million farmed fish.

Irreversible Impacts

The industry has not recovered from ISA, and a court case against two Maine growers, Stolt and Fjord, brought to light the full extent of environmental degradation caused by salmon farming. The revelations included all of the usual suspects: nutrient loading, chemical pollution and lack of wastewater discharge permits, as well as antibiotic residue found in surrounding organisms and residue of the pesticide "Slice®"—used to treat salmon for sea lice—found in nearby scallops. In addition, Judge Gene Carter pointed out the "irreversible impacts of salmon farming" caused primarily by farm escapees' interactions with wild Atlantic salmon and the introduction of an exotic virus into the bay.

of Cobscook Bay



Thousands of Atlantic salmon escape from the farms every year, either in mass disasters such as the 200,000 mature fish that escaped from a Fjord Seafoods-owned pen during a storm in 1998, or as what the industry calls “leakage,” small, slow-growing fish that swim out through the mesh when larger nets are put on the cages. All around the North Atlantic rim, wild salmon have felt the impact of escapees. Interbreeding between wild and farmed fish has permanently altered the genetic makeup of wild stocks.

At a dam in Veazie, Maine, employees of the Maine Fish and Wildlife Service monitor returning salmon. “We get a few escapees,” said one. “You can tell them a lot of times because they’re deformed or their fins are all ragged from the cages.”

Twisted Reasoning

In spite of research that has demonstrated that it is more cost effective to harvest salmon from the wild than to grow them, the salmon-farming industry receives the continued indulgence of government on almost every level.

Magnus Skretting, a Norwegian cod farmer, points to a chart that shows the world population rising to eight billion by 2025, with a parallel rise in demand for seafood. Beneath the rising lines, a horizontal line represents wild-catch fisheries, which have stalled at around 100 million tons annually. Pointing at the widening gap between supply and demand, Skretting suggests that farmed fish, such as cod and salmon, would fill a potential seafood deficit of 120 million tons.

“Talk about lying with the numbers,” wrote fisheries economist James Crutchfield, appalled by the skewed logic evident in Skretting’s suppositions. “In developing countries, where population growth rates are highest... they are hardly candidates for high-priced farmed fish.”

Rather than feed the world, 90 percent of the one million tons of farmed salmon produced annually is consumed in the developed countries of western Europe, Japan and the US.

Into the Open Ocean, Cheap Clean Water

The salmon aquaculture industry has hit the wall in terms of the carrying capacity of inshore systems—the bays, fjords and estuaries that were used to subsidize its growth. Farmed salmon has flooded the available markets, which raises the question for carnivorous finfish farmers of how to maintain economic growth.

The answer came at the 2003 aquaculture fair held in New Brunswick, Canada, where numerous presenters heralded “Cod, the Next Salmon!”

Federal governments and their corporate partners have launched several pilot projects to develop cod farming in the open ocean. Government is ready to subsidize another dead-end industry with the clean water needed to rebuild wild stocks.

While plenty of people, including pro-industry microbiologists, have raised the specter of unknown pathogens attacking the farmed fish, regulatory agencies are assuming that the disease issues that plague salmon will not be a problem for open-ocean cod. “We’re not worried about it,” said Linda Chaves, spokesperson for the National Marine Fisheries Service, the agency that oversees aquaculture leases in federal waters from three to 200 miles offshore. According to Chaves, the ocean is so big that the pollution won’t matter.

What Aquaculture Leaves Behind

While the industry tries to escape its past by expanding into cleaner water, places like Lubec have been left holding the bag. Before abandoning the US, Fjord Seafood claimed one-third of a \$16 million federal bailout to compensate for the ISA epizootic virus. Most of Maine’s estimated 2,000 aquaculture workers—now down to 200—went on unemployment, which has long run out.

Half of the buildings on Lubec’s main street sit empty, and “for sale” signs have sprouted in front of numerous houses. Rather than rebuild wild fisheries accessible to average people, the town, state and country chose and continue to choose to invest in carnivorous finfish aquaculture. Those of us left in Lubec have sacrificed both our community and the health of our local ecosystem in order to feed the already well fed.

Beneath the salmon pens of Cobscook Bay, the waters that once teemed with life have been irreversibly damaged. They are but another symptom of a dysfunctional food production system: one dominated by multinationals and manipulated governments. Coupled with an economic system that uses growth and profit as the only measures of success, the result can only be a continued descent into a deepening disaster. When we hit bottom, it will be abrupt.

The Shrimp Technician

Shrimp Aquaculture May Compel the End of the Wild

BY G. DE LAMAR

José, a technical consultant with one of the dozen shrimp hatcheries in southern Sonora, Mexico, has worked in the shrimp aquaculture industry since 1988. Now in his late 30s, dressed in jeans and a leather jacket, he leans back in his chair at the company's laboratory. "This company started in 1992 and produced 24 million post larvae [juvenile shrimp used to stock shrimp farms]," José says. "Now we produce 140 million post larvae a year."

José is among those on the cutting edge of Mexico's shrimp aquaculture boom. Shrimp farms increased from zero to almost 200 in Sonora in the past 10 years, and aquaculture output now accounts for more than half of the 50,000 tons of shrimp that Mexico produces each year. José is representative of the high-tech aquaculture developers who expect farm-raised shrimp to completely supplant the dwindling wild catch. He acknowledges that the spread of disease throughout shrimp farms worldwide has slowed growth, but he expects the industry to rebound and continue expanding.

In Bamancho Estuary, a shallow lagoon 50 miles south of the hatchery, fishermen keep to the channel as they steer their battered skiffs between the mangrove-covered peninsula and the cactus-studded mainland. The thick fog that often blankets the morning has started to thin. On the mainland, a dyke of raw, red earth protrudes into the water and breaks the continuity of the shoreline. The smell of an aquarium hangs in the air.

"That is the shrimp farm," explain the fishermen. As they go about their business, hauling crab traps and netting shrimp, most express ambivalence about the shrimp aquaculture industry. The handful of their neighbors who work at the farm are at least not competing for the remaining wild shrimp. Only Lalo Mendivil voices concern. A fisherman since he could walk, 38-year-old Mendivil sees his demise in the shrimp farm's future. "When the damage that aquaculture does is finally acknowledged," he says, "It will be too late."



Rapacious development of high-end commodities and the replacement of wild-catch fisheries are not the intentions of aquaculture promoters such as the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). According to an FAO spokesman, "The wild fisheries will be absolutely necessary for food security."

Food security for a world population is the driving force behind aquaculture development. The FAO spokesman points out that wild-catch fisheries have flatlined and although they may increase slightly, the per capita supply of

fish will slide unless the deficit is made up by aquaculture. "Right now, aquaculture accounts for 30 percent of the world's fisheries production," he says. "That will have to double."

According to Mexican government projections, shrimp aquaculture could expand tenfold—provided that the industry can get a handle on disease.

In 1992, Taura virus hit Ecuador and killed more than 500 million dollars worth of shrimp. When white-spot syndrome hit Taiwan, it cut production by 11 percent. Yellow-head virus has been blamed for mass mortalities in Thailand's prawn farms, and infectious hypodermal and hematopoietic virus (IHHV) caused 90 percent mortality in some Hawaiian hatcheries.

"Disease is the biggest impediment to the expansion of the industry," says a lead researcher at the *Centre de Ciencias de Sinaloa* (CCS). She and others believe that the major pathway for the spread of viruses has been the global market that transfers contaminated shrimp products around the world. It is common practice, and legal, for farms with disease to harvest infected shrimp early and put them on the market. Processing waste from the infected shrimp is believed to infect wild shrimp, which then transfer the pathogens to cultured shrimp.

While the impact of these viruses on cultured stocks have been studied in detail, their effects on wild stocks remains an open question. A lone researcher at Mexico's Research Center in Feeding and Development (CIAD) is one of the

few scientists in the country who has looked at the issue. "We found wild shrimp carrying the virus but not exhibiting signs of disease," says the CIAD scientist. "Only a few in close proximity to infected farms showed signs of disease." He believes that wild stocks are safe from major viral outbreaks.

Across the street from CIAD's Mazatlán lab, a Mexican fisheries official expresses similar views. "We're concerned with controlling the disease on the farms," he says, "not at looking for disease in wild stocks five years from now." But the possibility that wild stocks have become carriers of exotic viruses has raised concerns in other quarters.

While not drawing any conclusions, a World Wildlife Fund (WWF) spokesman notes that in 1993 when the Chinese shrimp aquaculture system crashed from a white-spot outbreak, there was also a 90 percent reduction in the adjacent wild stock. The Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture (JSA), which oversees aquaculture in the US, notes that a 1987 IHHV epizootic in Mexico coincided with a dramatic decline in the blue shrimp fishery in the Gulf of California.

While the above incidents provide corollary evidence, the well-documented viral epizootic in Florida's spiny lobster fishery demonstrates that viral outbreaks are possible in wild stocks. Florida expects a 30 to 40 percent drop in landings due to the disease.

In spite of the poor understanding of the risks, development continues to roll forward. "I think that we will get control of the diseases," says the FAO spokesman. He points out that diagnostic methods are improving and the major producers will be bound by World Trade Organization (WTO) standards requiring health certificates for shrimp and other crustaceans prior to export.

In addition to a global certification program, shrimp-producing countries have devised their own systems for confronting disease problems. These include requirements that farms use the best management practices, such as filters on intake canals, reducing water exchange and purification of tanks between harvests.

The FAO notes, however, that the capacity to fully implement and enforce adherence to such practices is often limited. In 1999, for instance, only 12 of 24 shrimp farms under construction in the municipality of Huatabampo, Sonora, had permits. The FAO estimates that it will be 10 years before the measures to safeguard aquaculture shrimp from disease become effective.

Other scientists believe that total domestication of cultured shrimp, through breeding or genetic engineering, will solve many of the health problems—and that appears to be where the money is going. Sygen, a British multinational and world leader in genetic research, recently purchased

Super Shrimp, Mexico's leading producer of post larvae.

But the CCS scientist notes that the nature of viruses makes it very difficult to combat them through breeding resistant shrimp. "The virus can mutate very quickly," she says. "Faster than you can breed resistant shrimp." She also points out that vectors for disease transfer are poorly understood.

She has taken a different approach and launched a pilot project that will harvest post larvae from tide pools and grow the shrimp in net pens with little input. "We hope this project will give fishermen, who are facing declining catches, an opportunity to get into shrimp farming at a low cost," she says. "By growing shrimp in conditions similar to the wild, they will be protected by their natural defenses."

José has little faith in the idea. He agrees with the prevailing sentiment that domestication is the answer.

Yet 50 percent of Mexico's production still comes from

the wild, and the transfer of pathogens into the wild will undoubtedly threaten food security rather than guard it. The same diseases that spread through the world's aquaculture industry have also been found in many wild stocks, and exotic viruses now threaten valuable resources.

Fishermen near José's hatchery say their individual catches are down, but overall the stocks seem healthy. "We have seen some sick shrimp, but not many," says the former president of the local cooperative in Yavaros, Sonora.

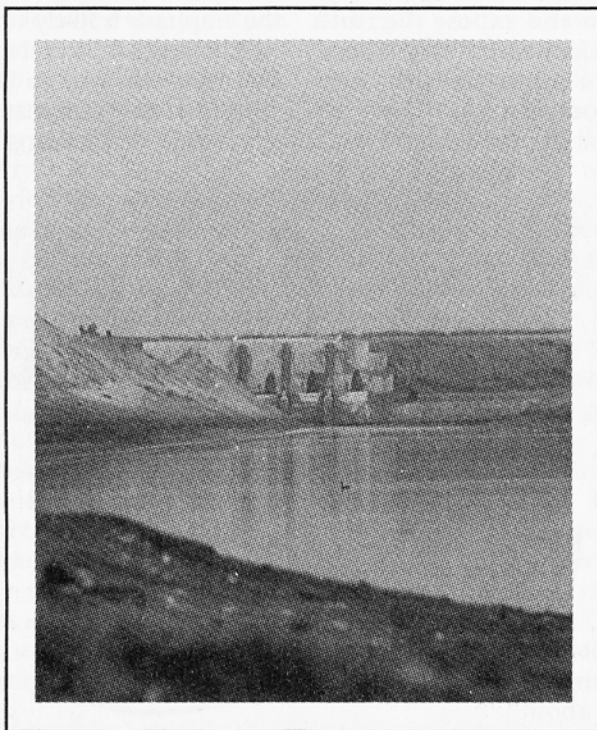
Biologists studying disease in the wild point out that an ailing shrimp would quickly fall prey to the ocean's numerous predators. They note that the appearance of any sick organisms could be evidence of problems on a much larger scale.

Industry advocates, backed by a legion of scientists, claim that disease problems in aquaculture are as manageable as disease problems in terrestrial animals.

"We had plagues with chickens and cows, and in time, we learned to control them," says a molecular biologist with CIAD. The technician believes things will return to normal in as little as two years, with no noticeable impact on wild stocks. But their research looks only inside the shrimp ponds. While the farms may find a balance with disease, one investment brochure for shrimp aquaculture predicts: "Disease will wipe out as much as 80 percent of the wild stocks."

Continued shrimp aquaculture development may create the one circumstance compelling its own existence: the end of the wild.

G. has been professionally involved in fisheries, aquaculture and marine issues since 1975.



Fingering Big Pharma

BY ETHAN WALKER

If you're not already aware that Pennsylvania is becoming a major hotbed of expansion for the biotechnology industry—and of resistance against it—now is the time to start paying attention!

From June 19-22, a powerful lobbying consortium, the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), is holding its annual international convention in downtown Philadelphia. And while more than 10,000 biotech industry leaders gather to plan the expansion of their corporate control over life itself, grassroots activists will once again converge to confront them and expose the truth that the experimental science they call "innovation" really spells "Biodevastation" for human health, food security, local autonomy and biodiversity.

In Pennsylvania, 2004 was a year in which the biotech industry used its influence over government to make some impressive—and disturbing—gains.

In July, Congressman James Greenwood, representing parts of northeast Philadelphia as Republican chairman of a House subcommittee, scheduled hearings into whether pharmaceutical companies had concealed evidence that "antidepressant" drugs may induce suicide among children and adolescents. Parents of kids who killed themselves just days after using Prozac or Zoloft had eagerly anticipated the chance to watch pharmaceutical CEOs testify under oath about the properties of the drugs they market. But Greenwood abruptly canceled the hearings after BIO (where some of those same CEOs sit on the board of directors) offered to appoint him as its president—a job he accepted for a four-fold salary increase to \$650,000.

Then on November 30, Governor Ed Rendell signed into Pennsylvania law legislation that prohibits municipal or county governments from passing ordinances banning the use of genetically engineered seeds. In other places, most notably in California's Mendocino and Marin counties, such bans have recently been approved by public referendums.

According to Arthur Caplan, director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania: "We don't have sufficient oversight in place to make sure that the new animals and plants that result from genetic engineering are really safe for us and the environment." And when government bestows public largesse on poorly supervised biotech

research and development, the problem is only compounded. With funds from the state's 11-billion-dollar settlement with cancer-causing tobacco corporations, Pennsylvania set aside two billion dollars as venture capital for biotech companies—including \$100 million to create three regional "Life Sciences Greenhouses." Recipients of these grants are chosen not on the basis that their project will improve public health but "upon their relative potential for creating economic benefit through job creation."

While protesters at past BIO conventions have tended to focus their critiques on the dangers of Monsanto, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and "Frankenfoods," in 2005, the emphasis is likely to center more on medicine itself, as well as the broad social implications of its commodification. This is due, in part, to Philadelphia's status as a hub where "Big Pharma" dominates. Eighty percent of the world's

largest pharmaceutical companies are

within a 50-mile radius of Philadelphia. In particular, New Jersey has the largest concentration of businesses in the US that produce prescription pharmaceuticals, and it is home to the headquarters of Merck, Johnson & Johnson, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Aventis. These corporations, and others like New York's Pfizer and Pittsburgh-based Bayer, will probably constitute a bigger-than-usual presence at BIO 2005.

The pharmaceutical aspects of biotech also warrant our attention following recent scandals that have rocked high-profile drugs and have captured huge corporate media attention. In response to a study showing that patients who take

Vioxx face four times the risk of heart

attack compared to those taking a placebo, Merck removed this popular anti-inflammatory drug (along with its two-and-a-half billion dollars in annual sales) from the market in September. Vioxx may have prompted heart attacks in as many as 136,000 people since its 1999 introduction, and Merck faces the prospect of bankruptcy from class-action lawsuits. Chilling company documents revealing that Merck had known for years about the escalated risk of cardiovascular failure may pound the final nail in its coffin. One internal marketing guide, entitled "Dodge Ball Vioxx," instructed salespeople to avoid direct answers regarding the health consequences of Vioxx, with one catchall remedy to hard questioning: "dodge!"

That is precisely what Merck's rival, Pfizer, has attempted to do since the December disclosure of similar problems with its top-selling painkillers Celebrex and Bextra. Pfizer claims that the findings are not



Frontlines Against Biotech in Philadelphia

conclusive, and it plans to keep selling the drugs. The bad news for Big Pharma doesn't end there. Also in December, AstraZeneca reported that a trial of Iressa, a lung cancer drug approved in the US last year, showed that it does not prolong lives; Eli Lilly warned doctors that Strattera, its drug to treat children's "attention deficit disorder," had caused severe liver injury in at least two patients; and Johnson & Johnson was sued by a seven-year-old girl who suffered permanent blindness as an allergic reaction to Children's Motrin. More generally, a backlash of consumers against high drug prices is emerging, patent licenses on old drugs are running out, and the number of new drugs has declined sharply since the mid-1990s despite increases in annual spending on research and development. On top of all that, filmmaker Michael Moore has started his next documentary, provisionally entitled *Sicko* and due for release in two years, about the pharmaceutical industry.

With Big Pharma facing such a "perfect storm" of problems, the time is ripe for activists to turn up the heat with a radical critique that exposes the underlying, systemic causes of these tragic failures and scandals. As Dr. Matthias Rath, author of *Making Health a Human Right*, has persuasively argued, the pharmaceutical industry, by its very nature, is unable to produce medicines or treatments that prevent or eradicate diseases. Because Big Pharma depends on the repeated sale of drugs for its profits, elimination of disease destroys the market for its products. Accordingly, 80 percent of the pharmaceutical drugs currently available on the world market have no positive, durable impact on health but merely mask symptoms. Due to this, today's most common ailments continue to spread despite the fact that effective, often natural, non-patentable alternatives are available.

Rather than deflecting attention from the problems of GMOs, focusing on pharmaceuticals serves to reinforce

their danger because distinctions between the two have become increasingly blurry. "Biopharming" is a niche of biotech that turns ordi-

nary plants and animals into protein-production factories through genetic engineering. Since the early 1990s, the US has planted small numbers of experimental "pharma crops," and large-scale production is expected to begin within a few years. Some corporations hope that engineering antibodies to tuberculosis or HIV into maize or soybeans will produce cheaper vaccines. But in its new study, "A Growing Concern," the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) warns that pharma contamination of food crops will be extremely difficult to prevent. Against the prospect of finding drugs misplaced in our cereal, the UCS recommends that "the US Department of Agriculture halt the outdoor production of genetically engineered pharmaceutical and industrial crops immediately."

In Philadelphia this June, for these reasons and many more, join us to loudly declare and creatively demonstrate that, in fact, "disease and starvation will not be solved by corporations!"

For updates about plans for protests and a counter-convention at this year's BIO gathering, email biodev-subscribe@lists.riseup.net or visit www.biodev.org. To be involved with the mobilization, contact phillyrage@riseup.net.

Ethan is a writer, activist and founding member of Philadelphia Resistance Against Genetic Engineering (RAGE). A recent graduate from Rutgers College, he seeks employment and can be contacted at phillytrii@yahoo.com.



artwork by Peter Wellman, www.imageproduction.nl

Monsanto Gets Fined Big Time

On January 6, Monsanto was fined one-and-a-half million dollars for bribing government officials in Indonesia in an attempt to avoid an environmental risk assessment for its genetically engineered (GE) cotton, Bollgard.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) had charged Monsanto with making illicit payments in violation of the Foreign Corruption Act, bribery, falsifying books and "questionable payments." These payments, worth approximately \$700,000, were made to at least 140

current and former Indonesian government officials and their family members between 1997 and 2002.

