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Root Force · Weld Valley Blockade · The Plastic Sea · EF! Revitalized

Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal
Mabon September-October 2006



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Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

Mabon September-October 2006

Front Cover

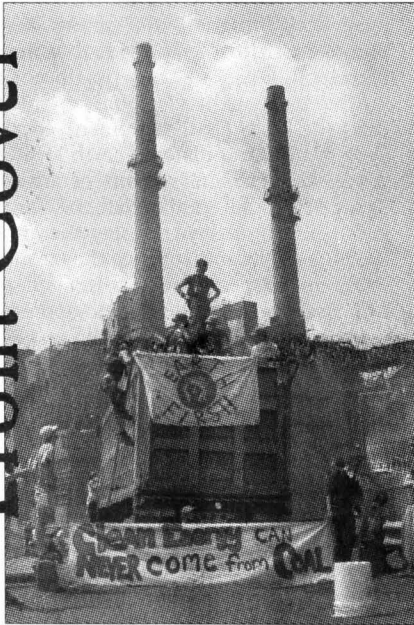


photo courtesy Mountain Justice Media

Earth First!ers blockade an American Electric Power coal power plant in Carbo, Virginia

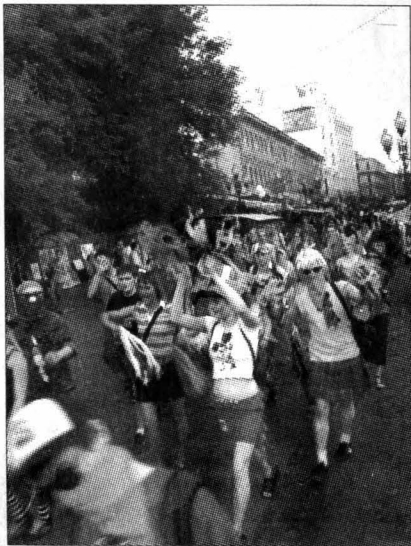


photo by amatonka a

A March in Moscow three days before the Group of Eight summit

FEATURES

- 3 **ELF STILL ON FIRE**
- 6 **ACCESS DENIED**
ANATOMY OF A POWER PLANT BLOCKADE
- 8 **WILD ANCIENT FORESTS AND PRISTINE RIVERS**
PROTECTING THE WELD VALLEY
- 10 **G8 PROTEST ROUNDUP**
"ENERGY SECURITY" MET WITH PROTESTS WORLDWIDE
- 12 **OIL SANDS MINING**
THE DEATH OF THE CANADIAN WILDERNESS
- 14 **AGAINST THE CURRENT**
THE PLASTIC SEA
- 20 **ACTION FOR THE SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST**
- 20 **SUPPORT THE SOUTH CENTRAL 10**
- 21 **WHAT IS ROOT FORCE?**
DEMOLISHING COLONIALISM AT ITS FOUNDATIONS
- 23 **WHAT IS GLOBALIZED INFRASTRUCTURE?**
- 23 **INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION**
- 28 **SOME ARCHITECTS**
- 30 **LA PAROTA DAM**
- 27 **ANILLO PERIFÉRICO**
- 21 **GET INVOLVED WITH ROOT FORCE**
- 29 **PASCUA LAMA**
MOVING GLACIERS AND MINING GOLD
- 30 **HOW EARTH FIRST! GOT ITS GROOVE BACK**
REPORT FROM THE 2006 ROUND RIVER RENDEZVOUS
- 31 **STATE OF THE JOURNAL**
A MESSAGE FROM THE EF!J EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE
- 34 **EVOLVING EARTH FIRST!**
SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE MOVEMENT
- 37 **THE CASE AGAINST IL SILVESTRE**
- 38 **THE GREEN SCARE CONTINUES**
SIX PLEAD GUILTY TO ARSONS AND CONSPIRACY
- 48 **REMEMBERING MURRAY BOOKCHIN**
PIONEERING SOCIAL ECOLOGIST DIES AT 85

SECTIONS

- 4 DEAR SFB: LETTERS TO THE EDITORS
- 13 BARE BONES
- 16 FRONTLINES
- 18 ARMED WITH VISIONS
- 36 ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD
- 40 PRISONERS IN THE STRUGGLE
- 42 ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 46 EF! DIRECTORY

Questions, Reflections,

Cider & Wine



Mabon falls on the autumnal equinox. Not unlike the other pagan holidays at this time of year, it is an occasion to feast on the bountiful autumn harvest. But Mabon is also an opportunity to reflect on the past year, the busy Summer, and what came out of our work and play. As the year winds down, we'll plant ourselves like seeds, hole up for Winter and get active again in a few months. But while we're slurping cider and devouring squash, we may ponder the past year....

