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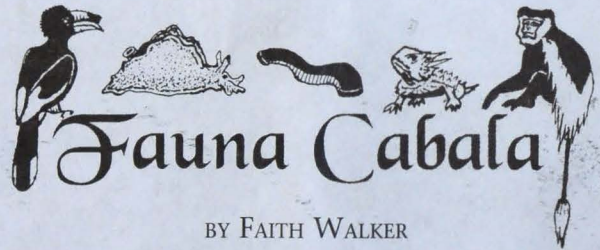
Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal
Beltane May-June 2006

Eco-Defense in Iceland
The Fight Against Dam
Megaprojects

\$4.50 US \$7 Canada • Volume 26 #4





BY FAITH WALKER

After 10 years, it's with very mixed feelings that I retire "Fauna Cabala." It has been a pleasure, and I think I succeeded in what I set out to do: provide the Journal with an entry that has nothing to do with humans. Aside from naming Bob Dylan in the third "Cabala," and then writing pieces on human female orgasm and male masturbation, Homo sapiens sapiens wasn't mentioned. And I only preached once, with regard to honeybees. In short, I want to hike instead of spending two or three days per issue scouring the scientific literature, fretting and trying to be creative. However, with any luck, "Fauna Cabala" will be compiled into a book sometime soon. I want to especially thank Turtle, who has been a terrific editor.

Love, and for all things wild,

—Faith



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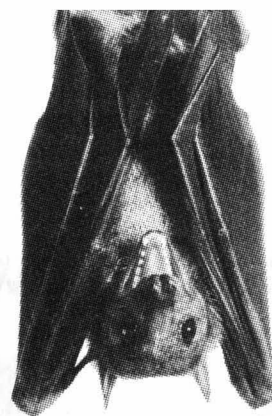


*Fauna: n. Animal life.
Cabala: n. An esoteric,
secret matter or
mysterious art.*

Some songbirds dream of singing. Zebra finches (*Taeniopygia guttata*) transform Australia's lonely outback into flash and jabber when flocks suddenly alight from nowhere. These chattering gems travel and nest in colonies consisting of several podgy pairs, of which only the males sing. Songs are learned by imitating adult crooners during a critical period between one and three months post-hatching. Once they get a song stuck in their heads, males rehearse and rehearse and rehearse—apparently even in their sleep—until it crystallizes.

Female hatchlings, meanwhile, also have this 90-day window, not to learn to sing, but to learn to discriminate between high- and low-quality songs. Because they are monogamous (within seasons) and males contribute equally to nest-building and care of zebra-lings, it's important to be able to weed out the bummer boys. The girls prefer beaus who can belt out fancy songs quickly, have redder bills and sport more symmetrical chest stripes. They also copy mate-choice of other females. Because other breeding pairs are in close proximity, females notice the success and prowess of fathers and, for the next breeding attempt, try to secure the badass daddy as their partner. If they do land the preferred papa, they lay more eggs.

Because zebra finches live in semi-arid areas with unpredictable rainfall, females are always ready to drop an egg. Like many bird species in this habitat, zebra finch breeding is foreshadowed by a substantial rainfall event, and sufficient rain can bring about multiple clutches per season. Social influences also promote procreation. Background music, from lots of singing going on within the colony, escalates nest and egg production. Thus, these most welcome, prattling, zebra-striped butterballs illustrate the presence of a sensitive period in song development and are good examples of both environmental and social factors driving reproduction.



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Pedal-Powered Publishing



Each issue, the production of the *Earth First! Journal* is full of challenges. The myriad tasks involved in compiling, editing and laying out these pages, along with the everyday realities of running a business—mail, subscriptions, merchandise, rent—easily consume the lives of our small staff and a handful of dedicated volunteers. With our heavy workloads, we are often visited by the temptation to do things the easy way, the fast way, the American way—things like using the modern convenience of the automobile.

Though we all bike or walk to work, the business of producing the *Journal* often takes us to the far reaches of the Tucson metropolis, making cars a convenient tool. But we, of all people, know the hidden costs of car culture—the blood, oppression and destruction that coats every piston and fills every fuel line. With these somber thoughts in our minds and with visions of a sustainable, life-affirming future in our hearts, the *Journal* is proud to present the first ever car-free issue!

With a small fleet of bicycles, a few borrowed trailers and on occasion a four-wheeled, two-seated “bike car” borrowed from the local bicycle co-op, we pedaled our hearts out back and forth across this town. We repeatedly schlepped hundreds of pounds of donated produce back to the office by bike. We carted gallon upon gallon of filtered water from the grocery store. We even did all of the errands associated with our annual Spring fundraising event, an all-you-can-eat pie party, by bicycle. And for a grand finale, we moved all 6,000 copies of the printed *Journal*, not once but twice—from the printer to the office and then again to the post office.

We'd like to say that this magazine reached you without burning a drop of fossil fuel, but it was a hard sell trying to get the US Postal Service to deliver the *Journal* without trucks or airplanes. The web of destruction is vast and intricate, and it will be a long and difficult fight to rid our culture of its fossil-fuel addiction. Leaving the car parked for eight weeks is a far cry from the raging battles taking place across the globe, from Appalachia to Iceland, from New Zealand to Nigeria. But we've been glad to contribute something, however small, to making the voice of the no-compromise environmental movement just a little more eco-groovy.

For the wild,
—SPROCKET

Earth First! Beltane

May 1, 2006
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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.

Submission deadlines are the first of every odd-numbered month in the calendar year. Articles should be typed or clearly printed. We encourage submissions via email. Art or photographs are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. 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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Reflections on the Organizers' Conference

A Journal Editor's View

BY OSKAR PAWPAW

The *Earth First! Journal* meeting at this year's Organizers' Conference in Florida was drastically different from the previous meetings I have attended. About 30 people showed up, and we have the organizers of the conference to thank for getting people excited about it. The range of participants was diverse, from former editors and longtime readers to people just picking up their first copy. Most everyone was able to offer something constructive in an engaged and cooperative way. We had so much to talk about that we even needed to hold a second meeting.

The primary subjects discussed—and these are always addressed at *Journal* meetings—were staffing, merchandise, boosting subscriptions, money and content.

Staffing at the *Journal* has been an important topic lately. Those of us on the collective must emphasize that we need people to work as long-term editors. This is important because “new blood” is what keeps the *Journal* relevant and representative of the movement. Also, as much as we love the *Journal*, some of us want to be able to move on to other projects. So consider this a special invitation to all you EF!ers who have an interest in publishing to come work with us!

In recent years, EF! merchandise has taken the back burner, as the collective has focused on putting out quality issues of the *Journal*. As much as we value distributing EF! products, the collective has decided to drastically reduce the amount of merchandise we carry. At this point we are still going to sell *Ecodefense* and a handful of t-shirts, but we are working to get others to pick up where we are leaving off.

To work on boosting subscriptions, the *Journal* wants to increase our interactions with EF!ers around the globe. We see y'all as being invaluable to getting the *Journal* out to people when you table for your campaigns. We need you to have *Journals* at informational tables and to suggest subscriptions to anyone who seems interested. Remind people that your campaigns and theirs are part of a larger struggle, which they can plug into and read about in the *Journal*. You can even take advantage of our decade-old plan where

you can keep five dollars out of every \$25 subscription that you sell. (Contact us for more information.)

The *Journal's* financial status has remained relatively consistent, in that we always just manage to scrape by. If you want to support the *Journal*, the best way is to get yourself a subscription. Buy subs for your friends and family as well. Tell others who you think might be interested about the *Journal*. And, of course, we always welcome donations.

It's always nice to hear what our readers have to say about the *Journal's* content. While we regularly receive constructive criticism, we often feel like we end up hearing third-hand about people's frustrations or suggestions. If you have feedback on what we're publishing or not publishing, we encourage you to write us a letter.

The Organizers' Conference also addressed the format and schedule of the *Journal*, as well as how the *Journal* and the movement can best support each other. An unofficial proposal was made to put out a shorter monthly tabloid that focuses on news and action updates. A quarterly magazine would complement this and would be similar to the 25th anniversary issue, offering more analysis, critique and retrospection.

This proposal seeks to increase how timely our news coverage is, while still providing an opportunity to take a critical look at where EF! is at. There are many different ideas about varying schedule and format considerations. The collective is currently researching whether this could work, practically and financially. Through this process, we'd love your input, as a reader, to let us know if you think we need this change and why. Is this just change for the sake of change? Or is the *Journal* in need of a different strategy?

Of course, we won't make any major changes without first receiving the movement's approval. We look forward to your feedback as we investigate ways to make the *Journal* more dynamic. The discussion and brainstorming of how to improve the *Journal* will continue at this Summer's Round River Rendezvous in Katúah. Hope to see you there!

Oskar Pawpaw has been an editor at the *Journal* for a little more than a year now. He's quite happy to be part of this project and loves to receive letters. Hint, hint.

dear shit fer brains

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

TRY TO KEEP LETTERS TO 300 WORDS OR LESS

Dear *EF!* Journal Collective,

Thanks for your caring and commitment. Please use the extra \$10 to help shore up Fleet Admiral Watson's megalomania. As his ego is monumental, the \$10 could go toward construction of a suitably towering edifice. How about an outhouse?

Best,

—JOE BARNWELL

P.S. Here's a great idea for a new reality TV show: the crew quarters of the *Farley Mowat*! I'll bet Watson would make Donald Trump look like a milquetoast....

Dear *EF!* Journal,

Thank you again for adding the piece by the "Friends of the Catalyst" (see *EF!* March-April 2006).

There is something I would like to share with you. Perhaps you have already heard through others....

About a month ago, I was mailed the official police investigation into Bill's suicide. I waited a couple

calculate the time that had passed as each numbered person created numbers for their findings. Despite all the precise record keeping, it was difficult to get a clear picture of the situation.

However, they did manage to describe one thing well—perhaps by accident?

The report said that in Bill's *rigor mortis* on the floor of his jail cell, he had both hands clenched "as if in fists" and that his right arm was sticking straight up.

Forever Wild!,

—KATIE ROSE NELSON

Dear SFB,

At a wolf reintroduction meeting in Silver City, New Mexico, a rancheress's idiotic blathering made me wonder how even one of *them* could be so stupendously stupid. The answer came to me during a Defenders of Wildlife (DOW) representative's speech.

DOW has a program to pay off ranchers for a verifiable or even just a *possible* wolf kill. This approach evolved out of the assumption that ranchers' complaints about the economic costs of losing cows were motivated by—well, by the economic costs of losing cows. But actually, the ranchers were *really* motivated by their hatred of wolves, of environmentalists and of

anything else that they can't tame, control or destroy. When the DOW program eliminated the ranchers' economic argument—the only argument the powers-that-be could take seriously—the ranchers had to resort to the "wolves will eat my children," "wolves will wipe out the deer" and "wolves will roam the cities" arguments. These are patently ridiculous to the educated scientists on the committee charged with implementing wolf reintroduction and, indeed, to anybody with the most modest modicum of natural history knowledge (if not to politicians).

So DOW rendered the economic loss argument impotent. By all rights, that should have been the end of the opposition. But we had, as I said, mistaken their motivation.

What I noticed at the meeting was that *their* side was using—or pathetically *trying* to use—the same tactic: attempting to address what they *thought* was our motivation.

"Oh, the poor, poor wolf," whined the rancheress. "It was all alone and so *skinny* and starving to death. It had to be destroyed. There aren't enough deer for them. The committee has a responsibility to look after these poor creatures. If you expand the boundaries, it will be even *harder* for you to look after them all...." The laughter was growing ever more audible. The rancheress insisted, "I *love* animals. I *really* do!"

It's hard to even *imagine*

how the thought processes of somebody *so* abysmally ignorant works, but I finally figured it out. They call our side "bleeding hearts." They think we *love* wolves. Well, we do. But not in the cuddly, fuzzy, companion-animal/guardian relationship sort of way. Our motive is not "getting wolves out there." That's only one step in our overall goal: a balanced, functioning, vibrant ecosystem. A healthy environment for wolves, deer, snails, trees, lichen, humans. Clean water. Clean air. And all that jazz.

This viewpoint is so alien to the short-sighted, selfish, anthropocentric, control-freak rancher mentality that all they could conclude was that we loved wolves in the way that *they* loved their dogs and horses. And that if wolves are starving and cold, we should put them in a nice, warm zoo where they will be safe and comfortable.

The poor, poor wolf. Starving to death, out there in the wild with nobody to take care of it.

You mean, like in... *nature*.

—JOANNE COCKERILL

Dear SFB,

I am writing in response to Huck's letter (see *EF!* March-April 2006). As a survivor of Secret Service, Joint Terrorism Task Force and other law enforcement interrogations, I believe Huck's advice to be ill-advised.

I have no doubt that torture is employed to gain information, false or otherwise. Interrogators are trained to make a situation so uncomfortable that a person wants to talk.

MEDIA MAIL

days until I felt ready to handle such a lifeless, inhuman document. Mostly it was a log of all the police who had entered his cell, the objects found in his cell and a few interviews with inmates in his unit. Everyone had a number. There were numbers for each artifact, picture, bodily appendage and document. And numbers in between to

They are also trained to recognize facial expressions, eye movement, fidgeting and other physical signs as subtle as shifting your weight.

Providing false or misleading information can be just as dangerous as telling on yourself or others. It can lead to an investigation of what you may be trying to hide. If the police think you are trying to protect someone, they may investigate them. It can also result in obstruction of justice, aiding and abetting, or even criminal conspiracy charges.

You have the right to an attorney. You have the right to remain silent. Exercise those rights. Regardless of threats, physical or otherwise, your best bet is always to tell the interrogators, "I would like my attorney. I have no comment." Then with your best poker face, you sit in silence, making no physical reactions to things said.

If everyone did that, we would have fewer people in prison.

There will always be those who break. It is a fact of life, and it is not always their fault. But there is a huge difference between breaking in a backroom somewhere and taking the stand as a witness for the state. It would serve us well to recognize the difference and respond accordingly.

—JEFFREY "FREE" LUERS

Dear *EF/J* types,

Sometimes in the morning, I get myself a pot of coffee and read through some of my pile of mags and papers. I can end up flat and dispirited, or energized and full of love.

This morning, I've been going through the *EF/J*s from late 2005, and I'm full of love for you.

So I thought I'd tell you, *EF/J* is one of the constant sources of inspiration, needling and thought provocation in my life. Thank you.

In our local activist newsletter, I always include some news of the wild, whether it

is urban foxes, reintroduction of birds of prey locally, the return of salmon and otters to once-polluted rivers.

So keep sending copies to local activist groups. Not everyone in "Why Don't You" is into it, but some of us are, and I think this mix is true in other groups too.

Here, after a late Winter, Spring really began two days ago. For the first time since Summer, my bedroom smelt of hot, black earth, as all my seedtrays of herbs, veg and wildflowers soaked up the sun.

Respect,

—MIKE

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, UK

Greetings from the Redwoods,

We would like to extend our solidarity to everyone at AZEF! and Chuk'shon EF!. The last issue of *EF/J* was received by us as solid in content and asthetically pleasing. The report-back from the sandhill crane hunt sab in the last issue was especially appreciated (see *EF/J* January-February 2006). To all of those who dedicated their time and energy to protecting sandhill cranes in the Sulphur Springs Valley in southeastern Arizona last season: Your activism in defense of wildlife is an inspiration to this project and, undoubtedly, many others.

With the recent kidnapping of Rod Coronado (in relation to a lecture he made in San Diego), our liberatory movements come face to face with the Empire's repression once again. We must do all that we can to support Rod (and Matt Crozier), who also faces charges

relating to a mountain lion hunt sab. As the October 31 trial approaches for the Northwest arrestees, and the SHAC 7 trial concludes in New Jersey, we are all faced with the responsibility of picking up where the holes will remain after sentencing. Every arrest is an extension of the State's war on those who value life over the laws that are broken to defend life. Unfortunately, every arrest is also a blow to our ongoing direct action campaigns and circles.

The struggle in defense of the wild has always needed participants, and *now* is the time for those who have cast away their activity because of fear to step things up. The call to action has been made a thousand times, and now it is up to us to answer this call with consistent action. From the exploding gas canisters in Athens, Greece, to the recent communiqué released by animal rights activists in Oxford, UK (addressing the construction of the university's primate torture lab), you can get a taste of what to expect for those who profit from the exploitation of the Earth and her animal relations. The importance lies not in sole actions alone, however, but in a momentum of varied activity. Our responsibility is to see that this activity is consistent and unrelenting during the various onslaughts of State repression.

In a world so ecologically devastated, what excuses are

left to justify inactivity? In a socially repressive landscape operating on the wheels of consumption and our alienation, revolt has seen no riper moment than now. Silence and inactivity is precisely what the agents of repression would like to instill in our activist circles. Our response to the mass arrests around the country must be that of action. Always wear gloves.

Giving this war two sides,

—SLEEPLESS NIGHTS DISTRO

Dear SFB,

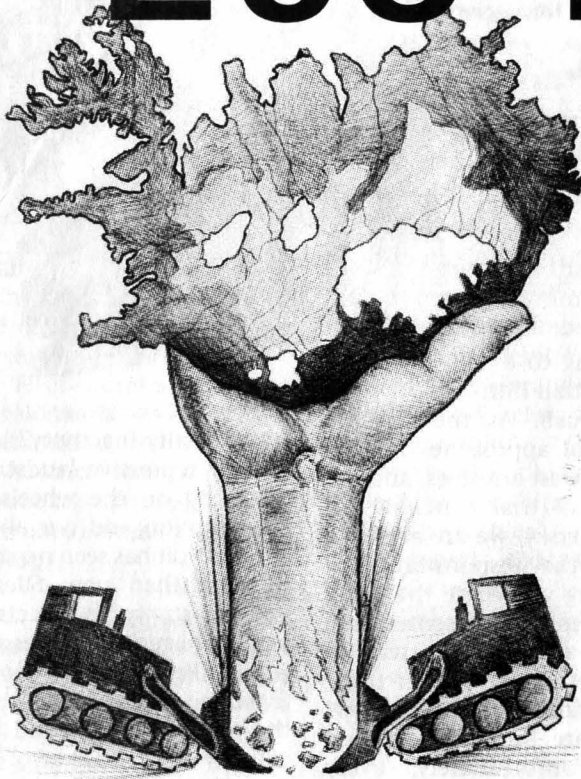
In response to Emmet Grube's question as to why Captain Paul Watson and Sea Shepherd have previously taken up so much space in the *Journal*, I will be short and to the point (see *EF/J* March-April 2006). The Earth is best described as the "water planet." Seventy-two percent of it is covered in water. And yet, Sea Shepherd remains the only radical environmental organization to take direct action on the high seas. I could get long-winded and talk about how Paul is one of the founders of environmental direct action and about how he is a master strategist and tactician who we have much to learn from, but I think I'll just leave it at that. Paul once called Earth First! Mother Earth's Army and Sea Shepherd her Navy.

'Nuff said,

—PETER



Eco-Defense



BY LUMSK

Fire and ice, arctic tundra and pristine unspoiled wilderness in Western Europe. A land of magic and legend that captures your imagination and awakens you to the staggering, breathtaking beauty of Iceland. Yet all of this is dramatically changing.

Work has already begun on a series of gigantic dams in the eastern highlands of Iceland, including the massive Karahnjukar dam. The Karahnjukar dam, the largest of the proposed dams, is designed to provide hydro-electric power for a massive aluminum smelter owned by the US multinational corporation Alcoa. The company plans to close two of its smelting plants in the US and to open new ones in Iceland, using the electricity from the government-subsidized dams to reduce costs. The project is contracted to be built by known war profiteer Bechtel.

The 625-foot-high, 2,500-foot-wide Karahnjukar dam will create a huge reservoir, inundating a 22-square-mile swathe of wilderness that is home to at least 280 species of animals, including reindeer, seals, pink-footed geese, gyrfalcons and purple sandpipers. Not only will this precious wilderness be submerged (including the only known site of a nationally rare lichen), but soil erosion at the lake edge will result in wind-blown sand and dust drying out wetlands and killing vegetation far outside the project's immediate area.

An Environmental Impact Assessment commissioned by Landsvirkjun (Iceland's nationally owned power company) identifies many unique geological features that will also soon be submerged—including unusual moraine deposits, two major waterfalls (one of which will eventually be lost forever under the lake's sedimentation), hot springs

and part of the spectacular Hafrahvammagljufur Canyon ("Iceland's Grand Canyon").

The spin that the Icelandic government is using to promote these projects is that "hydro-electric power is green energy." This corporate greenwash and the false promises of jobs and economic stability are being used to try and convince everyday people that the dams are a good thing. There are numerous facts that disprove this claim. Glacial rivers carry mineral deposits to the sea, which in turn converts carbon dioxide to calcium and thus combats greenhouse effects in the atmosphere. Damming destroys this vital role of glacial rivers in combating greenhouse effects. It is a false argument that hydro-electric power from damming glacial rivers is renewable energy. The dams completely silt up, thus giving them a prospective lifespan of only 40 to 100 years.

The fact is that aluminum smelting uses an enormous amount of electricity and emits massive quantities of greenhouse gases. In 2001, super-clean Iceland was able to negotiate a 10 percent increase in permitted emissions under the Kyoto Protocol—the largest increase in the world. In effect, Alcoa is buying Iceland's license to pollute, as well as its cheap electricity. The Ministry of Environment also gave Alcoa a license to emit 26 pounds of sulphur dioxide per ton of aluminum produced—12 times the level the World Bank expects from modern smelters. Sulphur dioxide and fluoride, the most dangerous pollutants in terms of public health and land damage, will be pumped directly into the air via giant chimneys.

In 2005, with the Icelandic government laying plans for numerous dam projects across the country, potentially flooding a quarter of Iceland's interior, and with the Karahnjukar dam halfway to completion, an "SOS" call was sent out to the international community. To spread the word, activists from Iceland presented workshops in England, Ireland and Scotland explaining the issues.

Last Summer's Solstice marked the beginning of a highly inspirational and unique event in the history of Icelandic activism. An international protest camp began to grow within sight of the Karahnjukar dam. People from many countries gathered in protest of the ill-conceived and environmentally destructive policies.

Throughout the Summer, educational workshops took place both at the protest camp and in the capital city, Reykjavik. Initially, the camp was poorly attended by Icelandic people—many of them failing to shake off their apathy and complacency. However, many Icelanders took the opportunity to visit the camp and trek around the areas that are scheduled to be flooded when the river is dammed in September 2006. In retrospect, many Icelandic activists now realize that they missed the opportunity to become involved in a truly revolutionary mobilization. The actions of last Summer had a profound effect on Icelandic society by giving people the courage to make their voices heard following years of a repressive political atmosphere.

in Iceland

The Fight Against Dam Megaprojects

Iceland saw the birth of a movement that not only challenges the government's environmental policies but extends so much further in the battle against corporate takeover: a struggle against industrial and economic decisions made by a handful of corrupt and unjust heads of state, and a struggle against industries that peddle the plagues of pollution, climate change and social injustice.

Protest, like climate change, knows no borders.

Some Icelanders questioned why people came from other countries to protest. The answer is obvious. The struggles faced by people in Iceland are echoed throughout the world. We are working to tip the balance of a struggle that is portrayed as national, while actually extending much further—from the Narmada dams in India to the proposed Ilisu dam in Turkey. Climate change and environmental devastation are international issues. The damaging decisions and subsequent industrial pollution made by one country inevitably affect us all. By inviting international industries into Iceland to carve up her pristine natural resources, Iceland entered the international arena and thus the international activist agenda.

Many types of actions have taken place. At the 10th International Aluminum Industry Conference in Reykjavik, three activists splashed industry fat cats from Bechtel and Alcoa with dyed-green yogurt. The Karahnjúkar dam site was blockaded on two occasions. People stopped huge earth-moving lorries by locking themselves to the chassis. Work was stopped on the site for the first time since it started two years earlier. The construction of the Alcoa aluminum smelting plant at Reydarfjörður was halted when activists climbed the cranes on the site.

Action after successful action took place throughout the Summer months last year, some of them very public, like the unfurling of a huge banner painted with a crack down one side of the dam. This action was inspired by the first Earth First! action in the US, but it also highlighted the coverup concerning the geological fault lines on which the Karahnjúkar dam is being built and which significantly call its structural stability into question. All of these actions sought to keep the issue burning, letting the companies and the government know that they cannot ride roughshod over the growing concern for the Icelandic environment.