A former manager at Monsanto directed an Indonesian consulting firm to give a \$50,000 bribe to a high-level official in Indonesia's environment ministry in 2002. The Monsanto employee told the firm to disguise an invoice for the bribe as "consulting fees." At the time, Monsanto was facing stiff opposition from activists and farmers who were campaigning against its plans to introduce Bollgard in

Indonesia. Yet despite the bribe, the government official did not waive the environmental study requirement.

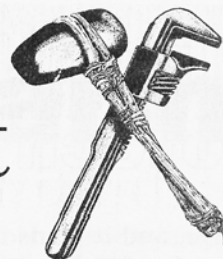
Monsanto has also admitted to paying bribes to a number of other high-ranking officials in Indonesia.

It agreed to pay one million dollars to the Department of Justice, adopt internal compliance measures and cooperate with continuing civil and criminal investigations. In addition, the company was fined \$500,000 by the SEC to settle the bribe charge and other related violations.

Monsanto has accepted full responsibility for its employees' actions.

blast from the past

Eostar 1995 *Earth First!* Journal



Strategy without Law

BY CRAIG BENEVILLE

Things are bad.

It is not exaggeration to say a 30-year history of environmental law is being thrown away before our eyes.

With the dismantling of environmental law, the direct action environmental movement is poised for a resurgence—if only for the unfortunate reason that it is the last line of defense against the corporate marauders. If this resurgence is to be effective, however, it is vital that we be politically smart; we need to be conscious of strategy.

We flounder because we tend to operate under textbook notions of democracy rather than real ones. In particular, I refer to the notion that political decision-making is a matter of competing interest groups vying for the support of impartial political representatives who carefully weigh competing alternatives. The environmental movement becomes one more interest group counterbalanced by the interest groups of the logging industry or development or mining. This textbook notion says that if only we lobby hard enough, if only we can rally the numbers, write enough letters, make enough phone calls, then the decisions will be made in our favor.

This assumption is wrong.

The point we miss is that business and industry are not so much an interest group as they are partners of the government, whose role it is to see to it that the day-to-day workings of empire are completed. The workings, that is, of employment, of the movement of commodities, of the exploitation of natural resources that fuel our society. If government does not provide the proper incentives (i.e. lax environmental regulations), industry will simply stop providing these functions. Business has, in the words of political scientist Charles Lindbloom, a "privileged position" in our society, one eagerly granted by politicians whose number-one criteria for popularity (and hence, survival) is the state of the economy.

Policy is imprisoned; politicians are constrained in their range of policy alternatives to those that will not unduly

affect business in its role. To go outside of these boundaries is to risk our society's one true sacred cow: the economy. No politician will risk the economy because it is the primary measure of political success, and the ones that do will not remain in their positions long.

There is, then, a *structural impediment* in our system of governance that, ultimately, is nearly insurmountable for lobbying to overcome. We can gain certain victories; the system is not completely impermeable, especially to legislation not perceived as an economic threat. But the bottom line is that when there is a serious collision—or the *perception* of a serious collision—between environmental law and the economy, the economy will emerge the victor.

This is all an overcomplicated way to say nothing new: The system is stacked against us. Power and money rule. Economics *über alles*. But I bring it up because examining the wreckage of the environmental movement (and let's face it, it's a wreck), I can't help but wonder if part of the reason for the crash was an acceptance of the political order; that is, an overwillingness to work through the "proper" channels. Channels that by default tacitly support the existence of a system whose foundations are contrary to the goals that we are pursuing.

Which brings us back to strategy.

There is general consensus within the EF! movement of the need for a fundamental change. That much is clear to anyone paying attention. What is less clear, however, is how the needs of biodiversity are best served in the near future. In light of the structural barriers discussed above, should we pursue avenues of resistance that are more overtly revolutionary? Or would biodiversity best be served by a strategy that acknowledges the limitations within the system but works for the strongest law possible because hopes of radical reform are too utopian? Perhaps we would be best off focusing less on law and more on making life hell for the eco-plunderers in the field?

Send your answers to the *Journal*.

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



An Injury to One is an Injury to All

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the IWW

BY SOLEDAD

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Earth First!, but the no compromise, direct action, sabotage response to industrial capitalism is much older than EF!. 2005 also marks the 100th anniversary of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). Celebrations commemorating the Wobbly anniversary are planned throughout the US, with the actual centenary marking the founding convention held in Chicago, Illinois, from June 24-July 3—the week prior to the 25th annual EF! Round River Rendezvous (RRR) in Oregon's Mt. Hood National Forest.

Since its inception, the IWW has been at the forefront of the radical labor movement, working to abolish the wage system and overthrow capitalism. The IWW was one of the first unions in the US to welcome non-white workers. While many labor unions actively lobbied for racist immigration restrictions and inspired vicious racist riots, the IWW openly welcomed workers of all races and nationalities.

The emergence of the IWW has much in common with the philosophy of EF!. Formed in opposition to the reformism of the mainstream labor movement, the IWW emphasized direct action, on-the-job actions, strikes, slow-downs and sabotage to get immediate demands met. As the IWW's 1905 preamble states, "Instead of the conservative motto, 'A fair day's wage for a fair day's work,' we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, 'Abolition of the wage system.'"

Today, the IWW actively organizes workers in many industries and locales—from Starbucks workers in New York City and truck drivers in Stockton, California, to Wild Oats employees in Cincinnati, Ohio. As a member-run union, the issues and tactics of the IWW are decided upon by the workers themselves. The union organizes by industry, not by trade, so that all of the workers on the job can be united in one big union.

While many *EF! Journal* readers are familiar with Judi Bari's work linking IWW and EF! organizing, the ideological crossover between the two movements has earlier associations. As several contemporary historians have noted, there is a bit of eco-radicalism present in the earliest days of IWW history. In a recent issue of *Capitalism, Society and Nature*, Paul Buhle writes of the early Wobbly days: "Wobbly journalists attacked the destructive character of the factory-like 'bonanza' farms where they worked, the reckless harvesting of forests and phony 'reforestation' schemes where Wobs found so many of their southern and western members."



Much of the IWW's most successful early organizing was in the dangerous extractive industries—mining and logging. The first IWW strike in the Pacific Northwest occurred in a sawmill in Portland, Oregon, in 1907, and it quickly spread to 12 other mills. In 1917, lumber strikes blanketed the West Coast demanding an eight-hour day, increased wages and union recognition. These strikes included workers in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. While not all of the strikers were members of the IWW, at its peak, 15,000 were card-carrying Wobblies.

The philosophy of the IWW spread far beyond its actual membership, inspiring militancy within the lumber industry for decades to come (such as

the 10,000 lumber workers who went on strike in the Pacific Northwest in 1923 to protest persecution of IWW political prisoners).

The IWW's past and present is colorful, rebellious and revolutionary. Celebrate this history and find ways to use it in current struggles during the IWW's 100-year anniversary.

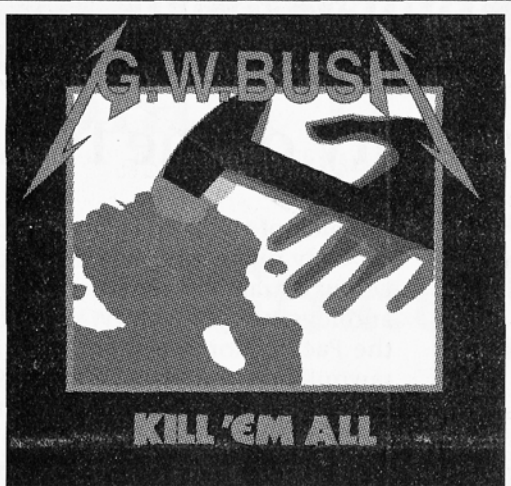
Chicago events will include a conference on alternative forms of worker organizing, and several cultural events are planned. The week will be filled with various musicians singing Wobbly songs (including Mark Ross, Anne Feeney, Rebel Voices and Utah Phillips). Local Wobblies are planning an excursion to the Forest Home/Waldheim Cemetery, where the Haymarket martyrs, Emma Goldman and Lucy Parsons are buried. Radical historians will be leading tours of Bughouse and Haymarket Squares.

If you won't be passing through Chicago on your way to the RRR in Oregon, come to the Northwest early to catch IWW centennial events in Portland (June 3-5) and Vancouver, British Columbia (June 10-12).

The 2005 RRR committee will be inviting Wobblies to come join in celebrating EF!'s 25th anniversary following their centenary celebration. Our two movements have much to learn from one another. With some EF!ers at the IWW events and some Wobblies at EF! events, we can continue to build the strong solidarity and inter-movement ties that we need to bring down industrial capitalism!

People interested in attending or helping with any IWW centenary-related events should contact Nathaniel Miller, (215) 222-1905; centenary@iww.org. For more information, visit www.iww.org

Show your solidarity! Soledad will see you this Summer in Chicago and Cascadia!



BUSH WATCH: More Rollbacks and Why the Specifics Matter

BY NOLADY

"Bush sets out to dismantle 30 years of environmental laws:" Sadly, this just isn't news anymore. The slew of Bush's environmental rollbacks and anti-environmental legislation has become overwhelming. Websites like "Bush Greenwatch" send out almost daily updates on new environmental attacks, and at each new change, I find myself muttering, "So Bush sucks, we know that."

Half of the time, I'm not even convinced the rolled-back rules were enforced under the Clinton administration. When illegal logging is the norm, how much harm can it really do to make that logging legal? When apocalyptic environmental destruction is standard, why should we care that it has suddenly gotten monumentally worse? It is important that we don't get sucked into the trap of apathetic disempowerment—death by statistics—caused by the constant drone of Bush-led environmental threats.

First of all, we need to remember that the problem isn't George W. Bush. "Bush is bad" messaging implies that ecotopia will emerge with the removal or replacement of Bush.

Second, the laws do matter—even if they aren't being enforced. Paperwrenching is a vital tool of many worthy campaigns. Getting rid of or changing environmental laws won't

stop paperwrenching, but it will change how paperwrenchers do their work.

Finally, knowledge is power. It may be overwhelming to know exactly what is going on, but we do need to know. It isn't enough to say

that the forests should be protected. Keeping ecosystems intact and working toward restoration requires knowing what the problem is, what needs to happen to change that situation and who the "decision-makers" are. It requires intimate knowledge of the places that are being destroyed. Each of these legislative changes will have a concrete, on-the-ground effect on the places

With almost daily updates on new environmental attacks, I find myself muttering, "So Bush sucks, we know that." Half of the time, I'm not even convinced the rolled-back rules were enforced under the Clinton administration.

we treasure and the places many species rely on for survival.

Consider this a challenge: Choose one of the Bush administration changes below, and find a place near you that is threatened by this change. Make an extra effort to defend it!

Re-issuing Clinton-Era Rollbacks

On December 10, the Bush administration re-issued Clinton's controversial "No Surprises" rule, which provides developers with blanket assurances that once their project starts, it won't have to stop no matter what endangered species are found. "No Surprises" exempts

timber companies, real estate developers and oil companies from altering their plans to address issues arising from endangered species and their habitat, and it affects millions of acres of private land.

In June, a federal judge blocked Clinton's rule and required expanded public comment. The Bush administration officially let the public have their say, then re-issued the same policy.

Return of the Bad Bills

Bush is still determined to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. Two years ago, the Senate defeated plans to exploit the refuge by 52 votes to 48. But with the election of

four Republican senators who favor drilling, and the disappearance of one who opposed it, the administration now has the votes for victory.

The same scenario stands for the energy bill, also defeated last Congress, which would investigate vast new tracts for exploitation of oil and gas and would encourage the building of nuclear power stations, halted since the

1979 Three Mile Island accident.

Dismantling Nixon-Era Legislation

On December 23, the Bush administration announced a new set of regulations governing the management of the country's 192 million acres of forest. These new policies undermine the 1976 National Forest Management Act (NFMA) and open public forests to increased logging, gas and oil development. These changes, hidden by the widely celebrated Christmas holiday, remove NFMA's requirement to prepare Environmental Impact Statements or to revise management plans for

individual national forests. The changes also remove the US Forest Service's (USFS) mandate to preserve fish and wildlife habitat in national forests.

Joe Barton—the Texas Republican who helped push through the energy bill—announced on December 29, a comprehensive review (i.e. rollback) of the Clean Air Act, which has cut air pollution across the country by more than half during the last 30 years.

Not to be outdone, the Republican chairman of the House Resources Committee, Richard Pombo, announced a review of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Congressional leaders also announced an attack on the National Environmental Policy Act, which requires federal agencies to analyze the environmental effects of major developments prior to proceeding.

HFRA Update

Evidence is mounting that the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) promotes harmful logging, as predicted. Many of the projects that the USFS has begun planning in the year since HFRA was signed into law focus primarily on logging—rather than protecting homes and communities from fire or restoring our national forests. Additionally, HFRA greatly limits the public's ability to participate in management decisions or to challenge decisions harmful to the forest, and it does not ensure protections for old-growth forests or roadless wildlands.

For example, the first HFRA project proposed in Montana, the Bitterroot National Forest's Middle East Fork Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project, will log nine square miles of forest, including previously unlogged old-growth forests. The small amount of bonafide community protection work is effectively held hostage through its inclusion in a massive logging plan.

Eliminating Hope for Salmon Recovery

On December 15, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration found that hydroelectric dams on the Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers were built before a dozen salmon species were listed under the ESA. Therefore, the dams are considered "pre-existing conditions" and part of the basic environment. This decision effectively reverses a Clinton

administration ruling in 2000 that permitted dam removal as a last resort for salmon recovery.

In addition, the Bush administration unveiled a proposal in December to reduce federally protected salmon habitat by 80 percent. Under the plan, it would be easier to develop land along streams and rivers, as well as areas of Puget Sound. This proposal follows a lawsuit filed by the National Association of Home Builders and the Building Industry Association of Washington. These groups argued that the previous administration had allowed blanket protection of all salmon habitat—about 150,000 square miles—without biological basis.

Where is the forest, mountain, river, neighborhood, garden or desert nearest you that is threatened by new nuclear power developments, increased logging, dams, development or industrial pollution? I'll see you there.



BARE BONES

Drilling on Padre Island

The Bush administration released its plan in November to allow BNP Petroleum to drill a cluster of five natural gas wells on Texas' Padre Island National Seashore. According to a study released by the National Park Service, the drilling will take at least eight months to complete.

Up to 100 heavy trucks per week will be permitted to drive equipment along the beach during the drilling phase. Park managers say that they expect to approve an additional 15 to 20 wells for BNP within the next several years.

The seashore is home to 13 endangered and threatened species, including the Kemp's ridley sea turtle. Drawing 800,000 visitors a year, Padre Island is the longest unbroken barrier beach in the US.

Living with Wildfire

Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics and Ecology (FUSEE), a recently formed nonprofit organization based in Eugene, Oregon, released "A Reporters Guide to Wildland Fire" in January.

FUSEE wants wildland fires to be seen as natural disturbances that have affected forest ecosystems for millennia, rather than as the villains that the fires are often made out to be in the media.

Current fire policies are damaging natural resources and putting firefighters' lives at unnecessary risk. More than one million wildland firefighters in the US routinely face hazardous and unhealthy working conditions, and they are often forced to do environmentally destructive activities.

FUSEE is seeking to change the debate about wildfires and to give a voice to an emerging ethos of wildland firefighters that embrace a personal and collective sense of duty in service to communities and the land.

VIOLENCE ESCALATES

AS A U.K. FOX HUNT BAN NEARS, SABOTEURS FACE ATTACKS



Violence against hunt saboteurs in the UK escalated this Winter as fox hunters tried to prevent disruption of the last two months of their hunting season. A ban on fox hunting in England and Wales, approved by Parliament in November, was expected to go into effect on February 18.

Four women protesting a fox hunt in January were seriously injured after a hunt supporter attacked them with a wooden pole. In total, 15 hunt saboteurs attended the hunt to save the foxes, using hunting horns and harmless scent-dulling sprays. The back window of one of their cars was smashed, and all of the saboteurs present were threatened. Following the clash, one of the saboteurs had a broken arm, another a broken elbow.

One of the saboteurs, Jaine, said of the hunter who beat them up, "He just went mental. First, he was throwing a bucket full of liquid at us, and then he started attacking us. He even drove after us to smash the back window of the car."

A Hunt Saboteurs Association (HSA) spokesperson, Nathan Brown, commented, "Previously the flash point for trouble would normally be when saboteurs intervene and save the hunted animal from the hounds, but now anti-hunt activists are subjected

to violence and abuse as soon as they arrive. Whereas before there might only be certain individuals taking part, we are now seeing almost all members of hunts getting involved. The police need to take action against violence directed at our members before we see another hunt saboteur killed."

Mike Hill was killed during a sabotage of a hare hunt in 1991 when he was driven over by hunter Alan Summersgill. In 1993, 15-year-old Tom Worby was killed when hunter Tony Ball ran him over. No one has ever been charged with the deaths. Steve Christmas narrowly escaped death in September 2000, receiving life-changing injuries when he was driven over by a truck during a fox cub hunt.

In December, hunters in Dorset threw punches at saboteurs and tried to drag them from their vehicle. At another hunt, a saboteur was trampled by a horse. The police took no action. Later, a hunter dug a fox out from where it had sought refuge, and he shot the fox in front of saboteurs and police. Two saboteurs were arrested. In response, Brown said, "This incident serves as a reminder that behind the sanitized image of hunting, animals are tormented and killed to provide amusement."

Hunt saboteurs from Dorset and Somerset had their vehicle repeatedly blocked in December after they successfully called hounds with a

hunting horn. Red-coated hunt members whipped the van and attempted to whip the saboteurs. Later in the day, a hunter, "frothing at the mouth with anger," repeatedly kicked and thumped the van. Another red-coated huntsman tried to bash in a window with a log. A group of 15-20 hunt supporters gained entry through the van's back door, stole equipment and tried to drag saboteurs from the vehicle while throwing punches. When the police arrived, they showed no interest in the attacks. A video was delivered to the local police in the hope that charges will be brought against members of the hunt.

The HSA has responded to claims that the government may not oppose an injunction from a pro-hunt organization, the Countryside Alliance, to delay the Hunting Act's implementation if the alliance's court case challenging the law fails.

"Whether hunting is legal or illegal, our members will still be active in the fields stopping wild animals from being ripped apart. The majority of the public, and the majority of elected members of Parliament, are in agreement with us when we say that hunting is wrong and should be banned. If the government allows the Countryside Alliance to call the shots, it will be seen as a cowardly betrayal," said Brown.

"Violence against anti-hunt activists has escalated since the vote on the ban in November. Any delay will not reduce that violence—it will merely increase the length of time through which our members will be subjected to violence. Responsibility for any injuries sustained will lie with those who delay implementation."

BUFFALO HUNT

CANCELED

BY JONAH CLARKE

The Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC), working to protect the last herd of wild bison from the Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL), has won another major battle. Using direct action, outreach and a vigorous media campaign, BFC secured the cancellation of the 2005 bison hunt on January 10.

On December 16, the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission approved a plan to hunt 10 wild buffalo in the Eagle Creek Special Management Area. The "special management area" is the only area in the state where buffalo are not subject to harassment and slaughter.

In order to stop the hunt, BFC issued a general alert to our supporters that asked friends of the buffalo to apply for buffalo-hunting permits, and not use them. BFC also started a media campaign that gained worldwide attention. Our volunteers conducted live interviews with corporate press from Germany, Sweden, Canada, Australia and all regions of the US.

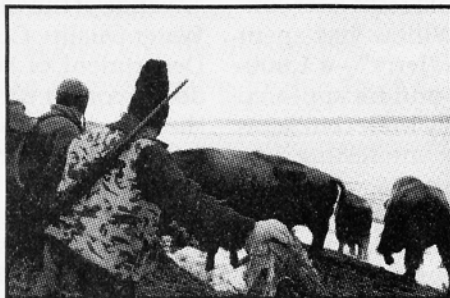
Then on January 3, his first day in office, Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer received a phone call from the BFC office. Schweitzer's assistant was informed that there would be huge media presence if the hunt proceeded. Later that week, Schweitzer replaced three members of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission, and it held an emergency meeting and voted four to one to cancel the hunt. By the end of the week, Schweitzer personally called BFC to establish open dialog and to ask for help in creating an alternative to slaughtering the buffalo. BFC is now working hard to keep his feet to the fire.