For me, this included leaving a life that was comfortable—yet not wholly fulfilling—to go on an epic journey. I hoped to answer some of the questions that I had been asking myself for years: What do I love to do? What do I want from life? What the hell are we going to do about this fucked-up world and the destruction of our very own mother, the planet Earth? A month-long hitchhiking trip—culminating in the Katúah EF! Rendezvous—evolved into quitting my old job at the food co-op, traveling 2,500 miles to Tucson and short-terming at the *Journal*. Some of my more obvious questions have been answered: I realized that I love creating a meaningful publication that provides a forum for our communities. I also discovered that there are many ways to throw the proverbial monkey wrench into the gears of the machine. We just need to keep (un)plugging away; we've shaken the system's foundations before, and we'll shake them harder next time.

But there are so many other things that I am proud to have accomplished, things that can only make it easier for me to go further next year: being happy as an independent, single woman; getting over a jumpy nervousness when chillin' with my insect friends; and learning to listen to the heartbeat of the Earth—my own heart, our heart. We all struggle to find the right path for healing the world. Do we dive into a revolutionary movement? An anti-corporate campaign? Do we disable the paving machine? Do we live as hedonists, un-school ourselves, write poetry, lock down, plant gardens, liberate food, spread the word? The answer is any of these, all of these and more. The only rule is to remember that we, as living beings, draw our passion, inspiration and life force from the living world around us: every plant and creature we are near; the subtle life of the rocks, soil, sky and water; and, of course, each other. We cannot give up, because if we do—regardless of the survival of these human-shaped vessels—our spirit, the spirit of the Earth, will perish instantly.

So, when I sip the mulled harvest wine this Autumn, I will drink to life.

—SOPHIE

Earth First! Mabon

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

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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Please direct all correspondence to:

Earth First!

PO Box 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702
(520) 620-6900

collective@earthfirstjournal.org
www.earthfirstjournal.org

Editorial Collective: erin (Hufflepuff), Josh (Ravenclaw), Oskar (Gryffindor), Sophie (Ravenclaw)

Poetry Editor: Dennis Fritzing

Volunteers: Kylie (Gryffindor), Rebecca (Ravenclaw), Nell, Sarah, Lenny, Waffle

Front Cover: Mountain Justice Media

Inside Front: Maria Virginia Montiel

Back Cover: www.matthewnewton.com.au

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elf still on fire

BY SOPAIPILLA

We've all seen it, wherever we live: urban sprawl. It overtakes wetlands, forests, fields and any other remaining natural places outside cities, and it turns them into paved Wal-Mart parking lots or chartreuse suburban lawns. The citizens try lobbying, but it seems that there's no one who can stand in the way of the bulldozer. Or is there?

Some of us might read Green Scare updates and wonder if anyone will continue to use sabotage—considered one of the greatest crimes against capitalists. Others are not wondering, especially not a group of elves acting in Ontario, Canada. They are using sabotage to hit the parasitic but oh-so-lucrative urban sprawl developments where it hurts. If we could see the developers as the monsters they really are, they'd be bleeding green-dollar monster guts all over their bulldozed construction fields.

In June and July alone, the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) has claimed or been credited with responsibility for six separate actions in Ontario. The Anarchist Fire Brigade (AFB) has claimed one. All of the actions took place outside the cities of Guelph, Toronto, London and Brantford. The actions targeted urban sprawl development sites, from upscale condominiums and houses to a future Home Depot and Toyota dealership. Higher-ups associated with the targets reported that the damage done to each of the sites had cost them tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars—except one. What were the expressions on the Toronto condominium developers' faces when they heard that two million dollars in damage had been dealt to their construction company's machines by elusive saboteurs?

So, how did the elves do it? Stealth, security, organization... and lots of gravel, dirt and cement powder. The latter three materials were poured into the construction vehicles' fuel and oil tanks, while many of the machines' wires were



artwork by e

snipped. All in all, construction equipment was damaged at five development sites, and two suburban houses under construction were burned down. As always, no living beings were hurt during the actions.

The communiqués and messages left by the saboteurs explained why these sites had been targeted. One stated, "The day-to-day lives most of us live are killing our sweet Mother Earth, which we all need to survive. We must stand up together and halt the process of development before it gets too far out of hand.... Let us *rise up* and fight the machines that destroy the planet. We do not need to fight each other. Working as one, we can live lives of *love* and *harmony* for all humans, animals, plants and the planet."