In the last year, Icelanders who were not directly connected to the action camps have begun to protest in their own ways. This is encouraging, especially since the oppression experienced by activists at the hands of the authorities, aluminum industry cronies and the police reached a level that shocked the public. The unofficial deputizing of security staff to assist the police in bumbling arrest attempts at the dam site resulted in injuries to some protesters. Reykjavik police used kidnap-style antics when issuing deportation orders to activists, causing outrage from the public. All of these orders were subsequently found to have been issued illegally. The obstinacy

from the police and their lack of understanding escalated situations and, in some instances, endangered the lives of activists and members of the public.

There have been many detailed reports written about actions in Iceland. This article hopes to dispel the "it's so far away" mindset. The issues are right on our doorstep. Climate change, environmental destruction, corporate takeovers—they affect us all. It is happening everywhere. Sometimes, we struggle and see little return for our efforts. Here is an opportunity where the march of the corporate jackals and heavy industry can be stopped; government policies can be changed. Protest and direct action is being effective, and a population is being inspired to stand up and become involved in what directly affects their lives. In January, plans to dam the great



Activists lock down at the Karahnjúkar dam site.

photo courtesy Saving Iceland

wetlands of Thjorsarver, in the central southern Icelandic highlands, were halted as a direct result of protest and public pressure.

The protest continues, not only in Iceland but with support actions taking place in other countries as well. This Summer will be a crucial time in the struggle to stop this gargantuan ecocide. Come join thousands of Icelanders and activists from around the world at the international protest camp that begins on July 21.

For more information, contact savingiceland@riseup.net; www.savingiceland.org.

Lumsk is involved in the Saving Iceland campaign because it is such an inspiring mix of direct action, popular education, information sharing and networking with similar struggles. The objectivity of the resistance, the positivity and growth of the campaign, and the successes that it has had should not go unrecorded.

Four More Charged with ELF Actions

BY JOSH

After the shocking arrests of December 7, the tragic suicide of Bill Rodgers on December 22, the massive conspiracy indictment of January 20 and the devastating blow dealt by snitches, more repression could hardly come as a surprise (see *EFJ* March-April 2006).

On February 23, Nathan Block and Joyanna Zacher were arrested in Olympia, Washington, on charges stemming from the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arson of Jefferson Poplar Farm in Clatskanie, Oregon, on May 21, 2001. Chelsea Gerlach and Daniel McGowan, as well as apparent snitches Stanislas Meyerhoff and Kevin Tubbs, had previously been charged with that arson.

But Block and Zacher did not officially join the 11 other codefendants until March 15, when a Eugene grand jury investigating the ELF issued yet another superceding indictment. Block and Zacher were charged with one count of "conspiracy to commit arson," one count of "conspiracy to commit arson and destruction of an energy facility," one count of attempted arson, two counts of "using and carrying a destructive device in relation to a crime of violence" and 47 counts of arson. They face life in prison if convicted on all counts.

This new indictment mentioned, for the first time, an additional ELF action: the destruction of the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture in Seattle, also on

May 21, 2001. Gerlach and Meyerhoff were named as alleged participants in the conspiracy to commit this action, but neither has been formally charged. Nevertheless, the inclusion of this action was a clear indication of the feds' next move.

On March 30, Briana Waters—a violin teacher and participant in the 1999 Watch Mountain forest defense campaign—became the first person to be charged with the Seattle arson. Waters was indicted on one count of using and carrying a destructive device, and one count of arson. If convicted, she faces more than 30 years in prison. In

contrast to the heavy-handed approach used by the feds in charging and apprehending other defendants, Waters was simply issued a summons to appear before a judge in Seattle. Prosecutors did not argue for detention, and the judge allowed her to return home to Berkeley, California, where she will be monitored electronically. Waters' trial is scheduled to begin on June 5. It is unclear whether the feds intend to include her in the mass conspiracy indictment.

Most recently, on April 6, Joseph Dibee, Rebecca Rubin, Justin Solondz and Darren Thurston were indicted for the arson of the Bureau of Land Management's Litchfield Wild Horse and Burro Corral in Susanville, California, on October 15, 2001. The four were charged with conspiracy to commit arson, arson of a government building, and using and carrying a destructive device. If convicted, they face more than 30 years in prison. Thankfully, this indictment did not result in any new arrests; Thurston was already in custody, and the whereabouts of the others are unknown. While

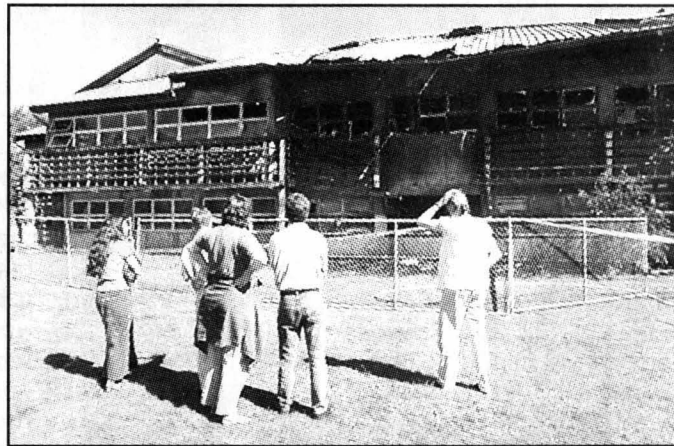
Solondz is a new name in the federal investigation, the other three were previously charged in the mass conspiracy indictment.

Currently, Block, Gerlach, Thurston and Zacher are still in jail and need your support. (Meyerhoff and Tubbs are also being held, despite their apparent cooperation with federal prosecutors.) While Block and Zacher may still be released on bail at a future date, it seems almost certain that the others will remain in custody through the trial, which is

scheduled to begin on October 31. One possible reason for Gerlach's continued imprisonment is the government's expressed hope to indict her for further ELF actions. Thurston's release is unlikely due to his Canadian citizenship and his prior conviction for a 1992 animal liberation.

As before, there is no reason to think that the feds' repression of these and other activists will stop here.

For more information, contact the North American Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, naelpsn@mutualaid.org; www.ecoprisoners.org.



The University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture in Seattle, following the ELF arson of May 21, 2001

Current Green Scare Prisoners and Support Groups

Although some prisoners are listed together, they must be written to separately.

- Nathan Block, #1663667, and Joyanna Zacher, #1662550, Lane County Jail, 101 W 5th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401; supportersofnathanandjoyanna@gmail.com.
- Chelsea Gerlach, #1308678, Lane County Jail, 101 W 5th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401; www.supportchelsea.org.
- Daniel McGowan, released on bail; www.supportdaniel.org.
- Jonathan Paul and Briana Waters, released on bail; www.ecoprisoners.org.
- Suzanne Savoie, released on bail; friendsofsuzannesavoie@yahoo.com.
- Darren Thurston, #701415, Multnomah County Inverness Jail, 11540 NE Inverness Dr, Portland, OR 97220; www.freedarren.org.

Operation Backfire

BACKFIRES

on FBI

BY JIM FLYNN

Like the cleansing waters of Hurricane Katrina, the FBI's attack on the environmental movement has done more for creating community and organizing resistance to government oppression than we were seemingly capable of doing ourselves. At first, everyone was hunkering down or running for cover, moving on or going on hasty, long-term vacations. You did not know who to talk to or who to trust. Except for the peaceniks, the once-radical streets of Eugene were strangely quiet. The bars are full though, and there is a lot of whispering and commiserating going on.

But out of the flooded backwaters of government repression a new power has risen. People are coming out of the woodwork to step up and help their friends in trouble—"retired" old-timers, family members and relatives, old friends and undaunted youngsters, too. Black Panthers, AIMsters, feminists, Vietnam-era activists and even those who lived through the McCarthy era are providing wisdom and camaraderie when, at one time, there was little connection. Some are organizing and taking off work to do grand jury roadshows, high school buddies and families are educating themselves and flying across the country to attend court hearings, food donations and an outpouring of support are being offered to affected families, proactive media collectives are forming, lawyers are volunteering their time,

and environmental groups are being recruited for support. One thing the FBI will never have is the outpouring of volunteer energy that comes with being part of a popular movement that is under attack.

As you all have probably heard, the FBI has come to town and made a few arrests. If you live in Eugene like I do, you have heard that the FBI has been in town for many years now and that they are now *going to town* in an unfettered fashion! And, boy howdy, are they doing well for themselves! They've got a pyromaniac heroin addict who thinks it's cool to dress up in body wires and go reminisce with (read: entrap) his old "friends," many of whom didn't even know who he was. (Jake Ferguson is his name, and, despite admitting to participation in most of the arsons, he remains free and without any charges against

The FBI's attack on the environmental movement has done more for creating community and organizing resistance to government oppression than we were seemingly capable of doing ourselves.

him.) They've got a dead defendant and 11 live ones (15 if you count the ones they don't have), and the feds keep saying there are more to come. They've got subpoenas served and grand juries convened in Oregon, Washington, California, Colorado, and maybe Wyoming and Nevada soon. And, much to their utter joy

and ecstasy, they've got people tripping over each other to sing. They've got this snitch in this jail and that snitch in that jail, juggling to keep them apart and costs down. They've got site visits and fruitless digging (literally) for evidence. I'll bet this is the most fun the FBI has had in years. I'll bet they are yucking it up over there at the FBI water cooler. And they are laughing at us, watching to see what happens next.

The once-untouchable Earth Liberation Front (ELF)—so covert in what it did (does) that the FBI had *no leads* on the most notorious acts of politically motivated sabotage the country has seen since Sam Lovejoy and the Plowshares—has, at least in the media, been reduced to he said, she said. Now, after all the post-9/11 hearings, the FBI ain't looking so good, but let me tell you, once upon a time this outfit had some respect in this country, some teeth and some muscle. So it is not the FBI at their best that is claiming to have beaten the ELF, and it is a shame to have them laughing at us instead of the other way around.

So what to do? Well, after doing everything we can to help our indicted friends, we need to make sure that this *never* happens again. I'm not sure where we went wrong, but somewhere along the way someone forgot to tell someones *not to talk to the police*. That message seems to have gotten lost, and this is not good.

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How to fix it? Well, the answer is one word: Community. I know many of you were hoping for me to say something rad like, "Snitches get stitches!" Sounds cool, but it just ain't practical. If we were in the Irish Republican Army or the French Underground, we might be able to have some solidarity against the coppers and violently enforce a "don't talk" rule. But, that ain't us. Not only are we not that tight of a community, having grown up in different places and being a bit on the diverse side, but we also ain't the violent types—despite what the feds are saying. We aren't the ones who beat people up; we get beat up. We don't kill people; we get killed. Never forget Judi Bari, the car bombing and the millions of dollars the FBI had to pay. Why hasn't that violent crime by unknown assailants ever been solved? Not politically convenient maybe?

So, that brings us back to community. Community is how you stop snitches. If someone knows they have a community to support them while they are awaiting trial or serving their sentence, and that it will be there for them when they get out, they are much less likely to inform on others. If we turn our backs on them or vilify them, then what motivation do they have to resist?

Many of the defendants are cooperating with the feds. Some talked right away, others had to be coerced. They span the whole spectrum, from Stan squealing like a pig and begging for mercy (read: admitting guilt for himself and others) within hours of being taken into custody, to those who just admitted their own roles right away, to those who held out for months until more than half a dozen others squealed on them, and they were left with few options. I can understand some of their decisions, but we will not know who said what exactly and who gave up whom until the trial. I would suggest people not judge them too harshly until we have all of the facts.

The old adage goes something like, "If you do the crime, be prepared to do the time." Well, if when you commit a crime, you're thinking, "Well, even if I get caught, what am I facing, five to eight?" And then when you do get accused of the crime, you're facing life plus 335 years! Well... they certainly have changed the rules on us, and I don't think any of us on the outside can judge what is going on in those interrogation rooms.

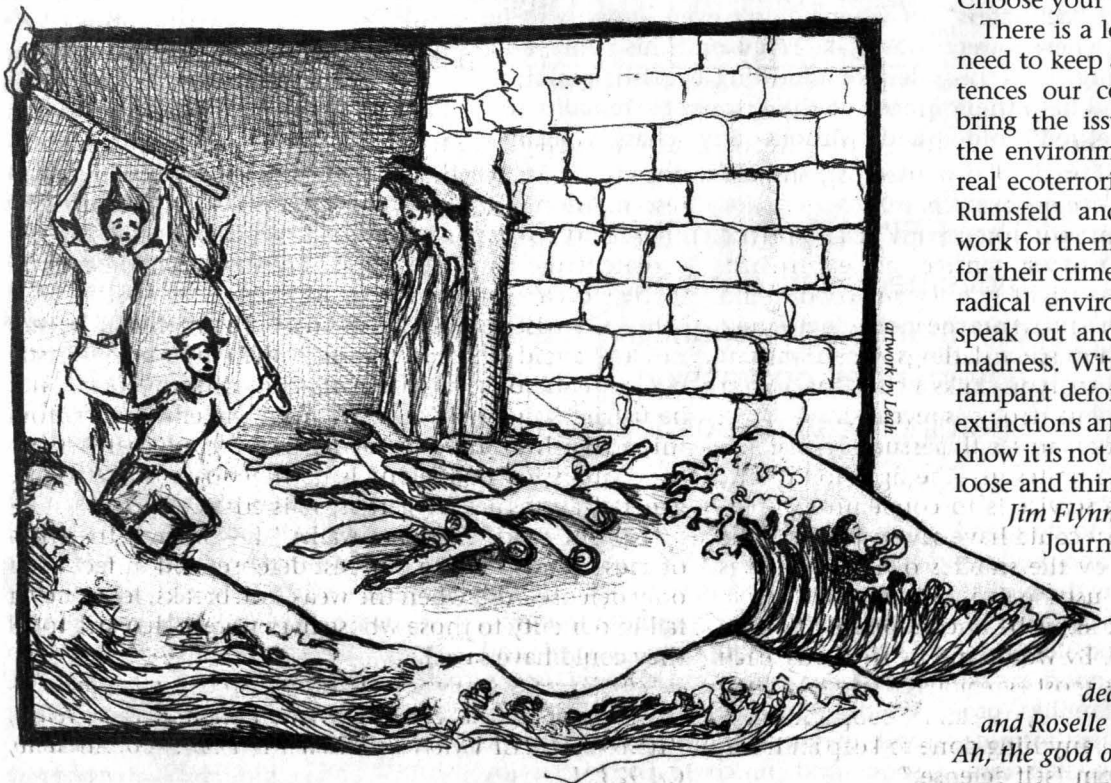
We do know that the feds had next to nothing until they knocked over the first domino, then more began to fall. If Stan had kept *his* mouth shut, this would all probably have ended

with one pyromaniac heroin addict trying to sell his story to the FBI for some more dope money and them telling him to bugger off.

Regardless of the guilt or innocence of those charged, there are some important lessons that we can learn from everything. I know this is going to sound really obvious in retrospect, but it must be said: Just cause someone commits a felony with you and, therefore, could be busted as well, does not mean that they won't talk about it to someone in a bar some day or go straight to the feds if they get desperate. So choose your partners very wisely. Think long-term. How well do you really know this person? Where do you think their head will be at in 10 years? Does this person that you are considering committing a felony with have obvious weaknesses like a drug addiction, a dim bulb, a respectable job/career, a spouse or children? (No overt offense to the breeders among us, but the feds exploit family ties. So it has to be considered a "weakness" here in terms of something that can be used as leverage against you.) Is this person a happy, productive, long-term member of your community? Apart from your local community, is this person a member of the Movement? Do they share our biocentric philosophy or are they just interested in fucking shit up? Choose your "friends" wisely.

There is a lot of work to do, and we need to keep at it. Decry the huge sentences our comrades are facing, but bring the issue back to the state of the environment. Sooner or later the real ecoterrorists (the Bushes, Cheney, Rumsfeld and the corporations that work for them) must be brought to task for their crimes. It remains up to us, the radical environmental movement, to speak out and take action to stop the madness. With global climate change, rampant deforestation, massive species extinctions and toxics all around us, we know it is not long before all hell breaks loose and things get really messy.

Jim Flynn was a member of the EF! Journal editorial collective last century when all they had to worry about was being associated with the Unabomber, death threats from loggers, and Roselle smoking pot in the office. Ah, the good ol' days!



The Enemy Within

BY PETER YOUNG

Security's weakest link is not the forensic threat of a hair left on the laboratory floor, nor is it the technological threat of a wiretap. Security's weakest link is the human element. And the weak links have arrived.

Josh Ellerman. Roger Troen. Geoff Kearns. Justin Samuel. Billy Cottrell. Jacob Sherman. Stanislas Meyerhoff. Kevin Tubbs. Jacob Ferguson.... The enemies we must work around are those with badges. The enemies we must fear are those among us—the enemies within.

On August 28, 2000, my co-defendant, Justin Samuel, entered the grand jury room and implicated me in six major felonies that could have earned me more than 10 years in prison. For this assault, his punishment was the open arms of many animal liberationists, complemented by the silence of nearly all. As a case study, it speaks volumes: a column about Samuel in an established activist publication calling for forgiveness, movement elders giving him sanctuary, widespread repetition by activists of lines like "he didn't tell them anything they didn't already know" and even updates on Samuel's legal situation from the former Animal Liberation Front Press Office. As the directly affected party, I remained on the FBI wanted list, and the movement erred on the side of harmony.

Before we take collective comfort in any self-perceived hard stance on informants, first consider my experience. Consider with whom you might side if your good friend were to inform on another, and where the movement would stand if one of its high-status scene darlings were to inform on you. In times of peace, everyone talks a hard line. It is in times of conflict that our true resolve is revealed.

Our most grievous error is to see this issue as somehow separate from that which unites us—the fight for all life. To take one from active service is to condemn to obliteration and death all they could have saved, just as if the slaughter were brought by the snitch's own hand. Lives are on the line, and not just the lives of humans.

For the sake of clarity, let us be uncomfortably honest: to snitch is to take a life. By words and by weapons, each day lives are taken in the most egregious of crimes. When this happens in the courtroom, we call it "cooperation." I call it violence, and I call anything done to keep an informant out of the courtroom "self defense."

"Let's not squander our energy on those who have turned," I have heard said. But is there any greater energy drain than cleaning up the mess left by snitches and their apologists?

The small perk to the snitches' recipe of vitriol and betrayal is that in the wake of their deeds, the cooperators of the future are revealed. We excuse those whom we identify with and behavior that we can imagine from ourselves. As the Green Scare case unfolds, watch closely those apologists for the cooperating parties. Then read between the lines.

If only I could say there was a fix for the damage done post-deed. That when the weak link breaks, there is such a thing as damage control. But talking is a one-way door. Our only hope comes at the front end—through education, observation and intolerance.

The forsaking of the most sacred of vows, to remain solid in the interrogation room in defense of something much higher than ourselves, has as its origin one thing: the fear of prison.

Thus, snitching prevention comes in these forms: Research federal sentencing guidelines to understand the range one faces in advance. Collectively demystify prison—the fantasy is often worse than the reality, and it is the fantasy that induces the crime of collaboration.

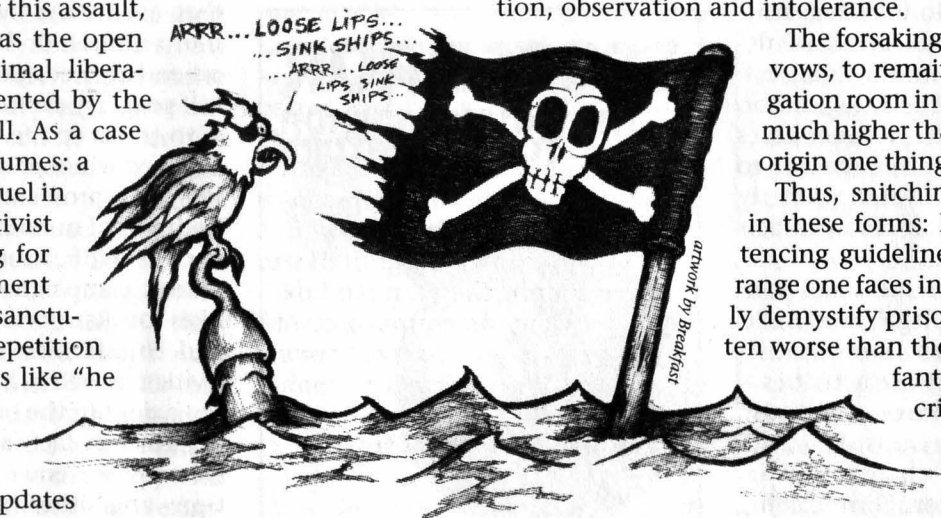
Work alone when possible. Give immediate attention and assistance to

anyone subpoenaed to a grand jury. As a movement, teach not just tactics but the fortitude needed to move from arrest to prison unbroken. And never allow an informant re-entry into our ranks—this sends a message that breeds a climate fertile for collaborators. The costs of harmony and forgiveness are more indictments and stolen lives.

It is the wise saboteur who knows the high-risk categories and avoids them: drug users, the emotionally unstable, snitch apologists, braggarts and others who will not be tagged "high-risk" here, to avert violent uproar from this readership. Suffice it to say, entering into partnership for commission of a felony is no time to be polite. While generalizations are dangerous, so is crime....

"No one talks, everyone walks." In the end, the truth of these words may be our best defense, and in fact—our only defense. And when the weak link breaks, let us never fail in our duty to those whose lives were stolen and to all they could have saved.

Peter Young is serving two years for releasing mink and foxes from six different fur farms. Write to him at Peter Young, #10269-111, FCI Victorville Medium II, POB 5700, Adelanto, CA 92301.



Protection of Wealth or Protection of People?

— Biodiversity Ain't Even on the Radar Screen —

BY KAREN PICKETT

When the FBI announced in 2004 that the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) was its number one priority for domestic terrorism, it was clear the government would ultimately produce warm bodies to shore up this illogical prioritization. A difference between the current criminalization of dissent and past COINTELPRO operations is revealed in the drive to put property damage on par with injury to life.

Galloping in to help the FBI is the business lobby, represented by groups like the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a conservative public policy lobbying organization funded by more than 300 corporations. ALEC, in collaboration with the US Sportsman's Alliance, has written model legislation upping the ante for action taken against corporations in the business of development, logging, mining and vivisection. Thanks to ALEC, legislation has been introduced in nine states in the last couple of years seeking to brand politically motivated property destruction, trespass or arson as acts of domestic terrorism.

Of course, arson, trespass and vandalism are already illegal, but ALEC wants to add codified layers so that those who support those activities—financially or otherwise—could also be prosecuted. The terrorist label, addition of conspiracy charges and aggressive public relations surrounding the grand jury indictments (like the Washington, DC press conference with Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and FBI Director Robert Mueller on January 20) are meant to marginalize and vilify people already facing criminal charges and to enhance sentencing options. This effectively denies the accused their right to a presumption of innocence until a trial, thanks to the Bush-crafted culture of fear.

Branding property destruction as terrorism rather than sabotage heightens the sensationalism surrounding this politically charged situation, and it is designed to send potential support running in the opposite direction. The authorities even call those arrested "The Family" in an undisguised attempt to evoke images of the notorious Manson Family. But the Manson Family were cold-blooded murderers. There's no body count or bloodletting connected with the alleged ELF actions. Yet those actions are called "terrorism" even as violent attacks by right-wing militants have gone unprosecuted—7,400 hate crimes motivated by race, ethnic, religious or sexual orientation, according to the FBI's own 2003 statistics. The National Abortion Rights

Organization cites seven murders, 17 attempted murders, 41 bombings, 100 acid attacks and 655 anthrax threats, in addition to literally thousands of incidents of kidnapping, burglary and stalking over the last 25 years. And burning SUV tires and a horse corral is terrorism? "You betcha," say ALEC and the FBI because it's corporate property—sacrosanct in the capitalist US.

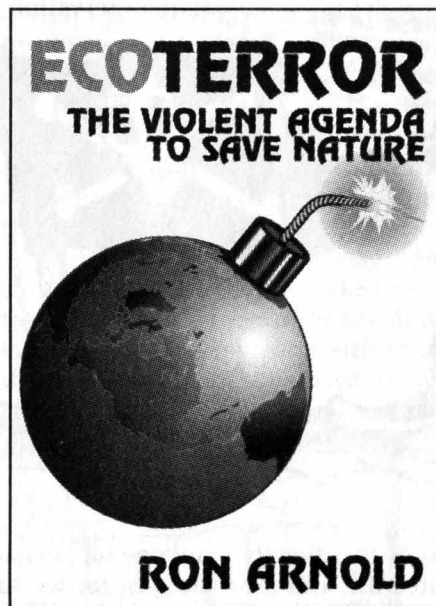
Criminalization of dissent has long been within the purview of the FBI, but the agenda flying under the radar screen is the protection of wealth and private property. ALEC would put damage to property on par with threat or actual harm to life. Nowhere in the FBI's demonization of these acts it calls "terrorism" is a body count or even a litany of injuries. The "injury" is defined in millions of dollars lost by corporations that are in the business of building multi-million-dollar developments on endangered species habitat.