Back in the field, the day after the hunt's cancellation was announced, MDOL was pissed off and attempted to express its anger by killing a lone bull who had been grazing in a residential neighborhood for the previous three weeks. Fortunately, buffalo are smarter than cowboys, and he ran off into the thick tree cover at the bottom of a hill where the snowmobiles couldn't follow. On January 12, the National Park (dis)Service shot an old, grandmother buffalo inside the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park, claiming that she was a threat to a handful of domestic cattle that graze nearby.

BFC suspects that with a new governor in favor of a new solution, the buffalo hunt canceled and a happy, healthy, dedicated group of activists watching everything, the MDOL will be even more vindictive this year in its slaughter of the bison. This Spring, when hundreds of buffalo are leaving the park and newborn calves take their first steps, running from the MDOL, BFC volunteers will be there.

Volunteers are needed to defend the buffalo and their habitat, as well as to document every move made against them. If you can spare some time to help protect this sacred animal, or if you would like to help the campaign from your hometown, contact BFC, (406) 646-0070; buffalo@wildrockies.org; www.buffalofieldcampaign.org.

Jonah Clarke is a reluctant prophet who disguises himself as a mild-mannered kitchen coordinator until his superpowers are needed. He has been working with BFC since Spring 2002.



The buffalo need your continued help

BARE BONES

Sage Grouse Left without Protection from ESA

On January 7, the US Fish and Wildlife Service completed its review of the greater sage grouse throughout its range and determined that the species does not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This determination resulted despite acknowledgment that sage grouse populations have declined by as much as 99 percent (see *EF!* July-August 2004).

The years-long battle over whether to declare the bird as an endangered species has pitted development and related interests against conservationists. Listing the sage grouse under the ESA would have meant restrictions on hunting, grazing, and oil and gas leasing across 150 million acres of sagebrush habitat in 11 western states.

The bird's habitat sits atop some of the nation's richest natural gas fields in Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming.

Horse Auctions Begin

Montana Senator Conrad Burns, with support from Senators Byron Dorgan of North Dakota and Nevada's Harry Reid, inserted a rider onto the Senate appropriations bill in November that directs the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to dispose of "excess" wild horses and burros.

The bill suggests that wild horses and burros that are either more than 10 years of age or were refused for adoption at least three times "shall be made available for sale without limitation, including through auction to the highest bidder." Some say this action could conceivably initiate the largest wholesale slaughter of horses in North America.

The BLM claims that it did not request the provision and that it has no position on the issue.

DEFENDING THE REDWOODS WITH NORTH COAST EF!

IN THE TREETOPS OF OLD-GROWTH REDWOODS AND DOUGLAS FIRS, FOREST DEFENSE IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, CONTINUES. ON THE GROUND, ACTIVISTS EXPOSE, TARGET AND LITIGATE THE EVILS OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY.

BY VERBENA AND HALF-HITCH

In October, following the devastating loss of Aradia and her grove on Gypsy Mountain (see *EF!* November-December 2004), activists, aching for more community resistance to deforestation, drafted the "Pledge of Resistance for the Forest." The pledge acknowledges that the Earth and her peoples are in an emergency state and establishes commitments to act accordingly, including "going to the very places to bear witness and show support for activists being removed or attacked."

Once the pledge was created, the "Persistent Resistance for the Forest" campaign began, focusing on the hidden forces that perpetuate local deforestation. This Winter, activists have protested the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department, the law firm of Mitchell Brisso, Delaney and Vrieze (which has represented the Sheriff's Department, Pacific Lumber (PL) and Simpson Timber), the

district attorney, the local newspaper and the California Department of Forestry. Forest activists disseminated information about each protested entity's role in deforestation and in violence against activists.

Meanwhile, treesits in the Freshwater and Mattole watersheds remain strongholds where folks connect with great elders and bring attention to corporate logging. Since October, activists have fortified their defense of a pristine grove of 30 ancient redwoods. "Fern Gully" sits on a huge slope and is in immediate danger. Most of the trees are tied in together, allowing defenders to travel through the "tree village" without touching the ground.

The surviving ancient redwoods in the "upper village" of Freshwater continue to inspire. Willow has spent more than a year in "Jerry"—a 1,600-year-old redwood—and he appeared on the Jay Leno Show in December as one of the "most interesting persons in California."

In the Mattole, treesits that began in August remain in several old-growth Douglas firs. Two Mattole treesitters were forcibly removed two days following September's attack on Gypsy Mountain, and the tree was cut. Later, the treesitters were acquitted of trespass charges because the prosecution didn't prove ownership of the land.

Activists have been forcing the legal establishment to see the danger in treesit extractions. Phoenix, a forest defender who free-climbed an ancient redwood in 2003 to witness another activist's painful extraction, was charged with felony assault in a coverup after he was brutalized by PL's hired extractors (Eric Schatz and crew).

Phoenix's lawyers have subpoenaed PL's videotapes of the incident, but Schatz has refused subpoenas, his wife assaulted a process server, and his lawyer argued that the court should forbid any viewing of the tapes.

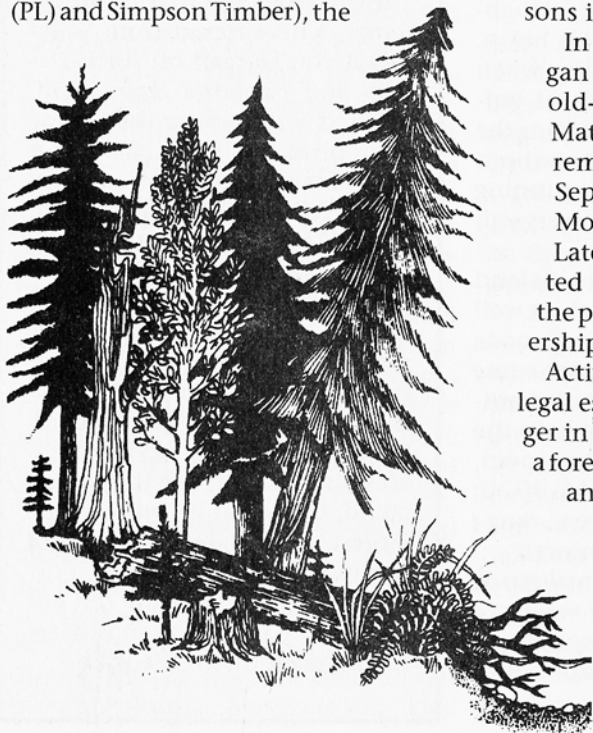
On November 9, seven activists locked themselves to a gate, a logging truck axle and a concrete, metal-filled "revolutionary bundle of joy" to block a truck yard of PL's primary subcontractor, Steve Wills Logging and Trucking. Wills had never been targeted before. A few years ago, the company bought all of PL's truck fleet, and it is clearcutting every watershed we struggle to protect. PL no longer employs loggers—so Steve Wills, Columbia Helicopters and other outsourced companies implement the destruction.

North Coast forest activists are paying close attention to a 65-acre PL logging plan (near Bear Creek) that proposes to cut giant, old-growth redwoods on steep hillsides bordering Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Highway 101 and seen from the famous "Avenue of the Giants." Fortunately, a Water Quality Control Board and the Department of Parks and Recreation do not concur with PL's plan, nor does the community at large.

Lastly, treesit extractor Schatz visited treesitters in the Rattlesnake Creek forest of the Mattole watershed. Schatz arrived with PL's land manager and the head of security, and he cut down the activists' supplies in two trees. The PL employees proceeded to start a fire on the forest floor to burn the gear—clothes, tarps and a wooden platform—and left the fire burning when they all departed. PL has contracted out to Schatz for the past seven years to forcibly evict treesitters using violent and reckless means.

For more information, contact North Coast Forest Defense/Earth First!, POB 28, Arcata, CA 95518; (707) 825-6598; www.northcoastearthfirst.org.

Verbena and Half-Hitch are two forest defender/community members from Humboldt County, who are often in jail and in court. They learn simple truths from the trees and show the jail and the courts that while justice may be blind, those of us defending the Earth are not.



HUMBOLDT FOREST

BY WILLOW

You are invited to take a walk in a virgin stand of Redwoods.
You are invited to be held in the bosom of magnificence.
You are welcome to cry at the foot of a stump.
You are welcome to weep as the salmon suffocate.
Come join us sitting in trees.
Come join us with your toes in the mud.
Comes hear the silent voices of the air, water, fire and earth.
Let the dams fall down.
Let the creatures run free.
Let the corporations commit suicide.
Let us care for her wounds.
Let the chemicals wash away to never return.
Put down the watches, smash the clocks.
Turn your eyes upwards to witness the dance.
Park the cars, hide the keys.
Take off your shoes and feel where you are.
Stop forging steel, we need no more chains.
Stop pouring asphalt, it is tar on her lungs.
Stop building walls, and dance around the fire.
Hear the beat, it's inside you.
Feel your way, let the mind follow the heart.
Love yourself, we'll call it a start.
Live the life you love, love the life you live.
Forgive, forgive, forgive, forgive, forgive, forgive.



Treesitter Lawsuits Against Pacific Lumber Multiply

Two more treesitters, who were forcibly removed from their platforms in northern California's ancient redwoods, have filed lawsuits against Maxxam/Pacific Lumber (PL) and the men hired to seize them from high above the ground. Amy Gershman and Jamie Kohler joined fellow treesitters Jeny Card, Lindsey Holm, Kristi Sanchez, Scott Petersen and Anna Farnam in filing lawsuits on January 14. The lawsuits are in response to the string of treesitter evictions that occurred in the forested hills above the tiny hamlet of Freshwater, California, in Spring 2003 (see *EF!J* May-June 2003).

The seven treesitters, along with more than 20 residents and protesters, were slapped with a lawsuit by PL in 2002 that charged them with trespass and conspiracy. A SLAPP suit is a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation. The activists' counter lawsuits include allegations of assault, battery, negligence, infliction of emotional distress, false imprisonment and violation of civil rights.

Unlike most of the other redwood giants formerly occupied by treesitters, the trees that Gershman and Kohler sat in are still standing. Kohler was the third treesitter to be evicted from the ancient redwood known as "Jerry." Gershman, another long-term treesitter whose feet didn't touch the ground for seven months, was removed from a giant, double-trunk redwood dubbed "Everlasting Life." The two trees are still occupied by treesitters, and PL is still intent on cutting the trees down.

For more info., visit www.headwaterspreserve.org; www.northcoastearthfirst.org.

BARE BONES

Campesinos Killed in Guatemala Mine Protest

In December, two people were killed when the Guatemalan police and military took action to end a blockade of the Canadian-owned Marlin gold mine. The standoff took place when villagers blocked a bridge to stop the transport of mining equipment.

Opposition from local communities has stalled several mining projects in Latin America in recent years.

In May 2004, Guatemalan organizations called on the World Bank Group to delay approval of the Marlin mine, since more consultation was necessary and large segments of the local population did not support the project. The World Bank Group not only provided a \$35-million loan to the mine, it is also part owner of the project. The mine was approved in June.

Disaster in the Philippines

Tens of millions of people are thinning forests across the Philippines, and nature is fighting back with increasingly deadly floods and landslides, according to Philippine President Gloria Arroyo.

A weak storm unleashed tons of logs, boulders and mud from the Sierra Madre mountains that buried four towns on the northeast coast of the Philippines' main island, Luzon, on November 29.

People blame both legal and illegal loggers for the loss of more than 1,000 lives. While the government has banned all commercial logging in some areas, there is still a rapid rate of deforestation occurring throughout the Philippines.

Some environmentalists forecast that old-growth forest could vanish from the island chain entirely within 20 years at current logging rates.

FIGHT AGAINST SCRIPPS

Eco-Rebellion Stirring in the Swamps

Corporate biotech, mad scientists, real estate developers and corrupt politicians: watch your backs!

BY PANAGIOTI

During the last week of December, more than 70 activists from across Florida (and several other states) gathered in the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area, 60,000 acres of Everglades in northwestern Palm Beach County. The Corbett is directly adjacent to Mecca Farms, the proposed 2,000-acre site for Scripps' Research Park and "Biotech village" (see *EF!* November-December 2004).

The week was packed with skill-sharing and discussions on topics like: forming direct action affinity groups, combating gentrification, permaculture basics, immigration and globalization, using environmental litigation, farm worker solidarity, blockading tactics and thinking beyond civilization.

The kitchen was beautifully designed, well stocked and propane-free, using a four-burner rocket stove for all meals. The childcare tent was full of toys, books, art projects and lots of amazing kids. All the shit and compost we created was hauled out for urban gardening projects. Local hunters and campers brought firewood and encouragement for our efforts. Park rangers asked to help us plan another camp next year.

Folks that came down for the camp also got a glimpse of what's going on in towns on the coast. Lots of folks celebrated New Year's Eve with a beach/dance party in Miami and New Year's Day by volunteering in the Chief Sitting Bull Community Garden in Lake Worth. The garden activities also included a piñata for neighborhood kids and a screening of the documentary *El Fuego y la Palabra* (*The Fire and the Word*) to commemorate the 11-year anniversary of the Zapatista uprising in Chiapas. Back at the camp, there was fireside action

brainstorming, which ended up playing out something like this...

On January 3, folks in South Florida mobilized autonomous direct actions targeting the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County (BDB). The BDB has claimed responsibility for attracting Scripps to South Florida. In a multi-faceted action that involved several affinity groups, the BDB office in downtown West Palm Beach was disrupted and occupied throughout the morning.

One group of people anonymously entered the building and dumped buckets of rotten oranges on the floor, leaving behind a cardboard sign that read: "Biotech—One Big Mess." A separate group made their way up the stairs and used bicycle U-locks to chain themselves to the railing, unfurling a banner asking, "BDB: What good are more jobs if you can't drink the water?" By the time the local police arrived to deal with the office occupiers, another group of 20-30 people strolled up the street armed

Frontlines

French Occupy Nanotech Site

A group of people occupied a crane at the Minatec Nanotech Center construction site in Grenoble, France, on December 13, and stopped construction for the day. Supported by protesters on the ground, the activists unfurled banners against nanotechnology. Minatec is slated to be the largest nanotechnology center in Europe.

"Shutting down this site for only a couple of hours is attempting to stop a project that we refuse. It's an opportunity to launch once again the idea of a necessary social change, here and elsewhere," according to the occupiers of the building site.

"What we want more than anything are not 'revolutionary' and 'smart' microscopic chips but revolutionary and smart ways to reorganize our lives."

Where Angels Fear to Tread

According to the UK-based organization THRONG, The Heavenly Righteous Opposed to Nanotech Greed, Harry Swan is no stranger to opening a messy can of worms. Swan, a former public relations spokesperson for Monsanto, is

currently the nanotechnology manager of Britain's leading producer of carbon nanotubes, Thomas Swan and Co.

On December 9, THRONG's heavenly angels interrupted a nanotechnology conference in Buckinghamshire to bestow a "can of worms" award to Swan. Swan was responsible for Monsanto's attempt to convince the public to accept genetically engineered foods, and the conference set forth to convince UK businesses that nanotechnology is "the next big thing."

While the award was presented, a dozen angels sang, "Hark the throng of angels sing, nanotech's a dodgy thing."

ALF Claims First Deer Liberation in the US

On January 18, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) claimed responsibility for what it called the "first-ever deer liberation in the US" when an entire herd was released from the GNK Deer Farm. Located near San Miguel, California, the GNK ranch is one of the three largest venison farms in the state.

According to an ALF communiqué, "Freedom for these creatures—for whom death is a certainty—was a simple

with monster puppets, mock biohazard suits, street theater skits, signs and banners. Before cops could cut the lockdowns loose and drag out the activists inside, two others appeared on the roof with a large banner reading: "Biodiversity Not Biotechnology!"

By this time, the media was swarming, office employees were taking an unexpected break while watching their boss pick rotten fruit up off of the fancy rug and business would not be going back to usual anytime soon. In total, there were nine arrests with five facing bogus felony charges.

It's not just Scripps that the BDB is backwards about. These folks are also advocates of massive gentrification in local urban areas and pushers of free-trade agreements on a global scale. The BDB embodies the predatory mind frame of greed and expansion.

Say hello to the BDB, (561) 835-1008; (561) 835-1160 (fax); admin@bdb.org. For more info., contact Jeaga EF!, (561) 547-6686; jeagaeearthfirst@riseup.net.

Jeaga EF! activists are considering taking the Corbett rangers up on their invitation to come back next year, this time maybe throwing an international shindig... Any of y'all interested in helping out?!

Stoking a Wildfire Some News on the Anti-Scripps Front

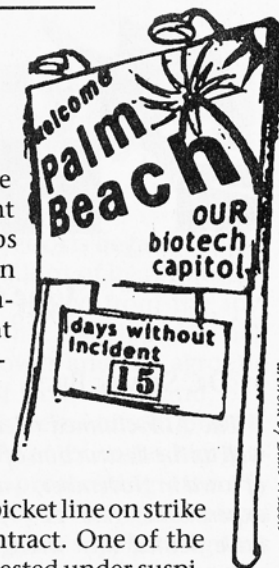
In November, two women streaked topless through the Scripps' board of trustees meeting at the Breakers Hotel, with words written across their bodies reading "Nature Yes; Biotech No." Both were detained and released, yet they were later summoned to court.

Then on December 30, two animal liberation activists were arrested out of a group that had stormed the office of Seaboard Securities, stockholders for Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) in Juno Beach, Florida. The stockholders are also connected to Scripps through HLS' relationship to the pharmaceutical giant Novartis. The activists are also facing accusations of vandalism and burglary at another office of the brokerage firm that took place the previous night and was supposedly claimed by the Animal Liberation Front.

On January 4, it was reported that fences at the Vavrus Ranch, part of the Scripps real estate deal, were cut open—allowing the cows to roam freely. The media has stated that environmentalists were suspected.

Another loose link in the fight against Scripps was visible in December's labor conflict at the Florida Crystals Sugar Mill in South Bay, where more than 600 workers walked the picket line on strike for a better contract. One of the workers was arrested under suspicion of sabotaging company equipment by putting nails in the road to flatten the tires of scab trucks. Industry heads justified their unwillingness to negotiate better conditions and job security by citing the pressures of free trade-induced international competition. This is the same reason given for building Scripps in the rural area of Mecca Farms, where landowners have cited selling off their orange groves due to their inability to stay competitive with foreign markets.

Let's keep 'em coming!



and unskilled operation." A 500-foot section of fence from the deer enclosure behind Konieczny's house was cut away, thereby releasing the deer into the countryside.

Though many of the deer later returned to the pen, the ALF contends that the animals are better off given a chance to die in the wild than being slaughtered on a farm.

Sabotage in Defense of Russian Trees

Residents of the city of Zhukovsky in Russia's Moscow region and activists with the "24th of October Commando Jeffrey Luers" organized an action at the construction site of the city's new stadium in October. Sixty trees marked to be cut were spiked, and signs left behind stated, "Trees are spiked, cutting down is a danger to life!"

City inhabitants say that they repeatedly appealed to their local administration to save more green areas and to stop the stadium's construction in the center of the city, but they were ignored and therefore pushed to take radical action. In a statement, participants in the action asked the city not to endanger the workers and to hold back from cutting down the spiked trees.

Direct Action Against Vivisection in Israel

In late December, Direct Action Way claimed responsibility for breaking windows and spray-painting graffiti

at Bar-Ilan University's brain research center near Tel-Aviv, Israel. The action was dedicated in part to the late Barry Horne, an animal liberation activist in the UK.

"We have been gathering intelligence about the target for a long time. When the conditions were right, the date and time were set," stated a communiqué released following the action against the vivisection lab.

"We concluded that the windows were 'break proof,' so we moved to using heavy, dense rocks. Pieces of marble came in handy and so were rocks we found in the area."

Australian Mining Boss Pied

Chris Farnsworth "positively positioned" a pie in the face of Collis Thorp, general manager of Cable Sands, outside an energy and resources forum in Bunbury, western Australia, on November 9.

A resident of the Ludlow Tuart Rescue Camp, Farnsworth viewed the coffee mousse as an act of indignity in front of Thorp's peers. He wanted to let Thorp know that the destruction of the Ludlow tuart forest is unacceptable.

