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Desert River Reborn · Palestine Ecodefense · Fallen Warriors · Violation and Liberation

Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal
March-September-October 2005

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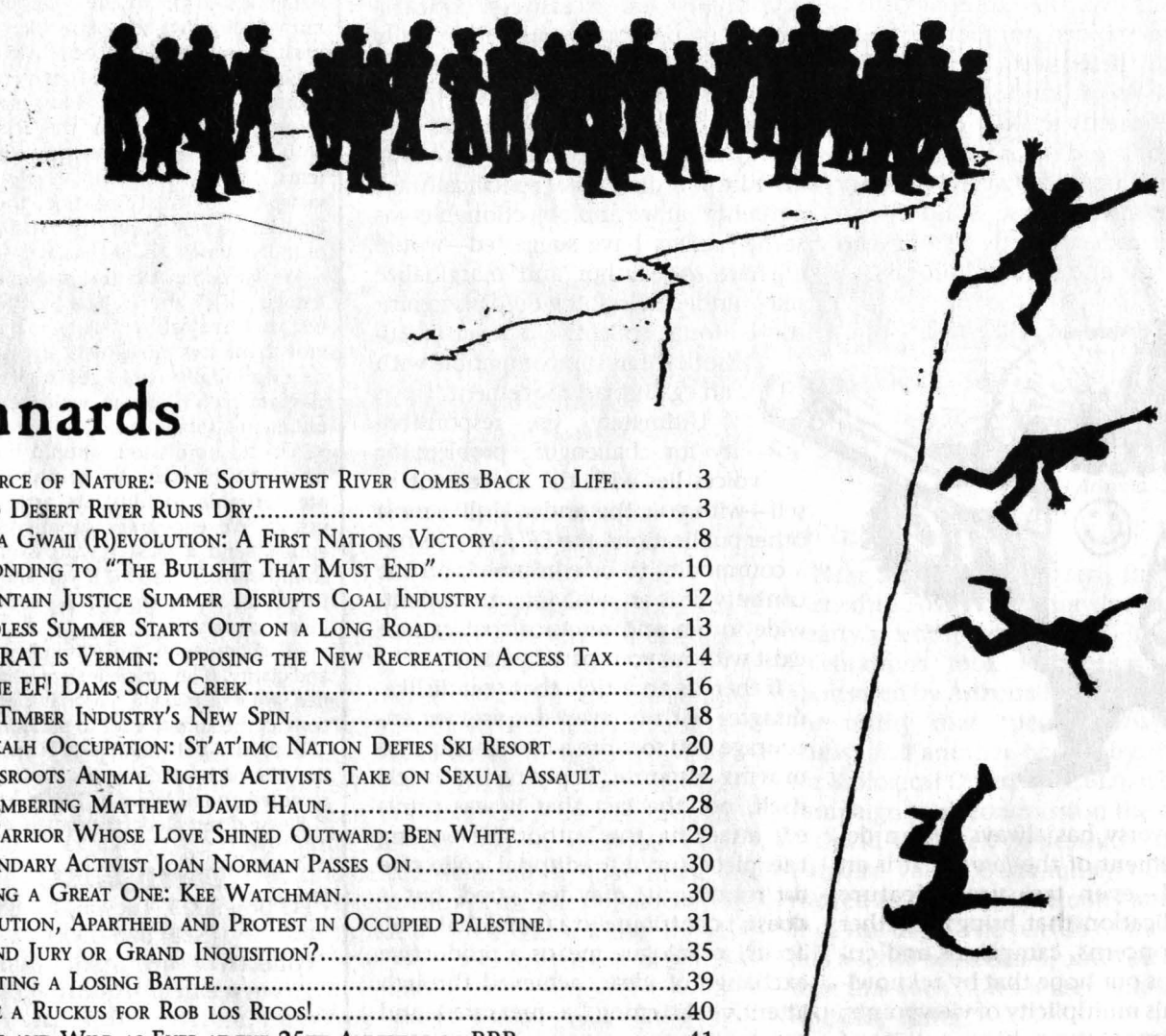
Earth



First!

Mabon September-October 2005

The Radical Environmental Journal



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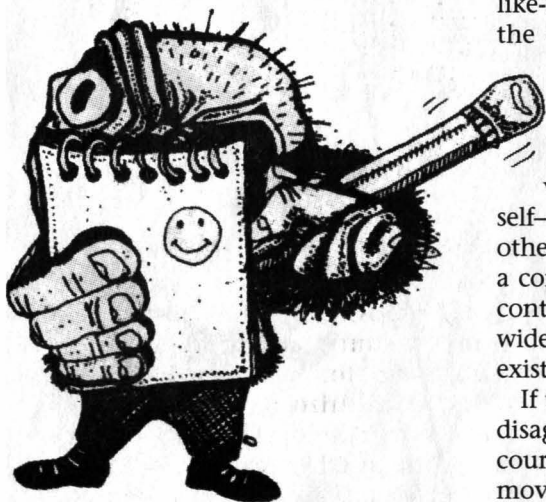
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Front Cover: Central Arizona's newly undammed Fossil Creek. See page 3. Back Cover: Haida shut down Weyerhaeuser's logging operations in Canada. See page 8.

The Finger-Pointing That Must End

In recent months, we have received numerous letters and submissions regarding Problem Animal's controversial "The Peace that Must End" (see *EF!* March-April 2005), as well as John Johnson and Captain Paul Watson's subsequent responses (see *EF!* May-June 2005). We were not surprised by the heated debate that these articles generated. What did catch us off-guard was the frequency with which we, the editorial collective, were scolded for our decision to publish these pieces. This kind of reaction is troubling to us, not only because it seems to be a convenient strategy for avoiding any kind of productive dialogue between contrary views, but also because it indicates a major misunderstanding of the *Journal's* purpose and editorial process.



Controversy has always been a defining element of the *Journal*. It is an expected—even treasured—feature of a publication that brings together diverse concerns, campaigns and critiques. It is our hope that by acknowledging this multiplicity of viewpoints, our movement can achieve a unity of purpose—not just in these pages, but in our struggles as well.

It is with this goal in mind that the editorial collective has embraced a process in which we attempt to minimize

our individual or collective views, in order to select material that most accurately represents the movement in its entirety. As a result, we sometimes publish content that we dislike or disagree with—if we feel that it contributes an opinion or analysis that our readers should be aware of (see our submission policy on the right of this page).

At times, we might be tempted to censor voices that we view as reactionary, divisive or excessively critical—but what purpose would that really serve? Censorship would minimize our awareness of questionable trends within the movement, and our ability to respond effectively. Providing an editorial disclaimer specifically for content that we find objectionable—as some readers have suggested—would alienate the author and marginalize like-minded *EF!*ers. It would also grant the editorial collective a level of authority that is incompatible with an egalitarian movement.

Ultimately, the responsibility for challenging problematic voices lies with the movement itself—with you, the reader. Unlike most other publications, the *EF! Journal* is not a commodity to be consumed; on the contrary, it is an evolving, movement-wide forum and resource that cannot exist without your participation.

If there is an article that you dislike, disagree with or even despise, we encourage you to write a convincing and moving response. Reply to the article itself, not the fact that it was printed; attacking the author for writing the piece (or the editorial collective for running it) may feel good, but it doesn't contribute to a useful dialogue. To us, a dialogue means a productive exchange of ideas, achieved through attentive listening, a measured and courteous response, and a willingness to engage in honest self-exploration. That can be one of the hardest things in the world to do, but our movement can't prosper without it.

—*EF!* JOURNAL COLLECTIVE

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

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

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

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

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A Force of Nature

ONE SOUTHWEST RIVER
COMES BACK TO LIFE

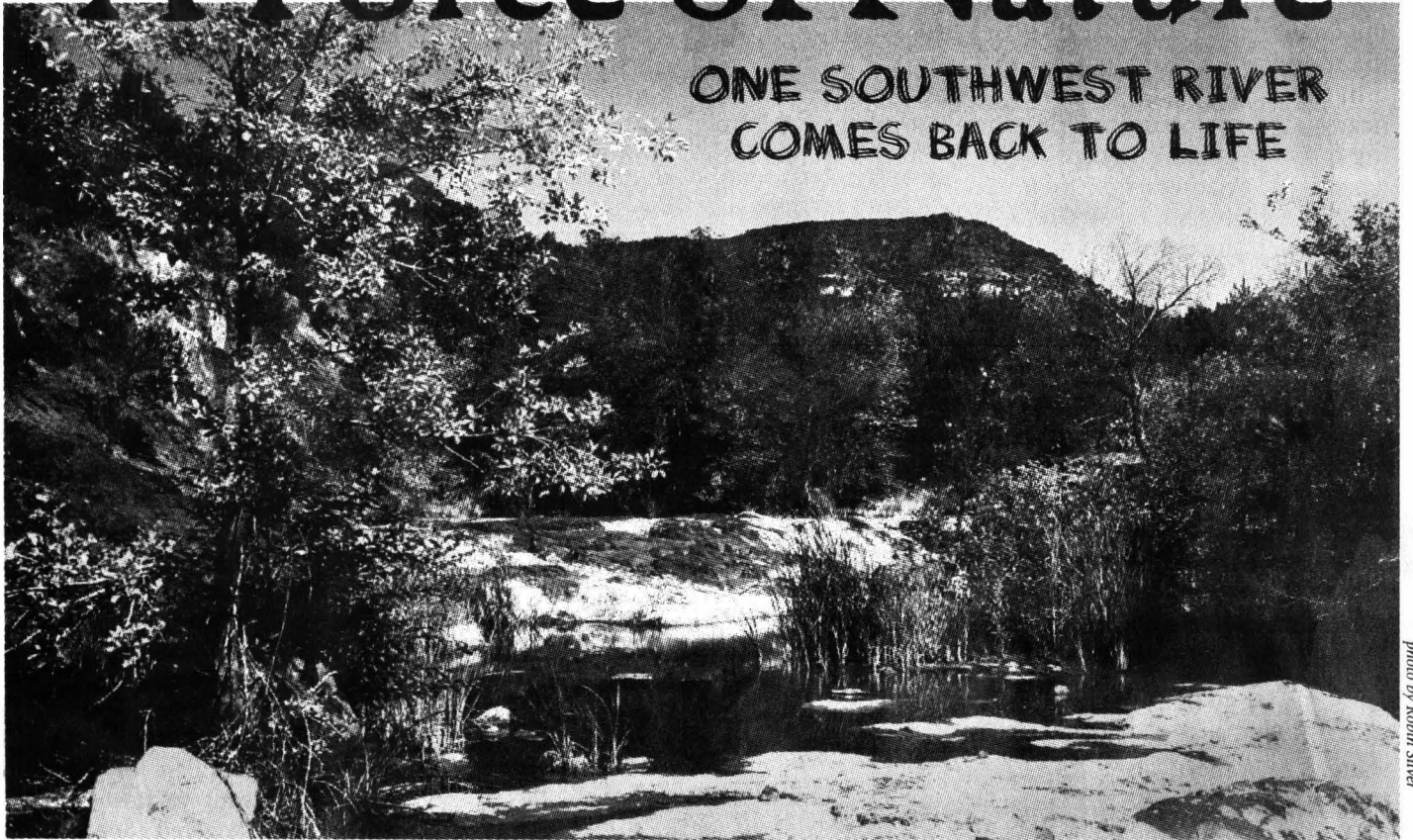


photo by Robin Silver

Central Arizona's Fossil Creek

Wild Desert River Runs Dry

The Charleston gauge measuring station on the Southwest's last undammed desert river ran dry for three days in mid-July, for the first time in 75 years.

The 140-mile-long San Pedro River flows north from Mexico through southeastern Arizona until it meets the Gila River. The San Pedro is fed by groundwater reserves, which have long kept it flowing even through the driest months. While hydrologists and government officials were quick to blame a late rainy season and a nine-year drought for the river's woes, environmentalists note that the San Pedro has weathered these natural variations before. The culprit, they insist, is excessive groundwater pumping to feed the exploding population of the region's sprawling cities and military bases. Sierra Vista, for example, currently pumps out 10,000 more acre-feet of water than the rains replenish every year.

"We can't control nature," said Robin Silver of the Center for Biological Diversity. "What we can control is the groundwater pumping."

By the 1940s, excessive groundwater pumping had caused the Santa Cruz River, which flows through Tucson, to run dry except during heavy rains. In 1998, hydrologist Rick Koehler predicted that the San Pedro was on course for the same fate, and that the Charleston gauge station would run dry for a few days by 2006.

A 35-mile stretch of the San Pedro River was designated in 1988 as the US's first riparian national conservation area. The lush vegetation along the river's banks provides a home for 400 species of birds, 81 species of mammals and 43 species of reptiles and amphibians, and it provides a critical stopover for migrating birds.

BY RENÉE GUILLORY

Near Strawberry, Arizona, full flows returned to Fossil Creek for the first time in nearly a century, on June 18. Back-to-back celebrations took place that day—one sponsored by Arizona Public Service (APS), the utility that operated Fossil Creek's dams, and another hosted by the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), who led the campaign to decommission the dams.

David Harbster, professor of biology at Paradise Valley Community College, was moved by both the ceremony and the spirit of the day: "The release of the water offers a sense of freedom, and you can never take this back.... It's a very emotional and uplifting thing."

Fossil Creek flows from Fossil Springs, greening the arid landscapes along the Mogollon Rim, just north of the rugged Mazatzal Mountains. So abundant are the springs at its source that Fossil Creek, which eventually flows into the Verde River, provides up to half of the Lower Verde's water during the driest times of the year.

The area was once a wilderness in the fullest sense of the word (if not legally protected as such): remote, rugged and bustling

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with wildlife. The travertine pools and waterfalls along this raucous stream provided (and in places still provide) rare sanctuary for native fishes like the Sonoran sucker, the desert sucker, the speckled dace, the longfin dace and the roundtail chub.

In the early 1900s, in order to serve the power needs of nearby mining towns, two diversion dams began siphoning a whopping 95 percent of Fossil Creek's waters into what were Arizona's first hydroelectric power plants. Silenced to a whisper, Fossil Creek itself felt the thirst of the landscape it once thrived in.

But in the West, boom can quickly turn bust. By the 1990s, the plants no longer fed greedy mines and provided only about 0.01 percent of APS's power supply. A window on restoration was opening.

APS faced impending CBD lawsuits in 1997 and 1999, as well as the specter of mounting public pressure and a prolonged campaign of disparaging protests. APS was forced to compare the enormous environmental and economic costs of operating the plants against the benefits of letting a gem of a river run freely again and the reasonable, one-time cost to dismantle the sites.

Robin Silver, a co-founder of CBD, took APS's then-CEO Bill Post on a field trip to Fossil Canyon. The men share a common history growing up in Arizona and enjoying its wild places. They talked about rivers and the toll that human impact has taken on them in the desert southwest, and about the fact that more than 90 percent of the southwest's rivers are already gone.

Post gave restoration the green light. However, he faced a not-too-surprisingly reluctant staff and board at APS—and an uphill battle within his company to follow through on his personal commitment. While Post fought the inside game, a fledgling coalition, the Fossil Creek Environmental Partners, campaigned to broaden public support for restoring Fossil Creek.

Using provisions of a cornerstone environmental law, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), environmental groups worked with land managers and other interested parties to exchange ideas and information. They worked to craft a wish list for the river and its pristine environs.

Meanwhile, plans for legal action continued, since it looked like Post would not be successful in winning APS's voluntary support for the project. Large protests were planned. Then suddenly, on the eve of a picket at APS's Phoenix headquarters, word came that APS was on board.

It would take years, yet a persistent coalition made up of natural resource agencies, university scientists, the

Yavapai-Apache Nation, APS and the Fossil Creek Environmental Partners eventually finalized plans to decommission the dams and restore the creek's disturbed areas.

During the decommissioning celebration in June, one could see that Fossil Creek has many soul mates. Speakers from the Yavapai-Apache Nation offered eloquent sentiments, which surely once informed Aldo Leopold's philosophy and land ethic: "When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

Vincent Randall, a Yavapai-Apache Nation Tribal Council member, remarked that "water is alive.... The water has been angry because our people built the flume, the dams.... My nephew, the holy man here, said whenever you dam up the water, you have stopped up its life, its freedom; it may flow, but it lacks vitality."

Earth First! folk musician Dana Lyons joined the festivities. He suggested that if a place such as Arizona—a place thirsty for water and burdened with increased demands for power—could take out a dam, it could happen anywhere. Lyons stood in the creek, playing his guitar and singing his classic anti-dam song: "There's a drop of water on the wall, and the drop's about to fall...." Before long,

the water began to rise around his ankles.

Silver lamented that just as Fossil Creek was being fêted, some members of Congress want to trash the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and NEPA. In fact, Arizona Congressman Rick Renzi was hosting an anti-ESA/NEPA hearing in Pinetop, Arizona, on that very same day. These laws are the heart, bone and muscle of habitat protection, and they would probably have ensured the success of any lawsuit



Soaking up the cool waters of Fossil Creek during a day of celebration

photo by Robin Silver

to restore Fossil Creek, had that step been necessary.

"Someday our kids will look back on what we've done—hopefully, Fossil Creek won't be the only stream that's left thriving in Arizona," said Silver.

What next? Well, the restoration of Fossil Creek will test both our political will and our scientific acumen. Vigorous support will be needed for legislation that will designate federal Wild and Scenic River status for Fossil Creek. A 40-mile stretch of the Verde River is Arizona's only contribution to the Wild and Scenic River system. Fossil Creek meets the Lower Verde along that stretch, and it makes sense that Fossil Creek should be designated as a Wild and Scenic River as well. With that level of protection in place, Fossil would be an excellent case study for how to dismantle a working power plant and restore native fishes and the habitats that sustain them.

Renée Guillory is a freelance writer based in Phoenix, Arizona. A version of this article originally appeared in the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter's Canyon Echo.

Dear Shit for

Brains

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear *Earth First! Journal*,

The Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network (ELP) is sorry to inform you that we have had to remove Angela M. Cesario and Jeremy Rosenbloom from our prisoner lists. Both of these people are police informants who have made statements against Tre Arrow, and both Cesario and Rosenbloom have agreed to testify against Tre in court.

For several months, there have been rumours and speculation about these two and suggestions that they have agreed to testify against their co-defendant, Tre Arrow.

ELP was aware of the rumours, but obviously we cannot label someone a police informant on the grounds of a rumour, and we asked for evidence of their cooperation.

At the start of June, one of Tre Arrow's lawyers approached ELP with the evidence we required. We investigated the evidence in full and after a whole month of carrying out our inquiries, which included viewing legal documents confirming that both Cesario and Rosenbloom have entered into a cooperation agreement and being shown the true extent of that agreement, ELP can confirm that these two are police informants and traitors to the movement.

ELP would like to apologize to Tre and his supporters for having listed these two people. We also apologize to everyone who has written to Cesario and Rosenbloom as a result of seeing them on our lists.

—EARTH LIBERATION PRISONERS
SUPPORT NETWORK

Dear SFB,

The subject of snitches within the radical environmental and animal rights/liberation movement has been covered in the pages of this magazine,

as well as in countless discussions in the past. Despite the measures taken and the articles written, the problem persists. In the last year, incidents of individuals choosing to cooperate with the government against their co-defendants have mushroomed. Why this is so is beyond the scope of this letter, but one thing is clear: this activity threatens the direct-action movement's ability to grow and increase in strength. There are many people who can be discussed, but the most relevant examples are the three snitches who, at this point in time, can still testify against their co-defendants and hurt them more than they already have.

We refer to snitch Justin Samuel (co-defendant of accused mink liberator Peter Young) and snitches Angela Cesario and Jeremy Rosenbloom (co-defendants of accused Earth Liberation Front member and soon-to-be-extradited Tre Arrow). These three individuals have entered into deals with the government in order to get lesser sentences.

This has been proven despite the fact that some individuals in Portland still cling to the hope that snitches Cesario and Rosenbloom are not guilty of this betrayal. The details have been confirmed and circulated online by members of legitimate prisoner support groups. Tre Arrow will most likely be extradited and face serious charges in Oregon. As part of their plea agreement, which gave them fairly minor sentences, they agreed to testify against Tre Arrow. This is unacceptable.

Snitch Justin Samuel, despite being in denial of being a snitch and receiving a welcome back to the animal rights community by

some regressive animal rights groups in San Diego, also may be required to testify against Peter Young who is facing very serious charges—way more serious than Justin, who got off quite easy with a 2.5 year sentence. He has said he will not testify against Peter, but then again, he also said Peter and himself had a deal that they would cooperate if caught—a truly absurd idea!

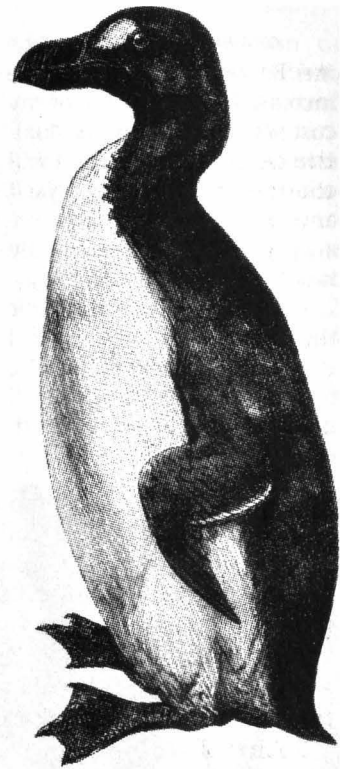
Let us be clear. This problem will continue. Wannabe tough types can make boisterous threats all they want, but unless people are serious, it will happen again. So, this message is for the three snitches. Cooperate with the state's case against Tre Arrow and Peter Young, and there will be serious repercussions. We are not joking. It may not happen right away, but perhaps in 10 years. We will not forget, and we hope that the movement won't either. Either way, you will pay for any further cooperation in the cases against these two individuals. This is no idle threat. We will make true the adage, "snitches get stitches." If you think this is a joke, research what happens to snitches in the Irish republican movement and allow yourself to imagine what we are saying.

It's your call. You can refuse to testify or bear the consequences of some angry people who will not forget your betrayal.

—ANONYMOUS

Dearest friends & *compañeros*,

I write these few lines in order to express my appreciation to all of you for the great support and love that you have offered throughout my sentence and especially to my family, who are the ones who are truly suffering this incarceration.



I have already been transferred to the medium security prison in Edgefield, South Carolina, where I will complete my unjust sentence.

But I will do so with much pride and always with a high level of dignity.

A hurricane or other tragedy can destroy a country, a city or our home, but never our spirit of struggle, something that many people in this beautiful country lack.

One who suffers for his homeland and lives for God, in this world or another, has true glory.

While all is not being done, no one has a right to rest. We are the barriers to this current despotism. What is given to others, we are ones who have obtained it. We are the school and whip, the reality, solace and consolation. We unite what others divide. We do not die. We are the reserves of the homeland.