If property destruction is put on par with threat to life, the question must be asked whether the next step will be increased prosecution for the revered tradition of nonviolent civil disobedience or vilification of the successful market campaigns carried out by the likes of Rainforest Action Network and ForestEthics. After all, those activities, as well as boycotts and strikes, put a dent in the bottom line of profit margins. In fact, attacks disguised as Internal Revenue Service investigations and other back-door strategies are already on the rise against organizations that carry out civil disobedience and market campaigns.

A bill before the governor of Pennsylvania right now makes terrorists out of those arrested for civil disobedience and increases penalties for actions that interfere with resource extraction, agricultural research or animal experimentation. A similar bill is under consideration in Maine's state legislature.

"Ecoterrorism," a term trumpeted in the media, was invented in the early 1990s by the public relations firm Hill and Knowlton, while employed by corporations in the extractive industries. It was then put into popular use by right-wing ideologues like Ron Arnold, long known as a vehement anti-environmentalist whose self-professed goal is to destroy the environmental movement. Property destruction is sabotage, not terrorism. Dump "ecoterrorism" from the vernacular. Ecological terrorism is perpetrated by the likes of ExxonMobil, Monsanto, Louisiana-Pacific and Union Carbide. Seize the moment. Seize the language.

Karen Pickett is the director of the Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters. She has been an EF! activist since the early 1980s.



Right-wing ideologue Ron Arnold is credited with popularizing the "ecoterrorism" label.

Rod Coronado Arrested for Speaking Freely

BY JEFF DAVIS

On February 22, noted activist Rod Coronado was arrested in Tucson, Arizona, and his home was raided by the FBI, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Pima County Sheriff's Department. The sole charge was "Distribution of Information Relating to Explosives, Destructive Devices and Weapons of Mass Destruction," which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine. This statute was enacted in 1997, and its constitutionality has never been tested in the courts. In the past, the federal government has used this statute to threaten activists with long prison sentences in order to get them to plead guilty in exchange for a lesser sentence (see *EF!* November-December 2005).

According to the Department of Justice, this charge stems from a public talk that Rod gave in San Diego, California, on August 1, 2003. Apparently, Rod answered a question about his participation in an Animal Liberation Front arson that happened in Michigan more than a decade ago. Rod was convicted for his role in that arson and spent four years in prison as a result (see *EF!* March-April 1995).

On March 3, Judge David Pyle released Rod on \$2,000 bail. Rod had only a couple of days to get ready for his first court appearance in San Diego. On March 6, Judge Jeffrey Miller ordered that Rod return on March 23 to hear further arguments from the prosecutors about why he should be detained.

Rod's March 23 appearance went pretty much as expected. The prosecution wanted him to be held until trial, claiming that Rod is a "danger to the community" and a "flight risk." The judge asked why agents waited

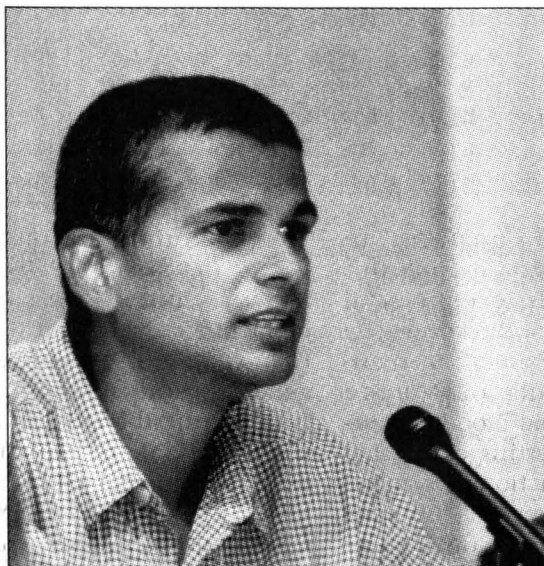
two-and-a-half years after Rod's speech to arrest him if he was such a danger. The prosecution didn't respond to the judge's question. In the end, Rod's bail was raised to \$50,000, and he was told he could only travel within Arizona and California.

With all of this, Rod still has to contend with two other trials in Arizona. In December, Rod and Matt Crozier were found guilty on three federal charges for their roles in sabbing the Sabino Canyon mountain lion hunt (see *EF!* March-April 2006). At this time, their sentencing hearing has been postponed until June. It is expected that Rod will receive a six- to 18-month sentence.

Arizona filed state charges relating to the same incident in November, and Rod is waiting to hear when the first hearing in this case will be.

Rod has a lot of support in Tucson, San Diego and elsewhere. His friends in Tucson have set up a website to spread awareness and to raise funds to help support Rod and his family through this difficult time.

For more information, contact the Rod Coronado Support Group, POB 732, Tucson, AZ 85702; www.supportrod.org.



Rod Coronado is a frequent lecturer on issues of Earth and animal liberation.

BARE BONES

Canada Ups Seal Quota

The Canadian government announced in March that it would allow the slaughter of 335,000 harp seals this Spring (see *EF!* July-August 2005). This increase in the hunt's quota came despite warnings from conservation groups of record low numbers of harp seal pups in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

With sea temperatures significantly above average, ice conditions in the Gulf region this year were the worst in recorded history. Thousands of seal pups, unable to swim for the first four weeks of their lives, likely drowned due to the lack of substantial sea ice.

Activists have decried the Canadian government's decision to let the slaughter continue and fear that this year's hunt may have grave implications for the future of harp seal populations in the North Atlantic.

"Given that seals reach breeding age at about five to six years old, it could be too late to intervene by the time the impacts of current hunting levels are understood," according to conservation biologist Stephen Harris.

Coyote Hunt Goes Airborne

In response to ranchers' complaints of coyotes attacking cattle in southern Arizona, the federal government took to the air this past January, killing 200 coyotes. The hunt was conducted by Wildlife Services, a division of the US Department of Agriculture, and took place on both public and private land. The public was given no advance notice about the hunt.

"There was no public awareness and no public alert, even though the Coronado National Forest is known as a recreational use area," said Matt Skroch, executive director of the Sky Island Alliance.

Wildlife Services continues to argue that there was no need to inform the public since the aerial hunt—costing \$200 an hour—was paid for entirely by ranchers.

The "Case" Against Rod Coronado

A Legal Memo on the Green Scare

BY BEN ROSENFELD

The federal government has been salivating to put Rod Coronado back in prison since he got out in 1999 and later refused to repent for his role in a 1992 arson at a Michigan State University animal research lab. Federal officials have publicly branded Coronado as a leader of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), even though the ALF is apparently non-hierarchical. However, he has been an unabashed advocate of property destruction in defense of animals, and the new charge against him—for delivering a speech three years ago in which he explained how the incendiary devices used in the Michigan arson were made—is a flimsy pretext to punish him for his radical views.

The government's targeting of Coronado is part of a broader witch hunt against radical environmentalists and self-identified "green anarchists"—those who merge ecology, animal rights and anarchism into a vision of freedom and sustainability for all living beings. After Coronado's arrest, US Attorney Carol Lam stated

in an official press release, pre-judging the case for the public: "Teaching people how to build explosives in order to commit violent crimes is unacceptable in civilized society. There is no excuse for it." And so, through sophistry and syllogism, the government has transformed speech into violence.

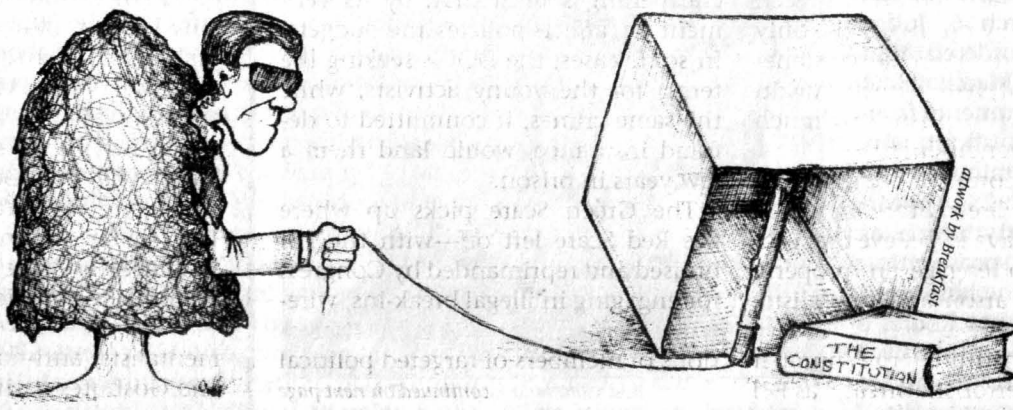
On December 13, Coronado was convicted in Arizona for peacefully attempting to disrupt a US Forest Service mountain lion hunt (see *EF!* March-April 2006). After Coronado's conviction, Assistant US Attorney Wallace Kleindienst told reporters that Coronado is "a danger to the community.... I know he wasn't tried here for being a violent anarchist. This trial wasn't about Rod Coronado being a terrorist, but he is one." Kleindienst thus revealed the government's two ulterior motives for going after Coronado: One, it has a vendetta against him personally, and two, it has quietly embarked on yet another war against an abstract concept—anarchism.

The new case against Coronado is as stark an attack on free speech as this country has ever seen. Measured

against any historic test of free expression, Coronado's behavior—that is, his speech—was alarmingly protected and *uncriminal*.

On July 30, 2003, persons unknown torched an apartment complex under construction in San Diego, California, causing millions of dollars in damage. The day afterward, Coronado flew to San Diego to lecture at a previously scheduled event. In response to a question from an audience member, Coronado—who has been a public figure on the environmental lecture circuit since his release from prison—demonstrated how someone had constructed a non-explosive, incendiary device out of a plastic jug filled with gasoline to commit the Michigan arson for which he did his time. The government does not suspect, and has not accused, Coronado of any involvement in the fire set the day before his speech.

The Supreme Court has carved out three famous exceptions to free speech: the "fighting words" exception (*Chaplinsky vs. New Hampshire*), the obscenity exception (*Miller vs. California*), and the "clear and present danger" exception



(*Brandenburg vs. Ohio*). However, each exception is extremely limited. As Justice William Brandeis eloquently wrote in 1927: "Fear of serious injury cannot alone justify suppression of free speech.... It is the function of speech to free men from the bondage of irrational fears.... No danger flowing from speech can be deemed clear and present, unless the incidence of the evil apprehended is so imminent that it may befall before there is opportunity for full discussion.... The remedy to be applied is more speech, not enforced silence."

But playing "gotcha," the government has charged Coronado under an obscure, anti-First Amendment law that makes it "unlawful for any person to teach or demonstrate the making or use of an explosive, a destructive device or a weapon of mass destruction... with the intent that it be used for, or in furtherance of, an activity that constitutes a federal crime of violence." This law has yet to be challenged on constitutional grounds.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) reportedly has used this law only four times—twice now against dissidents. In 2003, Sherman Austin, the then-20-year-old founder of the anarchist website www.raisethefist.com, pleaded guilty to it in order to avoid a possible 20-year sentence just for hosting and linking to another website on his server, which provided crude, *Anarchist Cookbook*-style information on bomb-making (see *EF!* November-December 2005). The same information is widely available elsewhere. Austin otherwise had nothing to do with the site he linked to. But according to the government's theory of the case, Austin's anarchist beliefs and the political content of his website furnished the requisite intent. Thus, the government substituted other speech for intent, thereby nullifying the only part of the statute that required something more than mere speech. Austin served one year in prison. So much for the First Amendment.

The arrest of Coronado occurs in the midst of a new Green Scare, in which the FBI would have us believe that eco-saboteurs—who engage in property crimes such as arson and vandalism, and studiously avoid causing injury to people—constitute "the number one domestic terrorism threat," as FBI

Deputy Assistant Director for Counterterrorism John Lewis told a Senate panel on May 18, 2005. Apparently, according to the FBI, the threat is greater than that posed by neo-Nazis, systemically brutal and racist police forces or Al-Qaeda.

Since then, the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Forces—multi-agency units operating out of every FBI field office—have mercilessly harassed numerous environmental and animal rights activists by conducting paramilitary-style raids on their homes; seizing computers, papers, photos and other personal belongings; subpoenaing scores of people to grand jury inquiries; engaging in electronic surveillance; dispatching informants to demonstrations; and even planting informants in people's homes.

In January, the DOJ unsealed a 65-count indictment against 11 alleged eco-saboteurs (the number has since grown to 15) accused in a series of arson committed under the banner of

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the Earth Liberation Front (ELF). Even though the ELF disavows violence and no one was hurt, the government has branded them terrorists, thereby cheapening a term that, by its very mention, affects policies and budgets. In some cases, the DOJ is seeking life terms for the young activists, while the same crimes, if committed to defraud insurance, would land them a few years in prison.

The Green Scare picks up where the Red Scare left off—with the FBI bruised and reprimanded by Congress for engaging in illegal break-ins, wiretaps, frame-ups and even assassinations of members of targeted political

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BARE BONES

Farm Struggle in Los Angeles Intensifies

South Central Farmers Feeding Families, the stewards of the 14-acre community garden site located in the heart of Los Angeles, California, were served with an eviction notice on March 1 (see *EF!* January-February 2006).

The notice from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office required that the site be abandoned within a week, yet the largely indigenous and Chicano farmers have not left and say they will not leave the ground that they have cultivated for 13 years.

Instead, the farmers began holding a 24-hour vigil at the site, maintaining a weekly presence outside City Hall and meeting with city representatives to work for a just resolution.

Activists around the world, from Canada to Zimbabwe, have embraced the South Central struggle.

Close to \$11 million has been raised to purchase the farm, and the farmers continue working to acquire the land and preserve it as the refuge of biodiversity, cultural diversity and ecological democracy that it has become.

Utah Wilderness Blocks Nuclear Dump

In January, the 2007 Defense Authorization Bill was signed into law, including in it a provision to create the Cedar Mountains Wilderness Area in northern Utah. This wilderness area blocks the planned route for a 30-mile-long railway that would deliver high-level radioactive waste to the Skull Valley Goshutes Indian Reservation. The radioactive waste dump may still go ahead, but it will now be much more costly and significantly delayed. The Cedar Mountains Wilderness Area was the brainchild of an unlikely coalition of local Republican congressmen, environmentalists, anti-nuclear activists and Goshutes natives.

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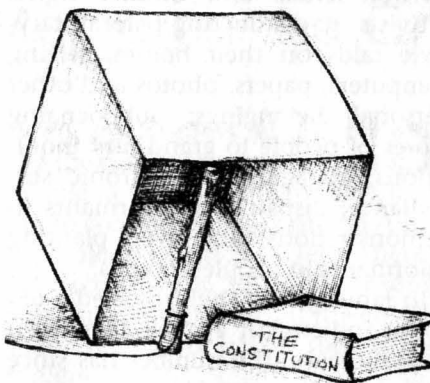
groups. Now, Congress is the enabler of such FBI dirty tricks, not so much legalizing them as laundering them through the passage of flagrantly unconstitutional laws like the USA PATRIOT Act—reauthorized by Democrats and Republicans alike—and the looming, retroactive legalization of the National Security Agency's illegal domestic spying program.

Both the Red Scare and the Green Scare fuel and are fueled by a hysterical hatred for a broad political philosophy—communism, and now anarchism—caricatured as a tangible threat casting its shadow over the land. Thus, anarchists—a diverse group of people from all walks of life, who generally agree that most government structures are repressive, that people shouldn't be greedy and that we should support one another—are reductively drawn as bomb-throwing lunatics. Massachusetts Institute of Technology Professor Noam Chomsky, who has lobbed many books at the public, is an anarchist. George Orwell was one too.

Also in January, with the arrest of three suspected eco-saboteurs in Auburn, California, the FBI revealed that it is investigating the "anarchist movement," *writ large*. Special Agent Nasson Walker disclosed in an affidavit that the FBI had embedded a paid informant with the suspects, recruited when she was only 18 or 19. The FBI had dressed her up as a medic and dispatched her to participate in numerous peaceful, large-scale protests. Needless to say, most if not all of the people she interacted with (politically organized with, treated medically and lived with) were not plotting crimes of violence or sabotage. Yet the FBI can claim—with a whiff of legitimacy, even—that it has the right to engage in such intimate espionage and drag-net-style policing because ex-General John Ashcroft relaxed the Attorney General Guidelines to permit widespread snooping. Originally created to protect the public from repressive tactics after the exposure in 1971 of its COINTELPRO operations, the guidelines now permit the FBI "to go anywhere the public can go" in Ashcroft's words, without any foundation of suspicion that a crime is afoot. Undoubtedly, the FBI did not

blow "Anna" the informant's cover without leaving other agents in the field... and in political meetings, in decision-making positions in groups and in people's homes.

Agent Walker's affidavit is further revealing of the FBI's backslide into politically motivated investigations. It references "anarchist" or "anarchism" 26 times in its mere 14 pages. In it,



Standing up for people's rights of free expression, whether one agrees or disagrees with the message, is fundamental to a free society.

the FBI seems obsessed with the anarchist "lifestyle," anarchist literature and anarchist gatherings. These invocations of dread anarchism add nothing to the scales of probable cause. It is elemental that a person is not guilty by association to an unpopular (or popular) cause. But as a public relations move—in seeking more constitutionally suspect laws, higher bails, more warrants, longer sentences and a bigger chilling effect on progressive activists—the government's projection of a giant anarchist menace is highly effective.

On January 13, the FBI's David Picard plainly admitted on network television that the FBI is again investigating an entire ideology as if it constitutes a domestic security threat.

"One of our major domestic terrorism programs is the ALF, ELF and anarchist movement," he said. "And it's a national program for the FBI." Then, on March 9, FBI Agent G. Charles Rasner revealed at a speech in Texas that Food Not Bombs, Indymedia and "anarchists" are on an FBI "terrorist watch list."

Against this backdrop, it is clear that Arizona Assistant US Attorney Kleindienst, who labeled Rod Coronado a "violent anarchist," was not just spouting personal invective. He was reading from the official program.


Standing up for people's rights of free expression, whether one agrees or disagrees with the message, is fundamental to a free society. As Chomsky put it in *Manufacturing Consent*, "If you believe in free speech, then you defend speech that offends you, because to only defend speech that you agree with is a function of the commissars of Soviet Russia and Nazi Germany."

To convict Rod Coronado, prosecutors will have to prove that his demonstration created a "clear and present danger" that it would be used toward violent ends, and that he intended as much. In a rational setting, this should not be easy. Coronado's audience probably was not comprised of glazed-over Manchurian candidates, determined to and capable of going out and making violent revolution—if ever such a group existed. Moreover, the construction of an incendiary device from readily available materials, such as a plastic jug and gasoline, hardly constitutes an arcane science. If the term "destructive device" includes items so simple to construct, it might turn out to be too vague to satisfy constitutional due-process standards.

What we know for sure is what the government has already told us: This trial isn't about Rod Coronado being a terrorist. The other thing we know for sure is that while *real* environmental terrorism goes unabated, forests recede, species go extinct, ice caps melt, and the sea levels continue to rise.

Ben Rosenfeld is a civil rights lawyer in San Francisco, California, and a board member of the Civil Liberties Defense Center in Eugene, Oregon. He was one of the members of Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney's legal team.

Pacific Lumber



Sues to Quell Protest

March 17 marked the end of a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP) brought by the Pacific Lumber (PL) logging corporation against forest defenders Kim Starr, Jonathan Laine and Kimberly Odom. The jury ruled 10 to two in favor of the plaintiffs, sticking the defendants with \$2,975 in punitive damages—\$1,975 for the Scotia Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) and \$1,000 for PL. SLAPP suits are a tactic used by industry—extractive industries in particular—to seek monetary damages from protesters in an attempt to overburden them with legal costs and other payments, thereby forcing them to back down.

"Further resistance is all the companies will get from me," announced Starr after the verdict, which she plans to appeal.

The SLAPP suit stemmed from an August 5, 2002 demonstration at PL headquarters in northern California. The protest brought attention to PL's logging in the Mattole River watershed, and it involved three protesters locking themselves to the inside of a car parked on the sidewalk in front of the PL office. The SVFD arrived and covered the car with tarps, cutting off ventilation to those inside on the hot Summer day. The county sheriffs then cut off the top of the vehicle to remove the protesters from their lockboxes.

In court, three PL witnesses claimed that they were afraid of a possible "ecoterrorist attack" because they saw "smoke, steam and liquid" pouring

out from under the car's hood. Two of the three witnesses testified that the protest was intimidating and that they were scared to go near the lockdown. However, video footage presented by the defense clearly showed those same

"Further resistance is all the companies will get from me," announced Starr after the verdict.

witnesses talking with protesters at the lockdown and exhibiting no signs of fear. Additionally, the defense footage gave no indication of any smoke, steam or liquid coming from the car. Prosecution witnesses amended some of their testimony after reviewing the footage in cross-examination. Regardless of the video proof and the amended witness testimony, PL has continued to use variations on "terrorist" in its media campaigns since the trial.

There are currently two other PL SLAPP suits pending. One is for forest protests that took place in the Mattole in 2001. The other is for treesit removals performed by Eric Schatz and his employees while under contract by PL in March 2003 in the Freshwater watershed.

Since 1987, PL and its parent company Maxxam have filed at least six SLAPP suits against critics of their liquidation logging practices.

BARE BONES

Oil Industry vs. Alaska

Alaskan officials announced in early March that more than 200,000 gallons of crude oil had leaked out of a pipeline at Prudhoe Bay, causing the largest oil spill to date on the state's North Slope. The spill, which went undetected for several days, covered almost two acres of Alaskan tundra. The environmental impact of the accident is currently unknown.

This oil spill came only two months after the Bush administration opened up the entire Teshekpuk Lake Special Area to oil and gas exploration, as well as for drilling. The 4.6-million-acre area is located immediately west of the Prudhoe Bay oil fields and provides vital habitat for migratory birds, caribou and other wildlife.

According to Stan Senner, executive director of Audubon Alaska, "This plan is utterly unbalanced: Even the Reagan administration protected the waterfowl habitat around Teshekpuk Lake because of its world-class ecological and cultural value."

Tropical Forests Encourage Biodiversity Says Study

In January, a study published in *Science* showed that nature encourages biodiversity by favoring the growth of less common trees in tropical forests. More than 30 ecologists from 12 countries studied seven undisturbed tropical forest plots. Each forest was unique, ranging from dense rainforests to more open, arid forests.

The scientists agreed that rare trees may have an advantage in these forests because they are less susceptible to animals, fungi and micro-organisms that prey on more common trees. Additionally, the uncommon trees do not have the same resource needs as the more common ones. Trees in monoculture forests are increasingly vulnerable to disease and predators, and they must also compete with one another for resources.

Green is the New Red

How the Government Landed a Terrorism Conviction for Nonviolent Animal Activists

BY WILL POTTER

In the 1940s and '50s, labeling people "Communist" could drag them before Senate hearings, place them on blacklists and ruin their lives. During the Red Scare, proof of spying for a foreign power rarely mattered. Instead, Senator Joseph McCarthy and others paralyzed an entire political movement by demonizing anyone who had any connection to the Communist Party, either ideologically or personally. The Red Scare was less about evidence than public relations.

Now, Green is the new Red.

On March 2, six activists were convicted on various animal enterprise terrorism charges for campaigning to shut down a vivisection lab. Andrew Stepanian and Darius Fullmer were both convicted on one charge—conspiracy to violate the Animal Enterprise Protection Act (AEPA). Each faces up to three years in prison. Joshua Harper was convicted on two counts—conspiracy to violate the AEPA and conspiracy to harass using a telecommunications device. He faces up to four years in prison. Jacob Conroy, Lauren Gazzola and Kevin Jonas were convicted on six counts, including conspiracy to violate the AEPA. They face up to 10 years in prison each. On June 7, they will be sentenced. All six individuals are planning to appeal the conviction.