Cable Sands intends to log the forest's remaining tall tuart trees, ranging between 80 and 500 years old, to extract titanium. Titanium dioxide, the main product of the mining process, is used to whiten soap, toothpaste, makeup and sunscreen.

Philosophizing with a Hammer

“One should learn how to philosophize with a hammer.” —FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

BY DR. STEVEN BEST

The ALF-claimed release of 401 rats, mice and pigeons, as well as the destruction of computers and papers at the University of Iowa in November, was due to the torture of these animals in experiments (see EF!J January-February 2005). Researchers have denied any wrongdoing and profess that their animal research is both humane and appropriate.

The November 14 Animal Liberation Front (ALF) attack on the University of Iowa's (UI) Spence Laboratories in Seashore Hall was reminiscent of its beginnings in the US. In the early 1980s, the ALF made a series of bold raids against university and medical laboratories. Every time the ALF penetrated the insidious closed compounds of “research” (the word should not be dignified), they uncovered a barbaric world of senseless experimentation on animals intentionally hidden from public view. The sickeningly typical behavior of “scientists” was exposed, most dramatically, in the 1984 raid on the University of Pennsylvania head injury clinic. Primates' skulls were bashed in with a pneumatic device as “researchers” stood by mocking their pain. These and other “scientists” had clearly graduated with honors from the universities that schooled them in desensitization toward life and the philosophy of human supremacy known as speciesism.

The recent apologies for vivisection written by UI President David Skorton, as well as by fellow bureaucrats Michael Hogan and Bill Decker, is a fine example of the propaganda and lies perpetuated in defense of the indefensible. These stalwarts of civilization are so deeply mired in speciesism that they announce that “there is no philosophical justification” for property destruction on behalf of animal liberation. In fact, there are numerous and substantive lines of defense for animal liberation and ethical sabotage.

As transparent in the classic cases of Nazi Germany, South African apartheid and the US slavery system of the 19th century, there is a clear distinction between the principle of the Law and the principle of the Right. Where legal systems and states are constructed on principles of power, domination and violence rather than democracy, equality and justice, the oppressed have a duty to overthrow them by any means necessary. Ideally, change can

be brought about through peaceful and legal means, but as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr, saw, one must often resort to civil disobedience and law-breaking to win justice and advance moral progress.

The ALF is a nonviolent entity that breaks into torture chambers that are holding animal captives and destroys property in order to economically cripple institutions of exploitation (or shut them down altogether). The ALF operates on the sound principles that life is more sacred than property and that human beings have no right to exploit animals, even if some medical good were to result from vivisection.

UI had no right to the animals confined at Seashore Hall (an ironic name for such a hellish dungeon). The ALF did not “steal” these animals, as they were never UI's to own in the first place. Rather, the ALF liberated them and placed them in peaceful rather than violent hands. Anyone who watched the ALF's video of the raid could see that those animals were both neglected and abused and that their liberation was a just act.

Let's stop the hypocrisy and put our moral outrage in perspective. For every window or computer smashed in the name of animal liberation, a billion animals suffer horrendous torture and death at the hands of the exploiters operating the fur farms, factory farms, slaughterhouses, rodeos, circuses and laboratories.

The only crime that transpired at UI was the torture and killing of animals as perpetuated by UI “scientists” and defended by bigoted bureaucrats. Skorton and his accomplices speak nobly of the “values that bind us as a

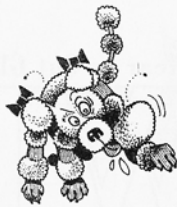
community of scholars,” but they disguise real differences in an illusory utopia blanketed by ivy leaves. A growing number of professors and scholars, such as myself and others at the Center on Animal Liberation Affairs, are standing up for animal rights and the courageous members of the animal liberation movement. We are drawing back the curtain where the hobbled Wizards of Oz stand amidst smoke and mirrors and spread their lies about the realities of research, misrepresent the true nature of animal liberation and confound the fact that the real terrorists are those who violently and callously exploit animals.

Dr. Steven Best is one of the spokespersons for the newly opened North American Animal Liberation Press Office (see page 50).



Photograph, removed from UI during the November ALF raid, of a “scientist” and monkey

photo courtesy North American Animal Liberation Press Office



A valiant-inculpable wolf avenging the honor of his kin to **Josh Connole** for using his \$20,000 settlement from the West Covina Police Department to sue the FBI. In 2003, Connole was falsely arrested for vandalizing 133 Hummers and SUVs at a car dealership in West Covina, California, and he spent four days in jail. Recently unsealed FBI search warrants revealed that Connole became a suspect after a neighbor became suspicious based on his anti-war politics and his electric car. The FBI now claims that email messages sent to local media sources clearing Connole came from grad-student-turned-snitch Billy Cottrell. The police gave Connole a public apology with the settlement.

An unlamenting-Kentucky-fried-jihad wolf to **United Poultry Concerns President Karen Davis** for her statements that the 9/11 terrorist attacks "reduced

the amount of pain and suffering in this world" because "the majority, if not every single one, of the people who suffered and/or died as a result of the September 11 attack ate, and if they are now alive, continue to eat, chickens." United Poultry Concerns is a nonprofit organization based in Virginia that addresses the treatment of domestic fowl and seeks to make the public aware of the ways in which poultry are treated.

A sovereign-altruistic-indefatigable wolf baring her fangs to jingoism to the new **Civil Liberties Defense Center (CLDC) and its staff** in Eugene, Oregon. CLDC works to protect civil rights, particularly for political activists exercising their constitutional rights. It also organizes to confront attacks on our basic liberties, such as free speech and the right to assemble.

An audacious-brazen wolf pissing on the graves of animal torturers to

the individuals who targeted the same **University of Iowa (UI) building where 401 animals were liberated by the Animal Liberation Front** in November (see *EF!* January-February 2005). A UI police officer stated, "It's getting to the point where we need surveillance cameras." The building was ransacked, bulletin boards were destroyed, and food from the breakroom refrigerator was ground into the carpets. According to a UI professor, the building is easily broken into by "the fire escape between Seashore Hall and Van Allen, and with some effort, you can get in through the windows."

An unshackled-elusive wolf biting at the heels of SUV drivers to the **Earth Liberation Front (ELF)** for continuing

before cleanup efforts began. Tens of thousands of gallons of heavy bunker fuel and diesel spilled from the soybean freighter that was ripped in half when it lost power and ran aground off the shore of Unalaska Island.

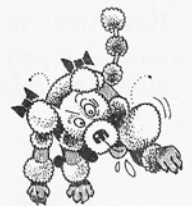
A rapacious-demonized poodle choking on chicken bones to **Morgantown, Virginia, prosecuting attorney Ginny Conley** for not bringing charges against KFC chicken supplier Pilgrim's Pride after an undercover investigation by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals showed live chickens being thrown against walls, kicked and stomped on. Conley stated in January that the acts did not constitute criminal charges because "these chickens were in a slaughterhouse." Workers told the county prosecutor that they were "expected to hang 28 to 33 live birds per minute, and it was faster to toss some of them aside than to wring their necks in a proper way."

A mangy-blood-thirsty poodle lapping up the carnage of his cousins to **Live-shot.com founder John Lockwood** for giving online subscribers the opportunity to kill fenced-in wildlife by firing a rifle via a web-cam trigger. The idea came about when Lockwood was viewing photos of exotic animals on the Internet and a co-worker said, "Wouldn't it be cool if you could put a gun to that?" Members can choose from a variety of species, including Barbary sheep from Africa, blackbuck antelope from India, wild hog and several antlered species—all of which are penned at Lockwood's Texas ranch. Lockwood also offers taxidermy and worldwide shipping. Users can even get a DVD copy of their session by adding it to their online shopping cart.

Wolves and Poodles

to frustrate law enforcement officers in Pennsylvania investigating a 2003 arson at an SUV dealership. No one has ever been charged, and investigators say it is unlikely that anyone ever will be. In January, the FBI's Erie, Pennsylvania, office stated, "Unless somebody squeals or somebody got a license plate number, they're probably not going to get caught."

A feces-encrusted, anthroposenseless poodle swimming in sludge to the **rescue crews searching for survivors after a major oil spill off the coast of Anchorage, Alaska**, in December—allowing the search for six missing human bodies to take precedence over the environmental threat to a nearby wildlife refuge and the surrounding ecosystem. Estimates of how long a human could survive in the harsh waters was only three hours, yet the search continued for days



Clear as Cut Glass & Just as Dangerous

ARMED WITH VISIONS

Yosemite National Park

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Cut down the ponderosa pines so the visitors will come

Send poems to:

Warrior Poets Society

POB 14501

Berkeley, CA 94712-5501

Carve and polish them into benches so the visitors will come

Shotgun the Mountain Lion so they will come

Buy off the Black Bear

Extinct the Grizzly

Extinct the Yosemite Indians

Hotel and swimming pool Yosemite Valley so they will come

Concrete Yosemite Falls

Pave Nevada Falls

Post Card Clouds Rest

Snapshot Half Dome

Snapshot Grizzly Giant

Snapshot Tenaya Lake

Fast Food Tuolumne Meadows

Traffic Jam the Tuolumne River

Trample the Mariposa Grove

Frame the Hetch Hetchy

Maim the Merced

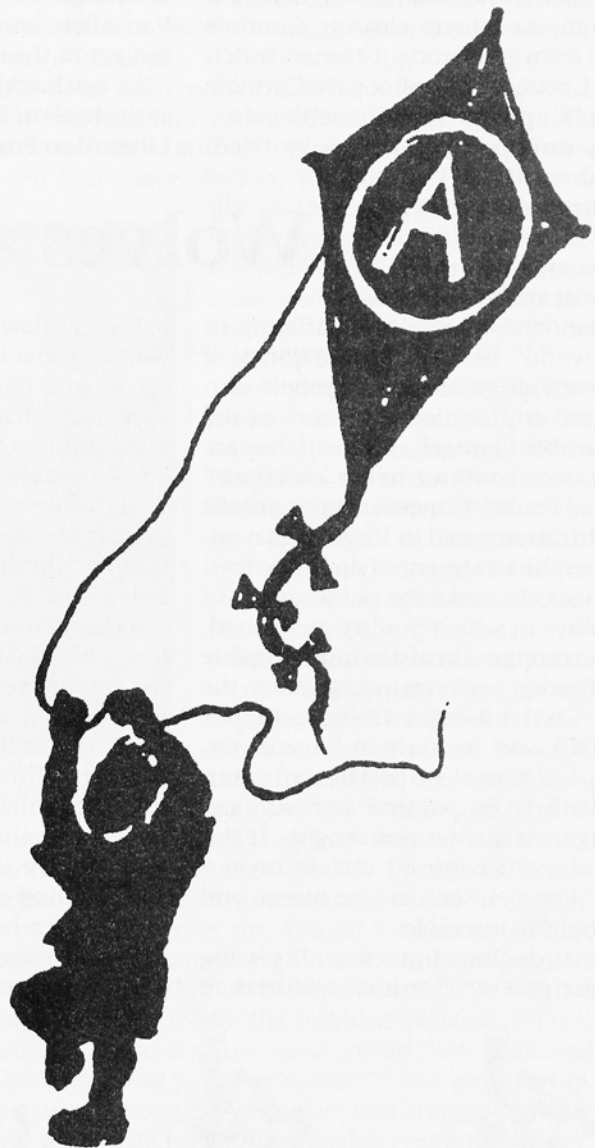
Incarcerate El Capitan

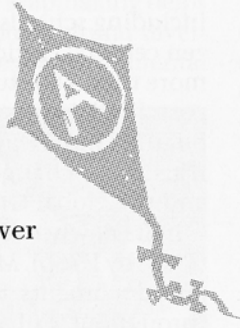
Nail a picture of John Muir to a Sequoia

Hang Ansel Adam's photo of Cathedral Peaks

in front of the Cathedral itself

—Josh Gilman





A Night Aside the Duckabush River

Silence exists alone
 within.
Outside nature crashes
 subsides
 crashes
weaves harmony, water and earth.
City raised I am un-
 conversant
with cycles uncontained.
Voices emerge, a playground recess;
bouncing balls on blacktop, energy
released through compliance
 or coiling within
coursing now
 NOW!
Forcing me towards edges
 Listen!
Authority is watching
 Now screaming (pleading) threats
I can't accept.
Energy grabs my heart, races
up my arm, down my leg, round my gut
faster.. faster.. how fast can I..
 STOP!...
.....Stars
and a towering cedar's collected rain
 reach through.
Coyote howls
 wilderness whispers,
offers
 nothing;
 no containment
 no silence
 only now.

—Alex

A Single Song

She sings alone never asking for accompaniment. I see her often, on a signpost in the morning or in a tree at midday. When I take the time to truly notice, she puts a smile on my face for I have now learned to take a moment to block out the world and let her “speak” to me.

You see, she first became a lesson to me and a blessing all at once. It was she who reminded me as I sat feeling alone, that it was one little mockingbird, not two or three who made me stop and take notice of the beauty, that inspired me to look at her not with pity; but with respect, because like me, she is alone; yet she sings...

—Cheryl Greear

Salmon

They came up the river like a band of slick thieves. The water was thick with their leaping. They climbed together the ladder of rapids, hurled themselves and scraped their bellies. The dead ones floated like pickerel weed. Many fell out of the river of time, littering the rocky banks, drawing the rats, raccoons and badgers. They filled like windsocks with death. We came there. We carried our eyes and our baggage of witnessing. We carried our awe like a caudal fin. The willows crept down to the river's edge and hung their heads like sad old men, trailing all their living silver green leaves, their dusky olive leaves the color of salmon skin. The beached ones dried in the sun; they poked like stiff flags from the weeds and the light passing over them seemed disembodied, preternatural. Somewhere in the worlds between this one and the dead river of salmon ghosts, we heard a howling. *O Coho, O Kokanee, O Chinook.*

—Susan Kelly-DeWitt

Walking along the trail I see beartracks.
I hear them, turn around
to see the bear behind me—
It is a sunny day but still
there is snow on the trail.
I think how pleasant it would be
to die here and become bear fat,
to climb back up the avalanche chute,
look back across the muskeg
to the volcano, where the ducks
go (they live there, inside, in
a duck village—will they someday
invite us to their duck dance?)

All alone in sunlight, in snow,
in fur.

—Gary Lawless

MAPA VERDE CUBA

REVITALIZING STREETSAPES TO PAINT THE FUTURE GREEN

BY GREEN MAP OF THE AMERICAS NETWORK

Colorful graffiti announcing the *Proyecto Comunitario Muraleando* (Community Mural Making Project) welcomes newcomers to Lawton, a low-income neighborhood on the outskirts of Havana, Cuba. The influence of *Muraleando* makes an outsider's first visit an overwhelmingly dream-like experience: brightly painted murals of cultural icons, nature, poetry and designs cover 15 blocks of walls, houses and schools. Stone carvings, metalwork installations, telephone pole sculptures and gardens line the streets.

The many styles draw on Cuba's diverse culture, the Santeria religion and images of everyday life, as portrayed by collaborating local and foreign artists and activists. This exuberant revitalization has spawned monthly street festivals where theater, hip-hop, singing and dance performances draw tourists and community members together. More recently, this public art project has become a medium for celebrating the local environment through the *Mapa Verde Cuba* (Green Map Cuba) program.

Using the Green Map System, an adaptable eco-cultural mapmaking methodology shared by more than 250 communities worldwide, residents are surveying, reclaiming and restoring Lawton's natural and cultural resources. Local elementary school students have joined together with a senior citizens group to lead the project, aided by an ecologist and the neighborhood doctor. Through the process, they are exploring their home from a fresh perspective and learning to communicate their collaborative findings in an engaging, direct way.

In Cuba, the Green Map System was introduced in May 1998, after founding director Wendy Brawer participated in an international conference on sustainable development. Cuban ecologists and environmental educators appreciated the Green Map System's potential to empower communities and share their sustainability work with the world. In 1999, the first projects were initiated, and at the end of 2000, the *Mapa Verde Cuba* national network took shape. Today, there are 75 diverse urban and rural projects underway in 11 of Cuba's 14 provinces.

Mapa Verde Cuba is a project of the *Centro Felix Varela*, an organization that offers workshops on sustainable development, popular education, conflict mediation and ethics. The locally run map projects are based at institutions

including schools, neighborhood councils and senior citizen centers. Participants range in age from five to 85, and more than 750 students from across the island have taken part. Participants do more than create maps: They restore blighted waterways, petition public officials, organize field trips and exchange cultural experiences with other Cubans and the global Green Map network.

In its newly released video documentary, *Gotica a Gotica* (Drop by Drop), *Mapa Verde* interviews several participants and documents the impacts of the mapmaking process throughout Cuba. These hand-drawn maps have galvanized neighborhood volunteer action: Vacant lots have been turned into vegetable gardens, and new community centers have been founded. One community's Green Map project planted hundreds of street trees and established green roofs and patio gardens. Another group of student mapmakers identified a dangerous bridge on their way to school, and then organized volunteers to replace it. The experience reinforces community and environmental values while developing participants' skills and imparting a sense of lasting ownership.

Cuba's *Mapa Verde* emphasizes practical support of real people in real places by addressing economic, social and environmental issues. In Lawton, *Mapa Verde* has resulted in a number of different maps with special



Children played a major role in the creation of Green Maps in Cuba

photos courtesy Green Map of the Americas Network

themes. Elder residents collaborated on block-by-block research for a Green Map emphasizing health conditions and neighborhood history. For another map, elementary school students compiled information on the flora, fauna and soil conditions of a hill behind their school. Artists transformed the resulting map into a street mural, making the Green Mappers' findings accessible without expending resources on printing and distribution. The muralists have painted realistic visions of proposed improvements alongside the Green Map, including better housing, urban gardens, safer parks and a ball field. With dedication and perseverance, the project has bolstered sorely needed initiatives and has directly addressed community concerns. Lawton's *Muraleando Mapa Verde* team has grown from seven to 80 members in a single year, demonstrating that even with limited resources, it is possible to understand and impact the neighborhood's ecology and culture.

In 44 countries around the world, Green Mapmaking helps cultivate personal empowerment, promotes cultural diversity and encourages a movement to address environmental concerns. Collaborating mapmakers from the global South (particularly Cuba and Brazil) have expressed a clear interest in working with the North to deepen the dialogue about our common future. The Canadian-based *Mapas Verdes* Learning and Vision Project was formed in 2003 with the belief that the profound international human rights and environmental issues we face require innovative, inter-cultural learning and planning tools to encourage dialogue and sustainable development throughout the hemisphere. Currently, this network is developing "Mapping Our Common Ground," a booklet of activities and low-cost resources for community and Green Mapmaking—to be published in English, Spanish and Portuguese in 2005.



A Green Map workshop in Cuba

Due to the tightening US embargo and recent Cuban currency shifts, Americans have been prevented from seeing how far Cubans have progressed toward sustainable development with so few resources. For example, because Cuba is unable to buy the oil, fertilizers and pesticides necessary for modern industrial agriculture, organic agriculture has flourished. Cubans have turned to oxen and bicycles to replace machinery and farm transportation, and they are successfully growing healthy food wherever people live—on urban school grounds, vacant lots, rooftops and patios. This model of organic urban agriculture can be emulated in other countries concerned about food security or where fresh produce makes the difference between bare subsistence and vigorous health.

Despite many challenges, the *Mapa Verde Cuba* team continues to work for sustainable development. As the Green Map movement keeps growing, it will empower communities across the island to take pride in their culture and environment—and help people have a voice in their future.

For more information, visit www.greenmap.org. Also, Pastors for Peace, www.ifconews.org, is an organization that delivers much-needed computers, medical and school supplies to Cuba every Summer.

AFTA

A STEP TOWARD THE PASSAGE OF THE FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS, AFTA THREATENS THE LIVELIHOODS OF MANY

The Andean Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) is one out of a handful of trade agreements spawned by the Free Trade Area of the Americas talks in Miami, Florida, in November 2003. Since then, the anti-globalization movement has found itself battling regional trade agreements with Chile, Central America and the Andean nations of Perú, Ecuador and Colombia. Advertised as necessary steps toward widespread economic development in Latin America, these trade agreements are blueprints for economic and environmental devastation.

The latest round of AFTA negotiations was held in Tucson, Arizona, in December. In attendance were an array of public and private officials from all sides, including politicians, lobbyists and other experts who have worked with negotiators to hash out the actual policies.