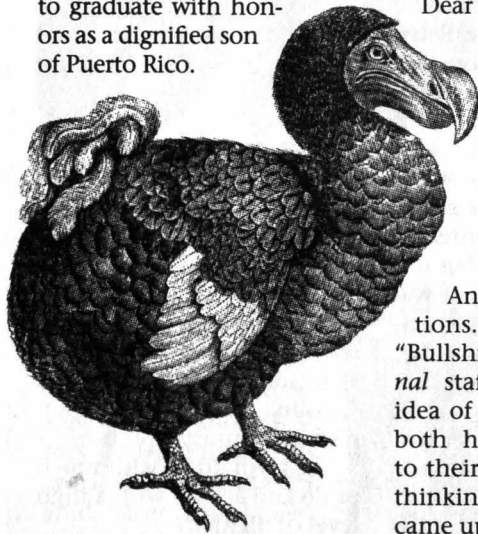
The homeland is continuity of interests, unifying traditions, unity of goals, sweet fusions and consolation of love and hope.

Well, *compañeros*, here I will rid myself of that which will never serve me and strengthen the good that I have within

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me. Beyond the reprisals, the increase in the severity of my custody and of the individualized treatment I receive, I will continue to improve myself and will struggle to become a more useful patriot for the task I want to achieve.

This unjust sentence, like the perverse mistreatment I receive, will do nothing else but fortify my spirit. I will make of this a fruitful experience that will allow me to graduate with honors as a dignified son of Puerto Rico.



As Jose Martí said: "The homeland has brought me here; to die for the homeland is to enjoy and live even more."

Receive from me a strong familial embrace, I love you all very much.

Respetuosamente,

—JOSÉ PEREZ GONZÁLEZ

EF! Brothers and Sisters,

The simple solution (as I see it) is this: until we cut into corporate profits, they will not listen to us.

Remember the revolution's best friend, a bottle full of gas. Kill the machines, Bill-Dings, and remember, work alone.

45 years I've been active, keep up the good work.

—ANONYMOUS

Dear Shit for Brains,

I am writing to make a small, but important correction to Paul Watson's article "The Bullshit That Must End" (see *EF!* May-June 2005). The American Indian method of

waging war was generally completely different from the European method. The Indians' goal was simply to subjugate their enemies, while the Europeans tried to exterminate them. It is my understanding that this is a distinction that is virtually uniformly acknowledged among American history scholars. Some societies are healthier than others.

—JOHN WADE

Dear Shit for Journalism,

I hope y'all can take this as constructive criticism. I've been dialoguing with *Journal* staff since the May-June issue came out regarding "The Bullshit That Must End" articles.

And I've got some questions. First, who chose the "Bullshit" title? Was it *Journal* staff or a collaborative idea of John and Paul? They both have their own titles to their rants, which has me thinking that your collective came up with that title. If so, should readers take that as a clear indication of where you stand as a collective?

Next, in a communication with *Journal* staff, I was informed that others had also sent in complaints about "The Peace That Must End" article. I had not yet read through the "Dear SFB" pages to see that the only printed complaint was that of a self-proclaimed "White Nationalist." At first glance, I thought Gloria De Lio was being callously sarcastic, but no, this person was very clear about where she was coming from. What are you all thinking?! Did no one even consider offering an editorial disclaimer? It looks like this is normal, friendly discourse, with the White Nationalist faction of our movement equally contributing their opinions. Is anyone else concerned about this?

The exact thing John Johnson was trying to claim as "bullshit" was casually sitting in front of our faces. Perhaps

being concerned about White Nationalists finding comfort in our movement is a matter of human triviality to some, but it has me wondering just what kind of "moral fiber" Captain Paul Watson is talking about and how many other folks in the Earth First! movement feel affinity with his and Gloria's pro-nationalist, anti-breeder crap. It's hard to believe that we're not past that yet. And it's easier to see why a significant number of people still feel cautious about affiliating with EF!

After seeing last issue, I wrote a couple thousand words' worth of researched response and personal experiences as a white-privileged, anti-racist Earth First! activist trying to confront racism in pro-ecology movements. I submitted it, along with an admission that I was embarrassed to share this issue of the *Journal* with other environmental activists (one reason being other anti-racists getting turned off by the pathetic defensiveness around race issues and the other, maybe even more frustrating reason being a fear of affirming and comforting white-privileged folks). The response to my submission was that the collective did not want to drag this on longer, and besides, my letter contained too many personal attacks; in response to my embarrassment as a contributor to the *Journal*, one member of the collective suggested that I just not show people this particular issue of the paper.

I was unimpressed. As John Johnson stated: "There is a lot of work still needed in EF!... when it comes to racism, sexism, classism and the lot." Perhaps we are in an earlier stage of confronting this stuff than we realize. To be clear, I too hate white guilt. But white guilt will not go away unless white privilege goes with it. So let's

keep up the meaningful dialogue to get rid of both guilt and privilege. I'd like to make the complete letter that I initially submitted available to anyone interested in this topic. Get in touch, and I'll send you a copy.

—PANAGIOTI TSOLKAS

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Editors' Note: The title "The Bullshit That Must End" was independently chosen by both authors. We chose not to print Panagiotti's submission because we felt that it added nothing original to the discussion—not because we wanted to stifle debate, which continues in this issue (see page 10).

Dear Shit fer Brains,

I was surprised to see an ad in the back of the July-August issue for the "Foundations of a Movement" conference that the animal rights group Friends of Animals (FOA) hosted in New York City. Not only is FOA tame in their strategy and tactics, which in itself is enough to do a double take when reading the *Journal*, but their keynote speaker was Mark Potok, the editor of the Southern Poverty Law Center's (SPLC) "Intelligence Report" [sic]. This is the same SPLC that after the 1999 WTO protests in Seattle, proclaimed, "Right alongside the progressive groups that demonstrated in Seattle—mostly peaceful defenders of labor, the environment, animal rights and similar causes—were the hard-edged soldiers of neofascism," and cited the effort as a "far-flung crypto-fascist conspiracy."

FOA has consistently talked against direct action in the animal rights and liberation movement, choosing locally to pay for rather boring bus ads as opposed to supporting radicals in any capacity.

PLEASE KEEP LETTERS TO
300 WORDS OR LESS!

Their invitation of a non-animal rights or even remotely progressive speaker that is known for equating direct-action activists with right wingers and crypto-fascists is not a good sign.

The radical animal rights and eco-movement is under severe attack right now with people like Peter Young facing insane jail sentences, the SHAC7 being tried for running a website that promotes action, and active grand juries in San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego calling over 20 activists into their chambers. FOA's invitation to a regressive, direct-action hating speaker like Mark Potok and the SPLC is appalling and ill-timed. He only talks to animal rights moderates about the need to distance themselves from radicals—which is not what any of us needs at this point.

I can only assume that the *EFJ* made a sincere mistake and did not realize the issues at hand here. Mark Potok's name is not printed in the FOA ad in the *EFJ*, so my assumption is that maybe people do not get how controversial this event was.

Sincerely,

—ORIANA FALLACI

To the *Earth First! Journal*,

I did get a chuckle when I read that Sea Shepherd was awarded a poodle and accused of being image-obsessed (see *EFJ* July-August 2005). That's a good one. We've been called many things by many people, but image-obsessed is a new one.

Yes, I know, I've got Christian LaCroix working on a new designer uniform for the crew, and we really must be seen with Paris Hilton at next year's seal slaughter. I mean, what would people think if we show up without her?

But seriously, what was the reason for this accusation?

It appears that there were some who took offense that the Sea Shepherd Board of Directors voted to request the resignation of Dr. Jerry Vlasak

from the board because he openly advocated the killing of sealers.

The real reason for this was to put an end to the spin that Jerry's comments made in the Canadian media. The moral high ground had been yanked from under us and commandeered by the sealers and the Canadian politicians. Suddenly, all the media in Canada was focused on Jerry's comments, and the slaughter of the seals was forgotten.

Our decision to request Jerry's resignation was tactical. We needed to refocus the attention on the slaughter, on the seals and on the issue.

Jerry Vlasak was well aware of the very rigid rule within our organization that the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society does not condone injury or death to humans. I have no problem with Jerry expressing his opinions as an individual, but he could not advocate the position that he did as a board member of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. We don't have many rules in Sea Shepherd, but the few we do have, we do enforce.

Dr. Vlasak is a man of great passion and compassion, and I have not a single criticism of him for his actions, his

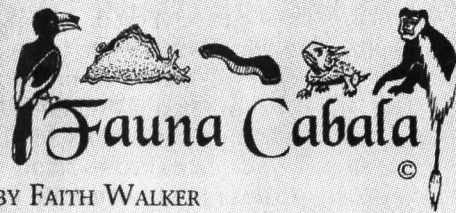
statements, his opinion or his tactics. He is welcome to participate in Sea Shepherd campaigns at any time.

However, no board member of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society can publicly condone violence against people and remain as a Board member. This was our position in 1977 when we were founded, and this is our position in 2005.

Jerry has told me himself that he understood the reasoning behind our request for his resignation.

And by the way, just what has the *Journal* got against poodles?

—CAPTAIN PAUL WATSON



BY FAITH WALKER

Far from being an iguana *faux pas*, premature ejaculation is good planning. Galapagos marine iguanas (*Amblyrhynchus cristatus*)—large, inter-tidal algae eaters—spend much of their time sunbathing *en masse* on seaside rocks, where posturing of muscular bods inevitably precedes reptilian fornication. These iguanas form leks—mobs of males with mating on their minds—and females visit leks for sex. Since large size is key to defending a tiny territory within the lek, leks consist of big boys. Within their territories, males endlessly display by elevating their bodies and holding their bobbing head high. Females, who mate only once per season, ramble around assessing these beefy beaus, and are most impressed by males who display often. If a male is being slack, an appraising dame will lay on him to prompt a display. When a female finally selects her feller, she'll accept his slow side-step-head-bob approach, and with intertwined tails they'll engage in gentle, languid sex.

Impinging upon this blissful scene are younger micro males, who adopt two fast and furious, though less effective, strategies to realize copulation. Satellite males frequent the lek's fringes, intercepting females hotfooting to and from foraging. If he's lucky, a satellite male successfully latches

onto neck spines and mounts before being dragged off by other males. If even luckier (in terms of spreading his genes), his iguana Madonna is female, which is the case about half the time. The other strategy is to sneak. Sneakers hang out in the lek, taking refuge in their large brethren's inability to tell that they're not female. They innocently pile atop other iguanas—commonly done to regulate body temperature—but when big daddy's not looking, they try a little cloacal kissing.

The problem with these other strategies is that it takes marine iguanas three long minutes to ejaculate. This threshold to success is usually unattainable in the chaos involved with satellite and sneaker sex. As a solution, these males use passing beauties as prompts to cream their own cloacal pouches. So armed with pre-ejaculated sperm, which is viable for about two days, smaller males are ready to impress their gonadal contents upon females at a moment's notice. Thus, this iguanan phenomenon is swimmingly unique: It's the only reptile to lek, and amongst all fauna is the only known to be so pre-ejaculately prepared.



(R)Haida Gwaii EVOLUTION

FIRST NATIONS VICTORY:

This is a David-and-Goliath story of a community fighting to regain control from multinational corporations and the world's powerful elite. It's a story about the resurgence of sustainability. It's also a story about victory. Sometimes, we win.

BY JESSICA BELL

I visited Haida Gwaii, an island off of Canada's west coast, in March, after the Rainforest Action Network (RAN) received reports that the community had effectively shut down logging operations by setting up round-the-clock blockades on the island's main logging roads.

This action was organized by the Haida First Nation community in response to Weyerhaeuser's plan to sell its logging rights to another corporation, Brascan. The Haida felt that the sale was in direct violation of a previous landmark legal victory, which required the government of British Columbia to consult the Haida and accommodate their needs before approving such transfers. This most recent offense came on top of a long list of grievances against Weyerhaeuser, including unsustainable logging and breaches of contract.

Enough was enough, and the Haida set about taking the next step in their long struggle to regain the land that they have always felt is rightfully theirs. On March 22, they launched their blockades, and within the week, they had seized several barges of timber as "payment" for the company's broken agreements.

Since the arrival of white people in 1776, the Haida have been under siege. In the 1880s, their population declined by 90 percent as a result of smallpox, venereal diseases and other maladies, such as alcohol. Settlers and church missionaries have spent the last two centuries undermining Haida culture—banning medicine

men, totem poles and potlatches, while imposing an industrial lifestyle that denies the Haida's connection with the sea and the land.

Today, the Haida's future is also threatened by corporate logging. Both Weyerhaeuser and the Province of British Columbia have crippled the island community's long-term economic and environmental sustainability by consistently over-logging—especially high-value, old-growth cedar, Douglas fir and hemlock—and by using automated machinery instead of local loggers, then exporting the logs for processing. This process converts culturally, spiritually and ecologically valuable ecosystems that have sustained life for thousands of years into two-by-fours, decking and siding. It is estimated that more than 30 billion dollars worth of lumber has left the island. The vast majority of that money does not go toward providing Haida Gwaii with better schools, health care or sustainable economic development opportunities, but to the pockets of Weyerhaeuser's executives, who live in exclusive Seattle suburbs. Weyerhaeuser's CEO, Steve Rogel, earns more than six million dollars a year. Meanwhile, an under-employment rate of more than 60 percent is leading younger generations to abandon the misty island for the large cities of Prince Rupert and Vancouver.

The day I arrived on Haida Gwaii, I walked to the blockade site anticipating a melee of angry loggers, violent police and screaming, staunch activists. Instead, I found a group of a

dozen people eating cake. A few Haida were whittling art out of wood from the "tree of life," the Western red cedar. Two policeman were standing around drinking tea, and some loggers were staffing the blockade, stopping and identifying cars that were driving up to the line.

I was floored. This was the first time that I had witnessed a community that, on the whole, was actively working toward a locally controlled, democratic and sustainable economy—a testament to years and years of organizing, a persistent, inclusive message and a small population. Of course, the island's residents have differences of opinion, and many are worried about how things might change if the Haida actually win their fight for legal title, thus securing the right to co-manage the island. However, the trenchant ideological divide between First Nations, environmentalists and loggers—a conflict deliberately manufactured by the very corporations that blame environmentalists for job losses—is less noticeable here. As Bernie Lepage, a local logging contractor and chairman of the Industrial, Wood and Allied Workers of Canada says, "We are out of a job if the logging is not sustainable." The understanding that everyone benefits from a sustainable, locally controlled island comes, in part, from the fact that many of Haida Gwaii's residents are committed to the region, and they want their children and grandchildren to stay here as well.

As organizers working within the US, my coworkers and I brought the Haida's

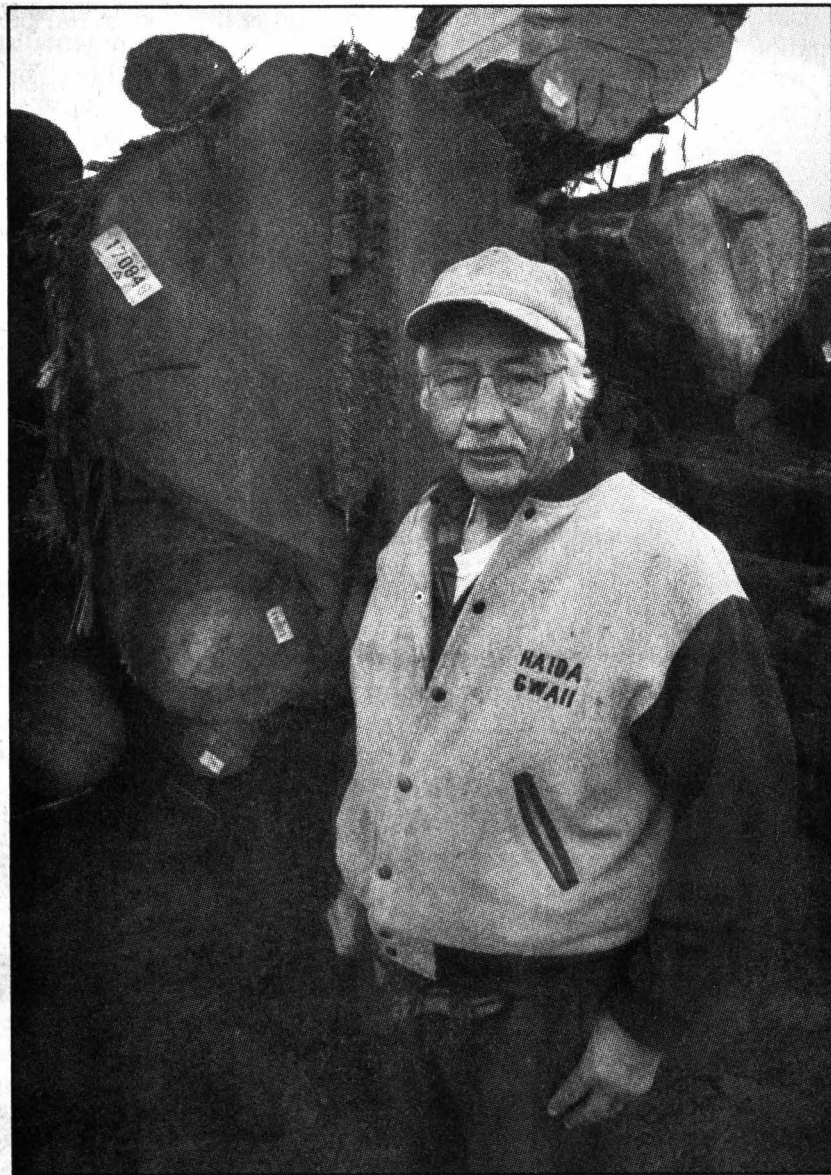
message to the North American public, organizing high-profile demonstrations in Toronto, New York and Weyerhaeuser's home town of Seattle, Washington. We attended Weyerhaeuser's annual general meeting in April and met the shareholders who control this company—rich, white, conservative, balding American men who spend their lives indoors in meetings, making decisions about their "bottom line" that affect all of our lives. The shareholders sat silently and uncomfortably as activist after activist—from steelworkers to environmentalists to human rights advocates and First Nations communities—stood up and demanded change.

On April 22, the day after the meeting, the government of British Columbia agreed to protect 40,000 acres of land that the Haida deem important. It is also expected that over time, islanders will see a significant drop in the amount of wood that is logged on the island, greater economic control over the island's operations, a cessation of bear hunting and a move toward eco-forestry.

It's one step in a series of many that the Haida are taking to reclaim their island. Haida Spokesperson Gilbert Parnell said, "We've had a responsibility toward Haida Gwaii, and we're never going to give up that responsibility—and we're never going to be assimilated so that we're a culture no more. We're not going anywhere; even though people had plans to get rid of us, we're getting stronger all the time. The writing is on the wall. Change is in the air; it's going to happen."

The Haida Nation is one of many communities that is struggling to maintain its unique identity and sustainable way of life in the face of ruthless corporate interests. RAN supports these communities by running boycott campaigns against some of the world's largest companies, including Weyerhaeuser.

For example, RAN has discovered that Xerox is buying its paper from two Weyerhaeuser mills, which acquire their wood from two ecologically important, Canadian boreal regions. These regions contain endangered forests, and their logging is opposed by local First Nations, including the Mishkeegogamang/Sau-geen community.



A Haida forest defender poses in front of seized logs at the Queen Charlotte checkpoint.

You can help us protect Canada's wilderness by participating in the international day of action to protect the boreal forest on November 3. In Canada's vast boreal forest, there are still places where packs of wild wolves roam free—filling the cold night air with the haunting sound of their primal howls. Here, when the snow is too deep to graze, the elusive woodland caribou use their wide hooves to float on the snow and snack on ancient lichens hanging from the limbs of old-growth spruce trees. Native peoples have thrived for millennia in this region, depending on the forest to sustain their culture, inspire their spirituality and support their livelihoods.

Please support these communities by applying pressure to the companies

that are selling illegally logged wood in stores across the globe. We're targeting Xerox and Kimberly Clark. We're also targeting universities that have ties with these companies, such as the University of California, University of Arizona and Yale University, asking them to pass an endangered forests policy.

For more information, contact Rainforest Action Network, 221 Pine St, Ste 500, San Francisco, CA 94104; (415) 398-4404; www.wakeupweyco.com.

For information about Haida Gwaii, visit www.spruceroots.org; www.haidanation.ca. For information about Canadian indigenous struggles and how you can get involved, visit www.friendsofgrassynarrows.com.

Jessica Bell is an old-growth campaigner with RAN.

Photo courtesy Koffolo, koffolo@a-internet

1:

BY CLOVER

I read the article "The Peace That Must End" by Problem Animal (see *EF!J* March-April 2005). I agreed with John Johnson and Paul Watson that this article could have been put together more responsibly and with more respect for the work that Earth First! has done in dealing with social justice issues. However, I am completely shocked that the *EF! Journal* printed the response by Paul Watson, "The Bullshit That Must End" (see *EF!J* May-June 2005). This was arrogantly written and provided a reactionary criticism that was anything but healthy for the Earth First! community.

Two Responses to "The Bullshit That Must End"

2:

BY KRIS LYNCH

There were many thoughts that ran through my head as I read the responses to Problem Animal's "The Peace That Must End." To me, the articles by John Johnson and Paul Watson read like the perfect montage of covert and overt racism.

I originally got involved with Katúah Earth First! (KEF!) because I was inspired by the few anti-racist activities that it engaged in when I first moved to the region (supporting the Cherokee nation in a land swap and showing up to disrupt a Ku Klux Klan rally). But these actions alone are not enough to end racism, let alone sexism, genderism, ableism, ageism, classism, heterosexism, speciesism and so forth. And participating in two solidarity actions over the course of two years does not nullify the oppressive acts carried out every day by Earth First!ers.

As an anti-oppression activist and queer radical environmentalist, I have been impressed with Earth First!'s ability to bring up issues of social oppression within the radical environmental movement. This initiative was what brought me into the movement, creating a space for me to identify with putting the Earth first. One of my major activist priorities is understanding queer identity, and how queer folks can network to challenge homophobia and to empower each other. I also realize that the very Earth on which I live is being destroyed by the same power structure that inflicts oppression on me. Taking responsibility for the social dynamics of our community is not "human triviality," but rather a way of making our movement stronger.

One of the most revolutionary influences in my life is the criticism I receive from my peers and comrades, but criticism needs to be approached carefully, and people need to be respected. Watson's article did not just attack Problem Animal's ideas, it was loaded with attacks on many other activists and allies. Watson made huge, unsupported claims, many of which fall in line with the nationalist and fascist rhetoric that Problem Animal was talking about—for example, "The truth is that Europeans did not have to teach genocide or land stealing to the Indians."

Not only does Watson's response create an unhealthy and disempowering debate within our own community, it is an embarrassment to the Earth First! movement as a whole.

There was a very important part of Problem Animal's article that seems to have been overlooked by Johnson and Watson: "Whites must learn that when non-white people criticize us, the most revolutionary thing we can do is to respectfully think and listen." It seems to be a common theme amongst Earth First!ers to react by defending themselves and then by marginalizing or completely devaluing any criticism.

I recently came across this behavior at a KEF! meeting when I delivered a letter from the local Anarchist People of Color (APOC) chapter. Acting as an ally, I called out KEF! for rescheduling its Solstice campout for the same weekend as the Southeast APOC conference. While some members of KEF! were responsive to what was said, others were deceitful and defensive. The initial reaction of most local KEF!ers was to justify their actions and decision, rather than to take a moment and listen to the criticism at hand. To react defensively to criticism is deeply founded in traditions of hierarchy and patriarchy, and it is a prime example of entitlement.