Their crime? Running a website, which was shut down following the verdict. They posted news about the campaign—legal actions like protests and illegal ones like liberating animals from labs—and unabashedly supported all of it. Since the feds haven't been able to catch the saboteurs, they're cracking down on those in the spotlight. Think red-baiting, with a green twist. It's a sign of what has become the most frightening new front in the War on Terror: guilt by ideological association.

These activists work with Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC), the seventh defendant in the case and an international organization with the sole purpose of closing Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). HLS has labs in New Jersey and England, and five undercover investigations have shown workers punching beagle puppies in the face, dissecting live monkeys and falsifying scientific data.

SHAC has brought the multinational company to its knees, primarily through a Wall Street-level knowledge of how corporations operate. The SHAC website schooled activists in business savvy, with primers on investors, market makers, and pink sheets. It also listed home and work addresses for those associated with companies doing business with HLS, from banks on down to toilet paper suppliers.

Activists have taken to the streets, the phones and executives' homes with bullhorns, phone blockades and plenty of smart-ass, aggressive rhetoric. Illegal actions have taken

place as well, ranging from crude pranks to ominous threats. It all got posted on the SHAC website.

It's worked. The lab now teeters on the brink of economic collapse, after more than 160 companies—including Marsh Inc., UPS and FedEx—pulled out. HLS was dropped from the New York Stock Exchange in 2000 and delisted from the London Stock Exchange in 2001.

So how did the government do it? How was a landmark grassroots campaign turned into "terrorism?" The government took the "you're either with us or against us" rhetoric of the War on Terror—the same mentality as the Red Scare—and applied it to animal rights activists. If activists don't prove they are "with us" by condemning sabotage, then they are clearly "against us" and one with the "terrorists."

SHAC has never tried to be in the "with us" camp. News of illegal actions posted on the SHAC website came with tongue-in-cheek commentary (think Nelson from *The Simpsons* pointing and laughing). Posted actions included subscribing a CEO to pornography magazines, setting off stink bombs in corporate offices and paint-stripping cars. They were sometimes crude (calling a CEO's church and accusing him of fondling children) and often ominous (phrases like "we know where you live" appear in many communiqués).

SHAC put itself out on a limb by vigorously defending direct action, even as groups like the Humane Society of the US and the Sierra Club condemned underground groups to win political points. The FBI then started sawing at that limb.

Take the testimony of FBI Deputy Assistant Director John Lewis before a Senate committee last year. "SHAC's overriding goal is to put HLS out of business, by whatever means necessary—even by violent means," he said. "SHAC has used a variety of tactics... including bombings, death threats and vandalism."

A few breaths later, though, he said that "when these companies or individuals are threatened or attacked, it is not necessarily the work of SHAC itself. There may be overlap in membership in extremist movements." When illegal actions are claimed by independent organizations, it is "most likely an attempt by animal rights extremists to continue the SHAC campaign while appearing to distance themselves from the SHAC organization. However, while the SHAC organization attempts to portray itself merely as an information service or media outlet, it is closely aligned with these groups, as well as with the Animal Liberation Front." By "closely aligned," Lewis must have meant ideologically, because the defendants have never been accused of any of the actions they posted on their website.

The government indictment alleged that, by posting the articles, the defendants incited further illegal action and aimed to cause "physical disruption to the functioning of HLS, an animal enterprise, and intentionally damage and



Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty activists outside the New Jersey courthouse

cause the loss of property used by HLS."

The courts have consistently said that the First Amendment protects even the most inflammatory speech. The general threshold is the standard set in *Brandenburg vs. Ohio*: tough talk is fine unless it is likely to result in imminent, lawless action.

The SHAC website included a lot of posturing, but it didn't go as far as civil rights activist Charles Evers did in 1966 when he urged a Mississippi crowd to boycott white businesses with the words, "If we catch any of you going in any of them racist stores, we're gonna break your damn neck." The Supreme Court found that speech to be constitutionally protected.

Websites have limits, of course. In 2002, a federal appeals court ruled that the First Amendment did not protect a website called "The Nuremberg Files," which posted pictures of doctors who performed abortions and crossed off the names of three of them as they were killed. That's a far cry from SHAC posting a communiqué from "Pirates for Animal Liberation," claiming responsibility for sinking a yacht that belonged to a Bank of New York executive.

Those pirates are in murky water when it comes to questions of how much they were motivated by SHAC's website. They may have looked up an address on the site, or they may have used that old-fashioned listing of names and addresses: a phonebook.

Strategic Forecasting (Stratfor), a "global intelligence" company praised by *Fortune* for its research, explained it like this. There are three legs to the SHAC campaign: illegal activists (the smallest group), legal activists (with signs and bullhorns) and passive sympathizers (opposed to animal cruelty but not sure how to help). "Since there is no formal membership," Stratfor states, "the numbers are in no way fixed—anyone can wake up tomorrow, read about SHAC on the Internet and engage in an activity that might

that propels them directly into the first tier." True, SHAC may inspire illegal activity. But, notes Stratfor, so may the conviction. "Ultimately, the conviction of the SHAC 7 could serve to inspire more illegal activity, rather than less, and the trend could spread to involve larger numbers of groups and industries."

Animal rights activists won't be backing down and neither will big business. Corporations have been pushing the government to crack down on "ecoterrorists" since they lobbied to criminalize "animal enterprise terrorism" as part of the AEPA. The SHAC case has only whetted their appetites. Underground activists have claimed credit for more than 1,200 criminal incidents since 1990, according to the FBI, and there are 150 pending "ecoterror" investigations. As David Martosko of the Center for Consumer Freedom, an industry lobby group, said after the SHAC 7 conviction: "This is just the starting gun." Corporations will keep the pressure on lawmakers and the FBI to catch the saboteurs. And if the feds are either too lazy or too incompetent to score arrests of "ecoterrorists," they'll go after the next best thing: aboveground activists with the same goals and the guts to say so.

In this post-9/11 climate, evidence matters less than rhetoric and fear. The "War on Communism" operated under similar terms. If citizens didn't "name names," they were clearly "against us." Witch hunts will test the backbone of social movements, just as they did 60 years ago. It's up to activists to stand with the defendants, not because we're black-mask-wearing animal liberationists, but because we know that we could be the next Communists.

I mean, terrorists.

Will Potter is a reporter based in Washington, DC. He has written for *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *In These Times* and other publications. His writings on civil liberties and the War on Terror can be found at www.willpotter.com.

PAPUA *Rises Up* AGAINST GOLD MINING

BY SKYLER SIMMONS

More than 1,000 students have been forced into hiding in the mountains surrounding Jayapura, the capital of Indonesia's Papua province, following weeks of escalating protests that have led to several deaths. The students have been protesting abuses by New Orleans-based Freeport-McMoRan's gold mining operations in Papua. Freeport runs the largest open pit mine in the world on indigenous Papuan territory. The mine has been fiercely resisted throughout its 30 years of operation by the indigenous tribes who see little of the wealth produced there and who are being forced to live amongst its toxic tailings and runoff.

The first in a wave of anti-Freeport protests began at the entrance to the massive Grasberg mine on February 22. Approximately 500 Papuans, many armed with bows, arrows and



Protesters clash with police in Jakarta

handmade spears, blocked the mine entrance after five people digging through mine tailings were shot by security personnel the previous day. Those shot were part of a larger group of locals who attempt to make a living by gleaning flakes of gold from mining waste that the company dumps.

The mine was shut down for four days by both the blockade and by striking Papuans who work at the site. The protest, however, was not without

significant confrontations. Two security guards were injured in clashes, and a pipeline from the mine that dumps waste into a nearby river was sabotaged. Local residents commented that it was the first time that they had seen the river run clear in years.

In response to the mine company attacks, Benny Wenda, a Koteki tribal leader living in exile in England, issued a statement proclaiming, "The Freeport mining company already has the blood of my people on its hands. The company must take responsibility for all of the deaths and pain it has caused since 1967, and it must withdraw from our land."

These protests come on the heels of new evidence that Freeport paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to various Indonesian military generals to ensure that opposition was crushed. Since the Indonesian government took control of the island in 1963, nearly 100,000

Frontlines

Lockdown at British Airport Headquarters

On the morning of April 3, employees of the British Airport Authority (BAA) were greeted by protesters from the direct-action group Campaign Plane Stupid, who were locked down to the front door and stairway of BAA headquarters in Middlesex, England. Six protesters blocked the office's main entrance and unfurled a banner that said: "No to Airport Expansion." The lockdown lasted nearly two-and-a-half-hours before the activists were arrested for aggravated trespass.

This action was spurred by the BAA's plan to add a third runway to Heathrow Airport, which would cause 700 homes to be destroyed and increase air traffic from 475,000 to 700,000 flights per year (see *EF!* March-April 2006). It also marked the airport's 60th anniversary.

"In 60 years, Heathrow has grown from being a small, local airport into a climate-change factory. BAA's plan to expand the airport further puts it in the premier league of climate-change criminals. BAA can be assured, today's action is just the start of our direct-action campaign to stop airport expansion," announced Joss Garman of Campaign Plane Stupid.

Fur-Fashioned Hilton "Flour Bombed"

On February 14, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) used designer Julien McDonald's London Fashion Week as a staging ground for an anti-fur protest. Flour in hand, the protesters waited as hotel heiress, socialite and model Paris Hilton arrived, pelting her and McDonald with flour bombs. McDonald has previously been quoted as saying, "Fuck the animals."

PETA spokesperson Yvonne Taylor declared, "McDonald may have been able to ignore images of bloody skinned animals gasping for breath in the past, but hopefully a dash of flour will help him rise to the occasion and forsake fur once and for all."

ALF Targets Backers of Oxford Lab

In March, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) claimed responsibility for three attacks on cell-phone tower transmitters in England. Wiring on the towers was cut and the cooling systems wrecked. The towers are owned by Vodafone, which was targeted for its financial support of Oxford University. Oxford is currently planning to expand its research facility that participates in animal testing.

Papuans have been killed and countless more tortured in their struggle for independence and environmental justice.

Several days after villagers shut down the Grasberg mine, resistance to Freeport erupted once again. Hundreds of students chanting "Close Freeport!" clashed with police in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta. The protesters managed to break through police lines, smashing windows and furniture in the building that houses Freeport's Indonesian headquarters. Police soon gained the upper hand by deploying a water cannon and sending out snatch squads to make arrests. Several protesters were arrested, and it is feared that they are being tortured while in custody.

On March 16, a riot broke out in Jayapura when students took to the streets demanding that Freeport close its mine. Serious street fighting broke out when undercover police started shooting into the crowd with rubber bullets and live ammunition. In response, the crowd fought back with sticks and machetes, beating four police officers and one Indonesian intelligence officer to death.

It is believed that more than 20 students were shot, though a full casualty count has not yet been compiled. Now

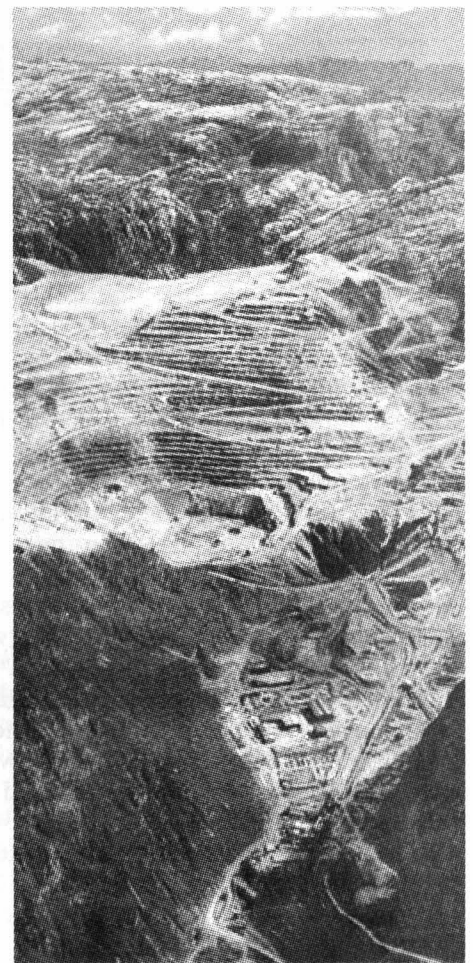
more than 1,000 students, many with serious injuries, are hiding in the forests around Jayapura, fearing violent reprisals from the Indonesian military and paramilitary groups. Local student association spokesperson Hans Magel said that the students are starting to go hungry and that many are in desperate need of medical care. "It's an emergency situation," he said from a cell phone while in hiding.

It does not appear that the opposition to Freeport's mining operations is subsiding. Just a week after violence broke out in Jayapura, a Freeport mining camp on the island of Sumbawa was torched by locals. In response, Freeport has temporarily suspended all extraction on the island.

EF!ers in the UK have been doing solidarity work with Papuans fighting Freeport-McMoRan's mining activities and other injustices in their homeland for several years now.

Let Freeport know what you think, contact Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc., 1615 Poydras St, New Orleans, LA 70112; (800) 535-7094.

Skyler Simmons hopes the next hurricane skips the lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans and heads straight for Freeport-McMoRan's headquarters.



Freeport-McMoRan's Grasberg Mine

Vodafone was one of nearly 100 donors to Oxford who received letters from the ALF warning them to cut ties with the university. The letter stated that unless funding ceases, the homes of directors and employees will be targeted and offices vandalized. Anti-vivisection campaigners have already forced a 16-month delay in construction.

Women Damage Eucalyptus Plantation

Two thousand rural workers from the international movement Via Campesino occupied land owned by the Aracruz Cellulose company in the south of Brazil for two hours on March 8. While there, the crowd of women destroyed the company's laboratory along with one million eucalyptus plants.

A Via Campesino representative stated that the occupation set out to denounce the environmental and social consequences of eucalyptus mono-cultivation. Via Campesino coordinates rural worker movements in the Americas, Asia, Africa and Europe.

The protest coincided with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's conference on agrarian reform in Porto Alegre, which hosted participants from around the world.

Aracruz is the world's largest producer of bleached eucalyptus pulp, which is used to manufacture paper products. It has

continued to expand its eucalyptus plantations by clearcutting the Tupinikim indigenous peoples' ancestral lands.

Pathetic Plan Procures Poop Pie

On March 11, Shelly Doak, director of animal industry for the Maine Department of Agriculture, and Dr. Don Hoenig, the state veterinarian, were pied by two protesters at the end of a meeting with farmers in Ellsworth, Maine. The meeting was held to discuss a controversial livestock-identification tracking plan.

Doak and Hoenig were targeted as a result of their support for legislation that would make both small and large-scale farmers tag all of their animals with microchip tracking devices. Opponents of the legislation have called it invasive, insulting and ineffective.

"This is for big money," Dan Huisjen of Brooksville, Maine, said of the proposed law. Looking around the room, he added, "And we don't have big money to put into this. These are the people that this is going to destroy."

The pies, which contained manure and wood shavings, were flung with enough force that the spray from hitting Doak and Hoenig also struck several of the attendees and splattered against the walls. No one was injured in the incident, and both pie-wielders escaped.

Save Happy Valley!

— Resisting Coal in New Zealand —

BY ASHER

On January 28, on the West Coast of Te Wai Pounamu (South Island) of Aotearoa (New Zealand), 75 people marched into a place called Happy Valley to begin the occupation of a proposed opencast coal mine site. The occupation, which continues today, is being organized by the Save Happy Valley Coalition (SHVC).

Happy Valley is a remote area relatively untouched by human "civilization." The valley itself is a unique sub-alpine, coal-measure wetlands that is home to 13 endangered species, including the giant carnivorous snail *Powelliphanta patrickensis*. Only 1,000 of these snails remain, almost all in areas that state-owned Solid Energy plans to mine. As part of its environmental "mitigation" plan, Solid Energy intends to capture, remove and relocate both snails and great spotted kiwi from the valley prior to mining. Kiwi, small flightless birds that serve as New Zealand's national icon, are significantly threatened and stand to lose pristine habitat if the mine proceeds.

In May 2005, Solid Energy completed the legal process required for the mine to move forward. Since then, SHVC has stepped up its activity, with new groups forming around the country to engage in awareness-raising and direct action.

SHVC utilizes creative action. In addition to several campouts at Happy Valley itself, the group has organized a treesit near Solid Energy's existing Stockton mine (next door to Happy Valley), dug up Solid Energy's front lawn while "looking for coal" at its headquarters in Christchurch and released 150 inflatable kiwi at a park in Wellington, where they were duly kicked around by Solid Energy "miners." In December, members of SHVC dressed as Father Christmas and his elves and presented Solid Energy with a load of coal.

Several higher profile actions have also taken place. In August, two SHVC members locked onto train tracks just outside the port of Lyttelton, from which coal is shipped overseas. A third person hung from a tree, 100 feet above the ground, with their support ropes attached to the tracks. This action stopped coal trains from reaching the port. The three were initially threatened with a reparation claim of

\$150,000 from Solid Energy, but the climate destroyers later withdrew the claim when faced with negative publicity. New Zealand uses virtually no coal for its own energy demands, with hydro-electricity and wind schemes meeting the vast majority of energy needs. The coal from Happy Valley would be exported to China for steel production.

In February, three SHVCers scaled the roof of Solid Energy's 50-foot-high headquarters in the middle of the night. Evading regular security checks and an unexpected visit from a cleaning person, they remained there overnight. The next morning, Solid Energy's staff asked the media present why they were filming the roof of the building. The answer soon became apparent as a large banner reading "Save Happy Valley! Stop Solid Energy!" was unfurled, followed by two rappelling protesters with a second banner suspended between them. Police ended up smashing through a barricaded rooftop door in order to remove them.

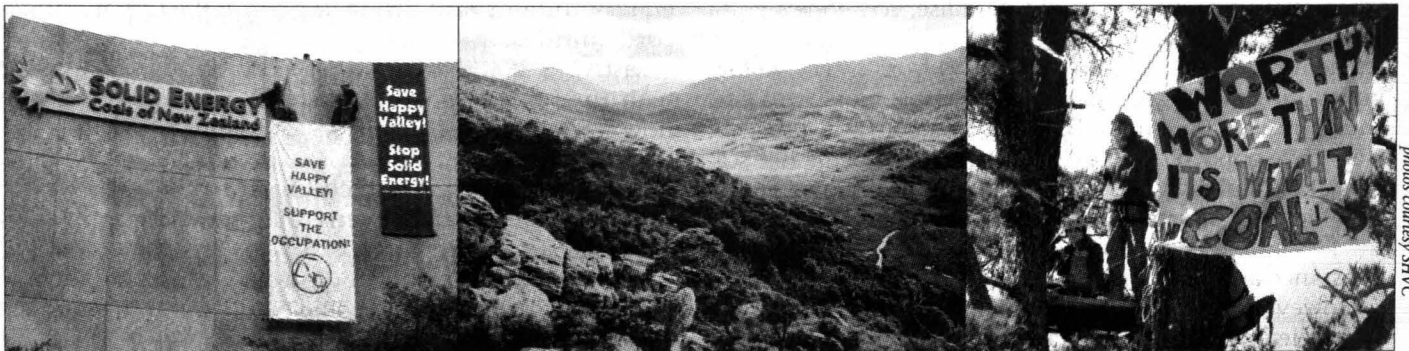
Much of SHVC's energy has gone to the occupation since it began in late January. Perched in one of the few rocky outcrops above the wetlands are a handful of tents and structures built from wood and tarps. So far, the weather has been fairly kind, but Winter will soon hit in full force. On the West Coast, that means incessant driving rain (sometimes non-stop for weeks), hail and snow. SHVC is steadily making a number of improvements to the camp to ensure that campers remain happy and healthy in the valley until the mine is stopped.

Early on in the occupation, security guards acting for Solid Energy made a number of appearances at the camp and elsewhere in the valley in a blatant attempt to intimidate campers. Two men in army-style fatigues and with high-tech electronic gear were once spotted on a ridge-line overlooking the campsite. The occupation continues, however, and SHVC is not going to let Solid Energy's thugish tactics deter us from saving this incredible place.

SHVC is continuing to plan, strategize and take action. Public support for our campaign is building, and we will win. Stop Solid Energy! Save Happy Valley!

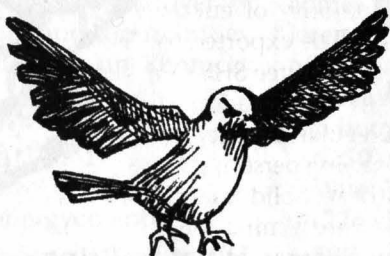
For more information, visit www.savehappyvalley.org.nz.

Asher is a Jewish anarchist from Aotearoa who likes seeing *Weka* (a native bird) in the clouds everywhere he goes. He is sick to death of being called a hippy.



photos courtesy SHVC

Earth First! Round River Rendezvous



Appalachia Rising July 3-10

BY KATÚAH EARTH FIRST!

In 1994, ya'll helped us take over the Watts Bar nuclear power plant construction site. In 2000, ya'll came back, and we occupied Al Gore's presidential campaign office in his home state. Well, it's 2006, and we're starting to get a little lonely down here in the mountains, so we thought we'd throw all of you fine folks a little party. That's right: Katúah Earth-First! (KEF!) is hosting the 26th annual Round River Rendezvous (RRR).

For those of you not familiar with the area, the Katúah bioregion is located in the heart of the southern Appalachian Mountains. Not only are these some of the oldest mountains in the world, they are also home to one of the most biologically diverse temperate forests on our planet. Everything from bobcats and bears to copperheads and flying squirrels live out their lives under a diverse canopy of oaks, tulip poplars, sourwoods, hemlocks and big-leaf magnolias. Running through every holler and valley are cool, clear streams that are filled with salamanders, crawdads and trout. If that's not enough for you, Katúah also holds some of the largest, most pristine wilderness areas on the East Coast.

Many of the folks who inhabit these mountains have lived here for generations and maintain a close connection to the land. They still depend on wild foods such as ramps, chicken of the woods, blackberries and wild game to supplement their diets. And there is still many an old-timer who heads out each Fall to dig ginseng, goldenseal and other medicinal roots.

But not everything is peachy in Katúah these days. Just when you think you've found paradise, someone's gotta shit on your doorstep.

The forests, having nearly recovered from intensive logging during the 1800s and early 1900s, were met with a new threat in the '90s: chipmills. These voracious consumers of trees have popped up all over southern Appalachia like scabies at a Rainbow Gathering, greatly intensifying the rate at which our southeastern forests are being logged. This new wave of industrial logging has been met with stiff resistance and direct action by KEF!

However, one of the worst threats to the area goes beyond clearcuts. The corporations and their lackeys have

begun to blast the entire tops off of our mountains to get their greedy hands on the thin seams of coal beneath the surface. Through this process, known as mountaintop removal (MTR), we have seen hundreds of square miles of our lush mountains blasted into flattened moonscapes—the biological equivalent of a parking lot. On top of this, more than 1,000 miles of our life-giving streams have been buried by mining “overburden” (i.e., the remnants of a mountaintop after blasting), not to mention the miles of stream rendered uninhabitable by toxic mine runoff. To put it bluntly, MTR is the “final solution” for the mountains we call home. Trees can grow back, mountains cannot.

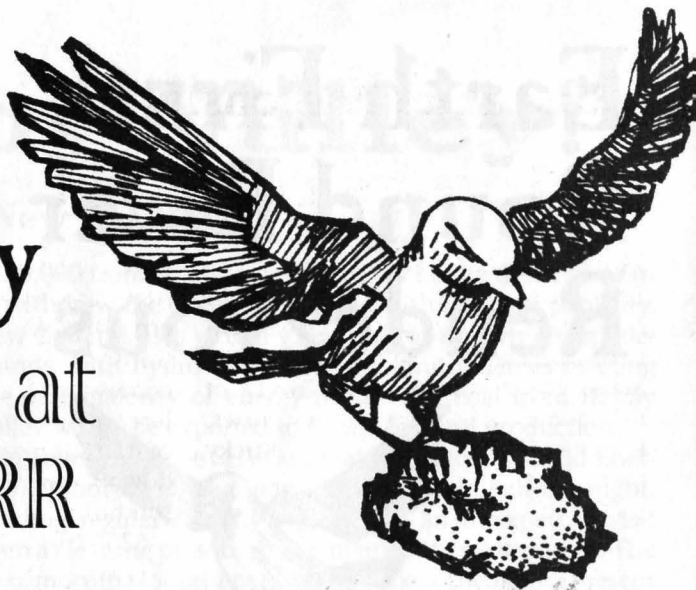
With Smoky Mountain National Park ranking second only to Los Angeles in smog levels on some Summer days, air pollution is clearly a major threat to the Katúah bioregion (thanks Tennessee Valley Authority!). And the government wants to build two roads in and near the park. The first one, the North Shore Road, is a proposed 34-mile incursion into the park, the largest roadless area in the East. This road would endanger more than 100 mountain streams and open up one of our finest wilderness areas to cars and their accompanying pollution. To add insult to injury, a couple of politicians from Georgia have proposed the new Interstate 3, which would run from Savannah, Georgia, to Knoxville, Tennessee. One of the main justifications for this highway is the almighty need to facilitate tourism in the area. Not only does the proposed route flank the park's southern border and ruin a prime stretch of the Appalachian Trail, it would also require blasting several mountains and displacing a number of mountain communities.