Although the International Monetary Fund and World Bank have already plunged most Latin American countries into government-sanctioned poverty, AFTA would only solidify those disastrous economic policies and

ensure obedience from Perú, Ecuador and Colombia to the US government and multinational corporations. AFTA is slated to be finalized this Spring in Washington, DC.

Provisions in AFTA would:

- Cause the acceleration of industrial clearcutting and the conversion of native forests to tree plantations or agricultural fields.

- Impede the authority of governments to protect natural resources or to provide standards, incentives and quantitative restrictions aimed at ensuring sustainable environmental management. Foreign companies would be empowered to sue governments when their ability to earn a profit from their investment is inhibited by environmental standards.

- Limit conservation measures in the service sector. If passed, AFTA's "market access" and "service rules" limit the ability of governments to control the amount of ecologically damaging activities. These include mining, water diversion and extraction, oil drilling, pipeline transport, shipping, hotel

construction, incineration of waste and natural resource management.

- Contribute to the loss of democracy and public involvement. Governments and citizens would have to surrender their rights to negotiate any regulation that affects them or the environment to unelected international tribunals.

- Weaken standards that prevent the importation of invasive species and threats from genetically modified organisms (GMOs). This would not only increase the spread of invasive species, the countries would also be required to allow the patenting of GMOs—including those capable of disrupting native ecosystems.

- Cause enormous threats to biodiversity by permitting multinational corporations to patent lifeforms, essentially enabling intellectual property claims and the monopolization of genetic materials. AFTA would, for example, allow patenting, exploitation and restrict access of Amazonian plants used for medicine and food by local peoples for centuries.

CAFTA

GEARING UP FOR THE BATTLE IN 2005 • TENS OF THOUSANDS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN PROTESTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA: WHAT WILL WE DO AT HOME?

BY SOLEDAD

If you haven't been working to halt CAFTA, now is the time to join in. The upcoming months look to spell "do or die" for CAFTA opponents, as the Bush administration announced plans to prioritize passage of the US-Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) this year in order to pass the full Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) by 2006. Congressional approval of CAFTA is the Bush administration's number one priority on trade issues, and Congress is expected to push for a vote before Summer. Because of "fast-track" legislation, congressional members will be allowed to vote only for or against the agreement as it is written.

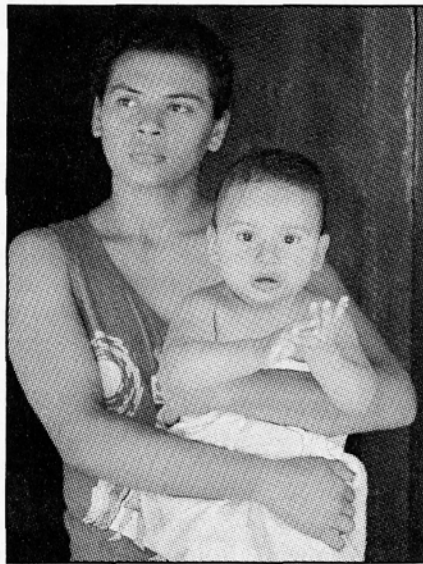


photo by Orin Langelle/Globel Justice Ecology Project

At a refugee camp in Posoltega, Nicaragua

CAFTA is an extension of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to Central America and the Dominican Republic. Beyond the negative ramifications for human rights, the environment and labor that we've come to expect from free-trade agreements, what happens to CAFTA may either sound the death knell or pave the way for the FTAA. The FTAA would expand NAFTA/CAFTA to every country in North, South and Central America (except Cuba). Numerous victories—or at least successful delays—have come to the anti-capitalist globalization movement in recent years, mostly through setbacks at trade-negotiation meetings. The Bush administration needs the momentum of a CAFTA victory to push its free-trade agenda forward.

Passing CAFTA: Where We Stand

The Bush administration first began pushing CAFTA two years ago. In December 2003, negotiations concluded on the initial CAFTA terms (without Costa Rica, which walked out of the talks). In May 2004, five of the seven countries in Central America signed the final agreement: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In Spring 2004, the Dominican Republic joined the negotiations and added its name to the agreement. To become official, the agreement must now be ratified by the congresses and national assemblies of each participating country, including the US.

On December 17, El Salvador became the first CAFTA country to approve the agreement. The legislation was ratified without notice, in the dead of night, at 3:20 a.m. Earlier that day, 100 protesters had taken over El Salvador's legislative council and held a people's vote against the ratification.

The right-leaning government of El Salvador has a long history of pandering to the US, and it may not be reflective of the ratification struggles in other Central American countries. Yet it seems increasingly likely that our best bet to stop the implementation of CAFTA may come from a refusal to ratify by the US Congress. This year, we need to bring the momentum of the mass public opposition from Central American countries to the land occupied by the US government.

CAFTA: Why It Sucks

CAFTA is expected to cost US jobs, harm the environment, threaten human rights and transfer the wealth of Latin American nations to US corporations. In the region covered by CAFTA, 62 percent of the people live on less than two dollars a day. Undermining local economies while displacing labor and human rights protections seriously threatens the quality of life for millions of people in the US and Central America.

Who would benefit? The US export industries with the most to gain include information technology, agricultural and construction equipment, paper products, chemicals and medical and scientific equipment. Additionally, CAFTA would remove investment barriers and deregulate the public sector. This would allow US capitalists to privatize the Central American service economy and public industries (such as health care, telecommunications and education). Industries relating to mass media will benefit as US patent and intellectual property rights are strengthened, while US software, music, text and videos gain increased protection and non-discriminatory treatment rights.

More than 80 percent of US consumer goods would become duty free in Central America immediately, with other tariffs phased out during the next 20 years. The agricultural economy will be hit especially hard, displacing

thousands of farmers. CAFTA gives free range to biotech firms and agribusiness at the expense of family farms in both the US and Central America. After NAFTA's implementation, more than one million farmers lost their jobs in Mexico. CAFTA would force a massive migration of displaced Central American farmers to urban areas to work in *maquiladoras* and/or be forced to risk their lives heading to the US in search of work.

Proponents of CAFTA make much of the supposed labor standards included in the agreement. However, rather than requiring participating countries to enforce international labor standards, CAFTA only asks that countries enforce their own existing laws. In many Central American nations, existing labor laws are seriously flawed and notoriously ignored. CAFTA does not even include effective measures or accountability requirements for enforcing current labor laws.

CAFTA allows foreign investors and multinational corporations to challenge hard-won environmental regulations as barriers to free trade. International tribunals (think the World Trade Organization) would bypass domestic courts to award foreign investors monetary compensation for implementation of any environmental regulations. Both Mexico and Canada have already lost chapter 11 challenges under NAFTA, and current chapter 11 lawsuits against the US total more than one billion dollars. Like labor standards, no language is included in CAFTA to require participating nations to maintain international environmental standards. The investor language discourages the passage of new environmental laws or the enforcement of current environmental protections. The exportation of local resources at the expense of local sustainability is encouraged. Additionally, the CAFTA text fails to include the independent environmental cooperation institution established under NAFTA.

FREE TRADE ?

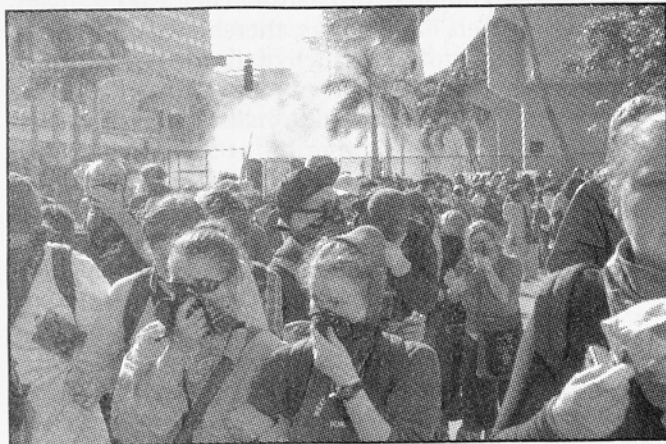


Photo by Orin Lunsdale/Global Justice Ecology Project

Demonstrators at the November 2003 FTAA Summit

Direct Action in Central America

The organizing and mass protests to CAFTA that have sprung up in Central America should be an inspiration for building mass momentum in the US. Since March 2002, when the Bush administration first announced CAFTA, tens of thousands of people have blockaded major highways, marched to capital buildings and have otherwise protested CAFTA. Most protests in Central America have linked CAFTA to the Plan Puebla Panama, FTAA, the

privatization of public-sector industries and the broader neoliberal economic agenda.

In one of the more recent protests, hundreds of members of the Coordinating Committee of Popular Resistance demonstrated in December in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, to demand that the legislature not ratify CAFTA.

Actions protesting the December ratification of CAFTA by El Salvador's legislature were held at Salvadorian consulates around the world on December 21. The next day, thousands of demonstrators simultaneously blocked traffic in El Salvador on nine major highways across the country.

On October 12, in Guatemala, El Salvador, Panama, Honduras and Venezuela, thousands of people commemorated indigenous resistance and protested "free-trade" agreements on the anniversary of Columbus' 1492 arrival. In Guatemala, 30,000 indigenous people, *campesinos*, students and teachers marched in the capital, while in other parts of the country, Guatemalans blockaded major highways and demonstrated at public buildings. In Panama, a march to the presidential building by 1,200 *campesinos*, workers and indigenous

people was joined by more than 100 members of the Campesino Front Against Dams, who had marched for 11 days from the mountains of Coclé to protest construction of a dam that will force them from their land.

Protesters in El Salvador successfully blocked the Panamerican highway at San Pedro Perulapan for two hours before being dispersed by police with pepper spray, while a major highway was blocked for three hours in San Vicente and more than 500 people took over a major intersection in Sonsonate. In Caracas, Venezuela, demonstrators pulled down a 100-year-old bronze statue of Columbus and dragged it through the streets (see *EFJ* January-February 2005). In Honduras, more than 2,000 Chori indigenous people blocked a major highway in the town of Copan Ruinas leading to Guatemala. Marches were also held in San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa.

In response to the massive protests, Central American countries have not rolled over as easily in CAFTA negotiations as the Bush administration might have predicted. However, the end results are far short of a fair-trade victory. In the language of the final agreement, the US exempted the textile and sugar industries, and it gave Central American farm products, such as corn and dairy, 20-year phaseout periods. All other problematic clauses were maintained.

What Can We Do?

Hold our noses and contact our Senators and Representatives to urge them to oppose CAFTA.

Get the word out about CAFTA and the need to oppose it. Organize local teach-ins, distribute literature and get letters printed in your local newspapers.

Take action against those multinational corporations that stand to benefit the most from CAFTA. Next time you are going after your favorite biotech corporation, add a couple of sentences to your press release and outreach materials, or focus your action on the devastating effects of CAFTA.

For more information, visit www.stopcafta.org.

THE PEACE THAT MUST END WHITE SUPREMACY AND ECOLOGY

BY PROBLEM ANIMAL

Has anyone ever cared so much about how we live our lives? They want us to drive their trucks, tanks and tractors, build their high-rise apartments, dams and prisons, go to church, vote with their ballot machines, obey our husbands, listen to their radio stations, find a girlfriend with the right bra size, report graffiti (\$500 reward!), upgrade our software, send our kids to school, say no to drugs, fill out our W-2s, drink Absolut Vodka, fill up our gas tanks and guard their valuables. They want every move we make to strengthen the social machinery that makes them kings. They want to tame us until we are part of their machine—until we are so dependent on their technology that we use each other as tools.

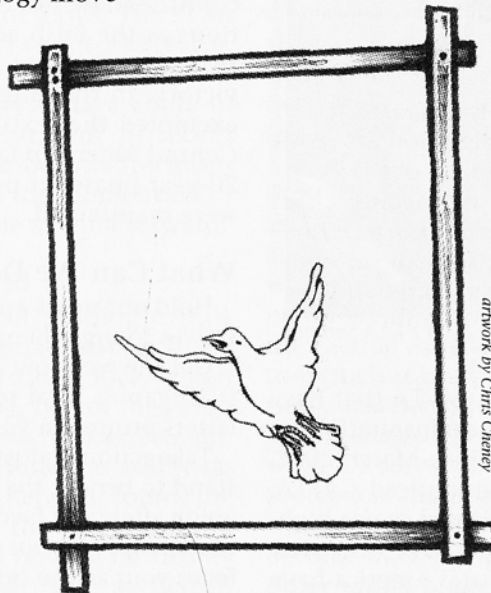
Few devices put the rulers on top better than racial hierarchy. The powerful benefit from racism because most are white, because racism keeps dissent split up more effectively than a line of riot cops, and because racism rallies armies to fight wars, defend borders, elect politicians and police the streets. North America would never have been colonized without a social system that devalued indigenous people. One would think that this system would be a principle enemy of all ecology movements. However, there exists a peaceful silence on the subject among white activists. In fact, there are many examples of overlap between white supremacy and ecology.

Most who struggle to defend the Earth are not white. White supremacy, therefore, has a limited hold on the global ecological struggle. Nonetheless, racist ecology poses a danger to the movement as a whole and, ultimately, to life itself. We must confront white supremacy within ecology movements as militantly as we would confront ExxonMobil or the US Forest Service; the threat is just as great. We must wage this battle on many fronts: against admitted members of white nationalist groups, against the actions

and statements of our own movements and, finally, for white activists, within ourselves. If we lose this battle, white ecologists may, at best, find themselves left in the rubble while the rest of the population decides the fate of the world. Worse, white activists may find themselves as tools in the nightmare of the machine age.

One of the best-kept secrets of ecology is the strength of the green strains of white nationalism. The Nazi party actively supported such tenets of deep ecology as biodynamic farming, worship of Norse gods, anti-urbanism, forest preservation, anti-industrialism and a rejection of civilization itself. The German government enthusiastically funded new ecological initiatives, even at the height of the war. This combination of deep ecology and racism is sampled well by pagan and Nazi leader Alfred Rosenberg: "Today we see the steady stream from the countryside to the city, deadly for the volk [volk translates roughly to a nationalist, proletarian and mystical "folk"]. The cities swell even larger, unnerving the volk and destroying the threads that bind humanity to nature. They attract adventurers and profiteers of all colors, thereby fostering racial chaos." Rosenberg provided much of the ideological foundation for the young Nazi party.

White nationalist interest in ecology did not die at the end of World War II. The National Socialist Movement, a US-based, Nazi-inspired organization, claims that "being a national socialist is being obedient to nature and nature's creator." According to White Aryan Resistance (WAR), the use of chopsticks in Asia is destroying old-growth forests in the Pacific Northwest, and "the white race cannot be strong if our environment is polluted." Some white supremacist websites, such as "Folk and Faith," have links to sites for Earth First! and the Animal Liberation Front. A new wave of groups, like WAR and Folk and Faith, claim to be beyond left and right, embracing an ideology of decentralized nationalism.



artwork by Chris Cheney

Immigration, a hot topic for white nationalists, provides a scapegoat for any social or ecological issue. According to Californians for Population Stabilization, "Virtually all of California's problems can be connected to the fact that we have too many people, yet our elected officials continue providing numerous incentives that encourage immigration, including drivers licenses and in-state tuition for illegal aliens."

Overt racists are not content to stay within their own movements. John Thanton, founder and benefactor of several anti-immigration groups, funded the above-mentioned Californians for Population Stabilization. In a 1986 memo, leaked in 1988, Thanton named the Sierra Club as a potential target for infiltration. Thanton's most recent takeover attempt targeted the 2004 Sierra Club board elections, with Sierrans for US Population Stabilization (SUSPS) and several animal rights groups attempting to push an anti-immigration, anti-overpopulation and animal rights agenda. Like the nationalist Nazi ecology, SUSPS believes that the Earth on this side of the razor wire is more valuable than the rest.

There also exists, within anti-immigration ecology, a logic of hoarding privilege. According to Californians for Population Stabilization, "High consumption rates and rapid population growth work together to degrade the environment. However, reduced consumption is very difficult to achieve on a national basis, and international momentum is toward emulating high American levels of it, not modeling Third World frugality." This theme emphasizes keeping others poor to compensate for a US-initiated problem. US culture is spreading worldwide, but does the world want to be just like us or is US culture being shoved down its throat? Can't you smell the upchuck washing up on our shores? Was the 9/11 attack a demand for a new Wal-Mart in Kabul?

The anti-overpopulation movement is saturated in racism deeper than its links with anti-immigration groups. A saying among the elite states that "too many of the wrong type of people are breeding." In their war against those types, doctors continue to remove or disable the reproductive systems of poor women of color, sometimes under coercion, sometimes without the woman's knowledge or consent. I was surprised to hear an uncle of mine, a liberal doctor, justifying these actions as "for their own good." My partner recently inquired about free exams for low-income women, only to discover that the exam would be granted to her only if she agreed to go on, and partially pay for, birth control.

Amongst those responsible for the blitzkrieg against the Sierra Club was board member and Sea Shepherd Captain Paul Watson, who provided a key link between anti-immigration and animal rights groups. While the SUSPS

was rejected in the board elections, Watson still has a home in the supposedly more radical *EF! Journal*, where the Sea Shepherd continues to find publicity in almost every issue. Earth First! has had racist overtones since it dropped its first banner on the Glen Canyon dam. Dave Foreman, a self-proclaimed founder of Earth First! and a member of SUSPS, has long been known for his racist and patriarchal attitudes. Even the name "Earth First!" was, for some such as Foreman and Watson, originally a way of belittling causes that they did not see as part of an ecological agenda. Earth First!, however, has no leaders, so any overarching accusation of it would be untrue. It is more capable of grassroots change because its actions are as diverse as its participants. It is precisely because of efforts to bring an anti-hierarchical agenda to Earth First! that Foreman and flocks of other insecure, alpha, white males have fled. Others, however, are still there.

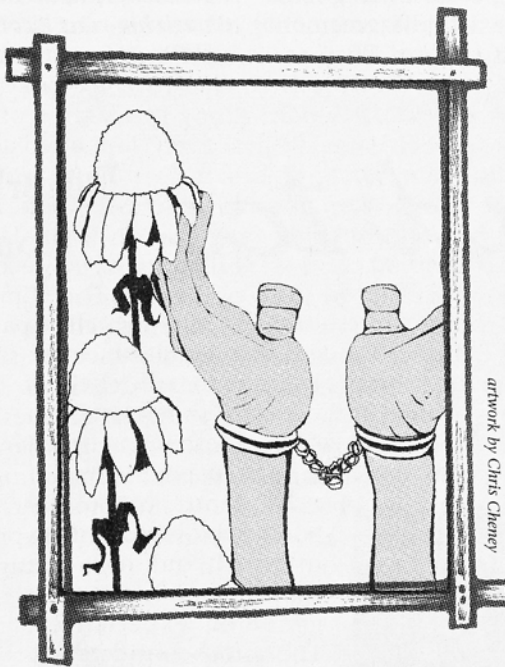
A number of radical ecologists have found inspiration in the writings of Ted Kaczynski, who, aside from a long bombing campaign, is most famous for his essay collection—"Industrial Society and Its Future" (aka the Unabomber Manifesto)—in which he writes: "Does it make sense to demand affirmative action in hostile or dogmatic terms? Obviously, it would be more productive to take a diplomatic or conciliatory approach that would make concessions to white people." A call for a less hostile approach from a man who mailed bombs? Kaczynski wishes to pacify those who challenge his privilege while pursuing direct action for his own agenda.

In his short story, "Ship of Fools," Kaczynski ridicules people of color, among others, belittling race issues as a petty distraction from his liberation. This theme of white activists downplaying race issues as reformist or a distraction holds strength among certain radical ecologists.

The most important battlefield against racism, for whites, is within ourselves. Despite our best efforts, we are part of racial hierarchy. The question is not whether whites join the racists or anti-racists. It is not a matter of how many people of color we collect as friends or how many hip-hop records we have. The choice is rather a matter of how many wrenches we throw in the system.