As to Paul Watson's article, I'm unsure why the *Journal* even printed it. It would have been different if Watson used the space provided to renounce his past decisions, but instead he spends hundreds of words explaining how unapologetic he is for supporting the messed-up policies of groups like Support US Population Stabilization. While Watson starts off by saying that he is unaware of any anti-immigration sentiment in the organizations he supports, he then goes into explaining the negative costs of immigration. We do need to question what roles human populations play throughout the world, but what questions are asked, who is asking them, and who feels entitled to answer? Paul Watson and other anti-immigrant environmental and animal liberation activists must ask what it means to be radical.

We must respect each other's priorities and never invalidate or silence anybody who is resisting oppression. I will be an ally to anyone who takes a stand against an oppressive power structure. And if I personally stand in the way of their liberation, then I will accept criticism and take responsibility for understanding how I can change myself and become accountable for my actions. When I first became involved in eco-radical theory, I was confronted with personal shit that I needed to change. I felt defensive at first, and I wanted to push it aside and enjoy the privilege of ignorance and consumer comforts. But I realized that environmental issues are more important than my comfort and that I needed to take responsibility for my behavior. Luckily, Earth First! created a space where I felt comfortable exploring these issues, and it provided me with the empowerment that I needed to make connections and get involved.

I honestly respect Paul Watson for being a militant, driving force in the movement to challenge environmental abuse, and he has inspired me with his actions. Yet his experience is shaped by social privilege, and he has no business invalidating the experiences or priorities of peoples who are rising up against their oppressors. Perhaps Watson can push aside social justice as "human triviality" because he is a white male who receives privileges that affect his priorities.

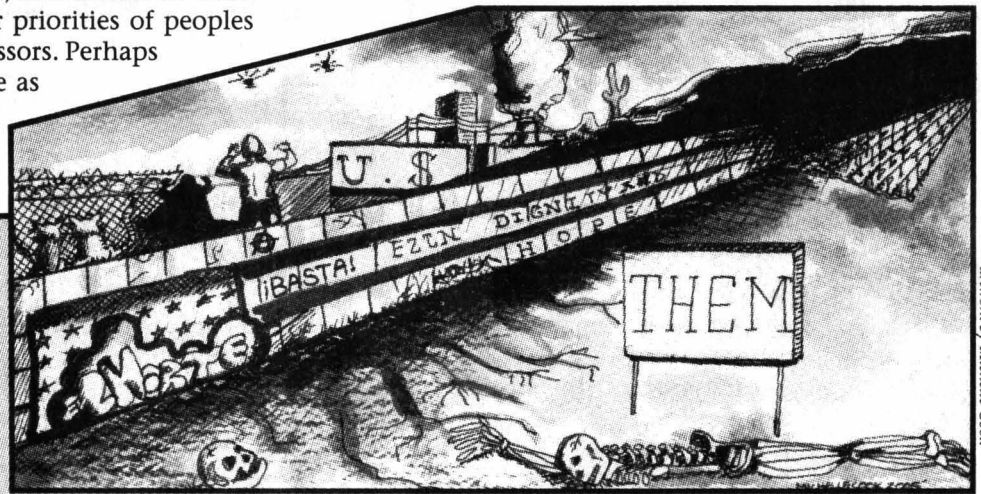
When most white people in the US think about immigrants, they conjure up images of Mexicans. I'll stick with that stereotype, but first I want to point out that a large number of immigrants flock to this country from Europe every year. Let's ignore, for a moment, the fact that a war of attrition turned thousands of families into instant illegal immigrants when a group of white men signed a piece of paper annexing what is now the southwestern US. So why would so many Mexicans cross the border, risking their lives and livelihood?

Imagine that you work full-time in a US-owned factory in Mexico, but you aren't able to feed yourself enough, let alone your loved ones. If you ask for a raise, you are immediately fired. If you try to organize a union, you may be killed. Maybe, as the patriarchs of anarcho-primitivism tell us, you should move into the forest and live off the land. The problem is that Starbucks kicked your family off your land to start a coffee plantation, and if Monsanto finds you wild-crafting medicinal plants, you could be sentenced to prison.

I don't think that people should have to travel thousands of miles away from their loved ones and their land just to survive. But I will never advocate for the closing of some imaginary border. Those borders only exist to create a global economic system where labor is cheap, environmental protection is weakened, and everyone and everything is a possible target of violence. If we want to stop massive immigration, we must be radical; we must hack at the roots. The only way to stop forced immigration is to stop the global systems of violence that force people from

It is important for us to admit the ways in which our social location affects our worldview. It also important to challenge issues such as "white guilt." Guilt is not productive, and it can usually lead to denial. Taking responsibility for your socialization means understanding the effects of society on your ability to have healthy relationships, socially and environmentally. I am passionate about environmental issues because I feel responsible for my culture's abusive domination of nature. However, it would be ridiculous for me to feel guilty for my role within this system. Instead, I'll rise up to challenge industry and exploitation. Just as this society gives me a human privilege to ignore pollution, animal abuse and extinction, it awards me with white privilege that allows me to ignore the struggles of immigrants whose very existence is illegal.

It isn't easy to get people to challenge their own power, but when we create a community based around respect and the understanding that "none of us are free until we're all free," then perhaps we can finally form a united front against the destruction of the Earth.



artwork by Michelle Cook

their homelands. If we close borders, we create a death sentence and enforce a policy of genocide.

To simply say that millions or billions of people are going to have to die for the Earth to survive is insanely simplistic. As someone from the APOC caucus at this year's National Conference on Organized Resistance said, "They are saying that billions of people have to die. Well, [people of color] know who those killed will be, because we are being killed every day." It is largely white people that create the policies that destroy our planet. It is largely white people that initiate and carry out policies of genocide.

Racism implies a system of power. White people are those that hold global power. This doesn't mean that all white people are evil or that all white people should die. It means that we live in a world dominated by a culture of white supremacy. If we are to create a better world, we must not lash out at those who are the victims in this culture, we must fight against all systems of hierarchy.

Although many people, including editors of the Journal, use pseudonyms to protect their identities, Kris likes to pick fights and uses zi's real name to prove to Paul Watson that he won't find a coward here.

mountain justice summer

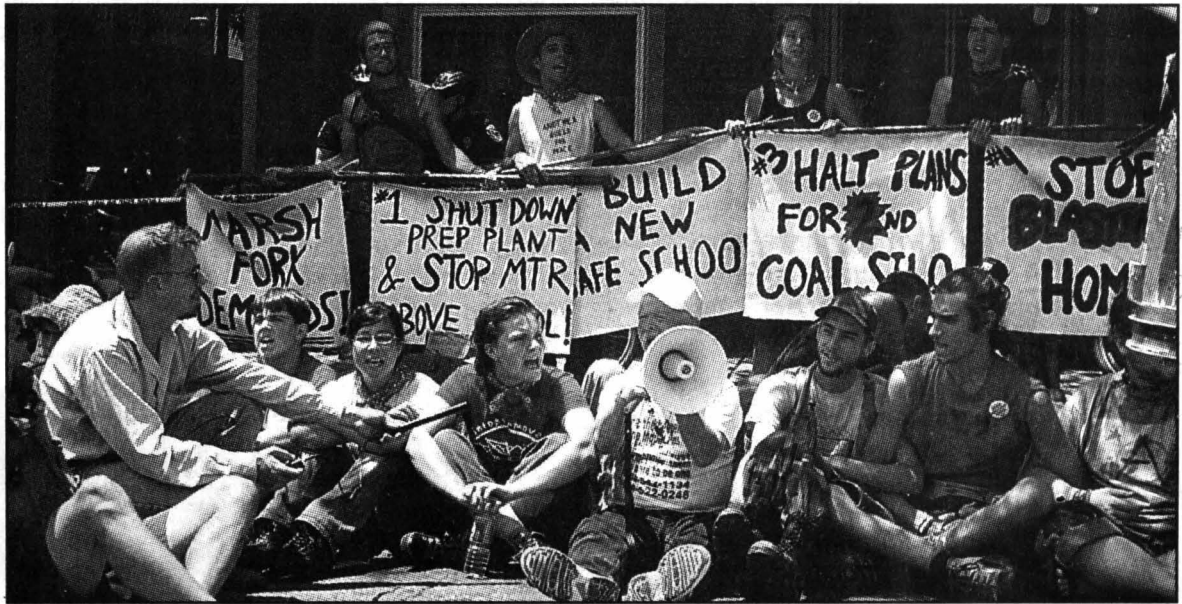


photo courtesy Richmond Independent

Protesters link arms in front of Massey Energy headquarters in Richmond, Virginia.

For the past three months, Mountain Justice Summer (MJS) has been raising a ruckus about the tragedy of mountaintop removal in southern Appalachia (see EF! July-August 2005). Actions have taken place in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky. A grassroots coalition working to make mountaintop removal a national issue, MJS is on the frontlines of the energy debate—highlighting the effects of energy consumption on small, Appalachian towns.

mjs disrupts national coal stockholders meeting; three arrested

BY SKYLER SIMMONS

On June 7, approximately 45 MJS activists descended on the Holiday Inn in Knoxville, Tennessee, to bring their message to National Coal Company shareholders. Dressed in animal costumes and banging on drums, the festive group knocked on the locked door of the meeting room, demanding that National Coal stop destroying Tennessee's mountains. Unbeknownst to the demonstrators, a sheriff's deputy and local Homeland Security official was raking in a little extra cash by pulling private security for the National Coal meeting. Instead of asking protesters to leave, the deputy immediately assaulted those up front. In the chaos that ensued, the deputy put one person in a chokehold for nearly

a minute, while the National Coal CEO proceeded to put another in an arm lock, despite the demonstrators' nonviolent demeanor. The situation was quickly defused as demonstrators continued to drum, chanting "Hands off our mountains," and deploying 130-decibel, personal security alarms. Eventually, actual on-duty police arrived, and the activists decided to leave the hotel. Soon afterward, despite telling protesters that they could hold signs in the hotel parking lot, police started making arrests, attacked an independent journalist and confiscated his camera. Three MJS activists—John Johnson, Sequoya McDowell and Chris Dodsens—were arrested and brought up on the completely ludicrous charges of inciting a riot, aggravated riot, burglary, aggravated assault and disrupting a meeting.

While there is plenty of evidence proving that these people are innocent of all charges, MJS is taking the situation very seriously. If convicted, three dedicated activists could end up in jail for several years. At their pretrial hearing, the sheriff's deputy painted the defendants as ecoterrorists, claiming that there are two open terrorism investigations involving Katúah Earth First! (a member of MJS). The judge, in turn, refused to allow the defense to cross-examine the prosecution witnesses on anything of importance. The case is now going to a grand jury, and it will quite possibly lead to a jury trial.

Earmarked donations can be sent to Shareholder Arrests Legal Fund, Katúah EF!, POB 16309, Knoxville, TN 37996.

For more information, contact Katúah EF! River Faction, POB 16309, Knoxville, TN 37996; katuah@riseup.net; www.mountainjusticesummer.org.

international day of action against climate change

BY THE REDNECK ANARCHIST FRONT

A 300-person rally and march organized by MJS and Coal River Mountain Watch converged on Massey Energy's main headquarters in Richmond, Virginia, on July 8. The date corresponded with the Global Day of Action Against Climate Change, in solidarity with the G8 protests in Scotland. Massey Energy, one of the largest energy companies in the US, controls many mountaintop removal sites in West Virginia and Kentucky.

With a bike gang swarming around the cop cars ahead of us, a lively drum corps, and massive banners reading, "Industrial Capitalism is killing our land and people," and "Massey and G8, it's all about the money," we descended upon Massey's headquarters. As the march arrived, activists

deployed banners to block off the area, allowing one group to lock down in front of the building and another to link arms in front of them. We used another banner to block the parking garage after most of Massey's employees were sent home early.

The street was filled with the sounds of drums, chants, screams and impromptu bullhorn speeches, targeting both Massey and the global economic system.

At 3 p.m., police informed the protesters that their permit had expired, but the crowd decided, with almost universal consensus, to stay. We prepared for a possible police confrontation by blockading the area with reinforced banners, bicycles and police barricades. After an employee finally took our list of demands and Massey's offices had more or less been shut down for the day, the protesters made a tactical decision to march back to our convergence center.

For an uprising in Appalachia! For an end to the colonialist exploitation of our mountains! For rural community self-determination!

roadless summer

STARTING OURSELVES OUT ON AN UNEXPECTEDLY LONG ROAD

BY ROADBLOCK EARTH FIRST!

Roadless Summer was conceived of at a time when the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) construction schedule called for the first ground to be broken on the Highway I-69 expansion in less than a year (see *EF!* March-April 2005). INDOT's subsequent restructuring of its schedule has consequently restructured our campaign.

With construction still looking distant as we entered May and June, we began Roadless Summer as a way to reinvigorate the grassroots struggle, slow down the planning process and try to stop related highway projects that were already in the works. This meant using and expanding the tactic of office invasions, which had already been pioneered in the anti-I-69 movement by the Indianapolis-based Southwest Perry Civic Association—primarily targeting INDOT section planning offices.

Additionally, Roadless Summer staged a major demonstration and protest march in Indianapolis on June 4, as a followup to previous mass actions there. During the march, the Indiana statehouse was spray-painted with anti-I-69 slogans, leading to 24 arrests and 10 days of nonstop media coverage of the issue. Three people—Melissa Calhoun, Karly Knable and another—are still facing charges, including felonies, with their next round of hearings scheduled for mid-September.

While some members of the wider grassroots movement condemned the spray-painting, others went so far as to proclaim it this movement's "Boston Tea Party." The action also contributed significantly to the creation of an atmosphere of intense pressure and skepticism toward the entire I-69 project. Following a June public meeting in Bloomington, during which *EF!*ers dropped

banners and hundreds of people criticized the NAFTA Superhighway, INDOT announced that it was pushing back construction by as much as 25 years!

Although covered-up budget woes were the immediate cause for the delay, it's clear to everyone here that the increasing pressure from the general public, grassroots groups and Roadless Summer were important factors in INDOT's decision. That announcement has since been revised again; INDOT hopes to finish I-69 by 2015.

Due to this big change, we have shifted our strategy yet again. We are now working to start longer-term, anti-corporate campaigns to convince specific contractors to withdraw their participation from the I-69 project. In July, demonstrations were held against the public relations firm Hetrick Communications, including home demonstrations and a 200-person night march in Bloomington. However, Roadblock *EF!*'s main target is now Bernardin, Lochmueller and Associates (BLA), which is responsible for much of the planning for I-69, as well as some community relations work.

Even with our organizational shortcomings, the frictions that we've occasionally experienced with citizens' groups and the curveballs that INDOT has thrown us, we feel that we have made concrete contributions to stopping I-69. At the same time, it is increasingly important that the struggle spread across the entire length of I-69's planned route—down to Texas and beyond. If the NAFTA Superhighway is completed, it will mean the destruction of not only our environment and community in the US, but also of those on the southern end of the road.

For more information and to support those facing charges, contact Roadblock *EF!*, POB 30293, Indianapolis, IN 46230; www.roadless-summer.org.

THIS RAT IS VERMIN OPPOSING THE NEW RECREATION ACCESS TAX

BY SCOTT SILVER

As 2004 rolled to a close, the always controversial and broadly despised Recreation Fee Demonstration Program stood poised to die (see *EF!* January-February 2005). Conceived during the Reagan years as part of an agenda that called for defunding land management agencies, stripping citizens of their right to access the American commons, and bringing about the commercialization, privatization and motorization of recreational opportunities upon our public lands, Fee Demo was finally introduced as stand-alone legislation by the environmental villain Senator Jim Hansen of Utah in 1996. When Hansen's bill failed to move, Ohio Representative Ralph Regula, acting as a stooge for the American Recreation Coalition, slipped it onto that year's Appropriations Bill, where it became the law of the land.

Although it was originally only authorized as a three-year test, Regula saw to it that the program was extended repeatedly—and in so doing, perpetuated the burgeoning Libertarian vision of an “ownership society,” where everything carries a price tag and citizenship itself confers no rights. Yet after eight very long years, Fee Demo had become an albatross that, by every conceivable measure, had proven itself to be a dismal failure. Fee Demo was about to die, and a walk in the woods was about to become free once more.

Unfortunately, as the 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Bill worked its way through Congress, Regula interceded once more, sneaking a piece of legislation written by the wreckreation industry onto the massive bill. Regula's legislation, officially known as the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, but commonly referred to as the Recreation Access Tax (RAT), had not so much as been introduced in the Senate. It had never been voted on by either chamber, and yet as a result of backroom political dealmaking, the RAT became law.

Unlike Fee Demo—a test program in which land managers had free rein to charge whatever they wanted, for whatever they wanted, whenever they wanted—the RAT is proscriptive. The RAT prohibits agencies from charging fees “for persons who are driving through, walking through, boating through, horseback riding through or hiking through federal recreational lands and waters without using the facilities and services.” The RAT prohibits agencies from charging fees “solely for parking, undesignated parking or picnicking along roads or trailsides.” The RAT stipulates that where fees are charged, the following six minimum amenities must *all* be present: “designated developed parking; a permanent toilet facility; a permanent trash receptacle; an interpretive sign, exhibit or kiosk; picnic tables; and security services.” The RAT requires that all non-complying Fee Demo sites revert to fee-free sites, and it prohibits agencies from creating new sites without

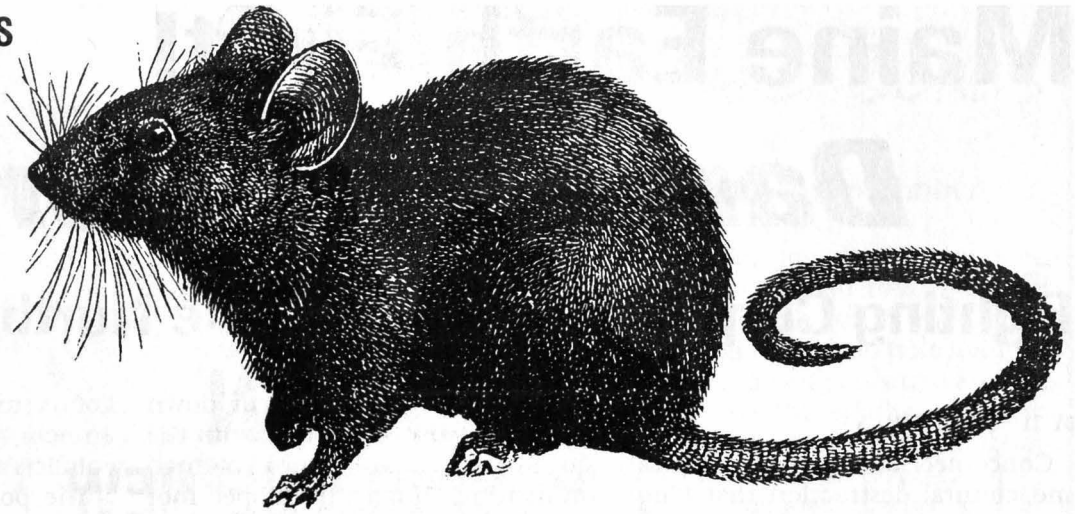
undertaking an elaborate approval process that involves a six-month public comment period.

Based upon this description, some might conclude that the RAT represents an improvement relative to Fee Demo. It does not. The insidiousness of the RAT becomes clear as soon as you look beyond the written law and see how it is implemented.

The US Forest Service (USFS) has, for example, already used the RAT to create a new forest designation called the “High Impact Recreation Area” (HIRA). The USFS is now charging for simple access within these newly defined areas and is doing so in clear violation of the law. It has also begun the process of determining which lesser-used recreation facilities can be decommissioned in order to concentrate visitors within pay-for-access HIRAs. The agency is currently determining which locations would be most profitable to turn into fee sites by adding the six required amenities. It is evaluating the elimination of access to unprofitable sites, and it is soliciting partnership agreements with special interest groups that would maintain recreation sites where fees alone do not provide sufficient income. Above all, the USFS is using its new fee authority to convert nature-based recreation into a commodity that can be developed, marketed and sold. The RAT is plague-carrying vermin and, unless stopped, will result in the further Disneyfication of Nature.

The RAT is not only vermin, it has teeth. The new law makes failure to

**SUCH AN OBNOXIOUS
TAX NAMED AFTER
SUCH A CUTE LITTLE
FRIEND.**



pay a recreation fee a criminal offense that is punishable by fines up to \$5,000 and/or six months in jail. Under the RAT, the owner of a vehicle can be charged with those criminal offenses, even if she was not driving (and even if she was not present). The RAT allows law enforcement officers to issue tickets on the presumption of guilt; persons who receive tickets may go to court and attempt to prove themselves innocent. Forging a recreation pass is now a federal crime punishable by a fine of up to \$100,000. As offensive as the RAT is, running a forest pass through your color copier is definitely not recommended!

Federal land-management agencies are currently in the process of transitioning from Fee Demo to the RAT, and some interesting things are happening. In Idaho's Sawtooth National Forest, Forest Supervisor Ruth Monahan ended all fees, saying, "We have scrutinized our existing recreation fee program on the forest and have determined that our trailhead parking pass program does not meet the intent of the new legislation or the agency's interim implementation guidelines." Contrast that with the situation on the Deschutes National Forest in Oregon, where I have personally surveyed 29 of the 57 current fee sites and found not one to be in compliance with the RAT. Of those sites, 15 were newly created without any public process whatsoever. As the survey of recreation fee sites on the Deschutes nears completion, it appears that few if any sites are in compliance with the law.

Why would one forest choose to comply with the RAT while another

would flagrantly break the law as if it did not exist? You'd think that with the Oregon State Legislature having passed Senate Joint Memorial 4, in which it calls upon President Bush and Congress to repeal the RAT, forest managers in this state would make some effort to follow the law. At a minimum, you'd think they would at least try to hide their illegal actions. Could it be that while the Senators from Idaho oppose the RAT and are in a position to kill it, the Senators from Oregon have remained noncommittal and do not chair any relevant committees?

I cannot say what evil lurks in the minds of those who call the shots within the USFS, but I know this much: The underhanded manner in which the RAT was passed into law has tainted this already unpopular legislation. States such as Oregon, Montana and Colorado have called for its repeal. More state legislatures are bound to follow.

Opposition to the RAT will jump by leaps and bounds in 2006, when the USFS goes beyond its initial implementation of "Standard Amenity Recreation Fees" and begins to charge "Expanded Amenity Recreation Fees," as authorized in the new legislation. Opposition will jump yet again when the agencies begin charging "Special Recreation Permit Fees" for such things as wilderness permits, river permits, wildlife viewing permits, hot springs permits, cross-country skiing permits, mountain bicycle permits, target shooting permits, snowplay permits, Christmas tree permits and recreational mining permits, all of which are stipulated

in the USFS's implementation guidelines. Opposition to the RAT will leap when the agencies roll out their nightmarishly expensive "America the Beautiful" pass in 2007, and public lands become inaccessible to any but the rich.

The good news is that the RAT has never enjoyed popular support and demands for its repeal are coming from all quarters. Congressional support for the RAT is marginal at best, and the sneaky, underhanded way that it became law did not endear this program to anyone. What's more, with land managers flouting the law, further backlash is all but inevitable.

Here are a few tips to rid our public lands of this vermin:

- Do not buy a pass. Do not support this program.
- Do not go to sites where fees are charged. If you go and fail to pay, you may be fined or jailed.
- Do not spend one penny on new recreation equipment this year. The recreation industry has supported the RAT, and it is time to make them pay.
- Do write letters to the editor and to elected officials. Public opinion still counts for something in our quickly disappearing democracy.
- Help us groundtruth RAT sites. A survey form can be found on the Wild Wilderness homepage.