Lastly, as if KEF! didn't have our hands full enough with the US Forest Service's timber sales, these assholes now want to privatize several thousand acres of our national forests. The Southeast is getting hit particularly hard by this program, which is being billed as a way to fund rural schools. KEF! plans to fight this new privatization program tooth and nail.

Well, that's the lowdown on what's happening here in Katúah. We hope you can come on down for the RRR and help us raise some hell!

The Nitty-Gritty

What to Expect at This Year's RRR



KEF! has got a jam-packed week of workshops, skillshares, hiking, swimming and howlin' around the campfire in store for you. This year's RRR will be held in the coal-bearing mountains that straddle the Kentucky-Virginia border. That's right, we'll be camping in King Coal's backyard. We figured you gotta stay close to your enemy. Don't worry though, we're not going to make you camp in an abandoned strip mine. There is still plenty of beautiful, untouched wilderness in these parts.

That said, KEF! is really hoping to use this RRR to turn up the heat on the coal companies tearing apart our mountains.

Mine-site tours are being planned so that you can see firsthand what King Coal is doing to our land. We'll be having lots of locals stopping by to tell their stories of the terror they live with under the wrath of coal companies, as well as sharing stories of their resistance to coal mining.

KEF! is also hoping to keep the momentum going on new projects that were started at this year's EF! Organizers' Conference. Folks from Latin America, as well as other parts of the world, will be present to continue to foster the international network of EF!ers. If you know any international ecological activists who would be interested in attending, throw a

fundraiser and get them over here. KEF! is also in need of funds to make sure that this international component of EF! gatherings continues.

This RRR will include the second meeting of the EF! Climate Caucus, which was born in the swamps of south Florida in February. For those of you interested in organizing a kick-ass direct-action campaign against climate change, this is the place to be.

Of course, there will be the usual milieu of workshops this Summer. While we're not going to promise you anything as controversial (or interactive) as the 2000 Fight Club, we do have quite a few engaging presentations for you. Some of the planned workshops are: stealth and evasion, edible and medicinal plant walks, fighting Plan Puebla Panama, deep ecology, I-69 superhighway, hunt sabbing, sexism in the movement, state repression and prisoner support, primitive living skills and a history of resistance in Appalachia. If you are interested in doing a workshop, please get in touch with us.

You can expect plenty of fun and games too, including bioregional competitions, an EF! raffle, the Warrior Poets Society's "Night to Howl," a square dance and the annual EF! rally with rockin' musicians, fiery speakers and a whole lot of fun.

We are also planning to have childcare and activities for kids, so bring your youngens. But please keep in mind that the RRR is not the place for dogs, so leave them at home.

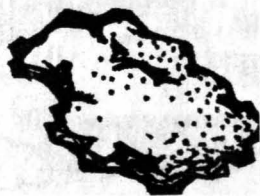
What to Bring

- An open mind
- Food (there may not be a communal kitchen)
- Cooking gear
- Cups, plates, bowls, silverware
- Sweatshirt or jacket
- Rain gear
- Camping gear
- Some sort of personal water purification system (iodine tablets, filter, etc.)
- Insect repellent, if that's your thing (though please keep in mind that any toxins you bring will end up in our ecosystem)
- Non-detergent soap
- An affinity group (if you have one) 'cuz KEF! is planning some fun for ya'll!

Special Note

The organizers of this year's RRR are trying to make the gathering a safe space. We want to create a space as free from oppression as possible, where everybody feels comfortable. To make this happen, sexist remarks or behavior will not be tolerated. The same goes for incidences of racism, homophobia, transphobia and sexual assault. Basically, while you're enjoying life in beautiful southern Appalachia, please keep in mind how your behavior could have an impact on others. There will be a conflict resolution team on hand to deal with these issues and others. They will be identified at each morning circle.

For more information, directions or to make a donation, contact Katúahef!, POB 1485, Asheville, NC 28802; (866) 411-8016; katuahef@wildmail.com; www.katuahearthfirst.org.



Companies Responsible for Leveling Appalachia

They're Everywhere...

Massey Energy Company

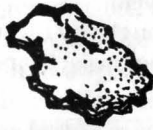
The fourth largest coal company in the US, Massey Energy is public enemy number one in West Virginia. Massey is a notorious destroyer of mountains, unions and communities. It is also busy tearing up Kentucky and Virginia.

POB 26765
Richmond, VA 23261
(804) 788-1800
www.masseyenergyco.com

Arch Coal, Inc.

Not to be outdone by Massey, Arch Coal is infamous for its MTR operations in Kentucky and West Virginia.

One City Place Dr, Ste 300
St Louis, MO 63141
(314) 994-2700
www.archcoal.com



Peabody Energy

KEF! got a great laugh last year when these lowlifes sent a letter begging us not to protest Peabody Energy because it doesn't do MTR in Appalachia. While this is true, Peabody is still polluting our mountains with its deep mining and coal processing. And, of course, we will not forget the genocide Peabody is profiting from on Black Mesa, not to mention the fact that it runs one of the only strip mines in Venezuela. Nice try assholes!

701 Market St
St Louis, MO 63101
(314) 342-3400
pr@peabodyenergy.com
www.peabodyenergy.com

National Coal Corporation

National Coal runs the only MTR mine in Tennessee, with more locations proposed both there and in Kentucky. It currently has a lawsuit against several KEF! activists for daring to protest its destructive mining.

8915 George Williams Rd
Knoxville, TN 37923
(865) 690-6900
(865) 691-9982 (fax)
www.nationalcoal.com

A & G Coal Corporation

A&G Coal is tearing apart southwestern Virginia with its mining operations. The company's claim to fame comes from murdering three-year-old Jeremy Davidson in his sleep, after one of A&G's operators knocked a boulder down a mountain and into the Davidson home in August 2004.

6250 Crest Dr
Wise, VA 24293
(276) 328-5176
and
1400 Roda Rd
Appalachia, VA 24216

International Coal Group

International Coal made international headlines in January after killing 12 miners, a result of numerous safety violations at its Sago deep mine in West Virginia. It also runs several strip mines throughout Kentucky.

2000 Ashland Dr
Ashland, KY 41101
(606) 920-7400
www.intlcoal.com

Tennessee Valley Authority

The Tennessee Valley Authority runs 11 polluting coal power plants in the Southeast. It is a major purchaser of MTR coal from Massey, Arch and National Coal.

400 W Summit Hill Dr
Knoxville, TN 37902-1499
(865) 632-2101
www.tva.gov



Teco Coal Corporation

Busy ripping apart southeastern Kentucky, Teco Coal has terrorized one community so intensely that a resident committed suicide rather than live in the shadow of Teco's mines.

200 Allison Blvd
Corbin, KY 40701
www.tecocoal.com

American Electric Power

As the largest generator of electricity in the US, American Electric Power is a notorious polluter and major purchaser of MTR coal.

One Riverside Plaza
Columbus, OH 43215-2372
(614) 716-1000
www.aep.com

Wellington Management Company

Wellington is a major investor in Massey and Arch. Enough said. It also has offices in Atlanta, Chicago, San Francisco and Pennsylvania.

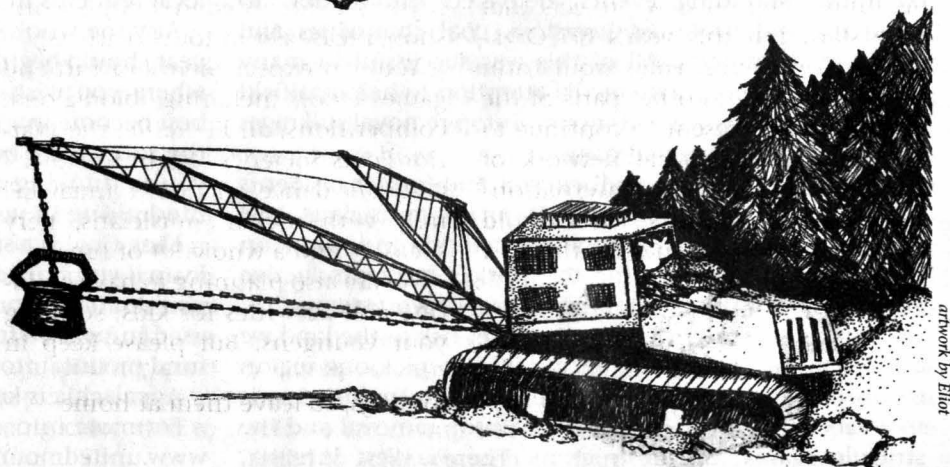
75 State St
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 951-5000
www.wellington.com

The Vanguard Group

The Vanguard Group is a major investor in Massey and Arch.

455 Devon Park Dr
Wayne, PA 19087-1815

...and So Are We!



artwork by Eliot

Mountain Justice Summer 2006

Join the Uprising Against Mountaintop Removal



By now, we are all familiar with the battle against mountaintop removal that is raging in the mountains of southern Appalachia (see *EF!* November-December 2005). This is a battle for the land and the life-sustaining ecosystems that are so important to the human and animal inhabitants of the region. Mountaintop removal hasn't stopped and neither has the resistance to it by local Appalachians and transplanted activists who have made these valleys their home.

Mountaintop removal is the ultimate destruction; once these mountains are gone, they are gone forever. Now is the time to fight. We are all affected, and we are all responsible. As climate change becomes a growing concern, we must look at the causes.

Coal burning produces more carbon dioxide than any other fuel. Whichever way you wash it, pulverize it or scrub it, coal—from its extraction to its end use—remains a dirty, dangerous, polluting source of energy.

Last year, southern Appalachians hosted a Summer of resistance called Mountain Justice Summer (MJS). MJS traveled to areas

afflicted by mountaintop removal, where it organized community-building events, delivered information to residents, and protested investors, coal companies and government officials. All of this was successful in many ways, bringing corporate media attention to help coalfield residents have a voice. But mountaintop removal still rages on. And that's where you come in.

MJS 2006 is calling on all current and former residents of Appalachia, traveling activists, artists, musicians, and human rights and environmental activists to join us on the frontlines in defending the world's most productive and biologically diverse temperate forest ecosystem.

This year, in order to promote closer ties to the land we are defending, people are encouraged to pick one region to work in for most or all of the Summer. Each region is in a very different stage of mountaintop removal and the struggle against the destruction. There's West Virginia,

where huge chunks of the southern part of the state are completely decimated; southwestern Virginia and Kentucky, where mountaintop removal has been destroying the landscape for nearly as long; and Tennessee, where mountains have yet to be leveled. In each of these regions, MJS activists are being asked to come and support the locals in their struggles against King Coal. Throughout the Summer, there will be coordinated actions between regions and opportunities for people to come together. However, for the most part, there will be more regional autonomy than last year.

The battle will be fought by individuals in the field doing water testing, listening projects and media work, attending hearings, demonstrating and performing guerrilla theater. The current political climate in many of these regions is completely controlled by the coal companies. Long-time mountain defenders have been given death threats, run off the road and even had guns fired at their homes. While wanting to escalate tactics, it is important for all newcomers to



Marching to Massey Energy headquarters in Richmond, Virginia, on the 2005 Day of Action Against Climate Change

the region to listen carefully to the wishes and desires of local residents in fighting this battle.

Anyone who's interested in coming down for MJS this year should begin planning now. Please contact the place where you wish to work in order to figure out how to best become involved and to arrange housing and food—the sooner the better. MJS is also in need of funds, so if you're thinking of coming, you're encouraged to begin fundraising in your own region.

King Coal is a superpower. Its reign reaches everywhere. Even if you can't drop everything to come here, there's lots you can do in your own town. Find out how much coal is used in your state. Find out what companies in your area fund mountaintop removal. They exist all around us.

Appalachia is known for uprising—it's time to rise again! For more info., visit www.mountainjusticesummer.org; www.unitedmountaindefense.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Whale Vomit Makes Australian Family Rich

In January, an Australian family discovered a mass of whale vomit on a remote beach near Streaky Bay. The fatty substance, known as ambergris, is vomited up by sperm whales to help cleanse their intestines of hard objects such as squid beaks. Even though ambergris floats, it is quite rare to find. Ambergris, which is sought after by perfume manufacturers, is worth about \$20 a gram. This particular chunk weighed about 32 pounds and was worth \$295,000.

Loralee and Leon Wright found the ambergris, but they didn't want to transport it in Loralee's vehicle. Two weeks later, they returned in Leon's vehicle to discover the mass was still there, so they took it home.

Cheese Water Injected Underground

Last year, the Environmental Protection Agency granted the Hilmar Cheese Company permission to drill a "test well" to pump wastewater from cheese production into a saline aquifer located thousands of feet underground. Hilmar, the largest cheese manufacturer in the world, will first treat the wastewater to remove fat, then inject the liquid below the local water reserves. If the test goes well, Hilmar could be given permission to dispose of more than two million gallons a day from its San Francisco, California plant.

In March, Hilmar agreed to a three-million-dollar settlement with the state's Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board after the company was cited for flushing wastewater onto surrounding fields and contaminating groundwater.

Doggie Doo-Doo to Power San Francisco Homes

Within the next few months, Norcal Waste will begin collecting 6,500 tons of feces annually from dog parks around San Francisco. The waste matter will be put into a methane digester to decompose for several weeks, after which the natural gas created in the decomposition process will be piped off to gas stoves, turbines, heaters and other destinations. It can also be used to generate electricity.

Although methane digesters are nothing new, with more than 600 of them popping up throughout Europe in the last 20 years, Norcal is the first US company to use them to convert pet waste into energy.

Norway Opens "Eco-Prison"

Inmates in Norway's prison system can now apply for admission to Bastoy, an island prison with an ecological focus. Only a handful of cars are used by the prison staff, and, along with the island ferry, the vehicles are in the process of being converted to use biofuel. The prison's six horses do most of the work, pulling carts driven by the prisoners. Waste from the prison is used to generate power, while oil heaters are being converted to burn wood.

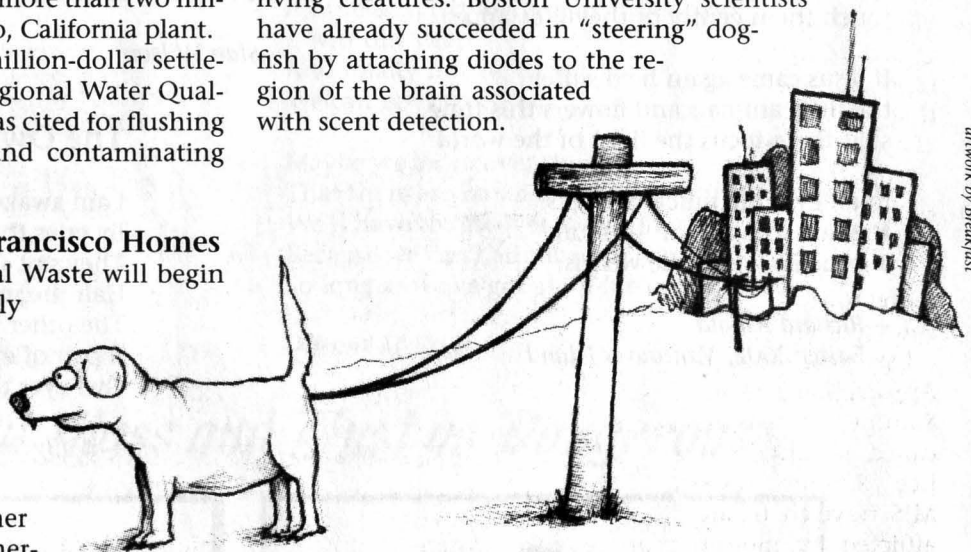
According to the governor of the prison, Oyvind Alnaes, looking after the island's environment nurtures a sense of responsibility in the prisoners. "We want to become the first ecological prison in the world," Alnaes says. "Ecological thinking is about taking responsibility for nature, the future and how your grandchildren grow up."

There is no fence to keep curious visitors from wandering into the prison, which, according to Alnaes, is a bigger problem than inmates escaping.

Jaws Goes Wireless

US military scientists are developing electronic brain implants to control fish, and they are hoping to use sharks in particular to fulfill military objectives. The US already uses trained sea mammals, including dolphins and orcas, for use in quasi-military operations, but this is probably the first time the military has seriously considered using fish as spies and weapons.

All of this is being funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, which is also involved in a number of other research studies investigating the use of electronic implants to monitor and control the behavior of living creatures. Boston University scientists have already succeeded in "steering" dogfish by attaching diodes to the region of the brain associated with scent detection.



Giant Jellyfish Sting Japanese Fishing Industry

Japan's fishing industry has been severely hampered by giant Nomura's jellyfish, which can be more than six feet in diameter and weigh up to 450 pounds. For the past year, these huge invertebrates have been clogging and ripping nets, forcing fishermen to spend hours hacking the jellyfish apart before bringing home reduced catches. Researchers think the jellyfish may drift toward Japan from warmer South Korean and Chinese waters, but Japan wants to avoid blaming the other nations, hoping to avoid worsening the relationships between the countries.

Seaside communities in Japan have tried to capitalize on the situation by developing novel jellyfish dishes from tofu to ice cream, but for some reason, the recipes have failed to achieve much popularity.

Armed with Visions

Fawn Lilies

Tender twilight, first soft
fragrant rain of April
and suddenly there they are

in a glade as if just stepped
out of the forest newborn,
their leaves spotted with birth-blood.

Creamy white drooping ears,
heads down as they feed
never far from dark-furred mother.

(Shy, or just hiding from
the crushing hoof? Approach quietly,
touch them gently or they'll disappear.)

If Jesus came again he'd suffer
the little animals and flowers this time,
slightly re-focus the light of the world

to an evening much like this:
the first soft rain of April on
a resurrection in the woods.

—Richard Arnold
Easter 2002, Vancouver Island

Another Northwest Rondi

it's cold. it's wet. it's Oregon. almost as if by the
devils design the dreary rains of the pacific
northwest greets our Montana sensibilities and dampen
cowboyesque behavior. we are calmed by a need to
warm ourselves over bubbling brews.

down below the parking lot offers no fiery pit of
welcoming hell. just more wet. the water is the air
and we breathe as if through gills. words swim from
our mouths and allegory begs a life preserver.

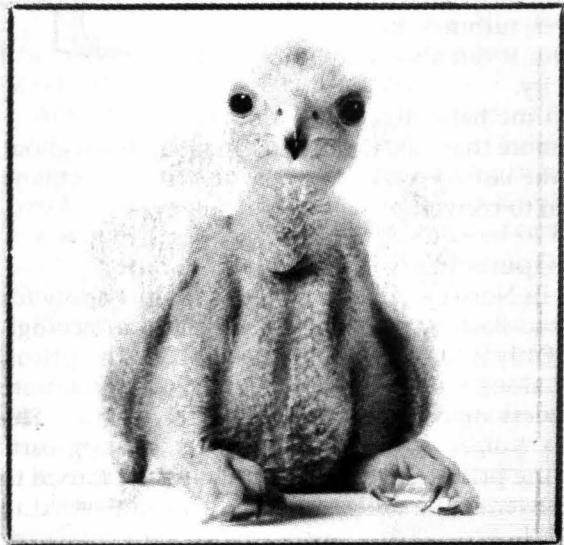
it's goddamn wet here! my god, will that tapping,
tapping, tapping never cease. rain flies are poor
humor. this is not rain. rain falls to the earth and
is drunk up by thirsty earth. this monster is an
anaconda of constant, unending moisture.

—Stan Wilson

The Owl

I am awakened
By cries that do not stop.
They say, *Come, see if you can find me—*
Half the meadow in moonlight,
The other half shadowed by white pine.
A pair of eyes fly up and dance,
Owl eyes that hold the moon.

—Wally Swist



The Ark of the Heart

In the ark of the heart
all the extinct animals
secretly live
and burn
with a desire
calling us to live
as if their lives
had mattered.

For deep in our genetic core
they still have a stake
in our future.

For us to live for them
for even a moment,
would leave behind
our aching egos.

And then we might find
each carries inside
the ark of the heart
holding the seeds
of a promised land
able to grow abundant fruit trees
in the middle of a great garden,
a wilderness,
city,
or wasteland.

All that is lost
cannot be restored
but in the ark of the heart
seeds of fire await
to be rekindled
with the light
that is the life
of all beings.

—Kirk Lumpkin

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Warrior Poets Society, POB 14501, Berkeley, CA 94712-5501

Carol

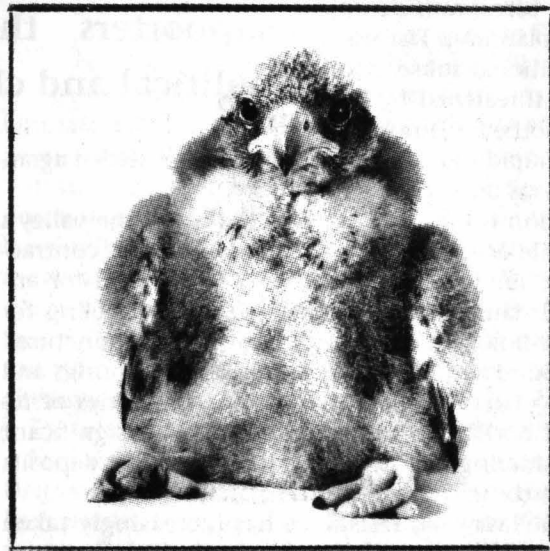
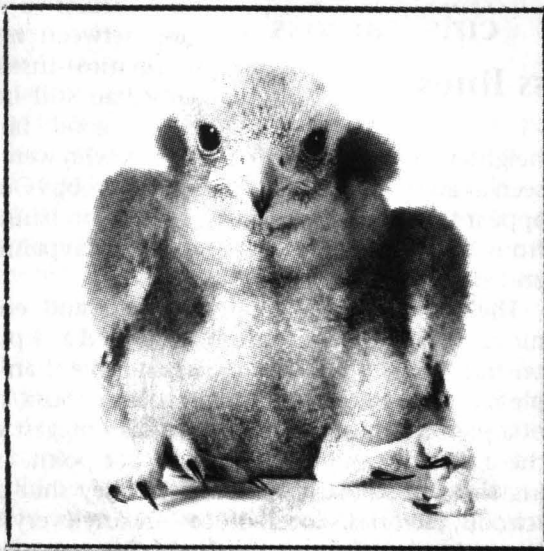
She was telling me about
A glimpse of Kilimanjaro
She caught on the educational t.v. channel,
Glimpse of Kilimanjaro melting
In the heat of tragedy
But the show was really about
The marvelous and varied plant life
On the slopes
And the researcher with a mobility disability
Struggling with canes up the mountain
Who had to finally give up and say
He could go no further
And the audience felt the blow.

And I thought of us
Kilimanjaro melting in our
Sell-the-Earth tragedy,
Thought how we're all like that researcher
In our fight to save the planet
The plants and animals going extinct
Like deafening drops in the bucket,
All the activists working without pay,
without sleep,
And finally having to say,
We can go no further.

Maybe we'll discover then
That there are ranks supporting us from behind.
We'll have to discover something
Because we can't admit we're beaten
So long as we've got all of life on our side.

—Jenny McBride

Clear as Cut Glass and Just as Dangerous





Popular Uprising in Italy Picking Up Speed

BY PAUL ROLAND

Residents in an Alpine valley in northwestern Italy are openly revolting against a proposed high-speed train project that would link Turin with Lyon, France. This 15-year-long battle against the *Treno Alta Velocità* (TAV) in the Susa Valley west of Turin has unified valley residents with a unique mix of supporters that cuts across political and class lines: small-town mayors, local anti-TAV committees, environmental groups, teachers and health professionals, grassroots unions, university professors, and anarchist and communist activists from Italy's thriving social centers.