"By visibly hovering near us, [whites] are 'proving' that they are 'with us.' But the hard truth is that this isn't helping America's racist problem. Where the really sincere white people have got to do their 'proving' of themselves is not among black victims but out on the battle lines of where America's racism really is—and that is in their own home communities...." Malcolm X wrote this toward the end of his life when he recognized that a cautious amount of trust could be put in white allies. Just as addicts will forever face their addiction, whites should never see themselves as beyond racism. We must always fight our addiction to

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artwork by Chris Cheney

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power. Too often, whites seek to gain approval from people of color for their anti-racism. People of color, however, are not always interested in patting whites on the back for not kicking them down again.

Even well-meaning people must challenge themselves. For example, those of us wishing to abandon imperialist culture by learning primitive skills need to concern ourselves with how we learn. A white, primitive skills enthusiast could ask themselves, "Who wrote my book about Ojibwa medicine; where did I learn how to make birch baskets; how do I learn religious language such as 'great spirit?'" These questions are simply a star to follow in the quest to destroy privilege. No magic formula guards against cultural imperialism; there exists disagreement among communities of color on this subject. They are,



artwork by Chris Cheney

us as tools. Then we are rewilding.

Problem Animal inhabits the South Shore of Lake Superior, though his exact location has not been known since his tracking collar was found destroyed 20 miles southeast of Duluth.

Fire and Ice

Disturbing the Comfortable and Comforting the Disturbed

BY NOLADY

Fire and Ice: Disturbing the Comfortable and Comforting the Disturbed While Tracking Our Wildest Dreams, by Laurel Luddite and Skunkly Monkly, Apeshit Press, 2004.

Fire and Ice reads like an activist self-help guide, a collage of journal entries and a zine writ large. The authors utilize different fonts to represent their different voices and sprinkle quotes, ranging from Susan Griffin to Crazy Horse, throughout the text. They insist on an intimate confessional style and on making their experiences heard. They expose their fears, wounds, hopes and dreams in the belief that they are not alone and that their experiences may help others undergoing a similar decivilizing process. The book ends with an embrace of primitivism and the hunter-gatherer lifestyle.

The basic premise of *Fire and Ice* is that civilization is a psychological

trauma resulting in our alienation, dislocation and fragmentation. More than simply learning to build shelters or start fires, we need to relearn ways of dealing with each other and find a new source of hope in a dying world.

The central part of the book explores the ways in which our lives are shaped and limited by gendered experiences. The serious consideration of gender is laudable and perhaps the part of the book most enhanced by the intensely personal style. Unfortunately, the authors only peripherally address the ways that race or class shape their lives.

The section entitled "White Lies" is a case in point. This brief section focuses on the way in which one of the author's idealization of pre-conquest indigenous life is crushed early on by their father's response: "But the Indians did a hell of a lot of damage to the Earth too." Why does this section not address, even as a footnote, the ways in which

primitivist romanticization of indigenous peoples works to justify genocide or what white Americans get out of romanticizing Indians? The title even suggests that the historical evidence that some pre-conquest indigenous peoples had wars, caused extinctions, etc. is the real "white lie." I strongly suggest the authors check out Phil Deloria's *Playing Indian*, a critical examination of the reasons white Americans have embraced Indian identity from the Boston Tea Party to the Camp Fire Girls.

Other topics that the authors write about include unschooling, love, resistance, responsibility and denial.

In the end, *Fire and Ice* probably does a better job comforting the disturbed than disturbing the comfortable. White Americans with primitivist sympathies on the run from their suburban youth are most likely to appreciate the authors' earnest attempt to make sense of their lives. The book does a great job exposing the emotional underside and psychological motivation (including lack of attention to race or class) of much of the Earth First! movement in the US.



Recipes for the Motivated

BY THE CRIMETHINC. SLEEPWALKERS' BOOK CLUB (WE READ IN OUR SLEEP)

Recipes for Disaster: An Anarchist Cookbook, by CrimethInc. Workers' Collective, 2004.

Mix a book project that has been years in the making, stir in ideas such as "Classroom Takeovers" and how to make "Smoke Bombs," sprinkle in some firsthand accounts, and you have *Recipes for Disaster: An Anarchist Cookbook*—CrimethInc.'s followup to its notorious first book, *Days of War, Nights of Love*.

Billed as the next *Anarchist Cookbook*, *Recipes for Disaster* will probably not invoke the same feelings that *Days of War* brought to many. It does, however, have the potential to act as a kick-off to brainstorming meetings where everyone in your group of friends is deciding how to deal with the corporate bookstore moving into town or when your art collective needs new ways to beautify your city.

The book's 624 pages and 62 recipes may seem a chore to read, so it would probably do the reader well to work off of the (Setting the) Table of Contents.

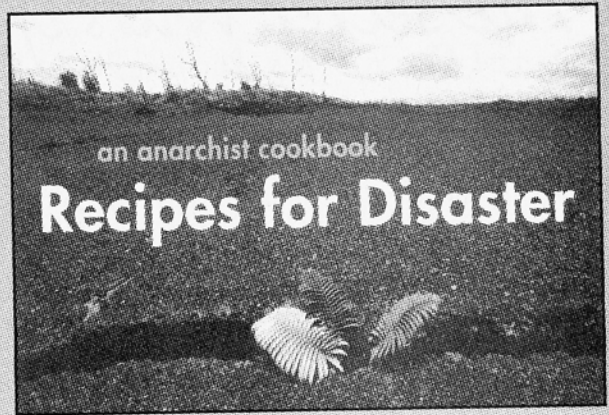
Recipes for Disaster is stuffed with guides that range from the legal and seemingly mundane to how to evade the police presence that some of the recipes are sure to bring. It offers

creative projects and ways to deal with your personal life.

Aesthetically, it is nicely designed, offers space in the margins to take notes and has easy-to-read diagrams. CrimethInc. has designed the book sans overused anarchist graphics and hard-to-read blocks of text so that it is accessible to an audience wider than those who normally show up at your infoshop.

Though the EF! crowd will probably be most attracted to the "Blockades and Lockdowns" and "Sabotage" recipes, *Recipes for Disaster* won't take the place of your tattered, old copy of the *EF! Direct Action Manual*. However, if you are looking for more creative tabling ideas or ways of dealing with collective dynamics, you will probably find this book helpful. Other recipe topics include: billboard improvement, spell casting, pie throwing, bicycle parades, torches and undermining oppression.

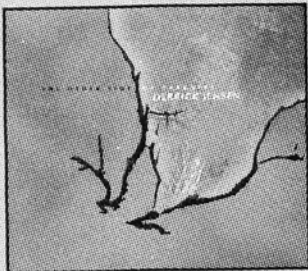
Who is this book not for? You activists who are so sure that the tactics you use are the best and who are not willing to accept help, especially from those hopeless romantics at CrimethInc.



Most of the criticism of *Recipes for Disaster* that we have heard (and agree with) is based upon its size (5.5 x 8.5 x 1.5/brick-esque). It's not the easiest thing to travel around with or hide under your mattress. To have the same amount of content in a less awkward size would have been preferable. The book costs \$12, which is a reflection of its printing costs. Don't feel like you can spend that much? You can always buy it with your friends and keep it within easy reach. After all, these are the people you'll be "cooking" with, right?

For more information, visit www.crimethinc.com.

The CrimethInc. Sleepwalkers are constantly dreaming and always waking up with their boots on.



Derrick Jensen's *The Other Side of Darkness* is a three-CD collection of short speeches recorded live at two events in 2003. He discusses material from two of his books, *The Culture of Make Believe* and *A Language Older than Words*,

in addition to direct responses to audience questions. If you haven't heard Jensen speak or even if you have read all of his books, the quality of his improvisational style will impress you. If you have heard Jensen speak, parts of this CD collection will sound very familiar.

The Other Side of Darkness will confirm to repeat listeners the amount of preparation that turns Jensen's engaging live talks into performances. His humorous quips will surprise the reader familiar with the intensity of his lyrical yet hard-hitting

writing. However, the entertaining humor that fills this collection does not prevent Jensen from propounding his eco-centric, anti-capitalist philosophy. He moves fluidly through angry, tangential, poetic and personal pieces, indicting in turns the police state, the education system, patriarchy and civilization.

The question and answer period at the end of the CD may prove to be the most interesting tracks for those who have followed Jensen's work, as you hear him thinking out loud through the

variety of questions posed.

These short speeches combine to offer an excellent introduction to the broad spectrum of Jensen's thought. The way in which he expresses his beliefs, lucidly and engagingly, makes this CD worth listening to—especially if you've never heard Jensen speak or would like to share his work with family or friends. Jensen is not only a master storyteller but a master storyteller as well.

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

—SOLEDAD

Judi Bari Smear Book Published

The Secret Wars of Judi Bari

BY STRONG WOOD

Heads up! A right-wing smear book attacking the late EF!er Judi Bari has just been released by Encounter Books, a San Francisco, California-based right-wing publisher. *The Secret Wars of Judi Bari: A Car Bomb, the Fight for the Redwoods and the End of Earth First!* by Kate Coleman is a mean-spirited hatchet job packed with lies, errors and bias.

"The characters in the book are hardly recognizable as the people I know," says longtime EF!er and friend of Bari, Betty Ball, who as coordinator of the Mendocino Environmental Center in Ukiah, California, has been a central figure in movement activities in redwood country.

Encounter Books could be charged with false advertising for selling this book as nonfiction because it's all fiction from beginning to end. Hell, it can't even finish the book's title without the fiction that EF! is belly up. Maybe Encounter Books is delusional enough to think that putting out this book will cause "the end of Earth First!."

Some of Bari's friends and family got an advance copy of the book in

late 2004 and put together a page-by-page list of more than 350 lies and falsehoods in this 232-page book. The list is posted on the Internet at www.ColemanHoax.com, where there's also an "instant proof" feature with documents and photos that prove that key claims in Coleman's book are false.

Some say that this hit piece picks up where the FBI left off in its failed attempt to frame Bari and Darryl

Cherney for the 1990 car bomb that nearly killed her. At that time, the FBI was trying hard to "neutralize" EF! in the public mind by falsely linking leaders like Bari and Dave Foreman to explosives and "ecoterrorism."

The Secret Wars of Judi Bari is especially slimy because it's a stealth attack. The cover features a color picture of a smiling Judi Bari leaning out the window of her cabin. You'd never know it is an attack book from the description on the back cover: "A superb piece of investigative journalism, this engrossing and suspenseful page-turner is buoyed throughout by the author's sophisticated wit and irony. Coleman knows this world of grassroots political activism from the inside out

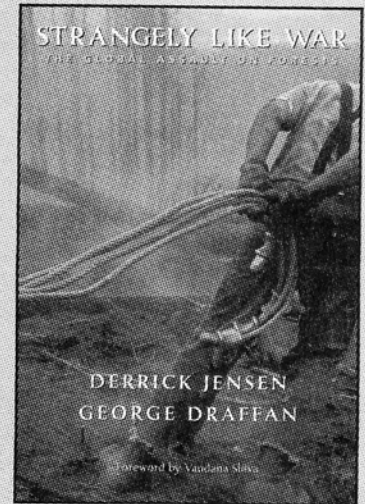
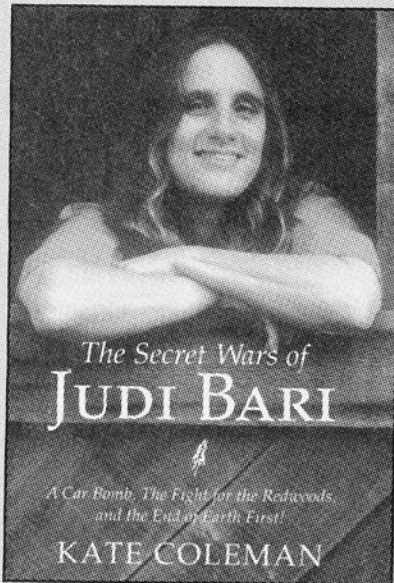
and is miraculously able to balance her unshakable progressive sympathies with her unerring feel for the tragic-comedy of radical self-righteousness." That's more false advertising!

Encounter Books isn't a normal book publisher that puts out books as a money-making business. Instead it's a non-profit organization that was established with a multi-million dollar grant from the extreme right-wing Lynde and Harry Brad-

dley Foundation, which has more than \$600 million in assets and is one of the two largest sponsors of neo-conservative causes in this country.

For more info, visit www.fojib.org; www.ColemanHoax.com; www.judibari.org.

Strong Wood has been a redwood activist in Mendocino County, California, since 1973. He wrote about the killing of David "Gypsy" Chain for the EF! Journal in the November-December 1998 issue.



Strangely Like War: The Global Assault on Forests, by Derrick Jensen and George Draffan, Chelsea Green Publishing, 2003.

In *Strangely Like War*, Derrick Jensen's trademark lyrical language and personal style are tied to an onslaught of facts that have been pulled from sources ranging from environmental histories and the *Wall Street Journal* to Greenpeace reports. The strength of the book is the way that Jensen and co-author George Draffan bring together their barrage of statistics and examples to illustrate the overarching system of globalization and consumption that is devouring the world's forests.

This book is highly recommended as a reference source for any activist working on forest issues. The footnotes are useful for accurately citing those pesky statistics that pop up all over the place. But more importantly, *Strangely Like War* is an important primer for newer activists. It is full of coherent and lucid explanations of terms and processes ranging from Environmental Impact Statements and the process of appealing a timber sale to an examination of contemporary globalization.

It is clear that the US is the region most familiar to the authors from the frequency with which it serves as the home of the examples given. Yet the point of *Strangely Like War* is not to understand the specificity of any one situation but rather to indict the system fueled by consumption that destroys forests around the world.

—SOLEDAD

Gene Traders

Biotechnology, World Trade and the Globalization of Hunger

BY ORIN LANGELE

Gene Traders: Biotechnology, World Trade and the Globalization of Hunger, edited by Brian Tokar, Toward Freedom, 2004.

The introduction of *Gene Traders* by its editor, Brian Tokar, whets the appetite to read on.

Tokar starts in November 1999, in the streets of Seattle, Washington, where tens of thousands gathered to stop the World Trade Organization's (WTO) ministerial summit before it could begin. After Seattle, the global justice movement in the US largely did not embrace the struggle against biotech, but many global justice activists elsewhere on the planet did.

Tokar writes, "Meanwhile, throughout much of Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa, popular movements around global economics, genetic engineering (GE) and local food sovereignty evolved along a far more unified course. Wherever global corporations threatened the integrity of local food cultures and agricultural practices, wherever the WTO, World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) were supporting policies that forced traditional food growers off their land, wherever threats to the integrity of living forests, rivers and coastlines directly impacted traditional agrarian communities, resistance to biotechnology grew hand in hand with resistance to globalization."

Why are all of these people pissed off? *Gene Traders* explains in great detail why people are indeed outraged. It gives sound, thought-out arguments that hopefully people will use to take action to confront trade agreements, the WTO, World Bank, IMF, multinationals and corporate

agriculture. If you want a handbook that details the politics of hunger and biotechnology, then *Gene Traders* is a must.

S'ra DeSantis, in "Control through Contamination," describes the dangers GE crops pose to human health, the environment and family farms.

She also tackles GE corn contamination in Mexico and how it relates to the trade agreements pushed by the US. DeSantis highlights the pitfalls of these agreements and concludes, "As people throughout the world are becoming more aware of the dangers that such pacts pose to national sovereignty, human rights and the environment, indeed to the Earth's very survival, the world says

'¡Ya Basta!' (Enough Already!)."

If you ever thought there was a plot or conspiracy to control almost every aspect of life as we know it, then get ready to read the evidence as Aziz Choudry takes on the WTO. Choudry starts *Gene Traders*' second chapter with this chilling quote by former WTO Director General Renato Ruggiero: "We are writing the constitution of a single global economy."

Choudry states that the neoliberal model promoted by the WTO "advocates total freedom of movement for capital, goods and services, sees everything and everyone as a tradable commodity and argues that market forces must be left to rule, free from interference by government or communities." Choudry cuts through the WTO jargon, exposing the institution as an attempt to control all life for the profit of the elite.

If the WTO is the enforcer of the global economy, then the financial set-up institutions are the World Bank and IMF—taken on by Tokar in

"Biotechnology and the Green Revolution." The World Bank, as many people are aware, has been responsible for funding some of the most environmentally destructive projects in the history of the world. Tokar explains many intricacies regarding the functioning of the World Bank, and he details its relationship with biotech and corporate agriculture.

Lawrence Tsimese reports, "The biotech industry claims that Africa needs biotechnology to lower food costs, help feed the poor and hungry, save the environment and lower pesticide use. However, the true motives for genetically altering our food crops appear to be quite the contrary." Tsimese goes on to show that agricultural and social systems in Africa are different than in the West in the area of biosafety and that GE crops lead to the loss of biodiversity.

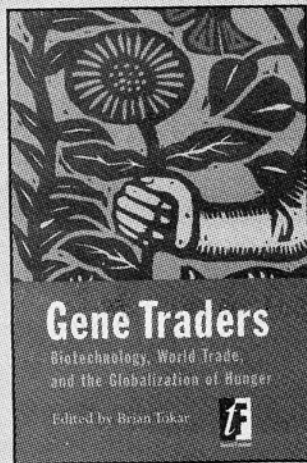
Other chapters in *Gene Traders* by Shiri Pasternak, Mwananyanda Mbikusita Lewanika and Devinder Sharma, round out the case against biotechnology and the control of food by the nefarious thugs involved.

If there is a fault in *Gene Traders*, it is the complexity of its alphabet soup of institutions, trade agreements, agencies, etc. Although all acronyms are explained in the index, I would have preferred a road map of sorts that might have made it easier to read.

Gene Traders, however, is a valuable tool documenting human modification of nature with unknown consequences. In this age of economic globalization, biotechnology benefits the rich while ruining traditional practices and peoples. The GE idea is not only stupid, its pushers should be considered criminals.

For more information, visit www.genetraders.org.

Orin Langelle, langelle@sover.net, is the co-director of the Vermont-based Global Justice Ecology Project (GJEP), www.globaljusticeecology.org. One of GJEP's programs works to stop the genetic engineering of trees.





Ask an EF!

He's Working on *Your* Side!

Lawyer

BY STU SUGARMAN

*Dear EF! Lawyer,
How can I research sentencing guidelines to see what sentence a person is likely to serve?*

—No NAME

Dear No Name,

Sentencing guidelines (SGLs, or guidelines) are used in federal and certain state courts but written by the executive branch (people working for the governor or president). Unlike statutory-maximum sentences, guidelines have been the true governing law regarding criminal sentencing. For example, Martha Stewart faced a five-year statutory-maximum sentence for her perjury conviction, but the relevant SGL required that the judge sentence her to between 10 and 16 months, with her spending only half that sentence in custody. Martha received a guideline sentence of five months in prison and another five months in home detention.

If not for the guidelines, Martha's judge would have had more power to choose her sentence. The Vera Institute of Justice's study of government policies' effects on sentencing found that the only policies consistently associated with lower incarceration rates were the sentencing guidelines. Many criminal lawyers, however, disagree with that conclusion.

Sentencing guidelines gradually increase sentences as the number and severity of a defendant's past criminal convictions increase and the present crime's severity increases. A defendant with several serious crimes against people (such as assault, robbery and, believe it or not, tree spiking) who is being tried for, say, aggravated murder, would be in the worst grid block—and would face hundreds of months in prison under the guidelines. On the other hand, someone accused for the first time of possessing a small amount of methamphetamine would face little or no jail time under the most lenient SGL grid block. Once a judge determines a person's grid block, they can choose from the short list of aggravating and mitigating guideline factors to support a harsher or lighter sentence. It is within a judge's discretion whether to apply aggravating or mitigating factors, and those factors could change a no-jail sentence into a multi-year sentence or visa versa.

To research SGLs, try doing an Internet search for "<state name>sentencing guidelines." Each state's guidelines might

not be available online, but I guarantee you'll at least find ways to order the guidelines from that state or from that state's criminal defense lawyers' association. You can also find your state's sentencing guidelines at any county courthouse's law library, which of course is free and open to the public. The US sentencing guidelines, which apply in all federal courts nationwide, are available at www.ussc.gov. Although the nuances of SGLs are many (my Oregon SGL manual is more than 400 pages long, and my federal SGL manual, available through West Publishing, is several times that length), both have a grid that graphically and clearly illustrates a person's likely sentence in a single page. At least 16 states use SGLs—including Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Washington, as well as Washington, DC.