The good news is that the RAT can, with your help, be killed.

For more information, contact Wild Wilderness, 248 NW Wilmington Ave, Bend, OR 97701; (541) 385-5261; www.wildwilderness.org.

Scott Silver is the executive director of Wild Wilderness, an organization that has supporters in all 50 states.

Maine Earth First!

Dams Scum Creek

Fighting Corporate Control of the North Woods

BY THE MAINE-IACS

Concerned about the ecological and cultural destruction that Plum Creek has created and intends to expand into our state, Maine Earth First! recently kicked off a campaign against the Washington-based timber corporation. On May 31, approximately 25 people staged a rally outside of Plum Creek's northeast regional office in Fairfield, Maine. When we arrived in festive spirits to greet the employees at approximately 8 a.m., we noticed that a nocturnal decoration committee had arrived before us and had covered the front of the clapboard building with clever, spray-painted slogans.

A large banner reading "Scum Creek = Playgrounds for the Idle Rich" appeared to be nailed to the second story of the building. When it was removed, police discovered more spray-painted slogans, and others that looked as though they had been etched into the windows underneath. The office's wooden

welcome sign had been cut down and left on the front lawn, with the slogan "Leave Maine Alone" painted on its front. Finally, the sloped roof was painted with "Second Growth Not Second Homes" in giant, orange letters. Other painted slogans included: "PC Out of Maine," "Leave the North Woods Alone" and "Go Away." The term "Scum Creek" appeared to be etched into at least five windows on both floors of the building, including the front door. The first of us to arrive at the office that morning were greeted by one Fairfield police officer and several very confused and pissed-off Plum Creek employees.

We held our rally anyway, and then, to wrap up the morning, we held a mock press conference in which Plum Creek presented a check for one million dollars to Maine EF! for helping it see the error of its ways. In the background, an EF! radical cheering brigade created some clever impromptu rhymes to accompany the event, such as, "Plum Creek, you're a freak! We're

gonna stop your cutting streak!" After an hour, we dispersed with no major conflicts and no arrests.

The police seemed to think that Maine EF! had something to do with the decorations, but they later admitted that there was no way to prove it. When interviewed by a local newspaper reporter, a protester had the audacity to suggest that Plum Creek had vandalized its own building. Paul Davis, a Plum Creek spokesman, responded to the protester's comments, declaring, "That's ludicrous." The local media had a field day with this one, and the event brought three consecutive days of amusing news coverage on television, radio and in print.

Maine EF! feels it necessary to publicly display our opposition to Plum Creek's existence and detrimental behavior in our state. We became particularly outraged last December, when the company—Maine's second largest landowner—announced plans to develop 427,000 acres of land in the Moosehead Lake region of Maine's North Woods. This so-called "resource management plan" is the largest development plan ever proposed in the state of Maine. It includes approximately 1,000 new house lots, two high-end resorts, a commercial site, three RV parks, a new marina on Moosehead Lake and, inevitably, a golf course.

Plum Creek has assured the public that this development is not of major concern because 95 percent of the land included in the proposal is being put under a 30-year conservation plan. This easement, however, will only prohibit development; the land will certainly continue to be a "working forest" (a term frequently used in Maine to describe intensively harvested areas). What Plum Creek also



Plum Creek employees arrived to a surprise on the morning of May 31.

photo by Steven

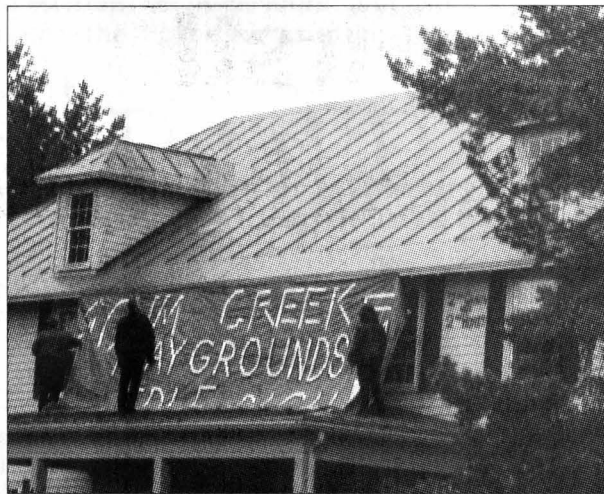
isn't saying is that most of the land in the conservation easement has already been devastated by clearcuts within the last 15 years and won't be fit for development for at least 30 years anyway.

In April, Plum Creek submitted the development proposal to the Land Use Regulatory Commission (LURC), a state organization that regulates the zoning laws for roughly 10 million acres of unorganized territories in northern Maine. Shortly thereafter, Maine citizens

circulated a petition calling on LURC to impose a six-month moratorium on development in the Moosehead Lake region. This would give LURC the necessary time to create a "comprehensive land use plan," as it does not yet have any system in place to limit the kind or extent of development allowed on private land in Maine. Unfortunately and predictably, the petition was declined, and the under-staffed LURC decided that it is completely capable of processing Plum Creek's massive proposal in a short period of time. Conveniently, Plum Creek has generously offered to have some of its own employees help LURC process the proposal.

Maine has the least amount of publicly owned and protected land in the country, and, as a result, the North Woods have been repeatedly ravaged by destructive logging practices over the last two centuries. Yet even with this devastation, the 10-million-plus acres of the North Woods still form the largest undeveloped area east of the Mississippi River.

This particular, parasitic timber corporation is preying upon the crumbling economy and people's desperation in northern Maine. With many northern Maine families' heritages rooted in logging, it's not shocking that the Moosehead Lake plan, which promises more work for loggers, is extremely alluring. Locals have painfully felt the near collapse of two pillar industries in the last two decades: agriculture and logging. To compensate for the rift in the economy, northern Maine has become a tourist wonderland, depending more on profits from eco-yuppies



Cops removing a banner from Plum Creek's office are about to discover more slogans painted and etched beneath.

photo by Steven

and other "nature lovers." Plum Creek is working hard to convince northern Mainers that the development will "revitalize the region's traditional and historical tourism industry." Oh yes, and don't forget those happy Winter skiers—they're looking forward to Plum Creek's ski expansion area, too.

The scumbags spearheading the Moosehead Lake development are backslapping with as many town managers, businessmen and school officials as possible, striving to pull the wool over as many eyes as they can. As far as we can tell after some firsthand reconnaissance work, the local opinion at this point is a mixed bag. Many folks have fallen for the "smart growth" jive-talk, but many others hate to see the state turned into a replica of Connecticut or the New Jersey shore—basically another playground for the rich.

Scum Creek has a long history of forest massacres, but it is becoming aware of the reality that some people in Maine will not stand for the destruction of our state and its intrinsic beauty. This is just the beginning of a campaign that we will wage until all the Scum is off the nearly one million acres that the company has been colonizing in Maine. There are eight million more acres around the country that need liberating from these Earth-destroyers... so what are y'all waiting for?

To find the Scum Creek office nearest you, visit www.plumcreek.com and click on your state. For more information about our campaign, contact Maine EF!, POB 917, Belfast, ME 04915; maineef@yahoo.com.

BARE BONES

Grand Canyon Timber Sale Stopped

The logging of 17,000 acres of old-growth ponderosa pine trees on the north rim of the Grand Canyon was put on hold in June, due to an administrative challenge by the Southwest Forest Alliance, Center for Biological Diversity and the Sierra Club.

The proposed timber sale in the Kaibab National Forest would also have clearcut a 100-foot-wide strip on each side of Highways 67 and 89A, to "improve" the scenic quality of the drive. The US Forest Service believes that these large ponderosa pines, which for years were left standing to hide the impacts of logging from motorists, now create a "monotonous" and "tunnel-like" driving experience.

The Kaibab National Forest contains some of North America's largest remaining stands of old-growth ponderosa pine. The timber plan has been withdrawn pending studies of its effects on wildlife and soil.

Sharks Can Keep Fins

The Inter-American Tropical Commission unanimously approved an international ban on shark finning in the eastern Pacific Ocean in June, in response to the near extermination of some shark species.

Shark finning—the act of slicing off a shark's fins and discarding the remainder of the body, dead or alive—is driven by the market for shark-fin soup, a lucrative Asian dish. The fins are dried and sold to dealers in Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines.

Research has shown that some tropical Pacific shark populations have declined by nearly 90 percent since the 1950s. Ecologists applauded the measure, saying that protecting the large predators will help to maintain the balance of ocean ecosystems.



The Timber Industry's New Spin

BY LISA DIX

Over the last several months, the American Lands Alliance has noticed a new tactic amongst proponents of taxpayer-subsidized, public-lands logging. Rather than arguing that national forests need to be "salvaged" after a fire in order to create jobs and economic return, logging proponents now claim that our national forests are suffering from a "reforestation backlog crisis." Let's not forget that only two years ago, these same people were arguing that there were "too many trees" in national forests!

The Industry's New Spin

The logging industry's spin goes something like this: National forests are facing a "reforestation backlog crisis" that needs to be immediately addressed due to increased fires, insect outbreaks, windstorms and ice storms that are "destroying" forests. In order to keep up with the backlog, the US Forest Service (USFS) needs to aggressively replant national forests after they are disturbed. However, the extremist and litigious environmental community is preventing this common-sense and balanced "restoration" from occurring, because sometimes the agency has to "remove" some of the trees from the area to make it ready for re-planting. So what the USFS needs from Congress is the ability to go into these areas quickly after a fire (or windstorm,

bug outbreak, ice storm, etc.) in order to "rehabilitate" and "restore" them, without bureaucracy or delay.

In this newly spun story, logging proponents never even have to mention the words "logging" or "salvage," and it fits perfectly into their overall "healthy forest" message. Decision leaders, media and the public will be confused, because they will think that planting trees and "restoring" forests once they have burned or blown down is a good thing, and that this should be done in an "expedited" fashion. The timber industry will also claim that it needs to "remove" trees to help pay for the "restoration." In fact, it has already begun airing television ads in Oregon that show images of hillsides burning up, followed by images of people out in the forest planting trees.

Laying the Foundations for Legislation

The American Forests Resource Council (AFRC) is a timber industry front group that includes benefactors of public-lands, old-growth logging such as Columbia Helicopters, Roseburg Forest Products, D.R. Johnson and Swanson Group. According to AFRC's May newsletter, US Representative Greg Walden of Oregon is already poised to introduce new post-fire logging legislation: "I believe that we can create a template not too dissimilar to what we did on the Healthy Forest Restoration Act,

to allow for expediting treatment of lands after a catastrophic fire so that we can restore those lands more rapidly and, where appropriate, remove the dead trees where they still have value and can actually help pay for the restoration work."

On April 27, Walden held a House Resources hearing that heard testimony on a General Accounting Office (GAO) report he had commissioned based on the USFS's 2004 claim that "it had a backlog of nearly 900,000 acres of land needing reforestation." However, the GAO report concluded that the USFS lacked systematized data and could not accurately determine reforestation and timber-stand improvement needs on national forest lands.

Despite the GAO's strong conclusion, Walden, the USFS, the Bureau of Land Management and the Society of American Foresters continue to assert that there is a reforestation backlog on national forests, and they continue to claim that appeals and litigation are interfering with projects that would restore forests after natural disturbances.

Biscuit Study Rider

Meanwhile, in late June, Oregon Senator Gordon Smith attached a rider to the Fiscal Year 2006 Interior Appropriations Bill that requires the Secretary of Agriculture to submit a report to Congress within 90 days, assessing:

"(1) the change in reforestation capabilities and costs between the date of the containment of the Biscuit Fire and the completion of the Biscuit Fire Recovery Project... (2) the commercial value lost, as well as recovered, of fire-killed timber within the Biscuit Fire area; and (3) all actions included in the Record of Decision for the Biscuit Fire Recovery Project, but forgone because of delay or funding shortfall."

The rider mandates an incomplete and biased report that Smith will likely use as a platform to assert that "restoration" and "recovery" efforts are being impeded by appeals and litigation. The language of the rider severely limits the information that is needed to tell the whole story. For example, there was significant "delay" on the part of the USFS when it decided to hold up the Environmental Impact Statement process to analyze an alternative based on Oregon State University's infamous "Sessions Report." The USFS used this industry-backed report to justify increased logging of the Biscuit, but the delay happened before the Record of Decision and will not be part of the "delay" addressed in the report.

Additionally, the report will not include the important fact that the USFS is selling the public's old-growth trees to the timber industry at rock-bottom prices. In fact, many Biscuit logging sales have sold for

a single minimum bid. Sales have gone for as little as \$15 per 1,000 board-feet—enough to fill a log truck for about \$75! Overall, it is estimated that the Biscuit logging project could actually end up *costing* the government more than \$30 million to complete, rather than raising money for any kind of restoration.

The Path Ahead

In the upcoming months, we will need to counter assertions by logging proponents that logging and artificial replanting after natural disturbances are best for our forests. While it is sometimes necessary for rehabilitation to occur in a post-disturbance landscape, this is not the intent of Walden and Smith's efforts. Decision leaders and the public need to be educated that after fires and other natural events, the best approach is often to let areas recover naturally.

The USFS and logging proponents must be diligently challenged as they continue to manufacture a national forest "reforestation backlog crisis." Additionally, untrue claims that our administrative appeals and litigation hold up restoration projects must be refuted—especially since the destructive logging roads and projects that we are fighting have nothing to do with legitimate forest restoration.

Lisa Dix is the national forest program director for American Lands Alliance.

BARE BONES

Sequoia Fire Plan Illegal

On July 16, a federal court ruled the Sequoia National Forest Fire Management Plan illegal due to its failure to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and other federal regulations. This ruling will allow the entire Giant Sequoia Monument Plan, which is based almost entirely on the fire plan, to be challenged.

Sequoia National Park has successfully used fire to manage its forests for decades. But in 2003, the Sequoia National Forest wrote the now-overturned fire plan for the Giant Sequoia National Monument—a plan that relied heavily on commercial logging for forest management and disallowed wildfire as a management tool in nearly the entire monument.

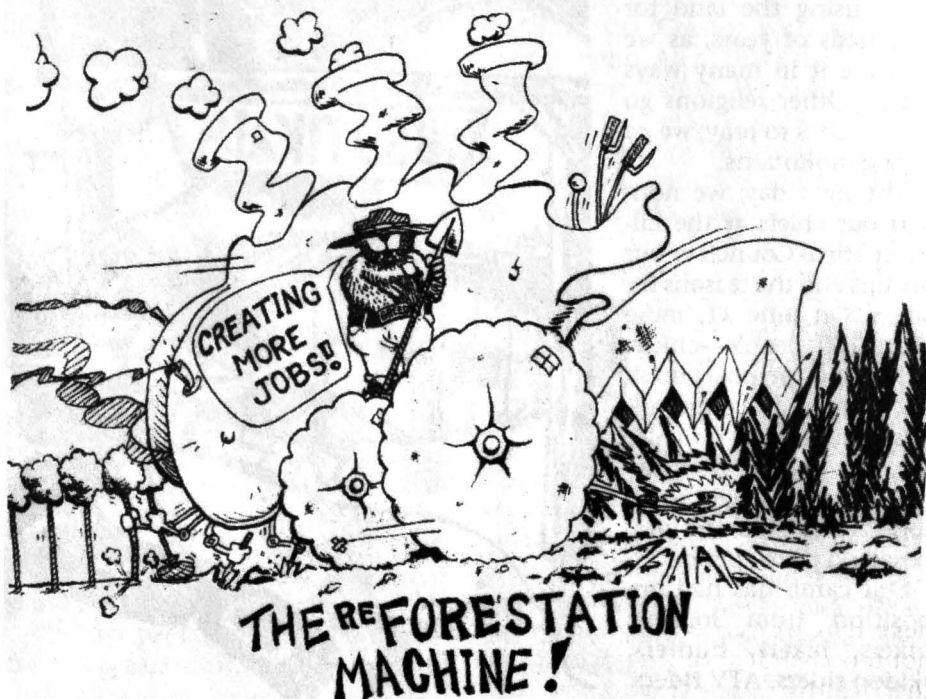
More Right Whales Dying

As a result of legal pressure from the Center for Biological Diversity, the National Marine Fisheries Service has been ordered to designate critical habitat by June 2006 for the Pacific northern right whale.

Ocean researchers estimate that the whales, once common in the Pacific Ocean, have been reduced to a population of fewer than 100 individuals. The main threats to their survival are pollution, fishing gear entanglements and ship collisions from an increase in commerce in the Bering Sea.

But fishermen say that whale-safe gear would be too expensive and that they would lose money by slowing down or taking alternative routes to avoid the whales.

Scientists were also startled to discover recently that nearly twice as many Atlantic northern right whales are dying each year as was previously estimated, and they are pushing emergency protections for that species, as well.



Sutikalh Occupation

Enters Fifth Year

St'at'imc Nation Defies Ski Resort



BY ROSALIN SAM

In 1990, we, the Lil'wat, staged a road blockade on Mt. Currie in British Columbia for several reasons, including opposition to a plan to pave logging roads that run through our community. The Lil'wat community of Mt. Currie is a band of the St'at'imc people, who are often referred to as the Lillooet Nation in government documents. We have lived in this region for thousands of years, and we have never ceded or surrendered any of our territory. As a result of our action, 67 protesters were arrested. We refused to give our names or cooperate with authorities, and we were held for one month.

The following year, Olympic skier Nancy Greene-Raine came to our community meeting to propose the Cayoosh Ski Resort—a \$500-million facility with accommodations for 12,000 visitors year-round. She was asked to leave the meeting, since the resort was seen as undesirable by the people. Greene-Raine's resort development firm, NGR Consultants, would destroy the forests—the natural habitat of the grizzly bear, mountain goat, wolverine and many of the natural medicines that we use in this area. NGR Consultants would sell our water and destroy the last untouched watershed within our St'at'imc territory. It would build a highway, hotels, a golf course, ski hills galore and an all-season resort/retirement home for the rich. The resort would open up our St'at'imc territory to development; our untouched lands would fill with hotels and homes, all belonging to outsiders.

Months went by, but political maneuvering by the developers continued behind closed doors. By Spring 2000, it became clear that the ski resort would probably be approved within the year. In response, the women of Lil'wat sent the men into the mountains to set up a blockade and protest camp to stop this resort from being built.

The Sutikalh camp—named for the St'at'imc "Winter Spirit" who dwells in the mountains—was set up on May 2, 2000. These mountains are where our medicine people and ancestors went to stay for weeks and even years to learn of our songs and medicines. We have been using the land for hundreds of years, as we still use it in many ways today. Other religions go to churches to pray; we go to the mountains.

The next day, we notified our chiefs at the Lillooet Tribal Council of our actions and the reasons for them. On June 11, more than 120 people—chiefs, elders and members of all 11 St'at'imc communities—gathered at Sutikalh. We, the people, then decided that we would stand together to stop the proposed ski development.

Our camp has had opposition from loggers, hikers, bikers, hunters, skidoo riders, ATV riders,

tourists and even some of our own people. We have been threatened with words, shot at with guns and had our informational booth set on fire. But the greatest insult came on August 14, 2000, when the Environmental Assessment Office approved the Cayoosh Ski Resort.

Three days later, we set up a new roadblock to oppose the certification of the development. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the St'at'imc Tribal Police set up



artwork courtesy sutikalh.resist.ca

their own blockades at both ends of the corridor to stop St'at'imc people from joining our blockade. Some of us went to Vancouver to demonstrate at the stock exchange and let stockholders know that we meant business. The Lillooet Tribal Council also produced a letter to NGR Consultants, signed by all 11 chiefs of the 11 communities of the St'at'imc territory, denouncing the resort and making it clear that the plan had no support from the St'at'imc.

By the afternoon of August 18, we had made our point, so we took down the road blockade. The RCMP did nothing to protect our peaceful camp against violent oppositionists.

We then held a rally in Mt. Currie, to ask people to come out and vote against the resort in an October 2, 2000, referendum. More than 85 percent of the voters opposed the resort. Some of the communities had no referendum, because they opposed the resort unanimously.

Years have passed, and the camp has endured. On July 27, NGR Consultants applied for an extension on its development permit, which was due to expire on August 14. Company representative Al Raine, still trying to ignore our resistance, told the press that the Indian problem is in the hands of the government.

The provincial government notified only two of our communities of this application. All of the St'at'imc should have been notified and asked for comment. In the original permit from 2000, it was stated that in order to get an extension, construction had to be substantially started within five years. Yet the developers have not even begun construction on the project.

In spite of these illegalities, the provincial government granted the extension on August 11. The government called it a temporary extension because it still believes that the St'at'imc Chiefs Council will negotiate about the resort. But our chiefs stand firm, and so do we.

We have been at our Sutikalh camp for five years now, and we plan to

stay. We have had many visitors—some with their own agenda, some sent in as infiltrators, some who were just curious. Many have come from around the world to support us. Many First Nations communities and organizations from across Canada and the US, including the Union of British Columbian Indian Chiefs and the Native Youth Movement, have visited us and publicly voiced support for our cause. When local people and tourists stop at our informational checkpoints, we tell them about the lies in the ski resort's application, the lies about our animals and our lands, the falsely promised jobs, and

all of the broken agreements and the unconcern for our territory. The whole world now knows of the plan to build a resort on our land, and the people of the world are standing with us in opposition to this massive development.

When you travel between Mt. Currie and Lillooet, there are countless breathtaking country scenes, with all of the beautiful colors of Mother Nature's palette. This is a place for wildlife to roam; a place where the stream water is pure enough to drink; a place where you can breathe in the fresh air and, on a clear night, you can see all the stars in the sky; a place that was made by the Creator with all creatures in mind. All of this exists within the St'at'imc Nation. We cannot see it destroyed for the sake of the almighty dollar. Money will disappear quickly, but the land will be there for thousands of years to come.

We have said from day one that there will never be a ski resort in Sutikalh, and we say that still, today.

For more information, contact Sutikalh-Melvin Creek Camp, POB 309, Mt. Currie, BC V0N 2K0, Canada; (604) 894-2400; (604) 894-6841 (fax); sutikalh2003@telus.net.

Rosalin Sam, a Lil'watool of the St'at'imc, is a mother and grandmother working to protect the St'at'imc territory—for the sake of the ancestors who fought for it at the cost of their blood, and for the future for her grandchildren's grandchildren.

In Spring 2000, the women of Lil'wat sent the men into the mountains to set up a blockade and protest camp to stop this resort.

BARE BONES

Montana to Hunt Bison

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) Commission set regulations in July for a Winter 2006, recreational bison hunt. The hunt, aimed at bison migrating out of Yellowstone National Park, will be the state's first in 15 years. Although Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer canceled the 2005 hunt due to intense public pressure, FWP is insistent that the hunt of the last wild bison herd in the US be reinstated.

All wild bison in Montana are under the jurisdiction of the Montana Department of Livestock (DOL), but the DOL has decided to suspend its haze, capture and kill policy for the duration of the hunt—unless more bison than have been allotted for the hunt leave the park, in which case the hunt may be suspended to allow the DOL to intercede.

SHAC 7 Mistrial

US District Judge Mary Cooper declared a mistrial in the conspiracy case for seven Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) activists in June when the attorney representing one of the defendants fell ill. Their trial has been rescheduled for February.