There are many reasons to oppose the project: Construction will be far more costly than an alternative plan to quickly and cheaply modernize existing rail lines. The amount of passenger and freight traffic along these existing rail lines has declined, indicating that the TAV line is completely unnecessary. Work on other sections of the TAV network has been extremely slow, with the Rome-Naples and Florence-Bologna legs still unfinished after more than a decade of construction. Additionally, the TAV project has been driven by government corruption during all stages of planning. The Susa Valley's traditional subsistence economy is threatened by the TAV, yet another example of the wave of rapid industrialization that has unsettled agrarian populations during the past century.

Construction on the project would destroy the valley's already fragile ecosystem. CMC of Ravenna, the contractor hired to build the TAV, is already being sued for environmental damage that occurred during tunneling for the Florence-Bologna TAV line, where drilling punctured an underground water channel and destroyed springs and wells. CMC plans to dump tremendous quantities of removed rock and Earth in the Susa Valley—a significant hazard considering that the mountains contain deposits of both asbestos and uranium.

Within the last year, resistance has increasingly taken a no-compromise position in the face of government

intransigence and the virtual militarization of the valley. Though there has been opposition everywhere, only in the Susa Valley has it reached the level of a popular movement. This is due to the history and culture of the valley, including a significant tradition of militant resistance: It was a major center of anti-fascist partisan activity during World War II, and the Alps were always a place of fiercely independent people, rebels and heretics. As a result, the Susa Valley's anti-TAV movement has injected a healthy dose of participatory citizen activism into a national political culture that has long been smothered by a corrupt system.

On October 31, what has come to be known as the Battle of Seghino marked a major turning point in the anti-TAV struggle. Hundreds of people built barricades and outmaneuvered 1,000 riot police on narrow mountain roads and

Residents in northwestern Italy are openly revolting against a proposed high-speed train project. This 15-year-long battle against the *Treno Alta Velocità* has unified a unique mix of supporters that cuts across political and class lines.

trails to prevent project technicians from conducting test drillings. Though the mobile-blockading tactics and knowledge of the terrain won the day, the police and CMC pulled what the locals saw as an underhanded trick by returning at night, after the legal deadline for test drilling had passed and the blockades had disbanded. This development was a further rupture in relations between residents and the political institutions that many had still hoped would act in good faith. It also

heightened tensions with the police, who were now widely seen as an occupying army. "Get the Troops Out!" began to appear throughout the valley, written on banners hanging from balconies and overpasses and spraypainted on walls and street signs.

The Battle of Seghino radicalized and energized the movement. This momentum continued at a planned demonstration on November 16, when more than 60,000 people marched to the old Roman town of Susa, near the site of a planned "test tunnel." It was the biggest gathering of the anti-TAV campaign up until that point. In an inspiring show of solidarity, the entire valley shut down: cafés, schools, factories, stores, offices—nearly everything closed. Increasing numbers of people also began to show up from

valleys, towns and cities around the region and beyond. Some had already participated at Seghino, including anarchists and other radicals from Turin. Schooled in urban occupations and other forms of direct action, they had helped build barricades with local residents, overcoming cultural differences and the traditional distrust of outsiders.

Then came the Battle of Venaus. As an early December deadline loomed for the government and CMC to seize land from 80 local property owners and establish a staging area for tunnel construction, hundreds flocked to the Venaus protest camp. In the early hours of December 6, with camp numbers at a low ebb (100-150 people), a large police line waged a vicious, surprise assault. The police clubbed people indiscriminately—even those sleeping in their tents—sending a number of them to the hospital. Though people tried to regroup and resist, the camp was overrun and evicted. But the alarm was raised. By mid-morning, the valley was shut down, and all the roads and rail routes were cut off by human blockades and barricades. There were also solidarity actions and protests throughout Italy.

Two days later, people from near and far converged on the town of Susa and marched toward Venaus. No one knows the exact numbers (estimates range upward from 50,000), and the atmosphere was intense and furious. The marchers streamed toward the turnoff to Venaus and came up against amassed riot police. After a brief skirmish, they simply flowed past along the unobstructed route. The human tidal wave poured down the roads and regrouped on the valley floor. They converged on the evicted protest campsite, which was now enclosed by orange plastic mesh and guarded by a small police detachment. The fencing was torn down, and thousands of people encircled the beleaguered and distraught police.

Overwhelmingly outnumbered and with no reinforcements, the police were ordered to retreat. An indescribable charge of jubilation coursed through the huge and suddenly victorious throng. Some in the crowd went further, entering the command post for CMC and the police. They trashed a number of vehicles, trailers and other equipment. A large stash of sandwiches and hot tea for the police troops was also liberated and distributed freely amongst the people.

Just a week after the liberation of Venaus, more than 60,000 protesters converged in Turin—the city's largest political demonstration in years. In early January, the first major French protest against the TAV brought 30,000 to Chambéry, just across the Alps.

The anti-TAV protests came to a head shortly before the Winter Olympics in Turin, as activists threatened to hijack the Olympics' huge media spectacle. The specter of an international black eye and the possible loss of tourist revenue forced Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's right-wing government to meet for the first time with valley mayors opposed to the project. The result was a largely symbolic

plan to assess the project's environmental impact and obtain input from TAV opponents. All of the mayors in the delegation say they're still waiting to hear back after more than four months.

Meanwhile, the Olympic torch was interrupted more than 30 times in Italy by protests against corporate sponsors and frequently with the presence of "No TAV" banners. One of a group of anti-TAV protesters succeeded in snatching the torch in Trent and running about 70 yards with it before being tackled by the police.

This popular uprising has had a wide ripple effect. The anti-TAV struggle has shown new ways to bring people together. In the Susa Valley, the changes are palpable. Despite the militarization and inconveniences of continual meetings and protests, people say they have rediscovered a sense of sociality and solidarity that had nearly disappeared. They now stop and talk to each other more on the street, have intense conversations in cafés and bars, and reconnect with people they had lost touch with.

During the Olympics, a major four-day conference held in Turin and the Susa Valley focused on sustainable alternatives, bringing together a wide panorama of people and groups working on alternative energy, small-scale organic farming, people-based transportation, anti-corporate globalization and global warming. Anti-TAV solidarity groups have since sprung up around Italy, joining the roughly 20 local valley committees (which are a lesson for many in participatory, non-hierarchical, consensus democracy). Increasingly, Susa Valley activists are joining together with groups fighting other links in the TAV network, as well as other super-highway projects, incinerators and toxic waste dumps. The debate about the TAV is deepening into a more general critique of the devastation inherent in industrial capitalism.

Today, there are some signs of criticism of the TAV from within the European Parliament, which could slow or curtail European Union

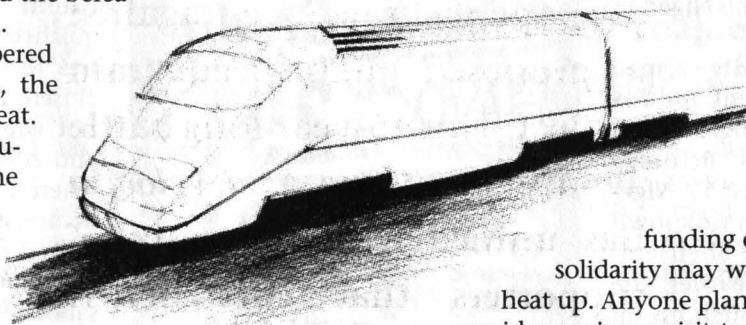
funding of the project. International

solidarity may well become critical as things heat up. Anyone planning a trip to Europe might consider paying a visit to the Susa Valley or organizing protests at Italian consulates in their own country. But ultimately, the opposition will remain centered among the people of the valley and their supporters around Italy.

In the US, the anti-TAV movement can help activists and organizers think afresh about what's possible and necessary if we'd like to have a similar impact, say, in the fight against mountaintop removal in Appalachia. For those who have given up on any idea of popular struggle, the "Susa Valley model," as some are calling it, proves that even in an advanced industrial country, new and unexpected spaces for effective, large-scale collective action can still be created.

For more information, visit www.notavtorino.org.

Paul was active with EF! and Native American solidarity in Oregon from the mid-1980s to the mid-'90s. Since then, he's been mostly living on his family's chestnut farm in north-western Italy.



resistance to Shell erupts in the Niger Delta

I predict that a denouement of the riddle of the Niger Delta will soon come.... Whether the peaceful ways favored will prevail depends on what the oppressor decides, what signals it sends out to the waiting public."

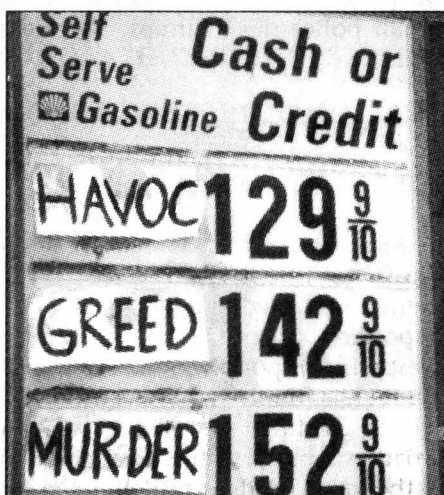
BY SKYLER SIMMONS

These words were spoken more than a decade ago by renowned Ogoni activist Ken Saro-Wiwa before he was sentenced to death for fighting Shell Oil's devastation of the Niger Delta (see *EF!* November-December 2005). His words are just as relevant today, following several months of insurgent attacks against Shell and the Nigerian government.

On January 15, heavily armed members of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) stormed Shell's Benisede flow station, killing at least 17 Nigerian troops and leaving an unknown number of militants and Shell employees dead. Four days earlier, the group had attacked an offshore oil platform owned by Shell, taking four workers hostage and blowing up a major oil pipeline. The militants then conducted a commando-style raid in February, destroying two pipelines and an oil-loading facility, and taking nine more hostages.

This upsurge in resistance to Shell's abuses comes on the heels of two court rulings. The first banned the practice of gas flaring from oil wells, which creates more greenhouse gases annually than all other sources in Africa combined. The second court ruling demanded that Shell pay 1.5 billion dollars in compensation for

the environmental destruction it has wreaked on delta communities. Shell has refused to comply with the rulings and is currently appealing them in higher courts. This arrogance has only added fuel to the flames of Nigeria's ongoing oil conflict.



Starting in the early 1990s, the Ogoni people rose up against the destruction of their homeland by oil companies. They engaged in a campaign of nonviolent resistance to bring justice to delta communities, yet the Nigerian military, with full support of the oil companies, embarked on a campaign of terror to crush this uprising. Nearly 3,000 Ogonis were murdered for speaking out, but not before their cause gained worldwide attention.

In 1998, a new group resisting the oil industry began to grab headlines with its daring protest tactics. The Ijaw Youth Council (IYC) was formed to demand an end to the pollution of Ijaw lands and to insist that all oil extraction on Ijaw territory be under their direct control. After launching "Operation Climate Change," IYC activists shut down 60 percent of the country's oil production and extinguished gas flares at multiple facilities. Many of these facilities remained closed for months. These actions were not without repercussions, however, and several Ijaw youths were killed when the military opened fire on IYC demonstrations.

Resistance in the Niger Delta has continued with constant protests, sabotage and occasional armed confrontations. With MEND making increasingly bold and sophisticated attacks on Nigeria's oil infrastructure, it appears that the situation has now evolved into a full-on guerrilla war.

With 90 percent of Nigeria's wealth coming from oil, there is no doubt that the rebels are beginning to shake the foundations of both the government and the oil industry. In fact, there are rumors amongst oil industry insiders that Shell is considering pulling out of Nigeria.

In February, in response to the increased resistance, the military launched a series of aerial bombings

New Directions in Climate Justice

An Earth First! Call to Action

BY SITCHENSIS

of Ijaw villages sympathetic to the rebels. According to local Ijaw leaders, the bombings left at least 30 civilians dead. They noted that the military used an oil company's private airstrip as a staging ground for the attacks, proving once more the complicit nature of the oil industry in the murder of delta residents.

Despite this and other attacks by the government, MEND continues to make good on its threat to cripple Nigeria's oil infrastructure as it continues to hold several foreign workers hostage and launch fresh attacks on oil pipelines and wells. There is no doubt that MEND has raised the stakes in Nigeria's resource war and that it enjoys significant support in a region where 20 million people live in crippling poverty. What is unclear at this time is: If MEND is successful in winning regional autonomy and local control of its oil resources, will it still stay committed to its demands of ending environmental destruction in the Niger Delta? Or, once in control of the oil wealth, will it continue the legacy of pollution and ecological destruction? While that question may remain unanswered for some time, one thing is certain: Shell and every other oil company invested in the region are skating on thin ice as long as they continue to disregard the will of the people of the Niger Delta.

The time is long overdue for radical ecologists to move climate change to the forefront of our actions. Our love for wild places and the traditional focus of EF! activities on place-based actions blinds us to the fact that the single greatest threat to biodiversity is no longer in the forests, deserts, mountains or seas, but on the highways, in the coalfields and factories, and on the industrial ranchlands.

Moreover, climate chaos has strong connections to nearly every contemporary social movement, and as such it provides an important and under-utilized avenue for bringing a biocentric analysis to many societal problems. Equally important, climate action is inextricably linked to global corporate control, presenting important opportunities for campaigning that go beyond political lobbying and reform.

It's high time to do a serious reevaluation of EF! strategy and tactics in the broadest sense possible. The idea that wilderness protection begins and ends in the forest needs to be debunked. At some point in the '90s, EF! became synonymous with treesits, road blockades and backwoods sabotage. Tree perches and road encampments were front-page news, a mecca for propaganda and biocentrist thinking, a breeding ground for new tactics and strategies, and a symbol of hope for thousands of people. But, at least on the West Coast, 20 years of this has long past a point of diminishing returns.

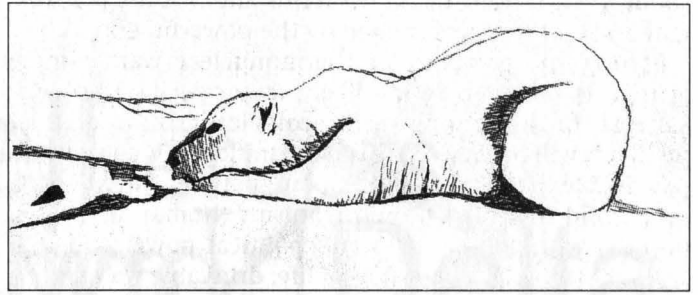
Nowadays, either the US Forest Service or logging companies evict us long before we can be effective, and insular groups of comrades struggle just to keep food runs going to the trees—forget outreach, campaigning and broader movement building. The small, more mainstream forest protection groups—most of them started by former EF!ers—are doing more effective grassroots organizing, and their “legal monkeywrenching” is stopping more timber sales. But most are doing far less in the realm of non-hierarchical organizing and

continued on next page

direct action for the Earth. Most importantly, these organizations have all but abandoned the cause of revolution in humankind's relationship with the planet, prioritizing short-term "deliverables" over long-term revolutionary strategies.

Interestingly enough, a similar tactical paralysis exists in the broader radical movements. For a brief period in the late '90s and early 2000s, a wave of anti-capitalist, anti-globalization protests swept the country, complete with mass arrests, clashes with police and lockdowns in the street. EFlers, with their experience in these areas, played a significant role in the development of this trend. In some ways the radical energy that had been fomenting in the forest had spilled out into the streets. But these tactics had a rise and fall even more abrupt than those which occurred in the forest. Now the anti-globalization cause has been largely subsumed into an anti-war movement whose only articulated message seems to be "Bush sucks."

Anti-war campaigners' determined focus on Bush as the evil emperor ignores the role of the oil industry that we all know is pulling the marionette's strings. How would the anti-war movement look if the masters of war were recognized as the refineries (responsible for human rights violations and ecosystem destruction across the globe), the production and promotion of car culture, and the energy industry? Likewise, environmentalists are also missing the boat. When it comes to climate change, most of the talk from environmental groups working on the issue is about Bush's refusal to sign the Kyoto Protocol for a kinder and gentler global catastrophe. Where the hell is the "no compromise" movement? We need to transform the message from eliminating the evil emperor to a real conversation about eliminating these evil industries.



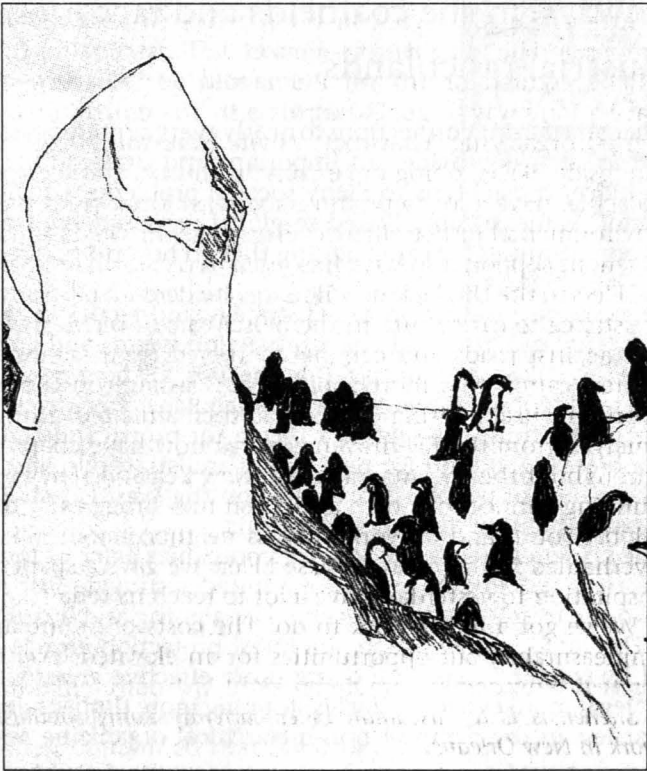
That radical environmentalists have failed to bring the environment squarely into the anti-war debate is a damn shame. But where radical environmentalists truly failed miserably is when Hurricane Katrina hit. People should have been blockading gas stations around the country as prices rose, with banners like: "They leveled New Orleans, they leveled Iraq—don't give them another dime." If we'd been organizing properly for several years around issues of climate change, we likely would have had allies from the full spectrum of radical movements at our side.

This is not to say that EFlers did nothing after Katrina. A startling number made their way down to the Gulf Coast after the storm, volunteering with a range of other progressives and radicals in the activist groups there. This volunteerism allowed us to assist in a situation where a disproportionate impact so clearly fell upon poor people and people of color. The disaster on the Gulf Coast is environmental injustice, and we should call it that. Many of the people of Louisiana and Mississippi still experience on a daily basis the effects of centuries of ongoing racism, slavery and forced relocations, with the government's response to Katrina just a recent and particularly catastrophic incarnation of environmental racism.

While assisting the survivors of environmental racism in Louisiana and Mississippi in the rebuilding of their lives, we got a very small taste (from a safe distance, since none of us were from New Orleans, and if we had been, we likely would have had the resources to get out) of what ecological collapse will look like. Living and working there provided a sharp and clear view of the future environmental apocalypse.

Let's be clear: If the powerful continue on the current track of ecological destruction, *their* "collapse" will not be liberating, glorifying or adventuresome. If New Orleans is any indication, their collapse will first and foremost affect the same people who have always been exploited by civilization—those not part of the dominant race or the dominant class. Those with loads of guns—right-wing militias, the military or its remnants—will rule the streets. For all of you spending time getting ready for this collapse, our eco-villages, bicycles and wild, primitivist lifestyles—which today's radicals claim to be fortifications for tomorrow's struggles—are likely to be seized by force or, even more likely, destroyed outright. You can imagine how the other 90 percent—including those not privileged enough to prepare for the collapse—will fare.

The end of industrial civilization imagined by most EFlers is a great goal. Technology—and the controls on land and capital it requires—is a terribly destructive force to the environment and to people. But as much as I'd love to live in a post-industrial world, if one is to come



about, then it must be on *our* terms and not the inadvertent result of disasters created by the powerful elite.

Barring the breakout of thermonuclear war, climate change is the event most likely to propel us into *their* collapse. In the coming years, ecological crisis and social problems will become increasingly unified. It is completely imaginable that, within most of our lifetimes, we will exist in a world in which those organisms (human and non-human) without resources and political power will lose access to the basic necessities of life: drinkable water, non-smog-blackened skies, areas less impacted by the ravages of climate change and wildlands to roam. As a livable environment becomes a precious commodity, we can expect to see prices in less toxic or climate-ravaged areas rise to a level where even most middle class people cannot afford them.

In the face of this expanded crisis, we can expect those in control to pit the environment and social concerns against one another, in ways difficult to imagine today (at least for those who have never experienced environmental racism or classism).

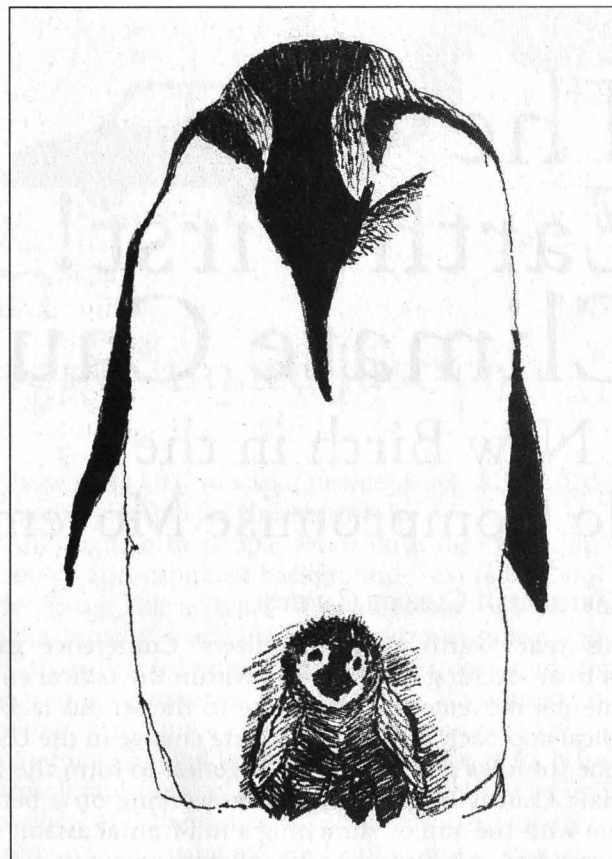
Many EF!ers may not realize or like to admit it, but most people with an anti-immigrant agenda, both in the US and abroad, consider the environmental "concerns" of immigration to be as important as the economic "concerns." Consider what will happen when large portions of the planet become unlivable, with millions or even billions becoming refugees and immigrants. The racist "environmentalist" politics of the future were foreshadowed on the Crescent City Bridge that connects New Orleans to the affluent and un-flooded suburb of Gretna. There, thousands of people fleeing a drowning city were turned back with gunshots by the unrestrained and well-armed remnants of the suburb's police force.

This is not an environmental present that anyone should have to endure, and it is not an environmental future that we can allow to pass. This path will be chosen or stopped within our lifetimes.

It's time for Earth activists to get serious about climate change, serious about climate justice, and serious about supporting and being allies to poor people and people of color who stand to lose as much from our society's terrible relationship with the environment as the critters out there in the mountains and forests (and ultimately all of us). Failing to build alliances between different activist struggles is simply not an option. We need each other's analyses to bring down the interconnected machines of classism, racism, patriarchy and Earth destruction. We need each other's support and strength of numbers. Most importantly, we cannot afford to be pitted against each other as those in power become increasingly able to exacerbate such conflicts between us.

For biocentrism to reach beyond our narrow circles, we must bring it to the forefront of larger interconnected struggles. Climate change allows us to talk convincingly with a larger group about oil and coal, human rights violations from Appalachia to Nigeria, the consumer paradigm, and the exploitation of land and labor involved in commodity production.

If radical environmentalists want to be more proactively anti-racist, we need to move toward ecological issues that



are critical to those most concerned with economic and social injustice. Let's face it, 20 years of unrestrained misanthropy from the radical environmental movement, with no clear apologies issued, hasn't left the movement in the best position to build alliances with many people in labor and anti-racist struggles—even when they support our ecological ideas.

Such a change is a good first step in fostering the conversations and building the experiences, bridges and trust that will be required for stronger and more lasting alliances. We have a long way to go, but fortunately some have already started organizing. Grassroots environmentalists working alongside EF!ers, doing organizing in the coalfields of Appalachia, have a lot to teach us about building biocentric, environmental justice alliances. The many EF!ers doing indigenous support also have lessons to share.