Actually, the importance of SGLs is quickly declining because certain aggravating factors offend the Sixth Amendment right to a criminal jury trial. The US Supreme Court decided in *Appendi*, *Blakely* and now *Booker* and *Fan Fan* that other than criminal convictions, a judge may not use facts to increase a defendant's sentence unless those facts were first proven to a jury (information about these cases is available online). Most guidelines, for example, include aggravating factors that require facts that the Sixth Amendment does not permit the jury to hear when determining whether a person is guilty. Therefore, the US Supreme Court said in its *Booker* decision, those guidelines should not be mandatory.

It seems that every legal expert has a different theory about what these cases will mean for future sentencing. Some say juries will now be involved in a separate sentencing phase in all cases, while others say that judges will control sentencing but will use guidelines that have a broader range of possible outcomes. Still others say that the guidelines will survive in their present form so long as they are merely advisory, as is apparently now the law in federal courts under *Booker*. Whatever the result of these cases, it seems we are headed toward sentences that are less predictable and, in Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front cases, longer than they had been.

Do you have a legal question? Contact Stu Sugarman, c/o Walker, Warren and Watkins, 838 SW 1st Ave, Ste 500, Portland, OR 97204; quixote516@yahoo.com. Please write "Dear EF! Lawyer" on the subject line.

Lessons from the Snitching of Billy Cottrell

BY JEFF "FREE" LUERS

November 17, 2004, will be remembered as another sad day for the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and the radical activist community. On trial for the ELF-claimed action of torching SUVs in southern California, William "Billy" Cottrell took the witness stand in his defense (see *EF!* January-February 2005).

With Billy accused of more than two million dollars of property damage, I can imagine the fear that he felt facing decades in prison. Many activists, past and present, remember that feeling all too well. For some it was our finest moment, if also our most painful, as we stood before the state proud and unwavering.

After Billy's arrest, he wrote to me. Billy's naiveté at the situation he was in shocked me. We discussed what he was facing, and I warned him to avoid doing media before trial. Billy shared his fears and heartache with me, as well as his gratitude for all of the support he was receiving. In his last letter, Billy told me how much of an inspiration other warriors had been to him.

As Billy took the stand that day, I can't help but wonder if the sick feeling in his stomach was fear of imprisonment or if it was nausea at his betrayal. Billy testified that his friends lit the fire against his wishes. He stated that he was coerced into going along with them because he owed one person \$200.

Despite all of his bravado to his supporters, the media and me, Billy tucked his tail and pissed down his leg. Sadly, this was not the first instance of betrayal. To date, the majority of ELF and ELF-style actions to go before the courts have had a defendant turn traitor. This fact devastates my heart, as it should every activist and revolutionary.

Illegal direct action is a dangerous path. The action itself is only a small part of the equation. Once embarked upon, physical resistance is not a path easily abandoned. If it is a path you choose, you should be expecting to serve prison time or worse. If you cannot face the possibility of prison or if you know you cannot accept the

consequences with integrity and honor, do not pick up the matchbook.

The blame, however, does not lie solely with the weakness of individuals under pressure. The problem is one of our creating. The radical activist movement glorifies and romanticizes hard-core action—by crying out for salvation from would-be heroes and by writing stories and singing songs of faceless individuals who sab the dozers, raid the labs and who burned down Vail.

Honoring our warriors is good. But the illusion fades when you are sitting in a jail cell. The once-seemingly powerful movement, bolstered by its own self-praise, no longer appears so strong. The romanticized ideal of action and change remains, yet no revolutionary energy is directed at freeing our comrades.

That is our failure as a movement. If we expect our warriors to stand strong in front of the judge and jury, with heads held high and eyes burning with defiance, we must become realistic about what it means to be a revolutionary movement.

For our movement to become more than a counter-culture, we have to stop mystifying direct action. We have to recognize direct action for what it is—a necessity. The movement's support of its captured warriors must go beyond admiration and respect. It must extend into action and agitation for their release. By any means necessary, we must see them free.

Otherwise, we can expect more people to bow before the power of the state.

How do we go from romanticizing action to taking it? How do we go from accepting loss to preventing it? These are the obstacles

in our path. If we cannot overcome them, then we are not trying hard enough.

There are always going to be Billy Cottrells. There just doesn't have to be more of them than there are true warriors. There is a hero in all of us—one just waiting to be given a voice. Find the courage to follow your heart and the pride to hold your head high and stand your ground. Because with that, this movement will go from a façade to a force.

Jeff "Free" Luers is serving a more than 22-year prison sentence for burning three SUVs at a car dealership in Eugene, Oregon, in June 2000. Write to him at Jeffrey Luers, #13797671, OSP, 2605 State St, Salem, OR 97310.



artwork by Maya Peterpaul

Prisoners in the Struggle: Support Them!

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

Prisoner and Legal Updates

•Tre Arrow, CS#05850722, North Fraser Pretrial Centre, 1451 Kingsway Ave, Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 1S2, Canada. Arrow's extradition hearings have been set for April 18-20. He is facing extradition to the US to stand trial for his alleged involvement in the arson of logging trucks and an Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arson of vehicles owned by a sand and gravel company. For more info., visit www.trearrow.org.

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

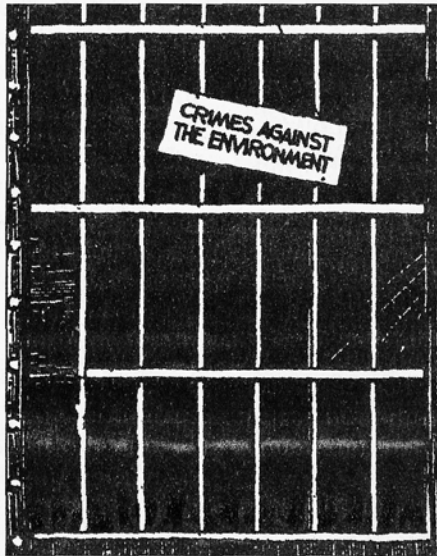
•Dave Blenkinsop, EM7899, HMP Rye Hill, Onley, Warwickshire CV23 8AN, England. Serving 10 years for attacking the managing director of Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), rescuing 600 guinea pigs from a lab supplier and planting incendiary devices under slaughterhouse vehicles. Blenkinsop has been moved to the above address.

•Sarahjane Bloom and Ryan Shapiro have had the felony burglary charges against them dropped. The charges stemmed from a GourmetCruelty.com investigation of the Hudson Valley Foie Gras factory farm. In January, they both received misdemeanor trespass charges.

•Harrison David Burrows was sentenced to 2.5 years in January for burning two tractors and a shed at Brigham Young University's Ellsworth Meat and Livestock facility in 2004. Burrows' address is not provided, and he will not be listed here, because he snitched on Joshua Demmitt.

•Rod Coronado, John Richardson and Matthew Crozier have been charged with conspiracy to impede or injure an officer following their alleged involvement in a nonviolent Earth First! sabotage action of a mountain lion hunt. Initially, they were charged with disabling a steel-cable snare and entering a federal closure area. Send letters and donations for legal costs to the Rod Coronado Legal Defense, POB 1925, Tucson, AZ 85702, USA.

•Joshua Demmitt was sentenced to 2.5 years in January for fires that caused



\$30,000 worth of damage to Brigham Young University's Ellsworth Meat and Livestock facility in 2004. Demmitt is scheduled to turn himself in on February 15. Until his prison address is available, he can receive letters and donations through the Josh Demmitt Support Fund, POB 3372, Anaheim, CA 92803-3372, USA (make checks out to Elizabeth Zamora). Demmitt is not currently receiving support and is actively seeking it.

•Ibai Edera, Carcel de Pamplona, C/ San Roque Apdo 250, 31080-Iruñez Pamplona, Navarra, Spain. Edera was sentenced to nearly five years in prison at the end of 2004 for sabotaging machinery at the controversial Itoiz dam.

•William Frediani has been transferred to a high-security prison in Perugia, Italy. His new address is Casa di Reclusione, Via Maiano 10, 06049 Spoleto (PG), Italy. He is awaiting trial for allegedly participating in direct action, using firebombs and promoting sabotage. Frediani is a member of *Il Silvestre*.

•Charles Arthur Jordan IV, #676384, Multnomah County Detention Center, 1020 SW Third Ave, Portland, OR 97208, USA. Jordan was charged in January with conspiracy for allegedly damaging equipment at a Morse Bros quarry near Portland, Oregon.

•Paul Le Boutillier, KA9326, HMP Wealstun, Walton Rd, Wetherby LS23 7AZ, England. Serving 2.5 years for making phone calls to animal abusers, including HLS shareholders, hunters and agricultural suppliers. Le Boutillier has been moved to the above address.

•Craig "Critter" Marshall was released in January, after serving 4.5 years for conspiracy to commit arson and possession of incendiary devices to destroy SUVs in Eugene, Oregon. Upon his release, Critter stated, "I want to thank everyone who has shown me support whether through letters or by attacking civilization." He will be on parole for three years.

•Stephen Marshall, #0415972, Washington County Jail, 215 SW Adams Ave, MS33, Hillsboro, OR 97123-3874, USA. Marshall was charged in January with conspiracy for allegedly damaging equipment at a Morse Bros quarry near Portland, Oregon.

•Peter Schnell was released in January after being jailed last August 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.

•Allison Lance Watson was freed from grand jury persecution on December 16, when she was given two years probation and fined \$5,000 for "contempt of court" after refusing to answer questions about people she knows in the animal rights movement.

•Helen Woodson was sentenced in January to an additional 3.5 years for violating her parole. This brings her total sentence to eight years and 10 months for actions taken in March 2004, when she dumped a cup of red paint over the security checkpoint in a federal courthouse and made warnings of weapons of mass destruction. Until Woodson's prison address is confirmed, letters can be sent c/o the Nuclear Register, POB 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733, USA.

Awaiting Trial or Sentencing

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

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

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

•Sergio Maria Stefani, casa circondariale di Palmi, via Trodio 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.

Animal Liberation

•Hanna Ekegren, Box 1005, 718 92 Frovi, Sweden. Serving 10 months for openly damaging 18 machines at a chicken processing plant. A total of 55,000 eggs were unable to develop due to the action and weren't born into exploitation and pain.

•Daniel Hedqvist, Torsgården, 618 33 Kolmården, Sweden. Serving 10 months for openly damaging 18 machines at a chicken processing plant.

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. His appeal is currently on hold.

•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.

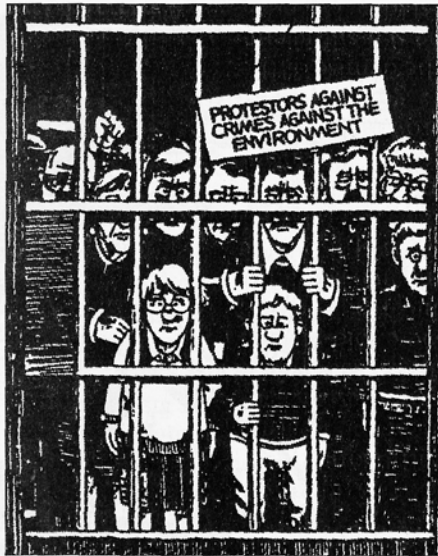
•John Wade, #38548-083, FCI Petersburg Low, POB 1000, Petersburg, VA 23804, USA. Serving three years for a series of ELF actions against McDonald's, Burger King, urban sprawl, the construction industry and an SUV dealership.

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.



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.

•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.

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 Vélaz 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 1.5 years.

•Jorge Cruz, #26318-069, Federal Prison Camp, POB 725, Edgefield, SC 29824-0725, USA. Serving 1.5 years.

•José Perez González, #21519-069, Federal Prison Camp, POB 725, Edgefield, SC 29824-0725, USA. Serving five years.

Prisoner Support Groups

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

•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; www.freefreenow.org.

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

•Prison Book Program, 1306 Hancock St, Ste 100, Quincy, MA 02169, USA; www.prisonbookprogram.org.

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

MOUNTAIN JUSTICE SUMMER

CALL TO ACTION

BY KATÚAH EARTH FIRST!

There is an ecological, manmade disaster of geologic proportions occurring in the rolling mountains of southern Appalachia. Mountain range removal is the ultimate theft of a people's heritage. It is destroying watersheds and annihilating some of the most diverse places on Earth, turning them into the biological equivalent of a parking lot.

The theft is escalating as the coal companies blow the tops off of mountains, dump them into hollows like they are trash, then scrape the layer of coal out. More than 22 peaks are endangered in eastern Tennessee alone. We used to call it mountaintop removal, then we saw the greedy coal companies destroying entire ranges of mountains to replace them with prisons, strip malls and fast food restaurants. It is mountain range removal, and we are desperate (see *EF!* January-February 2005).

Redwood Summer started with an emergency call to action to save northern California's redwoods in the early 1990s. This is Katúah *EF!*'s emergency call to action to save the mountains. This is Mountain Justice Summer.

When a clearcut happens, there is some chance that someday the trees might grow back. Mountain range removal is forever. Ten thousand years from now, if humans still dwell on this planet, their children will be looking upon craters where there once stood majestic old mountains, and they will wonder.

Small, community-based grassroots groups, including Katúah *EF!*, have been fighting these multi-billion dollar coal companies with slingshots. An amazing coalition of miners, school teachers, tree huggers and folks who just plain love the mountains have united and have been kicking ass. Though the love we have for our mountains knows no bounds, neither does the greed of the coal barons hell-bent on their search for profit at the expense of all else.

Enough is enough. Your presence this Summer could mean life or death for a mountain. We need you now, this Summer—next Summer may be too late if we can't ratchet up the resistance.

Mountain Justice Summer is a direct call to action to stand up to the ultimate theft that is mountain range removal.



artwork by Eric Drooker

Others may ask for your money, but we need you. With a little help, we can break the back of this massive destruction that lays waste to entire ecosystems and watersheds. We are asking for volunteers to dedicate a Summer to our efforts. We see this call to action as an emergency plea, before it's too late.

Food, housing and camping are being arranged. Safe houses, modeled after Redwood Summer, have been established in six major Appalachian cities. Like Redwood Summer, volunteers will be routed through these houses for preparation before being sent to the camps.

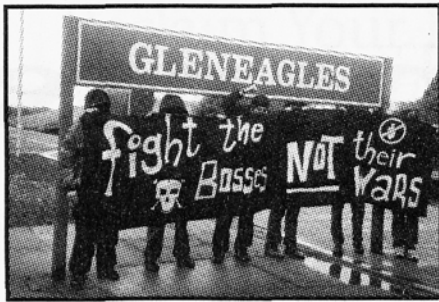
During the Summer, you will canvass, photograph, hike, camp, cook and raise hell for the mountains. We will be alternating between week-

long campouts near mountain range removal sites and week-long periods in various cities promoting tours, dumpster diving and demonstrating at the headquarters of coal companies. Mountain Justice Summer will have teach-ins and workshops throughout the Summer, as well as a listening project for folks to go door-to-door in threatened mountain communities to listen and talk to people about their fears, hopes and dreams for the mountains they live and love in.

The greedy, carpetbagging, coal corporations consider this a national sacrifice zone in their search for profits, but we are standing up and fighting back. Your help can help us tip the balance. They are betting that they can come and start the process in silence; they are betting billions on silence. They know that if people in North America find out about this theft of the mountains, the outrage will destroy their attempted theft.

The icon of the forest campaigns on the West Coast is the redwood forest—it is a part of many people's cultural identity in the West. Here, it is our mountains. We are going to raise so much hell for our mountains this Summer that it will echo from hill to hill. It will be hard work, always challenging, sometimes scary, but in the end, you will be able to say, "I helped to save a mountain." And you will leave a monument to your Summer's work that will exist for eons. That's something special.

For more information or to get involved, contact Mountain Justice Summer, POB 16309, Knoxville, TN 37996; (865) 633-8483; mountainjusticesummer@hushmail.com; www.mountainjusticesummer.org.



Anarchists protest in front of the hotel

G8 2005 IN SCOTLAND

Get Ready to Rumble!

BY ROCKIN' ROD

The G8—Group of Eight—is coming to Scotland this Summer. This anti-democratic body is going for a game of golf, while the world—from Iraq to Indonesia—is going to hell in a hand basket. And with Bush, Blair, Berlusconi, Putin and more in one place, there's going to be resistance not seen for years in Britain. We want aid from Earth First! in the US!

For more than a year, a UK-based network called "Dissent!" has been organizing a network of resistance around the G8. Dissent! grew out of meetings at UK Earth First! gatherings, and many of its participants are veterans of anti-globalization protests. With local chapters in most British cities, Dissent! should help provide infrastructure to facilitate protests of all sorts. A group called "G8 Alternatives" is also being organized by the retrograde Socialist Workers Party, and it includes many grassroots groups like the Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). Its main plan is some sort of corporate anti-G8 rock concert.

Locally in Scotland, activists and anarchists have been organizing with Dissent! under the Reshape! banner. Reshape! is currently working on procuring convergence centers and housing for incoming activists. The weather in Scotland is generally very rainy (think Pacific Northwest), although in the Summer it is warm and one can sleep outside. Also, it's daylight until midnight, and dawn will break early.

The action plan is simple: A month of decentralized actions against corporate targets, focusing in particular on climate change and precarity (the neoliberal destruction of social welfare). There will also be community outreach and ecological activism in poor communities throughout Scotland. There will be a large, legal march

in Edinburgh (the "Make Poverty History" march) on July 2, followed by a massive nonviolent blockade of the Faslane military base that is being organized by the Trident Ploughshares and Scottish CND.

On July 6, the global day of action that coincides with the first day of the G8 Summit, there will be a protest aimed at shutting down the G8 meetings through direct confrontation. As the day breaks, beacons will be lit around the Gleneagles Hotel, where the meetings are being held, and festive drumming will begin. All major roads to the G8 summit will simultaneously be hit by blockades, and affinity groups will go straight over the hills for the Gleneagles itself, distracting security and going to the red zone in either a large mass or affinity groups. For those in need of a visual, think the final battle in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

While the G8 leaders will be helicoptered in, their servants and translators will be stuck behind blockades on the roads. Panicking as protesters go straight for the red zone, the leaders will hopefully cancel their meeting. Afterward, there will be a large coordinated direct action on climate change to remind people of the real cause of global warming: automobiles, oil and transport. The action plan depends on how many people show up and the spokescouncil meetings beforehand, as well as the police deployments and the plans of international activists.

Throughout Europe, many view this as one of the best chances we've had in the last few years to really stick it to Blair, Bush and the rest of the self-proclaimed rulers of the globe. The Scottish locals are active but not sufficient in numbers, and so we are calling on desperately needed internationals to come to the protests and be prepared to be self-sufficient (and prepared to camp): No big deal for Earth First!. Bring rain gear and waterproof boots,

and be prepared to hike for the long march on the day of action. Also, remember that British cops historically don't use teargas or pepper spray, but they prefer a good, old-fashioned beat down with billy clubs (and have been known to use dogs and horses). So get ready to rumble, and bring some spare meat to distract the dogs. If you can't make it or rightfully feel horrific about the ecological damage caused by flying, we need funds: do benefit shows and raise money from wealthy donors. Lastly, do a solidarity action if nothing else, going straight for the oil infrastructure wherever you live.

Rockin' Rod is an expat from US Earth First!, who is getting in touch with his Celtic roots by hanging out in the Caledonian forests and preparing for total resistance against the G8 this Summer. He'd like Earth First!ers to smuggle themselves over on boats in order to show Europe that no matter who is president and whatever our government does, there will be no compromise in defense of our country—and he means Mother Earth.

Calendar of Events

- April 6-10 • Festival of Dissent (Lanarkshire, Scotland)
- June 20 • G8 Cycle Caravan leaves London
- July 2 • Make Poverty History march
- July 4 • Faslane G8 action
- July 6 • Day of action against G8 (G8 Summit July 6-8)
- July 8 • Day of action against the real causes of climate change

More information

www.dissent.org.uk
 www.indymedia.org.uk
 www.reshape.org.uk
 scotland.indymedia.org
 www.g8cyclecaravan.org

announcements

25th Anniversary EF! RRR July 4-11

Join Us as We Celebrate Cascadian Secession!