In May 2004, the SHAC 7 were arrested and charged with conspiring to threaten and terrorize employees and customers of Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), a notorious animal testing lab (see *EF!* July-August 2004). The charges allege that the seven incited people to commit crimes of vandalism and harassment against employees of HLS and other companies that conduct business with the Britain-based drug company.

"We have faith in the evidence and look forward to retrying it," said defendant Kevin Jonas.

VIOLATION

&

Liberation

Grassroots Animal Rights Activists Take on Sexual Assault

BY PATTRICE JONES

They stayed up late talking, energized by the Grassroots Animal Rights Conference (GARC), at which he was staffing the table of a vegetarian organization. Around them, other animal rights activists drifted to sleep, worn out by the arguments and engagements of the day. The church was chilly. She offered to share her blanket, making it very clear that she wasn't offering to share anything else. When she fell asleep, they were on separate couches. When she woke

up, he was on top of her, fumbling in her vagina with his fingers, groping her body and moaning. Shocked, she yelled at him and pushed his hands away. He rolled back onto his couch and acted like he was asleep.

Challenged later about this assault on a sleeping, 17-year-old woman, Nathan Braun first claimed that he had never sexually assaulted anyone "on purpose," but he "would not be surprised" if he had done what the young woman reported. He claimed to have a condition called "sexsomnia," which causes people to commit sexual

acts while asleep. A few days later, he changed his story, claiming that nothing had happened and that he was the focus of jealousy and desire as a "handsome, Christian alpha male."

By then it was too late for denial. His initial admission had damned him just as surely as the forthright statement of the survivor and the echoes of other women who came forward to say that he had violated them, too. His own behavior had led him to be wanted by the State of New York and unwanted within the animal liberation movement.

Frontlines

Siskiyou Free State Declared

On July 17, forest activists in the Siskiyou Mountains of southern Oregon announced construction of a "bold and elaborate infrastructure of resistance" to defend the Hobson Timber Sale in the Biscuit Fire area.

Dozens of people worked all night to build a log cabin fortress on the lone road to the remote sale, now referred to as the "Siskiyou Free State." Underneath the cabin, two activists locked down in a boulder-fortified basement. A rope-network treesit above connected multiple acres of trees and suspended activists in mid-air.

Authorities dismantled the log cabin that day, only to be greeted three days later by a larger, better-fortified version. The blockade was again dismantled, and one person was arrested, leaving dozens of people in the canopy rope-network overhead.

ALF Raids Rabbit Lab

Bridget's Farm Rabbit Research Station in Hampshire, England, was targeted by the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) on May 28, in celebration of the Real World Day

for Laboratory Animals. The "A(LF) Team" gained access by cutting through an electric fence and forcing open office doors with a crowbar. They removed detailed maps of the testing area, blueprints to Bridget's Experimental Farm complex, and more than 20 years-worth of research on paper, video and slides.

Bridget's Farm carries out tests with cyanide, phosphorous, magnesium tablets, gassing and various trapping techniques on captive-bred and wild-caught rabbits.

No rabbits were on site, but the runs where they are usually kept were destroyed. The Team reported that "we also removed addresses, phone numbers and their contacts at other animal abuse facilities—many of which we already had our eyes on."

Greenpeace Closes Coal Port

The world's largest coal export port was shut down on July 26, when the Greenpeace flagship *Rainbow Warrior* dropped anchor in Newcastle harbor, Australia, blocking the Kooragang and Carrington terminals. Teams of activists also occupied a 2.5-ton coal stockpile and a coal loader.

A Widespread Problem

Some people might be surprised to hear what happened that night characterized as sexual assault. Many people mistakenly believe that sexual assault must involve forcible penetration by a penis. In fact, most states recognize degrees of sexual assault, with first-degree rape being the most extreme crime on of a continuum of violation. In some states, any unwanted touching of the breasts, thighs or buttocks is considered third-degree sexual assault.

Whatever the law might say, we all ought to be able to agree that doing sexual things to someone who does not consent is a violation of that person's body and rights. People who are asleep cannot consent, because they are not conscious. Thus, initiating sexual contact with someone who is asleep is never OK.

Men of all races, classes and political persuasions commit sexual assault. In one study of male college students, more than a third indicated that they would rape a woman if they were sure that they could get away with it. Another study found that one in 12 young men had already committed

acts that fell within the legal definition of rape or attempted rape.

Asked if they've ever committed sexual assault, most men say "no." But asked more specific questions—Have you ever fondled a woman's breasts without her permission? Have you ever surprised an acquaintance by grabbing her ass? Have you ever continued kissing or touching a

According to survey research, anywhere from 25 to 60 percent of male college students have committed sexual assault at least once in their short lives. Nobody knows how high the percentages might be for older men.

Whether or not it involves physical violence, sexual assault hurts. Most survivors of sexual assault experience symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. Besides being distressing, these symptoms can significantly interfere with daily life and with productive work, such as activism. The fact that one in three women is sexually assaulted in her lifetime makes it clear that this is one of the ways that males retain political power.

Activist movements require mutual trust. When sexual assault occurs within activist movements—which it too often does—both the survivor and the movement are hurt.

woman after she asked you to stop? Have you ever acted so upset that a woman who said "no" changed her mind? Have you ever had sex with a woman who was too drunk to know what she was doing? Has any woman ever let you do something sexual or done something sexual for you, just to shut you up about it?—many men have to admit that they have committed acts that meet the legal or ethical criteria of sexual assault.

Zero Tolerance

Survivors of sexual assault often have a hard time trusting people. Activist movements require mutual trust. When sexual assault occurs within activist movements—which it too often does—both the survivor and the movement are hurt. Nonetheless, most activist organizations are not prepared to deal with sexual assault when it happens.

continued on next page

"We are here today to expose Australia's dangerous addiction to coal export dollars and its significant contribution toward global climate change," said Ben Pearson, a Greenpeace Australia climate and energy campaigner.

Athena Ronquillo of Greenpeace International said, "By continuing to export coal to Asia, Australia is locking developing countries into a fossil fuel future that perpetuates climate change, ignores sustainability and denies their independence from imported and expensive fuel."

ALF Burns Oxford Boathouse

On July 4, the ALF dealt Oxford University an estimated \$900,000 in damage when it burned a Hertford College boathouse, along with 24 rowing boats belonging to Hertford, St. Catherine's, Mansfield, St. Hilda's and Templeton Colleges.

Oxford is currently the focus of a campaign to halt its plans for a new primate research laboratory. Construction was temporarily stopped in 2004, when the main contractor, Montpellier, pulled out due to threats and direct action from the ALF.

An ALF communiqué following the fire warned that no one who has dealings with Oxford is off limits, especially builders and suppliers, "even if their involvement comes to light years later."

Floridians Fight Free Trade

Protestors in Coral Gables, Florida, welcomed delegates from the Organization of American States and made a statement against free trade by erecting a tripod blockade at the Biltmore Hotel on June 4. In 1994, the Biltmore Hotel hosted the first modern Summit of the Americas conference, which spawned the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

Three activists were arrested and released the next day for time served.

Occupation Derails Whale-Meat Factory

On June 14, after a monthlong occupation of its construction site, the city of Ulsan, South Korea, abandoned its plans to build a whale- and dolphin-meat processing factory. The factory was meant to process "accidental" bycatch for commercial sale.

In protest of the proposed factory, activists with Greenpeace and the Korean Federation for Environmental Movement had occupied the site of the proposed factory since April 7.

The *Hankyoreh*, a local newspaper, reported that the city council aborted the factory mainly because, "Greenpeace called the facility a whale meat factory... which caused the international community to view Korea as a pro-whaling nation. The city decided that going ahead with the plan would not be in the national interest."

continued from previous page

This time was different. GARC had a sexual assault policy that had been distributed to every attendee. The morning after the assault, the survivor told conference organizers. They ordered the perpetrator to pack up his materials and leave the building, which he did. When he tried to reenter the conference the next day, he was again told to leave. The survivor received on-site support as well as referrals to lawyers and rape crisis counselors.

Some days after the conference, at the initiation of the survivor, a group of male and female feminists from within the animal liberation movement formed a working group to decide what to do next. The group operated by consensus, all agreeing in advance to privilege the survivor's preferences. By means of an email list and a series of conference calls, the far-flung group of activists devised and implemented an action plan intended to both hold the perpetrator accountable and warn other women about him.

The first step was to inform the organization that the perpetrator had been representing at GARC. To its credit, the Christian Vegetarian Association (CVA) immediately dissociated itself from him. Members of the working group also asked men in the movement, including CVA advisory board members, to tell the perpetrator that they condemned his behavior. Many did so.

The next step was to draft a public statement that would name the perpetrator and warn other women about him. In the course of that process, three other women came forward with reports of unwanted, aggressive physical advances by Nathan Braun. This verified the survivor's sense that she had both the right and the duty to speak out about what he had done to her.

As the working group prepared to go public, we consulted with feminists whose primary area of expertise is sexual assault. They encouraged us and helped us to come up with answers to likely challenges. For example, we learned that, contrary to popular belief, false reports of rape are very rare and that, on the contrary, most sexual assaults are not reported to authorities. More than 40 percent of all rape survivors tell no one at all.

Equipped with such facts, the GARC organizers released a bulletin telling what had happened, reiterating the conference's policy of "zero tolerance" for sexual assault, and urging all perpetrators of sexual assault to change their ways and make amends for past misbehavior. At the same time, the working group secured the domain www.sexualassaultwatch.org,

and it posted the survivor's report along with the perpetrator's picture.

Backlash Follows Progress

Much of the work of drafting, revising and releasing the GARC statement was done by men. One very prominent male activist ejected the perpetrator from the conference, while another challenged him privately. A male, movement lawyer assisted the survivor in her interactions with police. Men handled most of the logistics of the working group, including maintaining the email list, setting up conference calls and distributing minutes. As a feminist who has previously struggled to get men in other movements to take action against sexual assault, I was heartened by this outpouring of male energy.

Perhaps I should not have been surprised. Sexual assault is wrong in any context, but it is particularly out of place in a venue dedicated to animal liberation. The animal liberation movement is about protecting animal bodies from exploitation of all kinds. Animal liberationists are familiar with using our personal power to expose and



undermine the illegitimate power that we, as humans, hold over animals. The men in our working group were simply applying the same principle, using their personal power to expose and undermine the illegitimate power that they, as men, hold over women.

The anti-rape activists with whom we consulted were also pleasantly surprised by the willingness of so many male animal liberationists to take action against sexual assault without trying to be the bosses of the project. They were even more delighted by our audacity in naming the perpetrator and warning other women about him.

This sort of action was common back in the 1970s, when activism against rape was new and still rooted in radical feminism. Since then, explains Janelle White, director of the University of New Orleans Women's Center, "The state has bought out the anti-violence movement." In these days, when most rape crisis centers are funded by governments, few anti-rape activists are willing to take steps that directly challenge male power over women.

People don't like it when you take power or privilege away from them. Backlash always follows progress. As is usually the case with sexual assault, the backlash in this case has taken the form of attacks on the credibility of the survivor and her advocates. As is so often the case, the perpetrator is now seen by some people as the victim. Some men who immediately did the right thing are now rethinking their first response, perhaps because they now realize that their own male privilege is at stake.

And, indeed, men in the animal liberation movement are now considerably less free to heedlessly abuse women. Several women have approached the working group for advice or assistance in confronting or exposing men who have subjected them to sexual or domestic violence.

Many Oppressions, One Liberation

Sexual assault often marks the survivor for life. While the degree

Excerpt from "GARC's Response to Sexual Assault"

"Sexual assault in the animal advocacy community affects us all. It destroys trust, exploits vulnerable individuals, and bankrupts the claims of a movement that speaks about equality and challenges oppressions. This is harmful to the individual women for whom sexual assault can cause physical, psychological and spiritual damage, but it is also harmful to the movement. It creates a climate in which some of us cannot feel safe in our activism. Sexual assault should not be the cost of being a woman animal activist."

of physical and emotional scarring varies, no survivor is exactly the same as she was when she was someone who had not been violated in that way. In contrast, perpetrators often walk away unscathed.

Not this time. The perpetrator of this sexual assault lost his job, lost his credibility, and—unless he chooses to make amends to his victims and agrees never to assault women again—will forever have his name associated with the despicable and pathetic crime of groping a sleeping woman.

If we are serious about ending violence against women, this kind of response has to become the norm. Men need to know that they will be shunned by both peers and potential partners if they rape or batter women. Everybody needs to pitch in to create a climate where coercion of any kind—emotional or physical—no longer poisons our intimate relationships.

How is it that a group of animal liberation activists has surpassed even anti-rape organizations in the audacity of its response to sexual assault? White suggests that this is because the animal liberation movement has not been "co-opted" by the state, but that is only part of the answer. The activists involved in this project see the exploitation of women, the Earth and animals as different elements of the same crime. That violation is at the root of all forms of violence. Only when we undo it can we liberate the Earth, animals and ourselves.

Patrice Jones coordinates the Eastern Shore Sanctuary and Education Center in rural Maryland. For more information, visit www.bravebirds.org.

A Few Facts about Sexual Assault

FROM THE RAPE, ABUSE AND INCEST NATIONAL NETWORK (WWW.RAINN.ORG)

- 90 percent of rape victims are female; 10 percent are male.
- 99 percent of perpetrators are male.
- An estimated 44 percent of rape victims are under the age of 18.
- Only 39 percent of sexual assaults are reported to the police.
- Only six percent of perpetrators are ever convicted and imprisoned.
- 72 percent of sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the person assaulted.

remembering a warrior poet

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

And from the Earth-raping rampage of the Reagan/Bush era
Comes another administration, young and full of spirit
With a Vice President who'll clean up the environment
And his wife who'll clean up Rock n Roll lyrics

And how do we recognize this brave new breed?
Why, it's easier than falling off an old-growth log
Just remember their Earth-friendly battle cry
And repeat it if you want to join along

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! Rah!
I feel so good just saying that, let's go out and pick some flowers
As we reduce our forest to fiberboard and pulp
And recycle the patterns of Political Power

And I just bought a cookie from the health food store
The most expensive store in the whole neighborhood
It's got a plastic wrapper that says "organic"
So I know that it's gonna taste good

And now I'm driving my bicycle through Uptown Traffic
It takes moves never dreamed of by any ballet dancer
When I'm nearly run off the road by some car
With a bumpersticker that says "Trees are the answer"

I think I've got a better answer for you
Reduce, Recycle, I've never seen it fail
I'm gonna remove your gas cap, Recycle some newspaper
And reduce the petro beast to a molotov cocktail

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! Rah!
I feel so good just saying that, how utterly inspired

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! right.
Like that's gonna pull our ass out of the fire

And hey, there's money to be made from environmental conflict
It's a growth industry and we all play out part
The Earth-rapers plunder what's left of the planet
And the Sierra Club rips off all the bleeding hearts

And if we ever come to terms with the dolphins & whales
Learn to cherish their music and their watery rhythms
We're gonna put a lot of whalers out of work, yes indeed
And Greenpeace will go down the toilet with 'em

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! Oh really
I'm totally into Mother Earth, we totally should protect her
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! Ripoff!
Let's reuse the salaries of Sierra Club directors

See it on big billboards at Wal-Mart
Reduce, Recycle, the consumers demand it!
Tell me how much tree flesh does it take
To tell ourselves we're saving the planet?

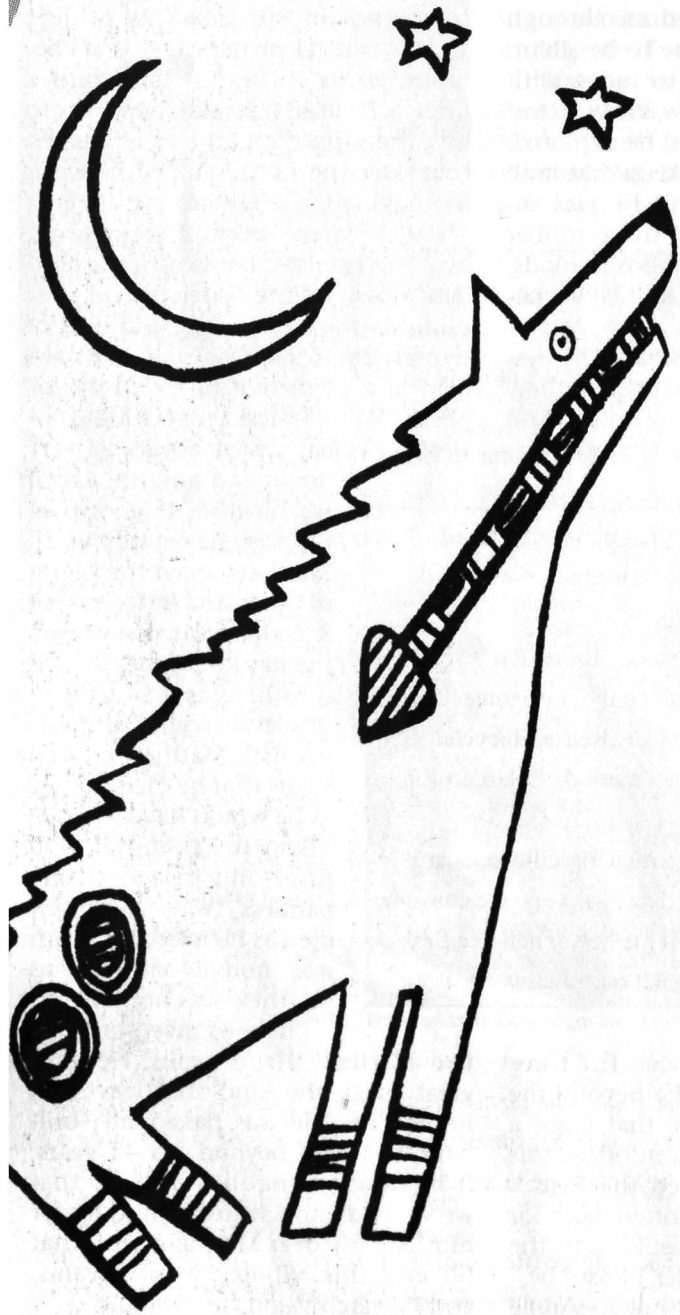
Oh, but this is post-consumer fiber
That'll save the planet, we hope
But the post-consumer world isn't shaping up
To be a package in a pretty envelope

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!
Let's buy environmentalism, never mind the cost
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! Regurgitate!
We wanted to save the Planet, and all we got was greenwash

armed with visions... clear as cut glass and just as dangerous

a warrior

poems by matthew haun



Poor Cowboy

Well, my great granpappy was a powerful man
He knew his place in the world; he had a gun in his hand
And he braved hostile injuns and hot desert sands
So future generations could abuse public lands

So let me overgraze the ranges, don't charge me mo fees
Gotta make big government let the poor people be
Let the whole world go hungry and I don't care
'Cause I'm a poor cowboy and I need welfare

Well, I ride 'em through the rain, through the snow,
through the heat
And I supply 2% of our nation's red meat
And the West is a barren land, it's always been that way
You let me keep on grazin', that's how it's gonna stay

So let me kill all the coyotes, the wolves and grizzlies
Gotta keep the world safe for democracy
But you shoot my little dogies, boy, you better beware
'Cause I'm a poor cowboy, and I'm on welfare

I love my ma; and I love my pa
And the county commissioner, who's my brother in law
And I believe in god and the gospel of jesus
And I'll get off public land just as soon as hell freezes

So I'm a-ridin' out West with my can of 1080*
Where the sunshine is bright and the politics are shady
The wide West is a-waiting, I'm a-gonna get my share
'Cause I'm a poor cowboy, and I need welfare.

**A lethal poison used by ranchers to kill coyotes, feral pigs and other animals.*

send poems to:
warrior poets society
pob 14501, berkeley, ca 94712-5501

remembering MATTHEW DAVID HAUN

1961 – 2005

BY EMILY LOEB
(NAMED SUGAR BY MATTHEW)

I write this tribute with sadness, yet also with reverence. Matthew Haun was a dear friend to me. I had the honor of traveling with him over the course of two years, exploring remote wildlands throughout the country. Matthew was a dedicated activist and had participated in countless forest actions, the Nevada Test Site protests and the Western Shoshone Defense Project.

Matthew walked his talk; he gave up his car in 1980 and from then on he hopped freight and walked. While not a speedy hiker, Matthew was steady and covered great distances each day. He was hardcore and didn't hike with a sleeping bag or a tent. For more than 20 years, he was a dedicated Kundalini yoga practitioner. An avid reader and student, he had a master's degree in linguistics and knew Greek, Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic and Latin. Constantly quoting people and texts, he was analytical and had a phenomenal memory.

Matthew made an impression on those who met him. He was loved and respected because of the love, passion, quick wit and energy that he brought to the movement.

Most EF!ers knew Matthew for his poetry and biting humor. No one was too sensitive or too important to avoid his quick wit. I remember how people at the Round River Rendezvous used to beg him to perform. Obliging, he would go into a trance, dancing and jumping around the fire as he talked about lovers, the Earth and politics. In 1998, Matthew started writing rhythmic, fictional stories. Not using notes, he recited these tales, one of which lasted for more than an hour. A

student of the classics, Matthew was our modern-day Homer.

I met Matthew in Idaho at Cove/Mallard in 1997. He led me through the woods, teaching me to be silent, to listen to the trees, to move with the landscape. Matthew knew Cove/Mallard. For eight years, he explored, worked and fought to keep that land from being logged, and he was instrumental in stopping those timber sales. He was alive in those woods, and those woods are still alive because of him.

In 1998, we lived in Moab. The desert is the country with which Matthew really connected. He knew how to find gifts of life in the desert, while also

hiked, made friends and brewed beer. Matthew was happy.

Matthew died hiking on a waterfall outside of Salt Lake City on July 19. He had taken me there years before to share its beauty and wonder. After a 20-mile bike ride and a steep hike, he slipped and the water carried him over the falls. Trapped between the raging waterfall and a logjam, Matthew faced outward, looking out over this honored landscape. His head bent down as the water rushed over him. Matthew fell asleep and died of hypothermia. I know that Matthew died in a place that he loved. In his poem "Water in the Desert," Matthew wrote, "Water always works its way

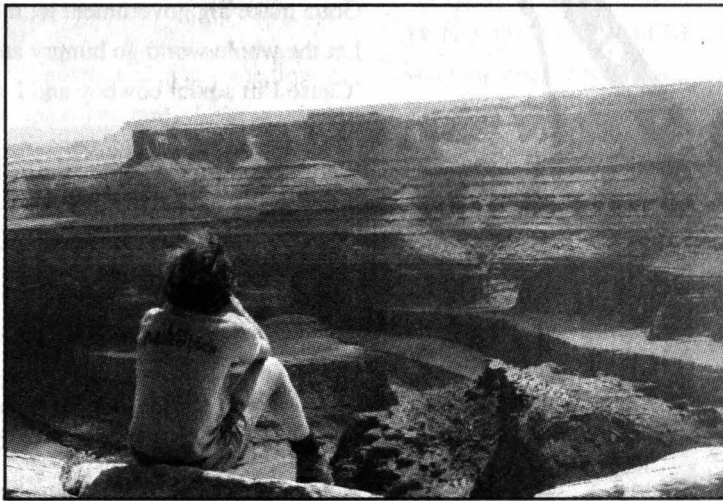
down and around, and if it's blocked, it goes over the top, never stopping." Matthew loved the power of water, and he loved that it could wear down even the hardest of rocks.