EF!ers in the UK, lacking wilderness to defend, pioneered resistance to car culture in the '90s. Years of pitched battles against roads and cars have evolved from elaborate protest camps to a more sophisticated assault on the oil economy itself. Rising Tide and other affiliated groups emerged from the EF! movement and now have chapters throughout the UK, Australia and New Zealand. They are building connections with anti-fossil fuel struggles in the Global South and in working-class neighborhoods being overhauled for highways. These EF!ers we gave a spark of inspiration to yesterday, have a lot to teach us today.

We've got a lot of work to do. The costs of failure are immeasurable, but opportunities for an elevated level of strategic engagement are sitting right in front of us.

Sitchensis is a Cascadian EF!er currently doing solidarity work in New Orleans.

The Earth First! Climate Caucus

A New Birth in the No Compromise Movement

BY EARTH FIRST! CLIMATE CAUCUS

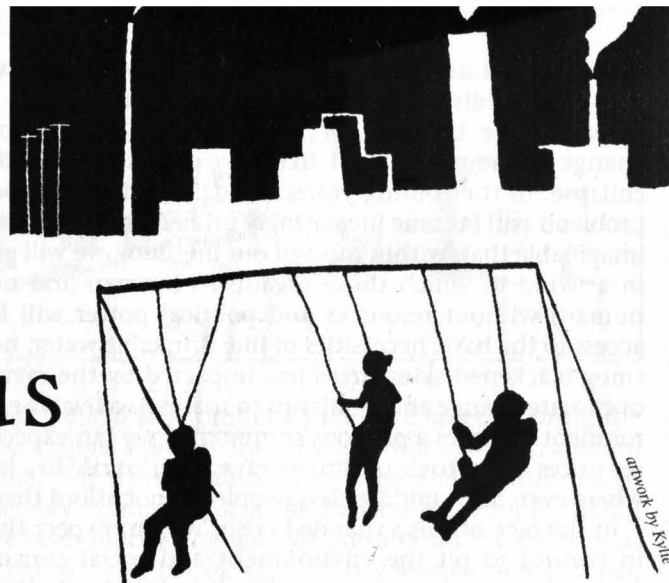
This year's Earth First! Organizers' Conference gave birth to an exciting new network within the radical environmental movement. In response to the serious lack of a radical approach to fighting climate change in the US, a number of folks put their heads together to form the EF! Climate Caucus (don't worry, we're working on a better name) with the aim of launching a full-frontal assault on the fossil fuel industry and other climate criminals.

We have some serious catching up to do. As a matter of survival, we must bring climate change to the front and center of the nation's attention. We cannot do this by watering down our message; rather, we need an uncompromising, radical approach to kicking our culture's fossil fuel addiction. We must expose and reject business-friendly, drop-in-the-bucket "solutions" (such as the Kyoto Protocol and carbon trading) and bullshit "green" alternatives that will only further devastate the Earth (such as massive biofuel plantations, hydrogen plants, coal gasification and nuclear power). Instead, we must present a vision of zero emissions and no new extraction of fossil fuels, and we need to work toward locally based, bioregionally appropriate solutions that promote community autonomy and sustainable living.

We recognize that we won't stop global warming; climate-related catastrophes are an inevitable part of our future. With that in mind, a major goal of the Climate Caucus is to show the public who is to blame for climate chaos. When the next Katrina hits, ExxonMobil needs to be held accountable. When polar bears go extinct as a result of melting sea ice, Department of Energy offices should be shut down.

To this end, we aim to build strong links with those who are already being affected by climate change, such as native communities in the Arctic and people living on the Gulf Coast. We will ally ourselves with environmental justice groups fighting pollution from refineries, power plants and coal-processing facilities.

Fighting new fossil fuel infrastructure must be a top priority of the radical environmental movement. Whether it's pipelines, refineries or coal-fired power plants (there are currently 94 such plants proposed in



the US alone!), stopping these infrastructure projects is a direct way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions while supporting environmental justice struggles.

Lending direct support to communities resisting fossil fuel extraction is another area where we can have a significant impact. By fighting extraction, we not only preserve the local ecosystem but also ensure that those fossil fuels will never be burnt. We must popularize the idea that coal, oil and gas should stay underground where they belong.

We also have our sights set on the financial backers of the fossil fuel industry. By making investments in fossil fuels a risky business, companies causing climate chaos will have a hard time continuing to expand production.

The Climate Caucus is putting out a call for an international day of action against climate change to coincide with this Summer's Group of Eight (G8) meetings in Russia. "Energy security" is a major theme of this year's summit, making it easy to organize actions in your community that can tie local issues into the G8's plans for perpetuating climate chaos.

We are building up a large collection of outreach materials and agit-prop that can be used by groups around the country to organize locally. A nationwide EF! Climate Roadshow is being planned for Spring 2007 to help build momentum for this fight. This roadshow will lead up to an EF! Climate Action Camp later that Summer involving a wide range of direct action trainings and workshops, then culminating with a major action.

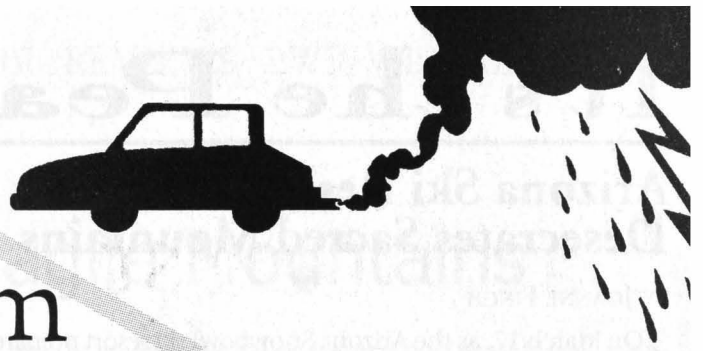
It is urgent that climate change be understood as the crisis that it is and that we start to build sustainable and autonomous communities now. Changes will be made by people, not institutions; we must put forth locally based solutions and articulate our visions for just and sustainable living. For this campaign to succeed, local communities need to take initiative and make this global struggle relevant to their towns and bioregions. We need to start thinking strategically about how to spark a nationwide uprising against the fossil fuel industry that not only disrupts business as usual, but inspires widespread resistance.

We hope to see you at the next EF! Climate Caucus meeting during the Summer Rendezvous in Katúah.

For more information, contact the EF! Climate Caucus, efclimatecaucus@wildmail.com.

Rising Tide Takes the Helm

Mapping Radical Strategies for Climate Justice



BY JOSH

As the Earth First! Climate Caucus begins to formulate strategies for combating climate change and achieving climate justice, it can benefit significantly from the model developed by Rising Tide—a grassroots movement in the UK that has been tackling these issues for more than five years now.

In November 2000, Rising Tide was created to protest the Sixth United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP6). United by a common disdain for the Kyoto Protocol and a desire to see corporate criminals held accountable for their roles in creating climate change, activists from several environmental and social justice groups descended upon The Hague, Netherlands, to protest COP6. Banners were dropped and meetings disrupted, and the pieing of the head US delegate earned the denunciation of both the Sierra Club and Greenpeace USA.

From the start, Rising Tide had much in common with EF!: a non-hierarchical structure, bringing together a variety of autonomous local groups and individuals who share Rising Tide's vision and strategy; contempt for business-oriented solutions and the mainstream environmental groups that support them; and a no-compromise platform that calls for the complete dismantling of the fossil fuel economy. Not surprisingly, many of Rising Tide's founders began in EF!, and they have used that experience to guide their current organizing.

"I personally see Rising Tide and EF! as exceptionally close," says Matthew, an activist with London Rising Tide. "We take action with EF! groups from across the country; we attend EF! gatherings. Now that a London EF! group has started up, we work together on actions and hope to support each other more this coming year as the issue of airport expansion really takes off" (see *EF!* March-April 2006).

The clearest proof of Rising Tide's kinship with EF! is its diversity of direct action tactics: office occupations, protests at corporate meetings, gas station blockades, trashing of trade exhibition stalls, invading oil trading exchanges, graffiti and even treesits outside BP's London headquarters.

Yet, despite the similarities, Rising Tide is not a mere EF! clone, and in some ways, it has surpassed its predecessor. While EF! has always struggled with the problem of building alliances with less radical environmental groups

or those dedicated to social justice issues, Rising Tide has successfully embraced this approach.

"Although most people are from a direct action, eco-action or anti-capitalist background," explains Carol, another Rising Tide activist, "the gatherings we hold tend to have a broader reach around the campaigning community than EF!, bringing together grassroots campaigners and non-governmental organizations. It's a good chance to network and hopefully radicalize some people."

What has enabled Rising Tide to engage in such fruitful outreach and networking is its firm belief in the unity of ecological and humanitarian concerns, particularly when dealing with an issue as catastrophic and universal as climate change. In March 2003, Rising Tide participated in a successful occupation of London's International Petroleum Exchange, thereby wedding the anti-war and climate justice movements. Similarly, Rising Tide's campaign against the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline has highlighted both the environmental impacts and the social inequities that will result from the project.

"We have worked with human rights groups that haven't been able to take radical action as it might jeopardize their campaigns or put their friends abroad in unsafe positions," reflects Harry, an activist with London Rising Tide and Art Not Oil. "It really puts our position into perspective that we can invade, occupy and blockade sites with much less potential penalty for our actions."

In the coming year, Rising Tide hopes to make stronger local connections with potential allies, like refugees of environmental and political turmoil. It also wants to build better alliances with London's Bangladeshi community, which hails from a country that is likely to be affected by rising sea levels. Then there is the Camp for Climate Action this Summer, which Rising Tide is organizing to help connect climate activists from around the UK and beyond.

"We are developing connections with movements based in the Global South, like Oilwatch, and with indigenous groups fighting the oil industry," Harry explains. "Coordinating a worldwide network for climate justice is one of our key priorities. We'd love to hear from others who would like to make such a network a reality!"

For more information, contact Rising Tide, 62 Fieldgate St, London E1 1ES, UK; info@risingtide.org.uk; www.risingtide.org.uk.

This article is based on an interview with Rising Tide by Sitchensis.

It's the Peaks!

Arizona Ski Resort Desecrates Sacred Mountains

BY JOANNE FINCH

On March 17, as the Arizona Snowbowl ski resort prepared to open after the first measurable snowfall of the season, traditional indigenous practitioners and community members gathered to offer prayers.

"We are not gathering to interfere with Snowbowl's business or anybody's recreation," said Klee Benally of the Save the Peaks Coalition. "We are gathering to offer our prayers for healing. We will also acknowledge those who do not understand the harm that they are trying to commit on our way of life, our community's health and the environment. We will be praying for compassion and respect."

Several years ago, Snowbowl received approval from the US Forest Service (USFS) to make snow from contaminated wastewater (up to one million gallons per day), clearcut more than 70 acres of rare alpine habitat that is home to many threatened species and expand its skiing facilities on the San Francisco Peaks in northern Arizona (see *EFJ* January-February 2003).

"This mountain, including the ski area, is used for the spiritual ways of life by more than 13 tribes, is a delicate ecosystem that is home to deities and is also where we gather herbs," said Kelvin Long, director of Educating Communities while Healing and Offering Environmental Support. "This is our church; we have used this area since time immemorial for prayers and, if desecrated, will change the sacred covenant that we have with the creator."

The Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity and the Flagstaff Activist Network joined with the Navajo Nation and the Hopi, Yavapai Apache, Hualapai and Havasupai tribes in October to appeal the USFS decision at the district court in Prescott. The lawsuit contends that the decision in favor of the ski area violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and that the USFS did not comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The agency's Environmental Impact Statement recognized that there would be adverse impacts to the cultural and biological integrity of the San Francisco Peaks if the Snowbowl "improvements" were permitted.

The quality of the wastewater that would be purchased from the city of Flagstaff to make snow has been questioned by prominent scientists. They contend that the dangers posed by introducing this water into the ecosystem have not been adequately studied and that the water coming out of our wastewater treatment plants is not adequately regulated.

A study known as the "Endocrine Disruptor Screening Project," completed by the US Geological Survey and Dr. Catherine Propper, associate professor of biology at Northern Arizona University (NAU), listed the contaminants found in Flagstaff's "reclaimed" water. Besides the obvious bacteria and nitrates, the study found human and veterinary antibiotics, antihistamines, caffeine, codeine, oral contraceptives and other hormones, steroids, anti-seizure medications, solvents, byproducts of military explosives, disinfectants, flame retardants, insect repellents, antifreeze ingredients, pesticides and other carcinogens.

Dr. Paul Torrence, renowned expert in the field of bio-organic and medicinal chemistry at NAU, has been an outspoken opponent of snowmaking with Flagstaff's treated wastewater from the beginning. One of his main concerns is the triclosan found in this water and its link to dioxins, highly carcinogenic chemicals that can cause severe health problems such as weakening of the immune system, decreased fertility, altered sex hormones, birth defects and cancer.

Although proof of impending spiritual genocide and environmental catastrophe has clearly been given in public comments and during court testimony, the warnings have been ignored.

The court issued a decision on January 11, upholding USFS approval of the project. This decision gave the green light for Snowbowl's planned upgrades, but construction has yet to begin. Attorney Howard Shanker, representing the Navajo Nation, Sierra Club and others, is appealing the court's ruling to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, California. Both sides in the appeal have signed a joint motion holding Snowbowl from starting "ground-disturbing activities" until September 15, or until a decision has been reached. Shanker said that his clients are prepared to seek an injunction pending the outcome of the appeal.

Navajo President Joe Shirley Jr. issued the following statement: "The integrity of our culture and our way of life is under attack. When the sanctity of one sacred mountain is compromised, the entire system is compromised. It is our job—as stewards of the environment in which we live—to protect these mountains for future generations to come."

The many opponents of this project have not yet exhausted their resources or legal remedies, and for many, this battle has just begun.

For more information, visit www.savethepeaks.org.

Joanne Finch is an activist and member of the Save the Peaks Coalition based in Flagstaff, Arizona.



Two Documentaries

Tell the Stories of Three Sacred and Fragile Mountains

BY STEEV HISE

Since whenever early humans started thinking about such things, there have been natural, holy places in the world, and tall peaks have always figured prominently amongst them. Not only have mountains always inspired something spiritual in those who live near them, but they are also home to delicate, lush and unique ecosystems. We have repeatedly seen communities who prioritize these concerns come up against the forces of industry, commerce and even scientific research. Two recently released films cover three ongoing examples of these struggles.

The Snowbowl Effect is an hour-long documentary that provides a comprehensive look at the ongoing controversy over the Arizona Snowbowl ski resort near Flagstaff, Arizona. Built on the San Francisco Peaks, sacred to more than 13 tribes, Snowbowl has been the center of conflict in the area since its initial development decades ago. The issue became especially heated after the resort announced its plans for expanding and using reclaimed wastewater to make artificial snow. *The Snowbowl Effect* covers all of the various aspects of the issue: the cultural importance of the mountain, the health risks of releasing wastewater into the environment, the delicate habitat, the history of previous development on the mountain, the implications of global warming, local economics and the clash of cosmologies that the struggle represents.

One of the most surprising and satisfying parts of the film is the debunking of the myth that Flagstaff's economy hinges on the success of Snowbowl. This is something that proponents of the expansion frequently cite—complaining that if they can't make snow, the resort can't be open as much and businesses in town will suffer. The filmmaker interviews the tax and licensing administrator of Flagstaff, who studied the money coming into Flagstaff and compared good years when there's lots of snow to bad years with less snow. He found that, in fact, the years with less snow brought in *more* money for Flagstaff businesses. So snowmaking would be good for the owners of Snowbowl, but not, as they claim, for the community. This point is a very savvy tactic because it's essentially saying to viewers who may not be persuaded

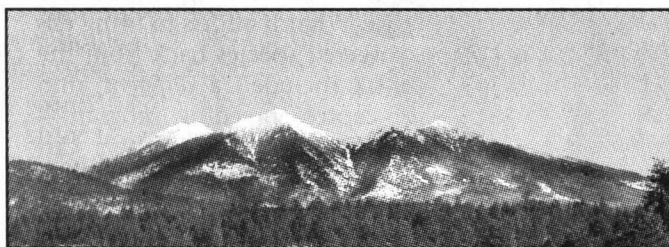
by health, environmental or cultural concerns: "Look, even if you use the criteria of the developers, even if you agree with them that money is all that matters, you can see that this project is still a bad idea."

The Snowbowl Effect is the first full-length documentary by Diné media activist Klee Benally. Benally is a self-taught, strongly driven director and activist who is already deep into pre-production on his next project, which I look forward to after seeing the quality and depth of this debut effort.

Thousands of miles away but simultaneous with Benally's efforts, the documentary team Na Maka o ka 'Aina ("the Eyes of the Land") has been working to tell the story of

a Hawaiian mountain that is the focus of a similar struggle.

Mauna Kea: Temple Under Siege is the result—an hour-long documentary detailing the gradual and increasing desecration of the tallest and most holy mountain in Polynesia. The ecologically delicate and spiritually revered summit of



The San Francisco Peaks in northern Arizona

Mauna Kea is the site of more than a dozen astronomical telescopes built and operated by a variety of universities and other institutions, including the Vatican—and they want to build dozens more, despite the continuous protests of native Hawaiian peoples.

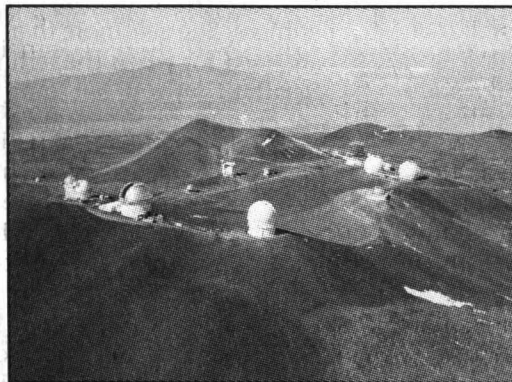
The film also covers an almost identical struggle back in southern Arizona. Here, activists and academics have been fighting over telescopes being built by the University of Arizona on Mt. Graham, a "sky island" ecosystem that is home to the endangered Mt. Graham red squirrel and 17 other threatened species. The mountain is also holy land to the Apache people.

These two documentaries give us an excellent view of three struggles that are local but symbolic of a larger, global clash between Western, industrial civilization and peoples with a closer connection to the land. One believes that the natural world is infused with spirit and that certain particularly sacred places brim over with that

spirit; the other thinks that nothing is sacred and that those with power can decide how others should live.

For more information, visit www.savethepeaks.org; www.namaka.com.

Steev Hise is a documentary filmmaker and media activist based in Tucson, Arizona.



Telescopes atop Hawaii's Mauna Kea

Poems For The Endangered

BY DENNIS FRITZINGER

The *Dire Elegies*: 59 Poets on Endangered Species of North America, edited by Karla Linn Merrifield and Roger M. Weir, FootHills Publishing, 2006.

The words "The little things that make the world work" don't exactly describe *The Dire Elegies*, but they come close.

Represented, after all, is Madla's cave spider, as well as Attwater's prairie chicken.

Sperm whale and condor are also found here, charismatic species that are still very much in peril, but the book is a paean for, and warning about, the small, the overlooked, the unnoticed.

Giving names to things is the great achievement of our species. Granted, the names we give them sometimes sound silly (snail darter is an example), but they provide a music for our lives—sometimes it's a background music; sometimes it's very much in the foreground.

Endangered species provide a background music (unless you happen to work for a resource agency or be an activist or a poet). This little book turns up the volume so that more people can hear the names and catch the meaning of what's behind those names.

It shows us the flesh and blood of the species mentioned, and it gives us a glimpse into their daily lives.

Reading the poems, and then the footnotes, I often heard myself choking back a sob. Like Mark Antony, I had to pause until my heart came back into my breast.

This is not to say that the poems themselves are depressing; they're fierce, beautiful, wonder-provoking, awe-inspiring. What's depressing is the realization that humans are responsible for so much diminishment of the natural world.

While the collection only scratches the surface of what's endangered in North America, it still mentions the reasons: habitat loss, competition from introduced species, pollution, over-hunting, mountaintop removal and so on. It provides us with a place to start, a needed complement to anthologies that only emphasize the aesthetic or recreational values of Nature.

It also engenders a desire to do something.

If this book gets the readership it deserves, it'll sell millions of copies.

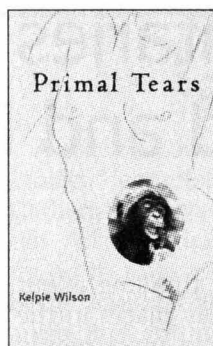
And why shouldn't it? Sympathy for our fellow creatures' plight and a desire to help should be a no-brainer.

And the poems—did I mention the poems?—the poems themselves are excellent.

The *Dire Elegies* is available from FootHills Publishing, www.foothillspublishing.com.

The Journal will send a free copy of *The Dire Elegies* to the first 10 people writing to ask for one, compliments of the Warrior Poets Society.

Celebrating Primal Tears



BY KAREN PICKETT

Primal Tears, by Kelpie Wilson, Frog, Ltd., 2005.

Kelpie Wilson's first novel is a funny, deep, exciting, biocentric and biologically correct novel springing from an innovative idea: What if efforts to bring endangered species back from the brink included a *different* kind of captive breeding program—human surrogate mothers carrying the endangered fetus to term. Not possible for whooping cranes, snail darters or tiger salamanders, but not so far-fetched a concept for bonobos, who are as close to humans genetically as horses are to donkeys.

Things get interesting when Sarah Carrigan, fired for bringing the principles of evolution into a classroom of tender young minds, decides to implant a bonobo embryo into her womb in just such an ecologically driven experiment. She gets more than she bargained for when the fertilized egg fails to implant, but some leftover bonobo sperm fertilizes one of her own eggs. That is when the story of Sage, the human-bonobo girl, begins.

Sage, in some ways, has the best of both worlds, being extremely agile, strong, smart and curious. But she is also decidedly different from her peers, sporting a slightly protruding brow and a hairy back. Sage is no Bigfoot—although she is once mistaken for one—but is able to "pass," fending off curiosity. Her birth is theoretically possible, leaving the reader to wonder if perhaps there are unexplored ways to stop the

loss of biological diversity.

Surprises abound in this fast-moving story, like when a plan is hatched to exploit Sage's pheromones as a new kind of birth control or when Sage meets her biological father. The story is replete with themes that will resonate with readers who have strong ecological and feminist proclivities, and it is set in the Pacific Northwest, where real-life dramas of passionate and hard-hitting campaigns in response to forest liquidation play out against a backdrop of opposition from pockets of extreme right-wing reactionaries.

Interwoven through wilderness adventures is the clashing of ideologies. With political astuteness, *Primal Tears* highlights the intolerance of far-right fundamentalism thrusting its judgemental fist into a familial story of inter-species love. In scenes that will ring true for direct actionists, Sage joins up with a group of forest-dwelling treesitters. The interspecies nature of the communal living gives new meaning to polyamory as Sage's early-arriving sexuality blooms.

The reality of societal hostility to the inherent rights of animals comes galloping in from the child welfare agency, followed by the local sheriffs and federal agents, fired up by the bible-thumpers.

We also get a dose of the international political landscape in relation to endangered species campaigns as Sage travels to Africa in her quest to protect bonobos from poachers and the burgeoning human population.

Wilson did her research, and segments of the plot will appeal not only to biocentrists and environmental activists, but to scientists and research biologists as well. We learn about the differences between apes and humans in their ability to vocalize and the fact that apes cannot create tears. We also learn that perhaps we have more in common with other species that we share space with on this blue green planet than we might think at first glance.

Ask an EF! Lawyer

He's Working on *Your* Side!

BY STU SUGARMAN

Dear EF! Lawyer,

I just read that a British court gave Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) the power to seize the assets of groups that campaign against it, even if it can't be proved that any of the money belongs to anyone who has broken the law. Could that happen here in the US too?

—NOT A MEMBER OF ANYTHING

Dear Not a Member,

The short answer to this question is: "Hell yes!" US law is based on English law, for obvious historical reasons, but the two systems are very different from each other.

London Animal Action (LAA) was founded in 1994 with the intention of "closing every fur shop in London." On October 22, LAA lost its appeal to a court decision allowing HLS to seize LAA's assets of about \$13,000. LAA argued that the seizure was unlawful because the group has no formal membership or elected officers and is an unincorporated association that does not formally exist in law. For this reason, argued LAA, it legally does not exist, and HLS couldn't sue a group that legally does not exist. Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty UK has, in fact, successfully used this argument in the past.