The 2005 Earth First! Round River Rendezvous (RRR) will be held on Mt. Hood/Wy'East in the breathtaking snow-capped Cascadian mountains. We'll be near the Roaring River roadless area—surrounded by ancient forests, clear-running streams and mountaintop lakes. Just up the Clackamas River is Big Bottom, a 1,000-acre, old-growth forest with some of the largest trees in the area. The area protected by the successful Eagle Creek campaign is nearby, as is Solo, an old-growth timber sale that is still on the chopping block.

Join us for hikes, stimulating workshops, rallies, campfires (weather permitting), unique stage performances, games, ecodefense trainings, strategizin', rowdy behavior, tribal meetings, bad dancing (and some good), lots of music, swimming, ale swilling, plotting the demise of the US government and just plain fun! Come self-sufficient. Cost: Free-\$100 (sliding scale), \$20 suggested.

This year's RRR coincides with the declaration of Cascadian independence from the US government. Cascadian passports, license plates, flags and other commemorative items will be available on site only.

Make sure to pick up the May-June issue of the *EF! Journal* for full details. For more information, contact ef@cascadiarising.org and visit ef.cascadiarising.org.

Anarchist People of Color Book Release

Our Culture, Our Resistance: People of Color Speak Out on Anarchism, Race, Class and Gender, the Anarchist People of Color (APOC) book project started in 2003, is complete.

The book chronicles writings by people of color on the aforementioned issues, as well as the APOC movement. It is being made available in PDF format to download, print and distribute locally. Everyone is encouraged to print and share copies; the letter-sized pages are formatted to easily make booklets. Anyone who distributes it is asked to charge fairly for the book, as no contributor is getting paid.

Our Culture, Our Resistance represents a lot of things, but one great thing is that it is the first big printed means of starting conversations about anarchism and race. It's something to give to others, start discussions with and whatever your creativity can support. Due to wanting to make copying easier for underground distributors, the book is limited to 92 half-pages. However, volume two (also 92 pages) is being released simultaneously, so as to share all of the extended pieces. All submissions are available at www.illegalvoices.org.



artwork by Brandon Bauer

Animal Liberation Press Office Opens

In response to countless news articles detailing underground animal liberation actions where comments from animal abusers have largely been unopposed, a group of well-spoken activists came together in December to open the North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO).

Press officers are now available around the clock to communicate information and ideology from the animal liberation movement. Although they do not claim to be spokespersons for the movement, the press officers will provide the media with information regarding actions taken by the underground and will speak out on behalf of any act aimed at animal liberation.

The NAALPO is not about people or personalities, it's about the animals. It seeks to communicate their plight at the hands of abusers and also the exploits of those who free them from oppression.

For more information, contact NAALPO, 21044 Sherman Way, Ste 211, Canoga Park, CA 91302; (818) 932-9997; www.animalliberationpressoffice.org.

Jeff "Free" Luers Weekend of Resistance June 10-12

June 2005 marks the fifth anniversary of Jeff "Free" Luers' imprisonment. Activists across the world are called upon to organize events for a weekend of resistance to show support for Jeff and all political prisoners.

For more information visit www.freefreenow.org.

Reclaim Your Health!

A Do-It-Yourself Health Fair

March 18-20 • Detroit, Michigan

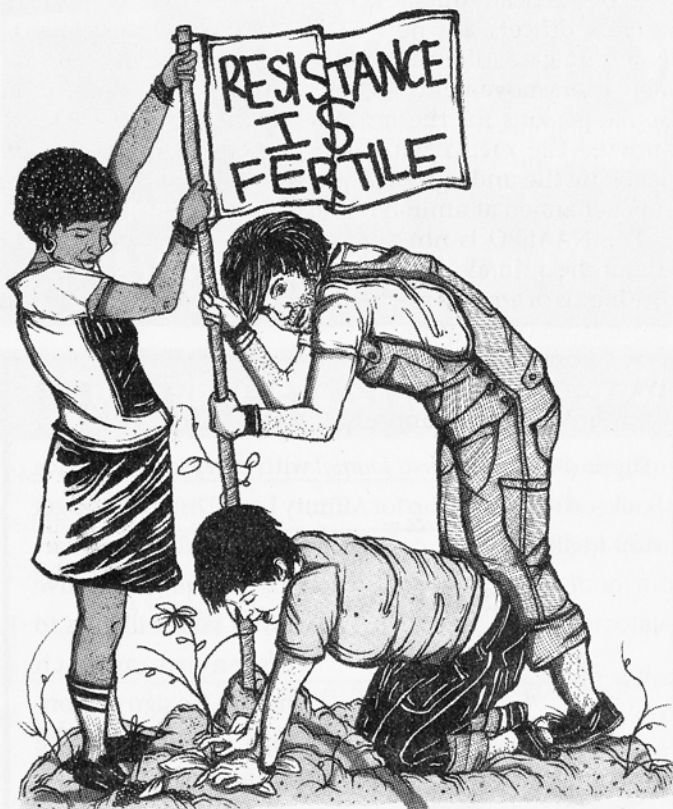
This Spring, the newly formed Detroit Health Collective will be hosting Reclaim Your Health!, a do-it-yourself health fair. The purpose of this event is to share our knowledge and reclaim our bodies with practical workshops, to educate ourselves and to network with other folks doing this work.

The Detroit Health Collective believes that access to health care is a right and that knowledge should be shared, not reserved for the experts. Conference organizers are dedicated to education and skillsharing, as well as providing information about free and sliding-scale options for low-income people. This event is a starting point for bigger projects and discussions.

Some of the workshop topics will include transgender health, anti-capitalism and healing, gardening and health, women and mental illness, demanding respect from your health care provider and herbalism for beginners.

Registration at the event is \$25. Payment includes entrance to the conference, dance party and other social events, as well as lunch both Saturday and Sunday. Free crash space is available, but limited, and will be floor space only. If you have special needs, please contact the health collective in advance.

For more information, contact the Detroit Health Collective, 4210 Trumbull, Detroit, MI 48208; (313) 310-3633; reclaimyourhealth@riseup.net; www.geocities.com/reclaimyourhealthdetroit.



Seventh Annual Allied Media Conference

June 17-19 • Bowling Green, Ohio

Every year, hundreds of the most passionate people from the world of independent media converge on Bowling Green, Ohio, for the Allied Media Conference (AMC). The AMC focuses on sharing skills, building alternatives to corporate media and using media for positive social change. In addition to hands-on, do-it-yourself workshops, the conference includes film screenings, artist presentations and a large exhibition hall. There are caucuses for video activists, community newspapers and Indymedia members, as well as a series of workshops for educators on using independent media in the classroom. Set in a small, midwest town, the AMC is also a space to strengthen the independent media community and enjoy one another's company.

For more information, visit www.clamormagazine.org.

Full Spectrum Resistance: An International Space Organizing Conference

April 29-30 • New York City

The Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space will hold its 13th annual international membership meeting and conference in New York City just before the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty begins. People will be coming from around the world to call on the US and all of the nuclear powers to end their nuclear hypocrisy.

The conference will feature key international space activists—including the keynote speaker, Dr. Michio Kaku, professor of theoretical physics at the City University of New York.

The conference is being co-sponsored by the Abolition 2000 Network. Advance registration is required.


For more information, visit www.space4peace.org.

Zine-a-Polooza '05

July 31 • Duluth, Georgia

Zine-a-Polooza is an event for like-minded creators to meet, discuss and share their voices with one another and the public. This is a do-it-yourself experience, thus it can only be accomplished with you and through you. Zine-a-Polooza hopes to establish a yearly multimedia event for the purpose of promoting all forms of creative media. By doing this, the event plans to build upon the local community of independent, do-it-yourself creators and to encourage communication between creator and potential audience.

For more information, visit www.zine-a-polooza.info.



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War, Imperialism, Racism, Ecological Collapse... Revolution is inevitable!

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Approximately 60 anarchist groups and alternative book, magazine and publishing people will be represented at tables, selling and distributing materials and examples of their work. The book fair plans to also include a great line up of encore speakers from the past 10 years.

For more information, contact the Book Fair, c/o Bound Together Books, 1369 Haight St, San Francisco, CA 94117

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SKEWERING THE SCREWBALLS WHO SPOIL OUR DREAMS

NEW MUSIC FROM: CASEY NEILL, DESERT RAT, DANA LYONS & DARRYL CHERNEY

BY EARL E. WARNING

I have before me Leith Kahl's CDs continuing his Desert Rat series of sketches and fables with *Free Trade Zone* and *Trickle in the Canyon*. There's Casey Neill, with his new album *Memory Against Forgetting*, growing more secure in his sound. Dana Lyons, sensitive fellow trying to contain his capacity to ridicule, with *Ride the Lawn*. And Darryl Cherney veritably glows into a well-produced version of himself—accompanied by his band "the Chernobles" on their new release, *Real American*.

The decision to release a CD is not made lightly, and all these singer-songwriter warriors show that they know how to take careful aim at their targets. Each of these fellas are old hands at putting words to tunes to skewer the screwers and screwballs who soil and spoil our dreams, and who would dam the rivers of our spirit and damn the consequences. Each has his own way to approach it.

Casey's smooth, highly polished CD flaunts a serious dignity, beauty and strength. Listeners will be enthusiastic to hear this album combine new songs and re-recorded gems from the long out-of-print *Riffraff*. Casey's language seems to ever steer clear of the vernacular as he paddles through poetic waters throughout. Repeatedly, the listener hears the arrangement and its power before the human voice steps up to the plate to deliver a well-placed volley of hits. Casey is both celebratory and grieving in his songs, but they are peopled with fully realized puppets of his poetic prestidigitation. It is a smartly produced album, which moves from sorrowful ballads with soulful Celtic fiddle to bluegrass to a punkish abandon for the bust-out bunch.

Leith has chosen the cheapest way to go—nearly unreadable album lyrics, color-copied sheets and production values as if someone had gone with an old recording machine

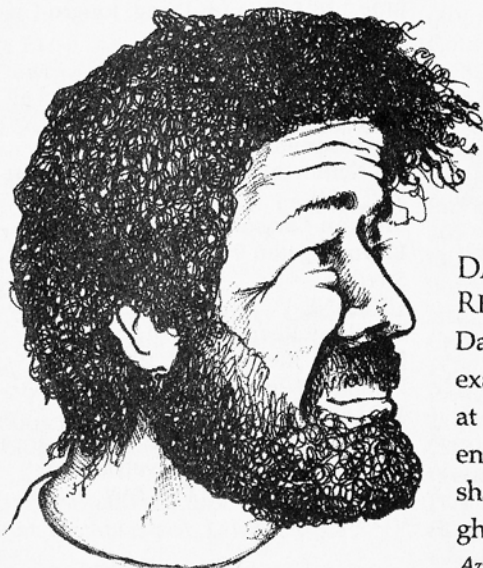
to the jungle camps and found a supremely articulate tramp to serenade them with song and story. Where Casey is presenting oil paintings of life, Leith has a speedy series of highly detailed, entertaining, tightly framed and angled snapshots with a disposable camera. His very keen eye is kept on the prize at all times, never giving in to despair in these lively, homemade sounding CDs.

There's class consciousness in these albums expressed in different ways. Both Casey and Leith know their traditional music like the back of their brain. Both make their melodies sound like they are more than 100 years old, like the pre-industrial times when nature was still a larger part of the world than now. But at the same time, they sing of the people displaced by the changes of the world and remind us that we are the ones who must deal with the consequences of what is too often called human progress.

Dana and Darryl are more comfortable moving through the modern world they inhabit. Their country folk sounds are of their own time. Darryl's ever-present cynicism, singing from the point of view of the "other" is as on target as ever, and the Chernobles are such able accomplices that you hardly notice when their lead singer's off key. He is a master metaphor man, once again dissecting the nature of power. He is the only one mentioning Earth First! in his songs, first in the voice of an eager logger preparing for interplanetary logging and second in the voice of a steel-worker building happy alliances. Darryl is purposefully awkward in his language, squeezing in words he wants even when they refuse to neatly fit into their allotted spot.

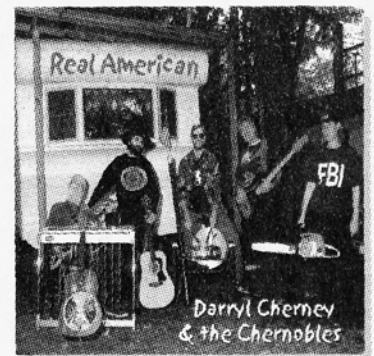
Following up his hit album, *Cows with Guns*, Dana delivers the most personal CD of the bunch with a bit more basking in nature's naked beauty than the others. With plain language, musical and literal, almost to a fault, he draws the listener into his narrative simply and solidly, with a warm and very welcome self humor.

All of these artists know well enough how to keep their songs varied enough for the listener to flow along with them. They have a similar purpose and cover a lot of the same territory, coursing like clear streams through the mordant landscape of modern life. Each cuts through the crap in their own way, hoping to cleanse the corrupted consciousness of corporatized colonizers.



DARRYL CHERNEY: REAL AMERICAN

Darryl's major tools are sarcasm and exaggeration. Attitude trumps language at every turn in these songs, but Darryl enters the ring with his tools well sharpened. Powerful images of fire and ghosts of past struggles are cuddled up to. Available from the *EF!* Journal for \$15.



CASEY NEILL:
MEMORY
AGAINST
FORGETTING

In this retrospective CD, Casey has re-mixed the salad, and the new dressing does the veggies justice. The popular "Riffruff" still sparkles, and unmistakable throughout this proud album are the hot flashes of figures holding tight for dear life while what they love is under constant threat.

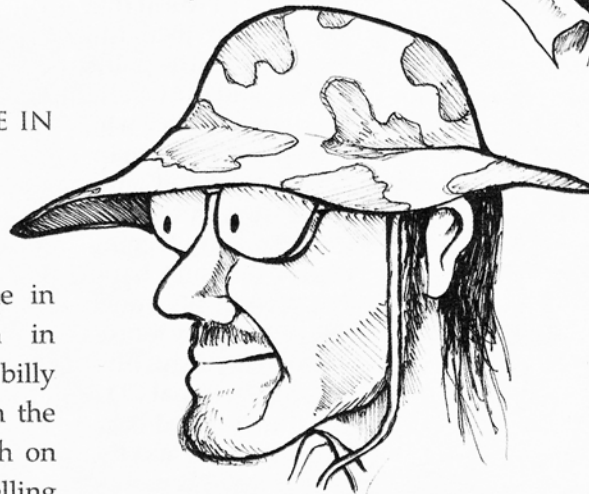


MUSIC TO KEEP THE FIRE RAGING



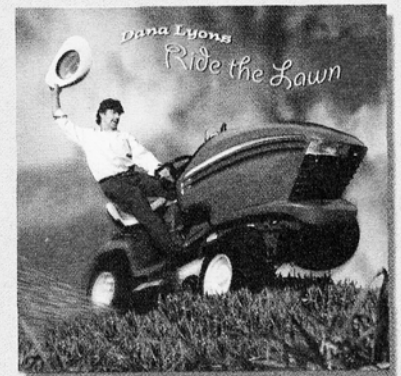
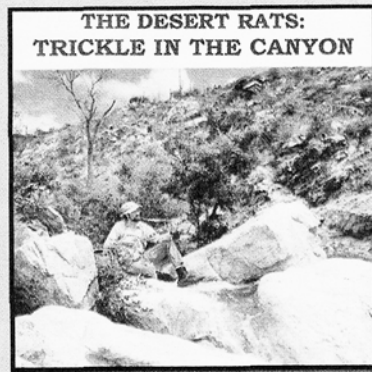
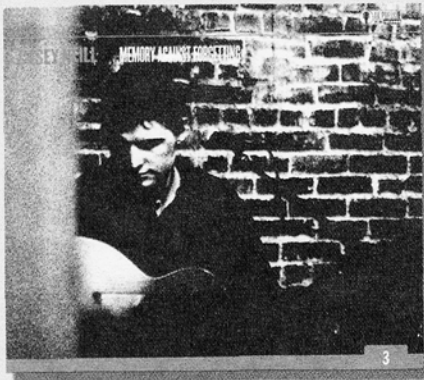
DESERT RAT: TRICKLE IN
THE CANYON

Leith Kahl and his five-string banjo dwell beneath bridges, huddle in jungle camps, munch in dumpsters, bleed under billy clubs, go bleary eyed in the boob tube's glare, march on Seattle and come up smelling like roses.



DANA LYONS: RIDE THE LAWN

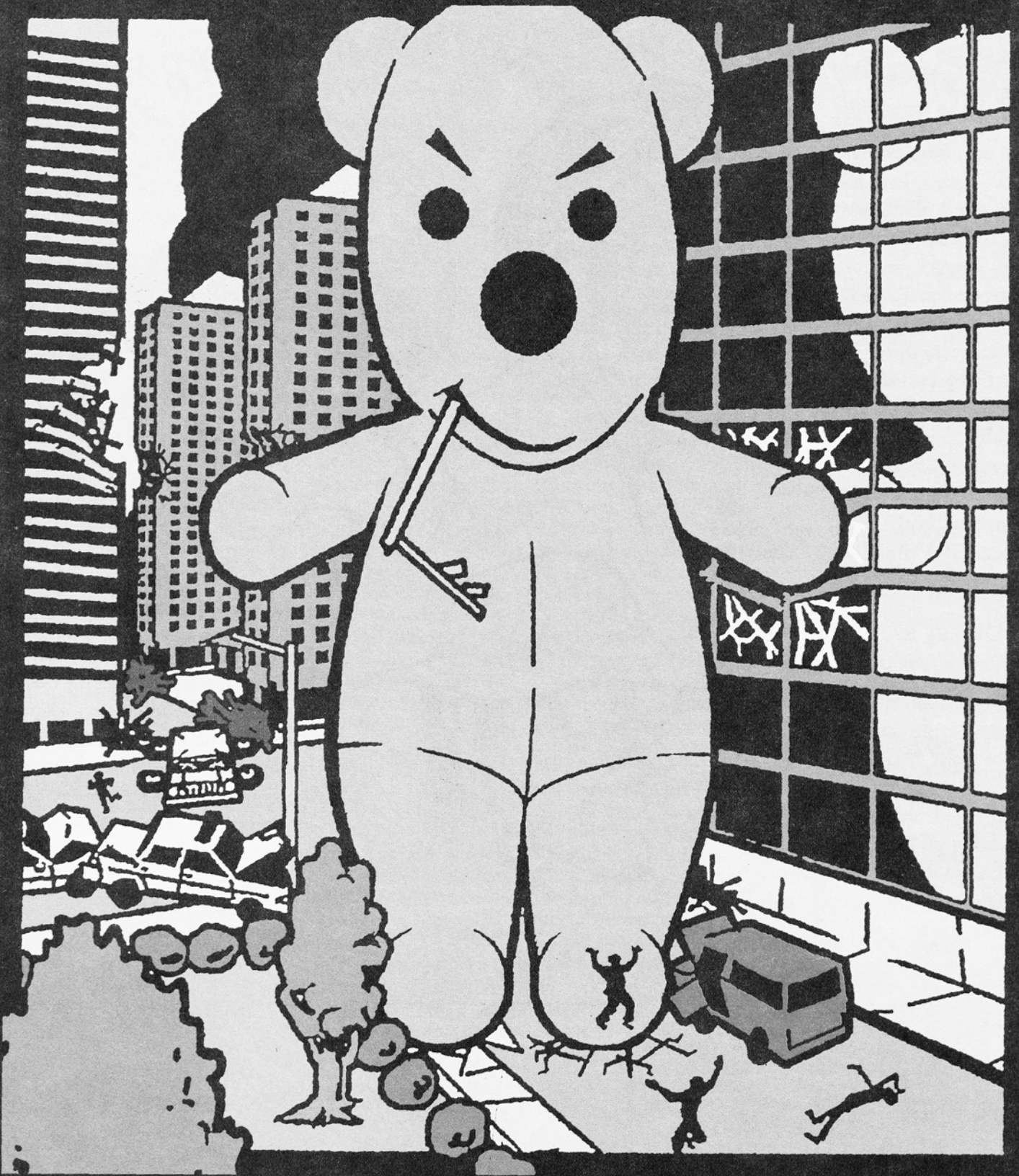
Dana's album has a sweet-hearted personal feel, despite the joyful mockery of the title song. The son who tells his father to stop killing his lawn; the young Indian trying to stop oil drilling in the name of all his relations; those barefoot or barebacked seeking a connection with nature.



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