As hard as it is to think of never seeing or talking with Matthew again, I know that he died exactly as he would have wanted: hiking in a beautiful, wild place and in a relatively painless way. Matthew died as he lived; his death was nonviolent, just as Matthew was not violent.

I'll never meet someone

like Matthew Haun again. He gave great hugs, the kind that leaves an impression. He was passionate, brilliant and wise beyond his 44 years. If he were writing this, he'd say that we've used enough tree-flesh to honor him. So, my dear Matthew, with that I'll end this tribute. Sweet dreams, and I'll catch ya on the rebound.

Emily lives with her husband Lee in Spokane, Washington, where she practices yoga, plays ultimate Frisbee, and works for a research and management consulting firm focused on improving communities and empowering American Indians.



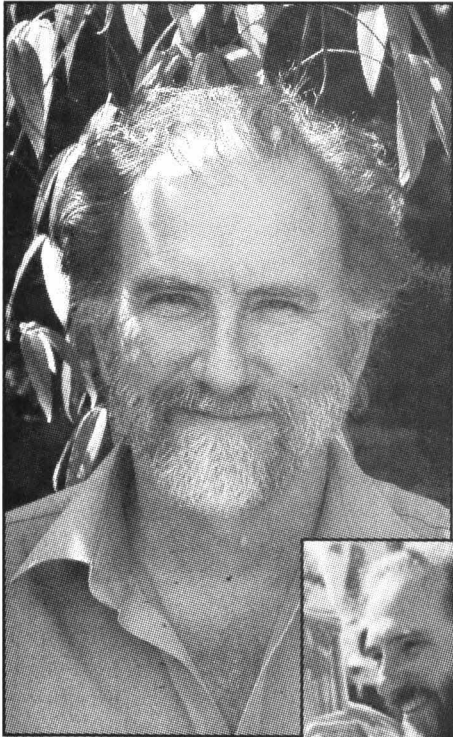
Matthew overlooking a place that he loved

Photo by Emily Loeb

understanding her danger. For three weeks, we camped in the Beyond the Rocks area. It was here that I got a glimpse of Matthew's comfort in this severe land. He honored the Earth's gifts, those which we often take for granted. Every day, he would recite the words, "Oh living wonder, blessed be," giving thanks for the not-so-simple gift of finding water in the desert.

From 1999 to 2004, Matthew lived in Kansas City. Helping to raise his partner Tracy's son, Alton, Matthew settled in and decided to go to massage school. In 2004, he moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, attended school,

BEN WHITE *A Warrior Whose Love Shined Outward*



BY ROD CORONADO

The natural world lost a great human warrior, and those of us still fighting lost a dear mentor and friend when Ben White died of abdominal cancer in the San Juan Islands of Washington on July 30. He was just 53.

I first met Ben aboard the *Sea Shepherd* in 1985, sailing to the Danish Faroe Islands to stop the slaughter of pilot whales, but his struggle had begun long before. In 1972, Ben joined



Photos courtesy (left to right) Tom Munsey, Paul Spang, Animal Welfare Institute

BY PEGGY SUE
MCRAE

Known for his daring feats on the high seas, Ben White was also a member of a small island community. He gave to his community by teaching young people the skills needed to live harmoniously on the Earth, and by living his life as an example.

This Spring, Ben found out that he had cancer. He'd given generously to his community; now his community took care of him. On July 30, he died.

His friends laid him out in his coffin, handmade by local woodcrafters out of salvaged wood (including mahogany from the original *Sea Shepherd*). I laid my corn necklace among the other charms, herbs and feathers that Ben's friends gave as parting gifts. There was no funeral parlor or embalming involved. Hence, even after he was dead, Ben managed to raise a little ruckus.

Ben's friend Rebecca Barnard explained, "Ben opted for a natural funeral, and to be buried, not cremated. He wanted his body to nourish the

Earth and trees that he so loved in life." Ben was on ice, but the gravedigger was in no hurry—"Gravedigger Man simply couldn't fathom that Ben wasn't embalmed or cremated." Finally, the local prosecutor was able to speed things along, and on August 3, Ben White was laid to rest in the Valley Cemetery on San Juan Island.

Reclaiming the death process and caring for our own loved ones in death requires care, work and love. It is an intimate experience that unites those who participate in it with awe of the sacred, fleeting nature of life. The way Ben chose to die was his parting gift to the community that he loved.

Peggy Sue is a tree-hugging peacenik from San Juan Island.

members of the American Indian Movement in their occupation of Bureau of Indian Affairs offices in Washington, DC. Throughout his life, Ben fought alongside indigenous peoples, but it's his work with nonhumans that will be most remembered.

As a director of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, Ben was instrumental in organizing the 1983 blockade of St. John's harbor in Newfoundland to prevent Canadian sealers from reaching the ice floes. From 1986 to 1989, I had the honor to sail with Ben against Icelandic and Faroese whalers, Japanese driftnet fleets and the dolphin-killing tuna industry of the Eastern Pacific.

Ben was a one-man army, often acting alone to prevent the capture of cetaceans for the aquarium industry, diving into capture nets to free dolphins and using the cover of darkness to cut the fences of dolphin holding pens. His defense of the animal world did not stop at sea. As an animal liberationist, Ben was a point man in helping to liberate primates and other creatures from the clutches of animal experimenters. In his last decade, Ben brought an army of sea turtles to the infamous World Trade Organization "Battle of Seattle," and he organized his Natural Guard group to actively oppose old-growth logging in Washington and California.

Ben's actions, both known and unknown, in defense of the Earth are too numerous to mention. But it is his way of living life, and of fighting as a truly selfless father and warrior whose love shined outward, that I will remember most. Some of Ben's last words to me were in the hopes that others would be able to continue his work fighting the corporations destroying the ancient forests of Northern California.

Ben wrote to me once in prison, saying, "As you sit on your bunk, walk the halls, look out the window, feel the blessings of the great majority—not only the brothers and sisters praying for you, but the legions of creatures that still travel this wounded land, waiting for rebirth. Hoka Hey—we shall live again!"

Joan Norman Passes On

BY LAUREL SUTHERLIN

The death of Joan Norman, 75, in a head-on car collision in southwest Oregon on July 23, has sent shockwaves through our local community, the Biscuit forest defense campaign and the thousands of people who have been touched by her courageous acts of civil disobedience. Joan was a lifelong activist and a sweet-hearted woman, whose dedication and perseverance spanned generations of resistance movements.

Joan was arrested more than 60 times in her half-century of political action. She rode with the Freedom Riders and met Martin Luther King, Jr. at the height of the civil rights movement. She was arrested while protesting the Vietnam War and while supporting the Western Shoshone against nuclear-weapons tests. She was active in Northern California's Redwood Summer, and she spoke often of her admiration for Judi Bari.

In her final months, Joan became an icon in the forest defense movement due to her multiple arrests for blocking loggers from entering the Fiddler Timber Sale in the Biscuit Fire area of Oregon's Siskiyou Mountains (see *EFJ* May-June 2005).

The image of Joan in her lawn chair, blocking loggers on the Green Bridge over the Illinois River, has been printed nationwide. Joan's second Biscuit arrest was just a week later, when she helped organize more than 20 other women to dress in black and join her on the Green Bridge once more. Joan refused bail, on the grounds that she was not a criminal, and spent two weeks in jail protesting the injustice of the system.

Joan had a contagious resolve and a humble nobility that challenged those around her to take a stand for what they hold most dear. She had the rare ability to wear an expression of compassionate conviction that hit people in the gut and cut through layers of entrenched political opinion.

Witnessing her quiet defiance in the face of law enforcement, few people could doubt whose side they were on. She personified the dignified heroism of those who act selflessly in defense of the fundamental values that most Americans share, but rarely act on.

When asked what her message to the world was regarding the effort to stop the largest logging project in modern history, Joan said, "Tell them to get some fire in their bellies and come to this gate of paradise and help us defend it. Tell them to come. I will be here."

KEE WATCHMAN

1945 – 2005



photo by Kerry Richardson

BY ANDREA CARMEN

On June 29, in Tucson, Arizona, one of the great and gentle warriors of our time, Cactus Valley/Red Willow Springs spokesperson and Diné Nation traditional Kee Watchman, passed out of this world to begin his journey to the home of his ancestors. He had suffered from cancer for some months and had gone through several ups and downs, but he always maintained his courage and spirit until the end.

Kee was a respected, longtime member of the Advisory Council of the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC). He participated in many IITC delegations to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. Of course, he was best known and respected around the world as one of the traditional leaders of the resistance against the forced relocation of his people and the devastation of his homeland by coal mines at Big Mountain. Kee's commitment to the survival of his nation, the human rights of indigenous peoples, the protection of our sacred Mother Earth and the unity of the human family were unshakable. His wisdom and courage, dignity, humility and gentle kindness in the face of relentless repression and struggle were an inspiration to his community and to all of us.

One of the true great ones has passed from our midst, and while we are happy that he is free from the bonds of his terrible illness, it is only natural that we also feel the loss and sadness of his passing.

Andrea Carmen is director of the International Indian Treaty Council.



photo by Lesley Adams

Joan would like to be remembered actively, not passively.



HOLY LAND OR LIVING HELL?

POLLUTION, APARTHEID AND PROTEST IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE

During a demonstration in Abu Dis, a man waves the Palestinian flag beside the Apartheid Wall.

photo courtesy PENGON/Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign

BY ETHAN GANOR

From the Jordan River Valley and Dead Sea Basin, through the central highlands comprising the West Bank's populated core to the fertile western hills bordering Israel, recent reports from occupied Palestine reveal a worsening environmental crisis. A labyrinth of settlements, industrial zones, dumps, military camps, fortified roads, electrified fences and a massive concrete wall—all of it installed by Israel in the West Bank since 1967 and intensified since 2000—is draining the life from this ancient land.

Destructive actions by settlers and soldiers, waste from factories and settlements, land confiscations to expand settlements and roads, the plunder of water, the mass uprooting or burning of trees, and the snaking, sunset-eclipsing structure known to Palestinians as the "Apartheid Wall" are causing the West Bank's once-lush ecology to deteriorate. The cumulative impact on the land's hydrology, topsoil, biodiversity, food security and natural beauty is severe. No longer recognizable as a "Holy Land" bountifully "flowing with milk and honey," as inscribed in religious texts and memories, Palestine's environment has become a weapon of war, deliberately designed to turn its inhabitants' lives into a living hell.

Israel's much-touted "disengagement" from the Gaza Strip, while proof that decolonization is possible, is also a smokescreen, distracting attention from the escalation of violence in the West Bank. Fully chronicling the current devastation in Palestine could fill several volumes; what follows is only a few snapshots.

Poisoning the Land

In late March, shepherds from Tuwani and Mufakara, Palestinian villages near Hebron in the southern West Bank, discovered strange, blue pellets littering their grazing fields. Suspecting these seeds as a possible cause of the mysterious deaths of dozens of goats and sheep during the previous week, villagers had them analyzed. The tests confirmed their hunch: The pellets were barley laced with fluoroacetamide, a rodenticide produced only in Israel and illegal in many other countries due to its acute toxicity.

Not just livestock, but also wild gazelles, migratory birds, snakes and other animals had been poisoned. Palestinian farmers were forced to quarantine their flocks and stop selling or using their milk, cheese and meat. On April 8, a new poison—pink pellets tainted by brodifacoum, another highly toxic, anti-coagulant rodenticide—was found at a hillside grazing area near Tuwani. Later that month, Amnesty International issued a press release condemning Israeli authorities for failing to clean up the toxic chemicals from affected areas and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Local Palestinians blame Israeli settlers from nearby Maon and Havat Maon, two small outposts south of Hebron, whose male members are notorious for assaulting Tuwani children as they walk past the settlements to school. Solidarity activists videotaped one Maon security official admitting that he knew that Havat Maon settlers had planted the poisons.

Despite this admission, no arrests were made, and the poisoning has spread. In mid-April, in Yasouf, a Palestinian village south of Nablus, in the northern West Bank, large quantities of wheat seeds boiled in brodifacoum were found.

continued on next page

Industrial Pollution and Dumps

While such poisonings may seem to be isolated attacks by rogue settlers, other forms of pollution in the West Bank are systemic and permanent. The landscape is blotched with Israeli factories. Based mainly on hilltops at Israeli settlements and border-area industrial zones, the factories manufacture products ranging from aluminum, plastic and fiberglass to batteries, detergents, pesticides and military items.

Because Israel's own, generally stringent, environmental laws regulating industrial processes and waste discharge are not enforced inside the Occupied Territories, the West Bank has become a sacrifice zone. Many of the factories have no environmental safeguards and unleash solid waste burned in open air, wastewater that flows into watersheds, or hazardous waste dumped and buried at outdoor sites. Lands near the foothills of industrial zones are especially vulnerable. One of the largest zones, Barqan, near Nablus, encompasses 80 factories and generates 810,000 cubic meters of wastewater per year. The wastewater flows into a *wadi* (a watercourse that is dry except during the rainy season) and pollutes the agricultural lands of three Palestinian villages.

On July 5, International Solidarity Movement activists joined Palestinians to demonstrate against Geshuri Industries, an Israeli-owned manufacturer of pesticides and fertilizers. Originally located in the town Kfar Saba, in Israel—until citizens obtained a court order shutting it down for pollution violations—Geshuri moved to its current site at the edge of the Palestinian town Tulkarem in 1987. Pollution from the plant has damaged citrus trees, tarnished soil and groundwater, provoked respiratory ailments among neighboring residents, and contributed to Tulkarem having Palestine's highest cancer rates. This Spring, a new wall (which annexed vast swaths of agricultural land) was constructed around the complex. Wearing blue surgical masks to avoid inhaling factory fumes, the protesters held signs and painted messages on the wall: "Remove the death factory," "Get your poison away from our children" and "This is terror!"

Illegal dumps are another chronic problem. On April 11, more than 200 people from Anarchists Against the Wall, Green Action Israel and the Palestinian village of Deir Sharaf blocked Israeli garbage trucks from transporting trash onto the grounds of Abu Shusha, the West Bank's largest quarry. In 2002, during its "Operation Defensive Shield" invasion, the Israeli army seized this site from its Palestinian owners. Since then, thousands of tons of waste have been moved covertly into the quarry, which is in close proximity to four wells and only 250 yards from the aquifer that provides Nablus with its drinking water.

An investigation by the Palestinian Hydrology Group confirmed that runoff from the dump "has killed medicinal and wild plants in the valley. It has affected the biodiversity and aesthetics of the area. Most importantly, the land is no longer fit to grow olive trees."

After three years of silence, international outrage finally erupted in early April, when Israeli journalists exposed the scheme. With tacit government approval but no official permit, settlers were churning profits from the dump by selling their trash-transport services to Israeli cities. Environmental justice scored a rare victory in July, when an Israeli court passed an injunction shutting down the dump. Yet the reservoir of refuse remains, and dozens of other dumps throughout the West Bank remain in operation. Nor has a factory above the quarry been shut down, and it continues to pump streams of foul-smelling black sludge into the olive groves below.

Sustainable Apartheid?

While Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's right-wing government and extremist Israeli settlers are the immediate agents of this ecocide, a global system that benefits from and sustains the Occupation is also culpable. The US supplies the military firepower and diplomatic muscle that makes it possible; Caterpillar provides bulldozers that raze homes, trees and fields to build the wall; and financial institutions like the World Bank bestow essential economic lubricants.

In 2004, the World Bank published two reports outlining a sick version of "sustainable development" for Palestine, which accepts the reality of the wall rather than its illegality. As the wall carves its path through the West Bank, isolating communities and annexing cropland, the livelihood of tens of thousands of Palestinian families is destroyed and unemployment becomes endemic. In line with Israeli objectives, the World Bank proposes to solve this artificial problem by establishing new "industrial estates" alongside the wall, where cheap Palestinian labor, working for one-fourth Israel's minimum wage, will be exploited to produce goods for export into the globalized economy.

Already, one such estate is under construction in Tulkarem, on Pales-

tinian land that has been annexed behind the wall. In addition, the World Bank has helped Israel raise funds to create a more "secure," "efficient" and "growth-orientated" apartheid: upgraded, high-tech checkpoints and prison gates, "smart fences," watchtowers, border crossings with radioactive "naked spy" machines that look through people's clothing, and underground tunnels to facilitate full Israeli control over Palestinian travel and a continuing monopoly on the land's natural resources. Under the apartheid regime, travel between any of the West Bank's eight population districts—Jenin, Nablus,



Protesters lock down to a mock version of the Apartheid Wall to block Israeli bulldozers.

photo by Lisa Nassari



photo courtesy PENGON/Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign

Israeli soldiers block a group of villagers from approaching a backhoe that is destroying their lands.

Qalqilia, Tulkarem, Jericho, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Hebron—is barred without special permission, and Jerusalem is completely cut off by the wall. Rather than end this matrix of segregation and dispossession, the World Bank wants Israel to “ease internal closures and restore the predictable flow of goods across borders.”

This normalization of apartheid not only shreds the basic human rights of Palestinians by confining them to ghettos and sweatshops, it also perpetuates the ecological devastation of the land. True sustainability can be based only upon the July 9, 2004, decision by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) requiring Israel to tear down the wall. The decision mandates the international community “not to recognize the illegal situation created by the construction of the wall, and not to render any aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by it.”

Grassroots Resistance to the Wall

With international powers unwilling to enforce the ICJ ruling and the United Nations resolutions calling for an end to occupation, Palestinian communities are mobilizing to defend their lands from annexation and destruction. Since September 2002, when Israel began building the wall’s first ring to enclose the then-wealthy agricultural town of Qalqilya, the Palestinian Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations Network has coordinated the Grassroots Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign (AAWC). AAWC is rooted in nonviolent direct action, organized by Popular Committees Against the Wall in dozens of communities that are directly threatened by the wall’s path.

Budrus is a small village of 1,300 people, located 20 miles west of Ramallah, where two years of fierce resistance have yielded the first case of a community successfully blocking erection of the wall on its land. Mass rallies united the whole town, as everyone from toddlers to elders converged in targeted fields and olive groves, swarming construction crews with peaceful discipline and raising enough ruckus to prompt Israel’s Supreme Court to alter the wall’s route. In March, after Israeli forces stormed a local wedding, opened fire and arrested a teenager, villagers spontaneously tore down 1,000 feet of a barbed-wire fence erected in lieu of the wall. Yet the cost has been high: Six

village residents have been killed and hundreds wounded by army retaliation against the nonviolent struggle.

Current resistance is most active in Bil’in, a village of 1,600 also near Ramallah, where almost-daily demonstrations since February have opposed Israeli plans to annex 60 percent of the community’s 1,000 acres via the wall. With support from international and Israeli solidarity activists, villagers have been employing Earth First!-style tactics. On May 4, protesters chained themselves to olive trees to obstruct the razing of an orchard situated in the wall’s path. On June 1, they locked themselves into a mock wall in front of bulldozers, forcing soldiers to symbolically dismantle the wall before they could remove the activists. These actions and other creative visual stunts have generated extensive media attention but also a brutal military crackdown. Tear gas, rubber-coated metal bullets, shock grenades and a new device called “the Scream”—a huge loudspeaker that emits painful sound waves—are commonly used to disperse the demonstrators, who have not yet halted the wall’s construction.

About one-third of the planned 420-mile wall is finished; 80 percent of it penetrates into the West Bank. Construction is occurring now in the Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron regions, as well as around the Ariel bloc of settlements deep inside the northern West Bank. If completed there and along the Jordan Valley, the wall stands to annex around 46 percent of the West Bank. More than 400,000 olive trees, which comprise 40 percent of Palestine’s cultivated land and are the staple crop of rural communities, are estimated to have been uprooted during the last five years.

This Fall promises to be another season of intense grassroots resistance. Palestine’s annual olive harvest peaks in October and November, and international activists will once again be present to challenge Israeli settler and army actions that deny Palestinians access to their land and the right to harvest their crops.

For more information, visit www.palsolidarity.org; www.stopthewall.org.

Ethan is an anti-Zionist, eco-anarchist Jew, a graduate from the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies in Israel and the founder of the Trees Not Walls Network. He owes a debt to forests for providing refuge to his grandfather for two years in Eastern Europe during the Holocaust. Contact him at treestnotwalls@riseup.net.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Dog of the Dead

By replacing a dog's blood with ice-cold salt water, then putting back the blood and giving the pup an electric shock, researchers were able to bring the animal back to life three hours after its clinical death—with no apparent damage or injury.

The successful experiment—the culmination of years of research at Pittsburgh's Safar Center for Resuscitation Research—was announced in June.

Researchers claim that their findings will allow doctors to treat people suffering from severe blood loss, such as from gunshot or battlefield wounds. Plans to test the zombification on humans are expected to commence within a year.

Profane Parrot Provokes Politicians, Priests and Police

A macaw named Barney was banned from public areas of a British animal sanctuary in July, after swearing at cops, priests and politicians. The five-year-old parrot told two policemen: "Fuck off, you two wankers." He also swore at a mayoress and a priest, telling them to "fuck off as well."

Workers at the Warwickshire Animal Sanctuary suspect that Barney picked up the phrases either from television or from his previous owner.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

This Summer, a bear in western Croatia learned an easy trick to get humans to open up their houses: Just knock! The Loknar family of Gerovo said that after they opened the door, the 500-pound bear walked right in and raided their kitchen. The bear has knocked twice more, but the family has not fallen for his trick again.

"The bear is so intelligent, it's incredible," said Nevenka Loknar. "We've tried to put up lots of obstacles to stop him coming in, like a wire fence, but he still gets through. I wouldn't be surprised if he knew how to use wire cutters."

Europeans Insulate Glaciers

Ski resorts throughout the Alps are fighting against global warming, which is causing hundreds of glaciers throughout the region to recede at an alarming rate. In response, resorts in both Switzerland and Austria are spending tens of thousands of dollars to put giant blankets over the ice during the Summer, in hopes of slowing the melting.

The thermal blankets have been used before, but never on such a large scale. Forty acres were covered in one region of Austria this year, while a Swiss resort wrapped more than two square miles of ice.

Wilfried Haerberli, a professor at the University of Zurich, says this technique "may be useful very locally, but it would be totally unfeasible—economically and ecologically—to cover completely even a small glacier."

Lions Rescue Kidnapped Girl

In Ethiopia this past June, three lions watched over a young girl after chasing away a group of men who had kidnapped and abused her. The men had abducted the 12-year-old one week earlier in an attempt to force her into marriage—yet the lions intervened and scared them away.

The lions watched over the girl for several hours, until police and her relatives found her, and then the cats simply walked off into the forest.

Beavers Take Over South American Island

Rapidly reproducing beavers are taking over Tierra del Fuego, an island at the southern tip of South America. Introduced into the area 60 years ago, the rodents have proliferated given the lack of predators and the nominal demand for their pelts. The beaver population is estimated to be growing by 20 percent each year.