In rejecting LAA's appeal, the judge determined that LAA had a website, a bank account and monthly meetings where actions were discussed. Significantly, though, the judge added that the appeal "comes far too late" and that none of the members of LAA had come forward to say that their contribution to the bank account should not be put at risk by the order. I see the latter part of this statement as being a cute way of justifying a decision that the judge was inclined to make anyway. While the judge suggests no individual came forward to fight HLS because those individuals do not mind having HLS take their money, he damn well knows that the only reason people stayed away from court was to prevent HLS from unfairly taking more of their assets. The former part indicates this decision is not precedent—that the judge rejected the appeal only because LAA did not file it on time. Let's hope this is the case.

In looking at whether this can happen in the US, I am reminded that HLS moved a large part of its operations to the US just so it could take advantage of our laws, which are designed to protect capitalism even in its ugliest forms. I also think how easy it is for our government to seize the assets of what it deems to be terrorist organizations. If the federal government claims that a Muslim charity is funding terrorists, the government can immediately seize the organization's assets and freeze its operations. There



are procedures by which the group could get its property back, but such an attempt would cost a great deal of time and money—two things that simple charities, suddenly with no assets, can ill afford. I am not aware of any charities that have succeeded in getting their assets back after being shattered by this type of government seizure.

Next, I think about the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and Animal Liberation Front. Let's say the government found a US bank account for "Animal Liberation Front." I imagine only minutes would pass before the money disappeared.

Another example is threats from Congress to dissolve People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) for paying me to represent former ELF spokesperson, Craig Rosebraugh, at a congressional hearing in 2002. PETA had to endure a long and stressful investigation of its finances, was required to respond to congressional subpoenas for its financial records and was required to devote a great deal of energy—all because it protected our right to speak freely.

Of course, the real heart of this matter relates more to whether LAA's donors can lose the money that they contributed to LAA when they could not be proven guilty of directly breaking any laws. The "hell yes" answer is because in the US, if the group is determined to have broken the law, whether the people who donated to it broke any laws is irrelevant. In the eyes of the courts, as well as Congress or the executive branch, the donors did wrong by donating.

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.

Prisoners in the Struggle: Support Them!

The following list is a small sample of the total number of political prisoners and prisoner support groups worldwide. 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. The EF! Journal offers discounted subscriptions for prisoners. Please contact us for more information.

Prisoner and Legal Updates

•Jon Ablewhite, TB4885, John Smith, TB4887, and Kerry Whitburn, TB4886, HMP Nottingham, Perry Rd, Sherwood, Nottingham NG5 3AG, England. They have been transferred to the above address. On April 10, they pleaded guilty to conspiracy to blackmail a farmer who supplied guinea pigs for vivisection. A fourth defendant, Josephine Mayo, pleaded guilty the following day. As of print time, her address is unknown. Their sentencing is scheduled for May 11.

•José Vélez Acosta, a Puerto Rican political prisoner, was released in January. He served nearly three years for conspiracy to destroy federal property during a May 2003 celebration of the end of the US military occupation of Vieques.

•Donald Currie, TN4593, HMP Woodhill, Tattenhoe St, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK4 4DA, England. In late March, Curry was arrested for alleged possession of explosives, attempted criminal damage and arson with intent to endanger life in connection with a number of actions against vivisection suppliers. Four others were arrested on related charges and released on bail.

•Joshua Demmitt, #12314-081, FCI Safford, POB 9000, Safford, AZ 85548, USA. Demmitt has been transferred to the above address. He is serving 2.5 years for the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) arson of an animal-testing facility. For more information, visit www.supportjosh.org.

•Ryan Lewis has been sentenced to six years in prison, three years of supervised release and \$250,000 in restitution for a series of Earth Liberation Front (ELF) actions against urban sprawl. Codefendants Evan and Lili Holland cooperated with the case against Lewis in exchange for reduced sentences. As of print time, Lewis' address is unknown.

•Aaron Linas has been moved to a halfway house and should be released

very soon. He is serving 3.5 years for a series of ELF actions against a number of targets including McDonald's, Burger King, urban sprawl, the construction industry and an SUV dealership.

•Eric McDavid, X-2972521 7E114A, Sacramento County Main Jail, 651 I St, Sacramento, CA 95814, USA. On March 22, McDavid ended a two-week-long hunger strike protesting the prison's refusal to supply him with vegan meals. A lawyer is currently suing the jail for violating McDavid's civil and religious rights to appropriate food. McDavid is awaiting trial for alleged conspiracy to destroy the US Forestry Service's Institute of Forest Genetics, a dam, cell-phone towers and power plants. For more information, visit www.supporteric.org.

•Christopher McIntosh, #30512-013, USP Hazelton, POB 2000, Bruce-ton Mills, WV 26525, USA. McIntosh has been transferred to the above address. He is serving eight years for a joint ALF/ELF arson against a McDonald's. For more information, visit www.supportchris.org.

•Mikael, a Swedish animal liberation prisoner, has been released. He served eight months for smashing all the windows at a fur farmer's house and then throwing red paint and a fire extinguisher inside, as well as for defending himself from attack by a group of fur farmers.

•Heather Nicholson, NR7271, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 3JZ, England. Sentenced in March to four months in prison for violating an "anti-social behavior order" that forbade her from campaigning against Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). Nicholson is also awaiting trial for using abusive words and behavior toward a fox hunter. Her supporters point out that fox hunting is illegal in Britain, and therefore the police should be arresting the hunters instead.

Awaiting Trial or Sentencing

•Tre Arrow, CS#05850722, Vancouver Island Regional Correction Center, 4216 Wilkinson Rd, Victoria, BC V8Z 5B2, Canada. Appealing extradition to the US to stand trial for alleged involvement in the arson of logging trucks and an ELF arson of vehicles owned by a sand and gravel company. For more information, visit www.trearrow.org.

•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.

•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.

•Francesco Gioia, Via Maiano, 10, 06049 Spoleto, Italy. A member of the Italian eco-anarchist group Il Silvestre, Gioia is awaiting trial for allegedly participating in direct action, promoting sabotage and escaping house arrest.

•Zachary Jenson, X-4198632 7E213A, Sacramento County Main Jail, 651 I St, Sacramento, CA 95814, USA. Awaiting trial for alleged conspiracy to destroy the US Forestry Service's Institute of Forest Genetics, a dam, cell-phone towers and power plants.

•Peter Daniel Young, #10269-111, FCI Victorville Medium II, POB 5700, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA. Young is serving two years for releasing mink and foxes from six different fur farms. He is also facing state charges related to a 1997 mink liberation in South Dakota, as well as a 22-year prison sentence if convicted. For more information, visit www.supportpeter.com.

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.

•Sarah Gisborne, LT5393, HMP Cookham Wood, Rochester, Kent ME1 3LU, England. Serving 5.5 years

for conspiracy to cause criminal damage to vehicles owned by people linked to HLS.

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 Ederra, Carcel de Pamplona, C/ San Roque Apdo 250, 31080 Iruñez Pamplona, Navarra, Spain. Serving nearly five years for sabotaging machinery at the 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. For more information, visit www.freefreenow.org.

•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 a number of targets including McDonald's, Burger King, urban sprawl, the construction industry and an SUV dealership.

•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.

Indigenous Resistance

•Byron Shane of Chubbuck® Clan, #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.

•Leonard Peltier, #89637-132, USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837, 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.

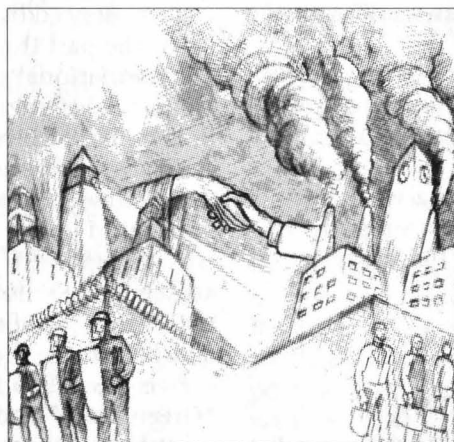
Lecce 5

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.

•Annalisa Capone, Marina Ferrari and Cristian Paladini are free on bail.

•Saverio Pellegrino, Via Prati Nuovi 7, CAP 27058, Voghera (Pavia), Italy.

•Salvatore Signore, Casa Circondariale, Via Lamaccio 1, 67039 Sulmona (AQ), Italy.



Mapuche

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

•Aniceto Norin Catrیمان 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."

•V́ctor Ancalaf Llaupе, 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—Cerde N° 80 y Los Confinos s/n°, Angol, IX Región, Chile. Huenchullan is awaiting trial, accused of theft and intimidation. Huenulao is 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

•José Pérez González, #21519-069, Federal Prison Camp, POB 725, Edgefield, SC 29824-0725, USA. Serving five years for conspiracy to destroy federal property during a May 2003 celebration of the end of the US military occupation of Vieques.

•Robert "Rob los Ricos" Thaxton, #12112716, MCFE, 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.

Prisoner Support Groups

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

•North American Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, www.ecoprisoners.org.

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

announce

Caravan to Indigenous Resistance Communities

May 26-June 6 • Black Mesa, Arizona

Join the Spring caravan to Black Mesa to support human rights. A caravan of work crews from across the western states will converge to spend a week with Diné families affected by coal mining and relocation laws on Black Mesa. Hands-on projects will demonstrate how indigenous communities are actively shaping their futures and assuring cultural survival.

Coordinators for the caravan are located in Prescott, Flagstaff, Tuba City and Big Mountain, Arizona, as well as in Appalachia, the San Francisco Bay Area and Humboldt County, California.

For more information or to coordinate a work crew in your region, contact Black Mesa Indigenous Support, (982) 773-8056; blackmesais@riseup.net; www.blackmesais.org.

Volunteers Needed for Forest Monitoring

The Northwest Ecosystem Survey Team (NEST) is a group of forest defenders committed to protecting the habitats of rare species associated with old-growth and late-successional forests. Through identifying and surveying for endangered and rare species protected by the Northwest Forest Plan, NEST can halt many logging projects on public lands.

Starting in June and continuing through the Summer, NEST will conduct citizen surveys for sensitive species, and it needs volunteers of all kinds. Previous climbing experience is great, but training will also be available.

A typical NEST camp is composed of five to 10 people who will spend two weeks at each timber sale, moving from unit to unit and looking for the presence of protected species either in the canopy or on the ground. Besides locating protected species, NEST volunteers encounter all kinds of wildlife and get to see some of the most beautiful, endangered ecosystems that Cascadia has to offer. Equipment and food is provided, though volunteers will need to bring their own sleeping bags and camping gear.

For more info., contact primateliberation@yahoo.com; www.cascwild.org.

Weekend of Resistance Against the "Green Scare"

June 9-11

Right now, there are more than a dozen people sitting in American jails (or on strict bail release) accused of Earth and Animal Liberation Front actions. They are facing ridiculous charges and draconian sentences.

This June, show the world that the voice of truth will not be silenced by fear.

For the past three years, June 11 has been celebrated as an international day of solidarity with Jeff "Free" Luers. He has repeatedly been overjoyed by the amount of support he has received from around the world.

This year, Free asks you to extend the solidarity that you have shown him to these defendants and that foremost in your mind be the thought that the state is trying to break this struggle with repressive and intimidating arrests and sentences. It's not just those in prison being punished, with these sentences designed to frighten others into compliance.

Free has called for a weekend of resistance against the "Green Scare" and is asking you to demonstrate that you can't be intimidated. Celebrate your dissent; give it voice. Be loud. Be visible. If you have the ability, organize a reclaim the streets party or critical mass. And if you are going to host a fundraiser or venue event, please donate all of the proceeds to the legal defense of those recently arrested who maintain integrity in the face of repression.

For more information, fliers, graphics and merchandise, contact Free's Defense Network, POB 3, Eugene, OR 97440; freefreenow@mutualaid.org; www.freefreenow.org.

3rd Annual World Naked Bike Ride June 10

In June, participants in more than 75 cities around the world will experience the naked joy of the world's largest naked protest against oil dependency and car culture in the history of humanity. It is time to stop indecent exposure to automobile emissions, to celebrate the power and individuality of the human body, and to demonstrate the vulnerability of cyclists on the road. Be there, as bare as you dare! Naked bicycle people power!

For more information, visit wnbr.virishi.net; www.worldnakedbikeride.org.



ments

Wild Earth: Resisting Ecocide

**June 15-18 · Coast Salish Territory,
British Columbia, Canada**

A four-day campout featuring workshops, trainings, music and visioning for future campaigns, Wild Earth is an all-inclusive gathering dedicated to forging alliances across boundaries of race, class, gender and age. Included as part of Wild Earth will be hands-on trainings in non-violence and civil disobedience tactics, tree-climbing, blockades, primitive skills and more. Come network with activists working for environmental and social justice, share skills and learn from others.

For more information, contact wildearth@resist.ca; wildearth.resist.ca.

Allied Media Conference

June 23-25 · Bowling Green, Ohio

How can alternative media go beyond merely "speaking truth" and actually change the material conditions of our world? How do we construct popular media projects that effectively build grassroots power and advance social justice?

The Allied Media Conference will bring together some of the most innovative and visionary culture producers, media workers, artists and activists to probe these and other critical questions. Together, participants will share skills and ideas while building new networks for action and support. With tremendous collective skill, ingenuity and vision, we can use media to build new forms of popular power for the 21st century.

Now in its eighth year, the Allied Media Conference has become an indispensable tool for an under-resourced community. Hands-on workshops, group discussions, film screenings, artist presentations and a large exhibition hall will be featured. Additionally, an entire day for educators and young people to learn how to use independent media in the classroom will take place with the Symposium on Media Literacy.

For more information, contact Allied Media Conference, POB 20128, Toledo, OH 43610; www.amc2006.org.

Mid-Atlantic Radical Bookfair

June 30-July 2 · Baltimore, Maryland

The Mid-Atlantic Bookfair will bring together radical and independent publishers, distributors, bookstores and authors for a weekend of workshops, panel discussions and performances. These events will cover a variety of topics ranging from radical approaches for social services and anti-war activism to political art and aesthetics.

The bookfair will take place at Centerstage, one of Baltimore's most beloved independent theaters, located near the Mount Vernon district and Red Emma's Bookstore Coffeehouse.

Co-organized by volunteers from the Red Emma's collective, the Alternative Press Center, Philadelphia's Wooden Shoe Books and a whole host of others, the bookfair promises to be an engaging and exciting celebration of informed resistance in the Mid-Atlantic region!

For more information, visit www.redemmas.org.

Take Direct Action for Climate Justice **July 15**

This Summer, the Group of Eight (G8) will convene in St. Petersburg, Russia, to plot its continued commodification and domination of the planet, this time under the euphemistic banner of "energy security." A leaked G8 communiqué calls for trillions of dollars in new investments in oil, gas and coal production worldwide, as well as wide-scale development of nuclear energy. With the potential for runaway climate change looming on the not-so-distant horizon, such business-as-usual neoliberalism poses a direct threat to the continuation of life on Earth as we know it. Resistance is self defense.

July 15 will be an international day of action against climate change. As government ministers promise more tax dollars to the industries destroying our planet and our future, people around the world will be taking action to shut them down. This is a call for autonomous, decentralized actions appropriate for your town or bioregion. Use this international day of action to support local struggles against oil refineries, gas pipelines, strip mines and coal-fired power plants. Host teach-ins to spread sustainable living skills. Find a weak point in the infrastructure of resource exploitation and throw a literal or symbolic wrench in the works. Visit your local polluters, and give 'em hell.

For more information, visit www.reclaimthecommons.net.

***Eye of the Storm* Available**

A 14-minute documentary recently released by the Portland Independent Media Center depicts the realities of police surveillance of activists. Using video footage taken by the police themselves, *Eye of the Storm* illustrates how the police routinely target, harass, assault and arrest individuals engaged in constitutionally protected acts of protest.

"The police have stated that activist video footage only tells one side of the story," says the narrator. "But this is their side of the story. And their side is even more damning than ours."

For more information, visit www.portland.indymedia.org; www.indytorrents.org.

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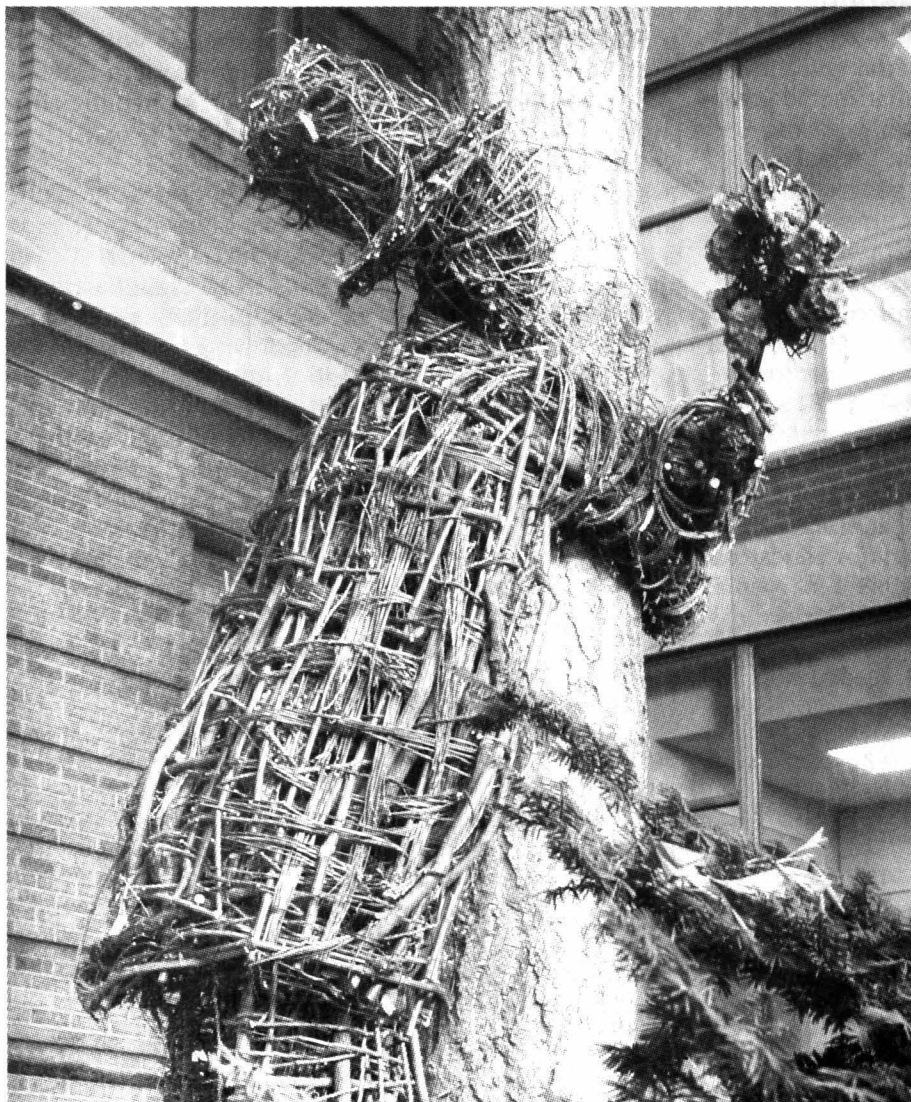
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photos/artwork by Wiktor Szostalo & Agnieszka Gradzik

Some of the benefits of being listed in the EF! directory include: exposure for local and regional campaigns; free advertising space in the *Journal*; merchandise discounts; and bulk copies of the *Journal* for the price of postage. For more information, contact the EF! *Journal*, POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702; (520) 620-6900; collective@earthfirstjournal.org.

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The *Earth First! Journal* currently has an opening for a new member of our editorial staff. It could be you! Being a part of the *Journal* is full of rewards—working on a consensus basis with a tight collective to publish a magazine essential to the radical environmental movement. Our new long-term editor ideally will have publishing experience, be personally compatible with existing staff, have excellent editing skills, be computer literate, have a sense of humor and be able to commit to at least a year and a half. As a collective, all of the work is shared, so a motivated, hard-working individual is required!

We also welcome people with a variety of talents and activist experience to come and work for one issue of the *Journal* as a “short-term” editor. This adds to the diversity of voices and energy in the magazine. The waiting list can be long, but it also depends on how flexible your schedule is and when you will be available.

To apply, send your resumé with a letter of interest to the *Earth First! Journal*, POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. Please forward a writing sample, activist history and the names of some EF! activists who can vouch for you. For more information, contact (520) 620-6900; collective@earthfirstjournal.org.



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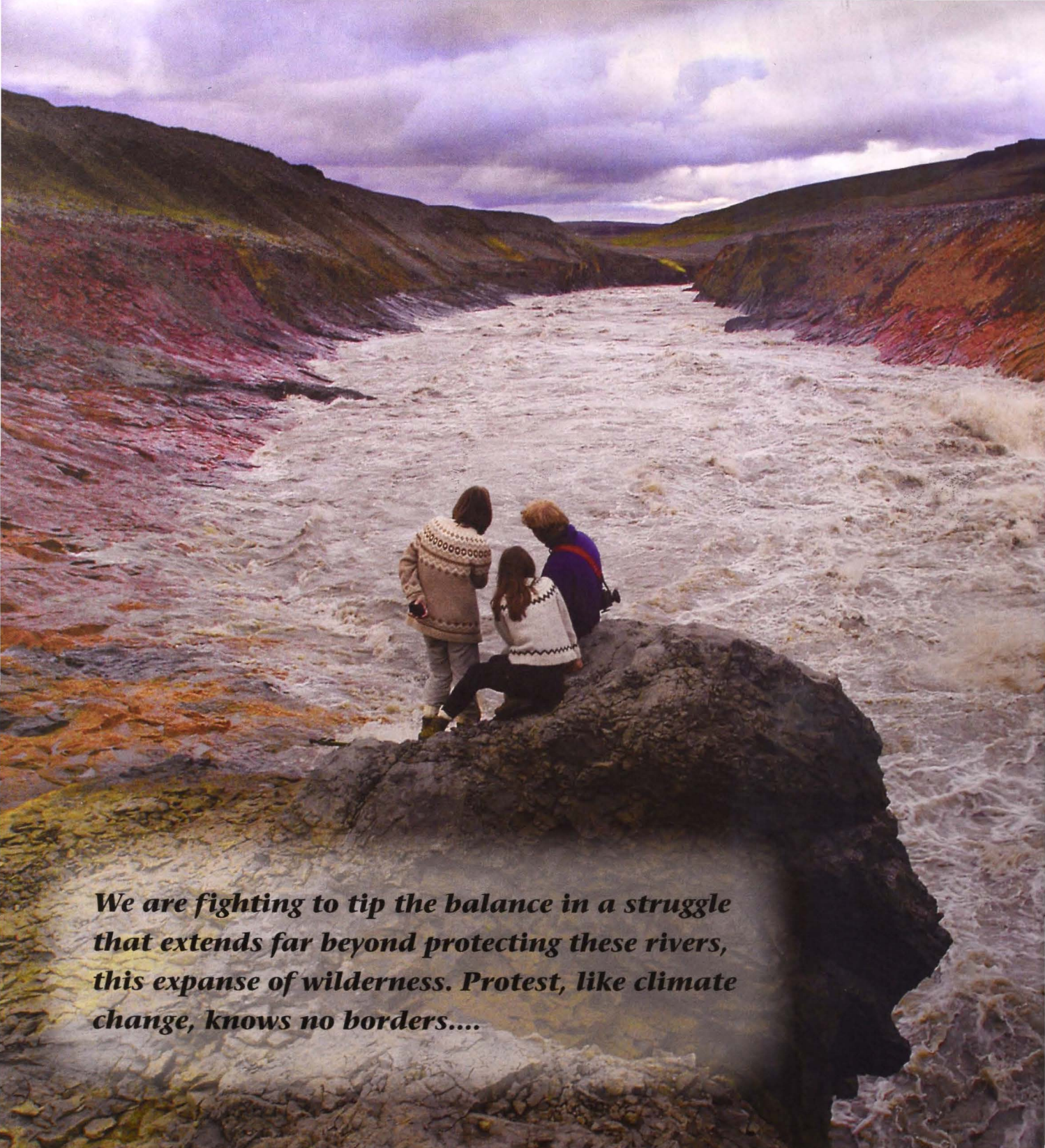
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