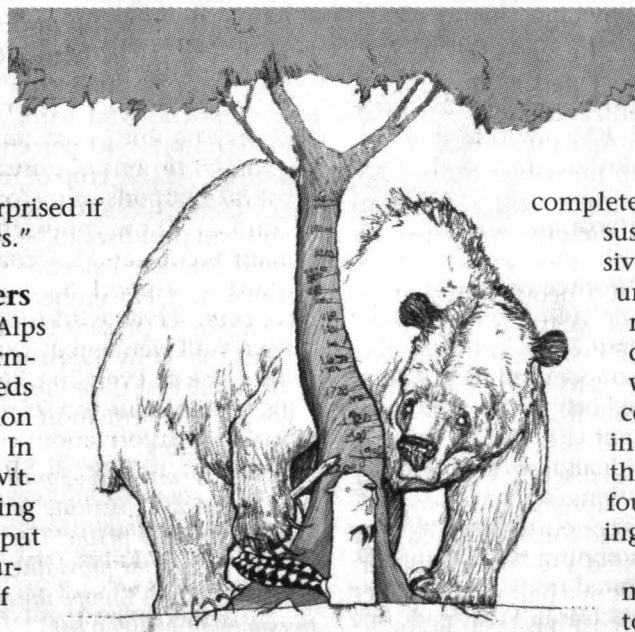
Environmental officials fear that once the beavers run out of room, they may attempt to cross the Strait of Magellan and begin taking over the mainland.

Logger Manuel Berbel expects that one day only the beaver will be left: "I want to tell people in other countries, who say what a cute animal the beaver is, to think before introducing it. Its only natural predator is the bear. So they should have brought a bear, too."

Simian Suspension Bridge Built in Japan

In May, the city of Kurobe completed Japan's first publicly funded suspension bridge designed exclusively for monkeys. The project was undertaken in order to provide the macaques with access to their traditional feeding grounds, which were made inaccessible by the construction of the Unazuki Dam in 2001. With no other alternative, the monkeys have spent the last four years raiding farms and stealing crops for sustenance.

"It's a battle of wits between humans and monkeys," one resident told a reporter.



California Activists Fight Government Harassment

Grand Jury or Grand Inquisition?

BY KELAH BOTT

Activists from the Earth and animal liberation movements are no strangers to overzealous prosecutors or FBI witch hunts, yet in recent months the feds seem to have redoubled their efforts to harass and intimidate activists. Two separate federal grand juries—one in San Francisco and one in San Diego—have been impaneled to investigate our communities. At least 11 people in San Francisco and nine in San Diego have been subpoenaed so far. Fortunately, both communities have shown a willingness to resist these inquisitions.

Grand juries—citizen panels that hear evidence and decide whether to charge someone with a crime—have historically been used to disrupt social justice movements and suppress dissent. They are secret proceedings, and targeted movements often learn of them only after activists have been subpoenaed to testify.

Both of these grand juries are supposedly investigating incidents that occurred more than two years ago. The San Francisco grand jury claims to be looking into the harboring of Daniel Andreas San Diego, who is wanted in connection with two Fall 2003 bombings at Bay Area biotechnology firms (see *EF!* November-December 2003). The subpoenas came just after the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, local police and even the Coast Guard raided the homes of several area activists as part of an ongoing pattern of harassment.

The San Diego grand jury claims to be seeking information relating to an Earth Liberation Front arson that destroyed a new housing development in August 2003, but it seems much more interested in finding out who attended a speech given by Rod Coronado later that day (see *EF!* September-October 2003). US prosecutors hope to charge Coronado under a post-9/11 law that makes it illegal to teach anyone how to make “destructive devices” intended for “violent” crimes.

Legally, grand juries don't have to confine investigations to their stated aims. This gives prosecutors great power to conduct fishing expeditions into the targeted community.

For this reason, there is no other option but to take a stance of non-cooperation with a grand jury. Thus far, all of the activists known to have been subpoenaed in San Francisco have stood firm. Two appeared before the grand jury, asserted their Fifth Amendment right to remain silent and were excused. The remaining individuals have filed motions to quash the subpoenas. If the motions fail, and the activists are forced to appear, they will also refuse to testify.

“The only chance we have of stopping this vicious cycle of harassment is to [form] a united front against these state-sponsored witch hunts,” said Nadia Winstead, one

of the activists subpoenaed. “I will not be intimidated, and I refuse to cooperate with any efforts to divide our community or destroy our movement.”

Three San Diego activists, David Agranoff, Danae Kelley and Nicole Fink, have also taken the path of resistance. Citing their First Amendment right to free association, they all have appeared before the grand jury but refused to answer any questions. The judge has jailed Agranoff and Kelley for civil contempt (an attempt to coerce them into testifying), and as of this writing they remain in jail.

Unfortunately, not everyone in San Diego has held strong. One activist originally stated that he would not cooperate, but when faced with the real possibility of going to jail, he caved and answered several questions. His rationale was that he only answered “safe” questions. What he may not realize is that there is no such thing as a safe question or answer.

“It is impossible to know what the government is intending with each question,” says Mark Vermeulen, a National Lawyers Guild attorney. “It's really dangerous for somebody to try to choose between innocuous questions and more important questions.”

In addition to inadvertently revealing something that may prove harmful, those who testify once may open themselves up to future visits from federal authorities. Once you have shown yourself willing to cooperate, even a little, you can be sure that they will be coming back for more.

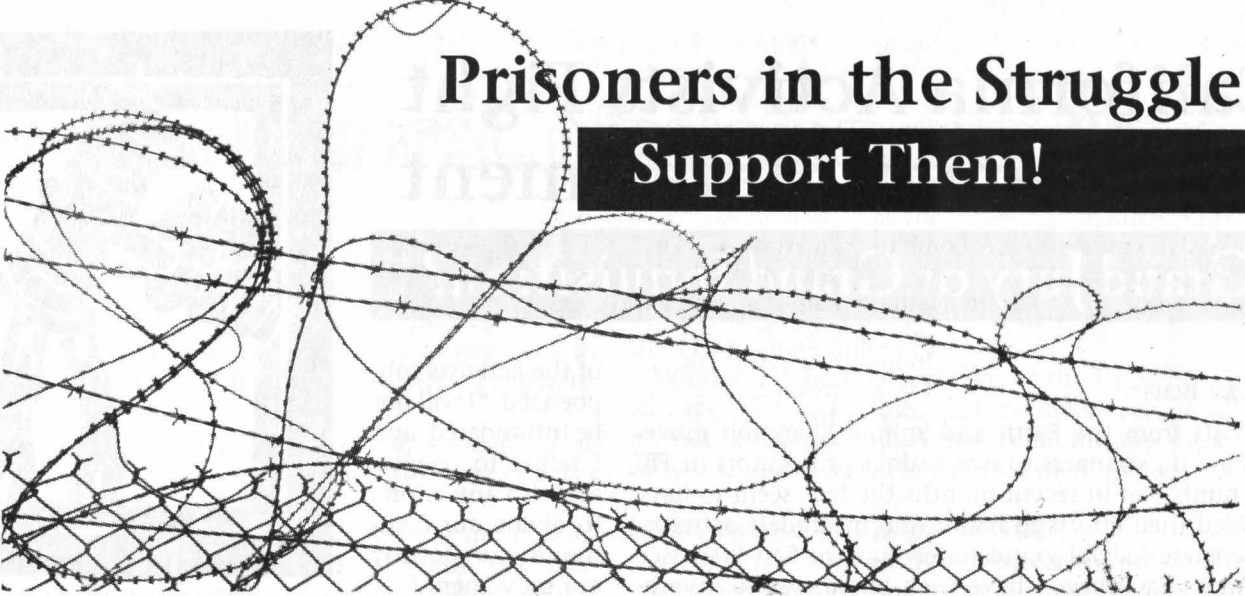
It is important to learn from the missteps of others and prepare one's community. Grand juries can happen anywhere; no one chooses to be subpoenaed. Each of us must take responsibility for educating ourselves and those around us. Know your rights—in particular, your right to remain silent—and internalize them. It is also just as important to support the people in your community who have been served with subpoenas.

Above all, remember that the state doesn't win when it puts one or even 10 of us in jail for standing strong; it wins when we are too scared to speak out and resist.

For more information, contact the Just Cause Law Collective, 405 14th St, Ste 1012, Oakland, CA 94612; (510) 652-9937; www.lawcollective.org; www.fbiwitchhunt.com. Also read *Beat the Heat: How to Handle Encounters with Law Enforcement* by Katya Komisaruk.

Kelah Bott is an activist, independent writer and spokesperson for activists facing grand jury subpoenas in San Francisco.





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. Although many prisoners are listed together, they must be written to separately and their addresses must appear exactly as printed here. 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. In July, a Canadian judge ordered that Arrow be extradited to the US to stand trial for alleged involvement in the arson of logging trucks and an Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arson of vehicles owned by a sand and gravel company. Arrow is appealing this ruling. For more information, visit www.trearrow.org.

•Dr. Yuri Bandazhevsky was released on August 5, after serving four years for telling the world that the nuclear radiation around Chernobyl was worse than the Belarus government reported.

•Paul Le Boutillier was released on July 11, after serving more than a year for making phone calls to animal abusers.

•Pedro Cayques Millaqueo, a delegate of the Mapuche Nation, was prevented from attending the Second International Indigenous Youth Conference in Canada when he was arrested in Chile and sentenced to 40 days for failure to pay a two-year-old fine arising from a territorial dispute.

•Angela Cesario and Jeremy Rosenbloom have been removed from the *Journal* for snitching against Tre Arrow.

•Byron "Oso Blanco" Chubbuck®, #07909-051, USP Beaumont, POB 26030, Beaumont, Texas, North America. Serving 80 years for aggravated assault on federal agents, escape and bank robbery. Chubbuck funneled money that he stole from banks to the Zapatista National Liberation Army in Chiapas, Mexico. He has been moved to the above address.

•William Frediani, a member of the eco-anarchist group *Il Silvestre* accused of promoting sabotage and participating in direct action, has been transferred to house arrest.

•Sarah Gisborne, LT5393, HMP Cookham Wood, Rochester, Kent ME1 3LU, England. Serving 6.5 years for conspiracy to cause criminal damage to vehicles owned by people linked to Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). She has been moved to the above address.

•Keith Mann, KJ9365, HMP Guys Marsh, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 0AH, England. In April, Mann received a non-custodial sentence for liberating 695 mice from Wickham Laboratories in Hampshire. In response to an appeal by the prosecution, he was re-sentenced in July to one year imprisonment, to be served after his six-month sentence for threatening the lab's director in court. Mann has been moved to the above address.

•Stephen Marshall, #68511-065, Federal Detention Center, POB 5000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA. Awaiting trial for allegedly planning to destroy equipment at a quarry. He has been moved to the above address.

•Brendan Philbin McGrath, Vincent McGrath, Philip McGrath, Willie Corduff and Micheál Ó Seighin, Cloverhill Prison, Dublin 22, Ireland. Jailed in July for violating an injunction by blockading Shell Oil from building a natural-gas pipeline across their land.

•Leonard Peltier, #89637-132, USP Terre Haute, US Penitentiary, 4700 Bureau Rd South, Terre Haute, IN 47802, 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. He has been moved to the above address. For more information, visit www.leonardpeltier.org.

•Harjit Singh Gill, #148118-097, 111 Taylor St, San Francisco, CA 94102, USA. Serving six months in a halfway house for lying to a grand jury that was investigating two Animal Liberation Front (ALF) arsons of McDonald's.

•John Wade, #38548-083, FCI Petersburg Low, Satellite Camp, POB 90027, 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. He has been moved to the above address.

•Peter Young, #223341, Dane County Jail, 115 West Doty St, Madison, WI 53703, USA. Awaiting trial for the alleged release of mink from fur farms. In July, prosecutors were forced to drop four of Young's charges when they realized that his alleged actions were not "extortion" as defined by a 2003 Supreme Court decision. Young is still charged with two counts under the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. For more information, visit www.supportpeter.com.

Awaiting Trial or Sentencing

•Felipe Arreaga Sánchez, Cárcel Preventiva de Zihuatenejo, Calle Paseo de la Deportiva s/n, Col. Deportiva, Zihuatenejo, Go. CP 40880, Mexico. Awaiting trial on false charges of homicide, as retaliation for his environmental organizing. Arreaga reads only

Spanish, but letters in English, Spanish or German may be sent to him via econoticias@sosbahia.org.

•Amanda Cerezo García, CP Alicante II, Ctra. N-330, km 66, 03400, Villena, Spain. Awaiting trial for allegedly burning a road-construction vehicle. She is also accused of sending a letter bomb to a neo-Nazi politician.

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

•Francesco Gioia, Modulo VII, Ctra. Comarcal 611, km 37.6, 28770 Soto del Real, Madrid, Spain. *Il Silvestre* defendant awaiting extradition to Italy to stand trial for allegedly participating in direct action, promoting sabotage and escaping house arrest.

•Charles Arthur Jordan IV, #68163-065, Federal Prison Camp, POB 6000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA. Awaiting trial for allegedly planning to destroy equipment at a quarry.

•Ryan Lewis, #4101338 8W312, Sacramento County Main Jail, 651 I St, Sacramento, CA 95814, USA. Awaiting trial for alleged involvement in ELF arsons against urban sprawl.

•Christopher "Dirt" McIntosh, #30512-013, FDC Seatac, Federal Detention Center, POB 13900, Seattle, WA 98198, USA. Awaiting trial for alleged involvement in a joint ALF/ELF arson against a McDonald's. For more information, visit www.supportchris.org.

Animal Liberation

•Dave Blenkinsop, EM7899, HMP Rye Hill, Onley, Warwickshire CV23 8AN, England. Serving 10 years for attacking the managing director of HLS, liberating 600 guinea pigs and planting incendiary devices under slaughterhouse vehicles.

•Joshua Demmitt, #12314-081, Federal Prison Camp, POB 6000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA. Serving 14 months for an ALF arson on an animal testing facility.

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. Camenisch reads French, German, Spanish and Italian fluently. He can also read some English.

•Ibai Ederria, Carcel de Pamplona, C/ San Roque Apdo 250, 31080-Iruñeiz Pamplona, Navarra, Spain. Serving nearly five years for sabotaging machinery at the controversial Itoiz dam construction site.

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

•Helen Woodson, #03231-045, FMC Carswell Admin Max Unit, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127, USA. Serving eight years and 10 months for violating her parole by dumping a cup of red paint over the security apparatus of a federal court and making warnings ("threats") of weapons of mass destruction. In March 2004, Woodson completed 20 years for disarming a Minuteman II missile silo with a jackhammer, mailing warning letters to officials with bullets inside, robbing a bank and burning the money.

Lecce 5

The Lecce 5 are awaiting trial, accused of damaging gas pumps in opposition to the war on Iraq, targeting Benetton in support of the Mapuche and damaging an ATM at a bank with links to an immigrant-detention facility. No address is available for Cristian Paladini, who is under house arrest.

•Annalisa Capone, via Verga, 2 CAP 73100, Lecce, Italy. Under house arrest.

•Marina Ferrari, via XXI aprile, 29 CAP 73042, Casarano (LE), Italy. Under house arrest.

•Saverio Pellegrino, Casa circondariale, Via Lecce, 85025 Melfi, Italy.

•Salvatore Signore, Casa circondariale, Via Provinciale, 84131 Fuorni (Salerno), Italy.

Mapuche

The indigenous Mapuche people in Chile are fighting to defend their forests from multinational companies.

•Aniceto Norin Catriman and Pascual Pichun Paillalao, Carcel de Traiguén—Coronel Gregorio Urrutia N° 129, Traiguén, IX Región, Chile. Mapuche lonkos (chiefs) serving five years for intimidation and "terrorist arson."

•Víctor Ancalaf Llaupe, Complejo Penitenciario El Manzano Concepción—Dirección, Camino a Penco N° 450 Casilla 70, Chile. Mapuche leader serving five years for "terrorist arson."

•Jaime Huenchullan Cayul, Juan Carlos Huenulao Tricauko, Florencio Jaime Marileo Saravia, José Patricio Marileo Saravia, Jose Nain Curamil and Patricia Troncoso Robles, Centro Detención Penitenciaria Pedro Aguirre—Cerdea N° 80 y Los Confinos s/n°, Angol, IX Región, Chile. Huenchullan and Huenulao are awaiting trial, accused of "terrorist arson." Troconso and the Marileos are serving 10 years for "terrorist arson." Nain, a Mapuche leader, is serving five years for arson.

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.

•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

•Robert "Rob los Ricos" Thaxton, #12112716, MCEF, 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 HU 1C, 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

Actions taken during a May 2003 celebration of the end of US military maneuvers on Vieques, Puerto Rico, led to the conviction of several activists for conspiracy to destroy federal property.

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

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

Prisoner Support Groups

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

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

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

•Free's Defense Network, POB 3, Eugene, OR 97440, USA; www.freefreenow.org.

Ask an EF! Lawyer

He's Working on *Your* Side!

BY STU SUGARMAN

Dear EF! Lawyer,

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) met recently and nearly decided to allow Japan to double its current whaling, as an exception to the ban that has been in effect for a generation. I know Japan still hunts whales despite the ban, but I thought the IWC wanted to eliminate this exception, not expand it! How could this happen?

—WHALE WATCHER

Dear Whale Watcher,

Countries comprising the IWC passed a worldwide moratorium on commercial whaling that took effect in 1986. Japan has continued whaling during this time, claiming that its reduced whaling fits under the scientific research exception to the moratorium.

When conducting scientific population studies, as Japan claims it is doing, submitting papers from a study to outside scientists for peer review is a necessary step in the scientific process. Japan, however, has never submitted its "data" to outside scientists. Shockingly, Japan hasn't even submitted any data to the IWC! Again and again, the IWC has concluded that Japan's whaling is not scientifically valid and has urged Japan to stop its ruse.

The IWC, however, is an expanding group of nations, all of which hold the same voting power regardless of their size. Any nation is welcome to join the IWC, whether it has a connection with whaling or not. In recent years, Japan has bribed small, poor nations such as Tuvalu and Cameroon to join the IWC and vote to eliminate the whaling moratorium. Right now, 66 nations are IWC members, including four that joined just days before the June annual meeting in Ulsan, South Korea, so that they could support Japan and receive "aid" in exchange.

Japan's insistence on whaling—when its own population doesn't seem to care much for it—sickens me. The Japanese government builds and subsidizes the whaling ships, and it spent five million dollars last year promoting whaling. Japan even gave whale meat to schoolchildren in the hope that they would develop a taste for it. Yet the Japanese appetite for this distasteful flesh has withered to

the point where one-fifth of last year's catch was frozen pre-market to keep the price from sinking further than the 25 percent drop it experienced that year alone. Whale meat sales do continue (mainly to older Japanese), even though whale meat these days is laced with toxic materials such as PCBs and heavy metals. People close to this issue believe that the primary threat to whales right now is water pollution, not whaling.

Japan reports that it kills 440 minke whales every December through April in Antarctic waters. Japan claims that this slaughter is necessary for "research," but the citizens of the world aren't buying it. The IWC, time and again, has urged Japan to stop its illegal whaling in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary off the coast of

Antarctica, but Japan has ignored all of these demands. Now, with more nations on its side than ever before, Japan has announced that no matter what the IWC says, it will more than double its whaling in Antarctic waters to 935 minke, 50 humpback and 50 fin whales (meanwhile, Iceland has announced that it will kill 39 minke whales, also for "scientific" purposes). There are believed to be only 2,000 humpback whales surviving in the Southern Ocean.

As further proof that our priorities are screwed up, no country is willing to donate any part of its armed forces to protect minke whales, the

endangered Patagonian toothfish or other threatened Antarctic marine life. This is where the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society comes in. Sea Shepherd's flagship, the *Farley Mowat*, went to Antarctica to protect minke whales from the Japanese whaling fleet in 2002 and 2003, and it is planning to return in 2006. Sea Shepherd is determined to stand between the whalers and the whales, and do what it takes to disrupt Japan's whaling in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary. You can join the Sea Shepherd crew, send some money or help in some other way by visiting www.seashepherd.org. Do it today—the whales need you!

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" in the subject line.



A minke whale is butchered for sale in Ulsan, South Korea.

photo courtesy Greenpeace/J. Sutton-Hibbert

Fighting a Losing Battle

Scenes from the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

In 1943, Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto, Poland, decided that they would rather die fighting than board the trains to the Nazi death camps.

Top left to right: A Jewish Fighting Organization sniper takes aim; two photos of resistance fighters captured by Nazi soldiers; the Warsaw Ghetto burns as SS men look on.



photos courtesy (clockwise from bottom left) Yad Vashem, Jewish Virtual Library, Yad Vashem, Wiener Library

BY JEFF "FREE" LUERS

Back in 1998, when a friend and I started the Fall Creek treesit, we sat alone in that forest—no ground-support, no other treesits; just us. We watched from our perch high in the canopy as Grandmother and Grandfather trees were felled to build the road. I remember spilling the coffee that I was brewing on our little stove. My friend, the most mean and cynical man that I've ever known, said the first and only kind words I've ever heard escape his lips:

"Some will fall so that others may be saved."

The tears streamed down my face in silent protest of what I was witnessing. Below, the loggers jeered and laughed. I donned my climbing gear and my knife. I was going to the ground, and, one way or another, this was gonna end.

My friend stopped me. I don't even remember what he said. But I remember sitting there in spilled coffee, tears in my eyes. It was the most powerless and helpless that I've ever felt.

I think back to that time now because I am feeling very similar. I'm sitting trapped in a cell, watching the world go to shit, and I can't do a damn thing about it.

A couple of articles caught my eye the other day. One was about fish farming and the necessity of domesticating the ocean. The author, a scientist, went on to say that we have accepted the domestication of the land, and now we must accept the domestication of the ocean; the days of wildness are over. The other article was about global warming. It said that it is too late—not enough has been

done, not enough will be done; all we can do is prepare for the consequences.

A friend sent me photos of the recent protests in Scotland: the army helicopters flying over, dropping off troops, protecting the rich—the elite—the only humans who matter. I was amazed (but not surprised) that people are still shocked by this (I guess they don't remember the US soldiers with M-60s at last year's G8 meetings).

Back in the States, the USA PATRIOT Act has been renewed. Bush just took away all of the wilderness designations that environmental reformists fought so hard to get. US courts have ruled that it is legal for developers to demolish homes to build shopping malls. And our prisons are filling with radical activists and would-be revolutionaries.

What can I do? My words cannot galvanize the masses. I can't make people fight back. I am lost. I could write a guerrilla manifesto on how to fight a successful revolution in the US, opening myself up to more consequences, maybe even more prison time. But would anyone act? Would anyone organize? Would any non-militants offer aid; offer to help put society back together? Would anyone open themselves up to the risk? Would you?

I think that I can answer all of those questions: No. Inaction is the price of privilege. Hypocrisy is the cost of comfort. It is impossible to inspire by inciting feelings of guilt. I know this, but it is also impossible to inspire when I believe it is a lost cause.

Even when I take into consideration the many brave cells out there fighting, and I know why they fight—in the depths of my spirit, I know and I understand—I still believe that

continued on next page

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we have lost. Those are the three words that no one wants to hear. The words that I am loathe to write. But maybe hearing them will slap you back to reality. This isn't a game. It sure as hell ain't a fucking fairy tale with a guaranteed happy ending.

The resistance is up to you. You can organize—really organize bring-ing people together. You can teach—not just your friends, but strangers. You can propagate the resistance with graffiti, stencils and flyers. You can create alternatives by squatting, guerrilla gardening, and creating and using alternative energies. You can become a militant—a smart one, who learns how to cause the most damage and get away.

But what you can't do is sit on your ass and flap your gums about how messed up things are. Because if you know how bad it is and you do nothing, you are the reason that we lost. And you insult and betray everyone who has fought back. You spit in the face of those who have given their lives or lost their freedom demanding something better.

If our international movement cannot mount an offensive that is more than just a spectacle, then we deserve our fate. And I deserve 22 years for being foolish enough to believe that we had a chance.

There are many who will continue to fight against all odds. Because for us, it is personal. If nothing else, we will go down fighting. That's a lot to ask of someone—asking them to fight a losing battle. But I'm asking it of you. If we are going down, let's go down swinging. Let's make it the toughest, hardest-fought battle that this system has ever faced. And if we lose, at least we will have made them earn it; at least we won't have just handed them the world. At least we will have made a stand.

There is no shame in losing a fight—if you fight. That's the only thing I expect of any human being: When they are pushed against a wall, they fight back. I expect that of you.

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.

Raise A Ruckus for Rob los Ricos!

November 11-13

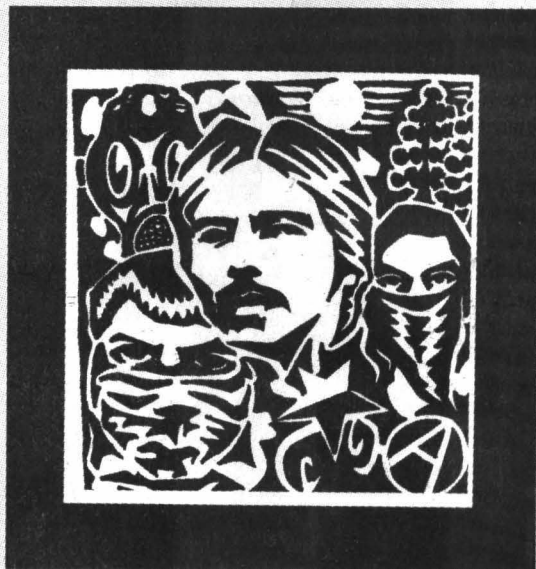
Rob los Ricos, aka Rob Thaxton, is a Tejano-Chicano, anarchist political prisoner currently serving 88 months (more than seven years) for throwing a rock at a cop during the June 18, 1999, Reclaim the Streets celebration-turned-pölice-riot in Eugene, Oregon.

Rob is due to be released in late June. His supporters are asking people across the country and the world to make November 11-13 a weekend to support Rob, to celebrate and to raise much-needed funds.

Rob has spent more than six years in prison, and he's coming back to no resources. When you're paroled in Oregon, they open up the gates and let you out with nothing—not even a change of clothes to replace your prison uniform. Rob needs you to let him know that he is not forgotten and that the principles he went to prison for are still alive.

November 11 is the anniversary of the day that four anarchists—the Haymarket martyrs—were hung in Chicago in 1887, despite their obvious innocence and the international outcry for their release. Rob wants to reclaim this as an anarchist festival day, and you can help make it happen!

Plan an event for Rob to let him know that he's not forgotten and to help raise money for when he is released from prison. Not just punk shows, but poetry readings, dance parties, karaoke nights, quiz nights, keggers, dinner parties and rummage sales. Let your mind go free! Rob is a whimsical guy, and his supporters are asking folks to do something political, revolutionary and, for cripe's sake, fun!



artwork by Mike

So, to recap, here are ways you can help:

- Plan a kickass event for November 11-13, or get involved in an event already happening in your area. Rob's support group wants to create a list and publicize all events, so please contact them and let them know if you're planning something!

- Send a donation to Rob. It doesn't matter how much; anything is better than nothing. Donations should be sent to Rob los Ricos, POB 83904, Portland, OR 97283-0904. Checks and money orders should be made out to "Rob los Ricos" or "Robert Thaxton."

You can also donate online at www.paypal.com, using the email address roblosricos@earthlink.net.

- Read Rob's writings; his pamphlet, *Manufacturing Dissent*, is available on his website.

- Spread the word!

- Send letters of support to Robert Thaxton, #12112716, MCCF, 4005 Aumsville Hwy, Salem, OR 97301. All mail must have a return address, including a full name of some sort.

For more information, contact rob@defenestrator.org.

ALIVE and WILD as Ever

at the 25TH ANNIVERSARY RRR

BY ASANTE RIVERWIND

Returning to the Pacific Northwest after more than two years amidst the Arizona desert, I found the 25th anniversary Round River Rendezvous (RRR) to be more than just another gathering of the "EF! Tribe"—for me, it was a wonderful homecoming. A few Northwest friends, perhaps lamenting incremental lethargy over the long years of activism, had billed this RRR as potentially EF!'s last, speculating that we should all "go out with a bang" rather than just fade away. I pondered this, as I drove along the ridges of the slumbering volcano known to indigenous peoples as Wy'East, and to most folks today as Mt. Hood.

The RRR site was set alongside a small, picturesque lake surrounded by moist, dense forest, complete with a mountain slope of rocky scree descending to the water's edge. The day that I arrived was apparently the only reprieve from incessant rain, and I spent it wandering amidst the camps, visiting friends, swimming in the cool waters and basking in the warm sun. The next day, the rains resumed, sending those prepared for the northwet weather into their rain gear, and everyone not-so-foresighted into soggy shivers.

The usual flood of workshops filled the board, and most of these actually happened in some form, though usually on RRR time rather than the city-clock times penned naively into somewhat hopeful schedules. Topics included: challenging genetic engineering; creating community, sustainability and an enduring activist culture/movement; surviving, healing and addressing patriarchy; multi-cultural activism and anti-racism organizing; international alliances and movement building; "Stealing Jesus"; and more. Workshops on climbing and blockades were also well-attended throughout the week.

Many of us "old-timers" enjoyed a night of sharing past action stories with the gathering—filled with foibles, near misses, comical escapes, dramatic escapades, wannabe infiltrators, inspiration

and laughter. The Warrior Poets Society's "Night to Howl" and EF! variety show were filled with many wild voices gifting poetry, prose and song long into the night, reverberating outward from the fire circle through the darkened forest's silent, watching trees.

While Wy'East did not end the RRR with the prophesied "big bang," a few dozen folks joined together to



photo by Scott Voos

hold an end-of-the-RRR action, with a double treesit suspending a banner across a highway, serving notice to the sawdust-sogged US Forest Service that its litany of ecological destruction will never be tolerated.

Far from the prophesied fizzling out, the RRR was richly alive with the visions, commitments and inspirations of many old and new, diverse yet kindred activists whose laughter and passions filled the event, helping to fuel the movement for the dances of the coming year. While individuals may fade, fizzle, flash, bang, spontaneously combust, endure or emerge renewed and wild as ever, the movement for the Earth's wild places and creatures continues strong and free, far more powerful than agents of repression, corporate fools or transient burnout. The recent RRR serves to remind us all that wild nature—including the nature within our own hearts—truly "bats last."

Asante Riverwind is a longtime activist/artist working with Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project and the Chiricahua-Draught Conservation Alliance.

Katúah Wants to Hear from You!

BY THE KATÚAH RRR COMMITTEE

We of the Katúah bioregion have agreed to host the Round River Rendezvous (RRR) next Summer, and we have already begun forming our RRR committee in order to make it as effective as we can.

Historically, our national Earth First! gatherings have been effective tools for recruitment, education and outreach. That said, we would like to make this an opportunity to maximize the RRR experience for all of the participants.

To do so, we are compiling a list of problems with past RRRs, as well as the good stuff. A few bad things we have noticed are: poor retention of new activists, social barriers between old and new EF!ers, dangerous climbing techniques and inadequate recruitment materials. Some of the positive stuff that we have identified: great parties, good music and decent post-RRR actions.

We would like to open up the planning process to more people in the movement. If you have identified past problems with RRRs or have ideas for improving them, please email us at katuah@riseup.net. Please keep your comments concise, and if you can offer potential solutions, so much the better. Any evaluations that have happened after past RRRs would also be appreciated.

You will hear more later, but rest assured that Katúah EF! is on the job and at work on the 2006 RRR!

announce

Buffalo Field Campaign Roadshow

August 27-September 20 • West Coast

September 29-October 26 • East Coast

This Fall, representatives of the Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) will embark on their annual, bicoastal roadshow to gain support for their work protecting the continent's last wild buffalo.

From late August through mid-September, Mike Mease, BFC's co-founder and campaign coordinator, and Josh Osher, BFC's research and policy coordinator, will travel the West Coast, giving presentations in communities from Los Angeles to Eugene. Events are scheduled to include benefits in the San Francisco Bay Area with activist/speaker Julia Butterfly Hill (September 7) and Native American musician/activist John Trudell (September 9).

Dan Brister, BFC's project director, and Stephany Seay, BFC's media coordinator, will take to the road in late September and spend the following month traveling from North Carolina to Vermont. BFC still has open dates for the East Coast roadshow, and thus encourages you to help organize an event in your community!

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

World Carfree Day

September 22

Every year, people all over the world gather together to take action against automobiles, reclaim the commons and illustrate sustainable forms of transportation. The official World Carfree Day is September 22, but many places hold activities all week or on the weekend. The European Union even sponsors a Mobility Week (September 16-22), with 1,544 cities in 40 countries participating this year.

Organize a carfree event in your town or city!

For more information, visit www.worldcarfree.net/wcfd.



Direct Action Against the IMF/WB

September 23-25 • Washington, DC

During the annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the Mobilization for Global Justice will join allies in the Global South, Europe and the US, as well as with those in the anti-war community, to demand an end to the international system that uses economic and military might to extract resources and serve corporate interests.

Mobilization for Global Justice envisions a world with true development, democracy and security, where economic policy serves the interests of the people. Creative direct actions will be taking place throughout the week-end of September 23-25: All the action you can muster to shake the pillars of empire to their rotten and festering core—and work toward another possible world.

For more information, visit www.globalizethis.org.

Earthbound Gathering

September 23-26 • Eveleth, Minnesota

You are invited to the Earthbound Gathering, an event to bring together Native and non-Native people who share concerns about the Earth. It promises to be potent ground for building connections centered around a shared passion for Earth defense and for addressing many of the issues that can make organizing between Native and non-Native communities painful and difficult.

Conference organizers are aware of some elements that have repeatedly prevented coalitions of this kind from forming, and they are addressing them as part of the planning. For one, Earthbound will be strictly drug- and alcohol-free. Everyone present is expected to have a basic respect for each other and to strive to really listen.

At Earthbound, the following will be addressed: racism; cultural appropriation; white guilt; cultural genocide; the struggle for cultural identity; strong coalitions created in the past; failed coalitions and the reasons why; current resistance campaigns; forms and perspectives of struggle; ways to reconnect with each other, the Earth and ourselves; youth in activism, coalitions and culture; and traditional, Earth-based skills and crafts. Presenters on any of these topics are strongly encouraged to contact the Earthbound Collective!

Earthbound will be free to all, including food and lodging. We expect to be able to provide some travel assistance for elders, youth, families and others who may have need.

For more information, contact the Earthbound Collective, POB 490, Finland, MN 55603; (800) 669-8418; earthboundcollective@hotmail.com.





Defending the Earth in Times of War 11th Annual Buckeye Gathering September 30-October 2 • Fulton, Ohio

This gathering has been designed to place the protection of natural areas in the context of our society's current orientation toward war. Bush's war against "terror" has exposed a fundamental flaw in the US's cultural design—an unsustainable propensity toward exploitation and domination of both people and nature. Meanwhile, the daily headlines of war diminish the public's perception of the urgency of dire environmental crises.

The conference will include workshops on pertinent environmental themes, opportunities for networking with environmental campaigners and researchers, guided nature hikes and, of course, food, lodging, music, dancing and campfires.

This year's keynote address will be delivered by renowned author, teacher and lecturer Derrick Jensen. He will explore our present path of environmental conflict and the changes we must make in the ways that we think and act if we are to realize sustainability within the broader biological community, in addition to justice in our human community.

For more information, contact the Buckeye Forest Council, POB 99, Athens, OH 45701; (740) 594-6400; www.buckeyeforestcouncil.org.

Keep Space for Peace Week International Week of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space

October 1-8

With the US military convinced that it is necessary to "control space in order to protect US interests and investments," it appears that an escalation of the arms race into outer space is imminent. In order to prevent this from happening, early action is necessary.

This year, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to ensure that such horrors never occur again, the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space is organizing a week of local events against the militarization of space.

Rallies, conferences and other actions are already scheduled in Britain and the US. This global problem deserves a global response, so people everywhere are invited to organize events in their communities.

For more information, contact the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, POB 652, Brunswick, ME 04011; (207) 720-0517; globalnet@mindspring.com; www.space4peace.org.

Second Annual Madison Zine Fest

October 14-16 • Madison, Wisconsin

The Madison Zine Fest Student Group announces its Second Annual Madison Zine Fest, in conjunction with the Wisconsin Book Festival. The Zine Fest will take place on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Last year's Zine Fest was a huge success, with zine-lovers from throughout the Midwest—even some from as far away as Portland, Oregon—sampling the smorgasbord of ideas available. Zines made in Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison, Urbana and Minneapolis were on display. Hundreds of people attended to pick up zines and meet their favorite zinesters.

This year will be even bigger! There will be more zinesters, more zines and more distros, as well as workshops and panel discussions. Noted presenters will include librarians Sanford Berman and Jenna Freedman, Professor Tom Eland and representatives of Echo Zine Distro, Silver Buckle Press, the Queer Zine Archive Project and Microcosm Publishing.

Your participation is encouraged. You can propose a workshop or discussion, volunteer or reserve a table to showcase your own zine.

For more information, contact the Madison Zine Fest Student Group, 139 E Johnson St, Madison, WI 53703; www.madisonzinefest.org.

Are you looking for a new way to contribute to the EF! movement?

Do you like hearing about the latest direct-action news as it happens?

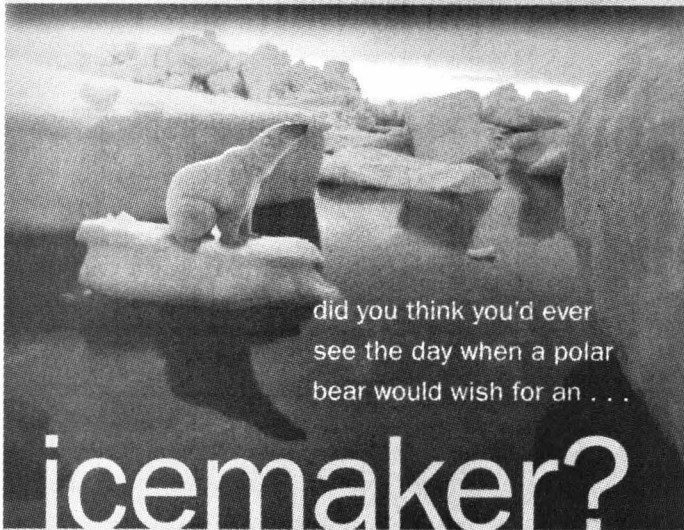
Do you like big, starry skies, mild Winters and Summer monsoon rains?

If so, you may be the person we need!

The *Earth First! Journal* is looking for someone to join our long-term editorial collective in Tucson, Arizona. Ideally, we are seeking a computer-literate person with direct-action and publishing experience, familiarity with the *Journal* and the radical environmental movement, and excellent editing skills. All of the work on the collective is shared, so a successful editor must be responsible, diligent and play well with others. Enthusiasm and a willingness to learn are a must! Preference will be given to women and people of color.

We are looking for someone who can commit to at least a year and a half. To apply, send a letter of interest, resumé, writing sample, activist history and the names of some EF! activists who can vouch for you to:

Earth First! Journal, POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702; collective@earthfirstjournal.org.



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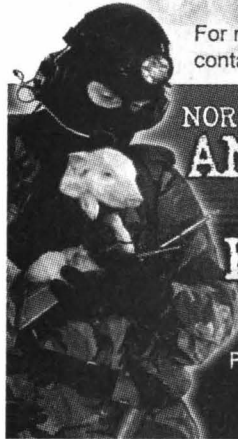


In dozens of news articles detailing numerous underground actions in North America, comment has been unavailable to counter the interests of the animal abusers, who have spoken largely unopposed.

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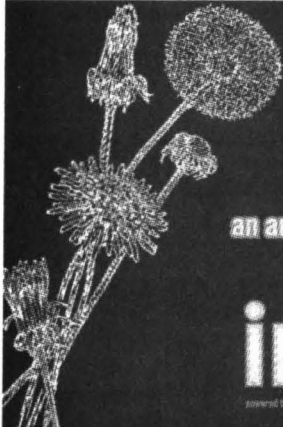
NAALPO members are not "spokespersons" for the animal liberation movement, but rather a growing group of tested, well-spoken professionals and activists who provide the media with information regarding actions by the underground, along with explanations of their ideology and philosophy.

For more information, contact:



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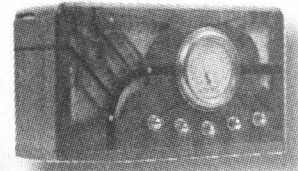
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photo by Robin Silver

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CHINESE FARMERS SHUT DOWN DRUG FACTORY

BY LENNY

Angered by years of worsening pollution and poisoned fields, farmers in the southern Chinese province of Zhejiang rose up on July 5, storming a pharmaceutical factory and forcing it to close. In spite of government assurances that the factory's dangerous waste will be cleaned up, the villagers insist that they will not rest until the plant is shut down for good.

Shengzhou township lies 180 miles south of Shanghai and just downstream of more than 10 pharmaceutical and chemical factories. Effluent from the factories has so polluted the Xinchang River that the water has turned thick, foul-smelling, greasy and red, and crop growth in the province has been stunted.

"Our fields won't produce grain anymore," said one local woman who would not give her name. "We don't dare eat food grown anywhere near here."

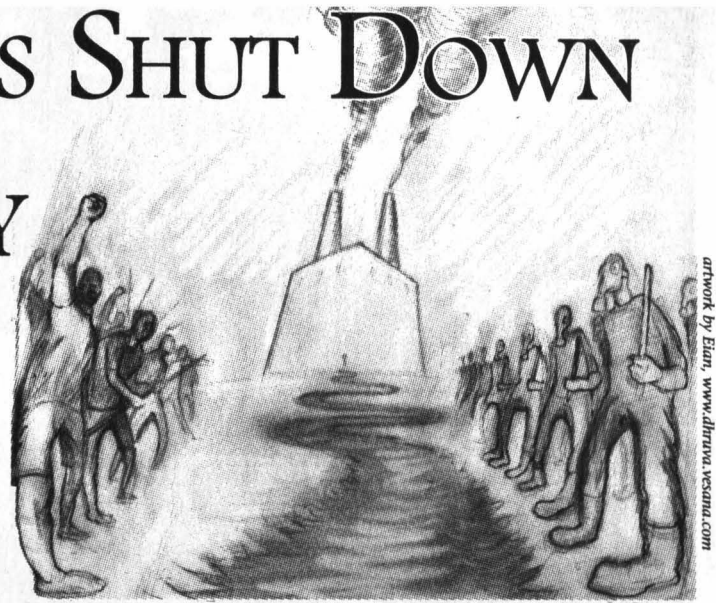
For years, residents of Shengzhou have been upset by the pollution from the Jingxin Pharmaceutical Company's plant just outside their town. Factory workers have been suffering weakness and nausea, and the villagers have noticed a recent spike in cancers and birth defects. In July, an explosion at the plant killed one worker and injured others.

Finally pushed to the brink, on July 4, the villagers appointed a group to present the factory with their demands: free health exams, free medical care and compensation for their damaged crops. When the representatives were beaten by company employees, a larger group of villagers retaliated by storming the plant, bursting through the gates and beating a factory guard. The ever-swelling group of protesters was soon demanding the factory's outright closure.

Local officials immediately ordered the plant to close and urged people to remain calm. But on July 14, the city announced that the plant had to reopen to prevent a chemical explosion from taking place. The city promised to remove 1,000 tons of dangerous waste from the factory and insisted that this would make it safe.

"We don't trust them," scoffed a villager who lives near the plant, expressing the sentiments of many protesters. "They have told us lies many times before and have never addressed our problems."

Farmers swarmed the plant again on July 15, this time by the thousands, smashing signs and windows to pieces, and destroying a guard post and part of the perimeter wall. The riots continued for the next four days, undeterred by the hundreds of riot police that were quickly bussed in to protect the factory. When police interceded on behalf of



artwork by Eian, www.dharma.vesana.com

the company, beating protesters and spraying tear gas, the farmers overturned police vehicles and fought back with stones. Even when the police blocked off all the roads to the factory, the farmers snuck through mountains and rice paddies to reach it.

After several days of battling with police, the farmers withdrew to their homes—but they have vowed to return if the plant should resume operation or if no compensation is forthcoming.

Factory officials blame a drought for the worsening pollution, but one former worker—who was forced to quit when the plant's toxic chemicals made him ill—places the blame squarely on the company: "They are making poisonous chemicals for foreigners that the foreigners don't dare produce in their own countries."

In its race to become a global economic power, China has eagerly encouraged the development of export-oriented factories, so that consumers around the world can exploit China's lack of labor and environmental standards. The concurrent policy of seizing rural land for industrial and real estate development has been a primary motivation in the rising tide of unrest among the country's increasingly desperate lower class. In an all-too-familiar story, China's "economic growth" has meant not just deepening poverty as the poor are forced into ever-worsening working conditions, but also the destruction of China's wilderness and the poisoning of its air, land and water.

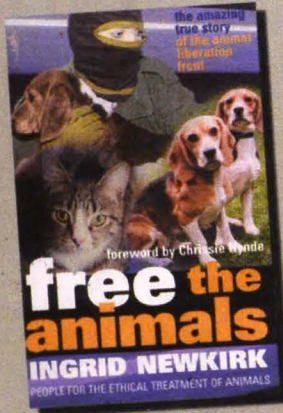
Yet resistance to the environmental costs of this "growth" is on the rise. In April, a 10,000-person riot in Dongyang, a city 50 miles from Shengzhou, erupted in response to pollution from a nearby pesticide factory.

"As for the Dongyang riot, everyone knows about it," said one young Shengzhou man. "Six policemen were killed, and the chief had the tendons in his arms and legs severed." The villagers in Shengzhou admit that the Dongyang riot was an inspiration to them in planning their own uprising.

And they insist that they will fight until the factory is closed. "They've arrested so many, but we'll fight on," said Xiao Chen, one of the farmers. "What else can we do?"

TRINKETS & SNAKE OIL

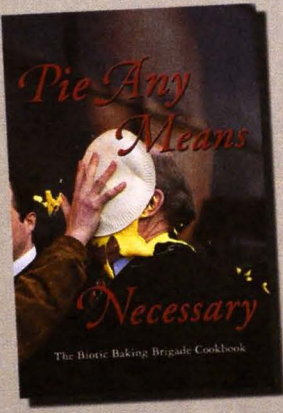
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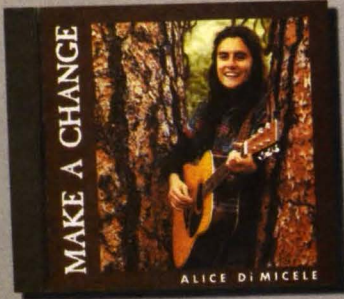


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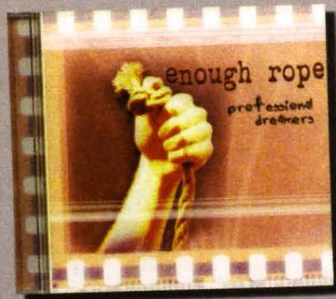
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