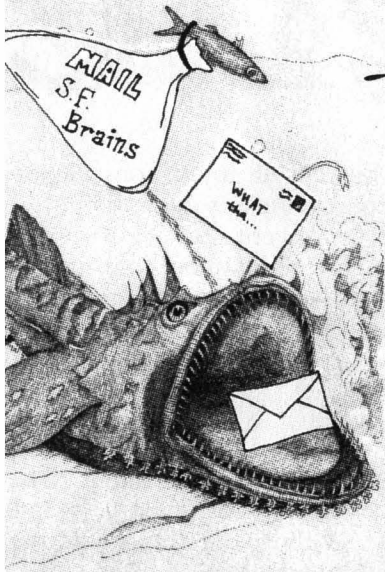
Another ELF communiqué, from an action taken just after the Group of Eight (G8) summit, read, "Resistance is self-defense. The G8 agenda promotes petroleum-dependent 'energy security' that pollutes our land and atmosphere, exploits communities everywhere and scorches the Earth's climate. Its recipe for catastrophe must be met with our global resistance! On July 18, six quarts of gas were put to use. *Stop development now!*"

The communiqué from the AFB quoted the articulate lyrics of David Rovics' "Song for the ELF":

"You can go to Senate hearings/Wait til they call your name/My hat is off to anyone/With the will to play that game/But if you want to know the truth/What warms my aching heart/Is to see the masked avengers/Come to tear the road apart/There are so many things of beauty/In this world to see/A wild, running river/Or an old-growth redwood tree/But in such an ugly situation/So sinister and dire/There's nothing quite so lovely/As a development on fire."

Sopaipilla likes learning the names of the pretty weeds that take over abandoned sprawl sites. When in nature, she enjoys splashing in creeks and watching thunderstorms. When surrounded by concrete, she experiments with spray paint.

Dear Shit fer Brains Letters to the Editors



EF!J. Maybe in some Native publications, but it is not something for the EF!J.

Obviously, you disagree. I attribute this to your lack of experience. But in my opinion, the long-term EF!J collective owes John Trudell, AIM and Michael Donnelly an apology. Not that I think that a simple apology will repair the damage you have done to two movements that

have been in solidarity for over 25 years, but it is a start at reparations.

Sincerely,

—JIM FLYNN, EX-EF!J EDITOR

Dear SFB,

As always, thanks for the latest issue of the EF!J. I keep praying that some day I'll read within its pages that we've won. And of course, I'll keep struggling until then.

In response to JJ Hicks' letter (see EF!J July-August 2006), I appreciate the compliment and criticism. I pride myself on being too radical for the liberals and too conservative for the radicals. But, the fact that I am compassionate should never be misinterpreted as apologetic or weak.

Some of these people that have turned traitor are former friends. I feel their betrayal very strongly, and there is no confusion in my heart about what I'd like to see happen to them.

As for my statement about things sometimes not being a person's fault, most activists are privileged enough to never have known brutal interrogation techniques. Maybe that hasn't happened

yet. But it will. We've no idea what kind of pressure these people were put under, only that they broke. We know Bill Rodgers took his own life as a result of his arrest. So there was pressure, real or imagined.

Your misinformation about my co-defendant Critter demonstrates to me that you don't research your facts. And that is just as harmful as snitching, when you falsely accuse someone. I was there when Critter's deal was negotiated. He conferenced with me before taking it. He never debriefed, he never told, and he stood up like a warrior. He and I might not get along so well anymore, but I have nothing but respect and love for that guy. And I'll have words with anyone who calls him a snitch because he got less time than me.

Next time JJ, check with someone's co-defendants and check the paperwork before you smear someone's name. And *Journal* staff, I know you don't censor people, but you know my case history, and you should know better than to print false info on a fellow activist.

—JEFFREY "FREE" LUERS

Dear Shit fer Brains,

Some people have raised concerns with me about a few sentences in an article I wrote about the US government's attack on Arizona EF! and the Earth and animal liberation movements (see EF!J March-April 2006). The most controversial line was, "More than war, racism or even imperialism, the global economy depends on the exploitation of nonhuman life."

I was dismayed to learn that some people interpreted this to mean that struggles against racism, war or imperialism are less important than struggles for animals or ecosystems. That was not my intention, and I have always been an advocate of a more holistic approach in which anti-racism and Earth defense are inextricably connected (see EF!J November-December 2005). In the Arizona EF! article, I glossed over this admittedly complex point because I assumed that I was writing solely for an EF! audience. I would like to clarify it here.

First of all, I meant that no form of oppression can occur in the absence of the oppression of the Earth. Race and class hierarchies cannot be constructed in a society where everyone has easy access to land and the ability to provide their own food. Only when humans are disconnected from the Earth (and "resource scarcity" is created) can both be exploited. Genocide and ecocide are necessary precursors to all other forms of oppression.

More to the point, racism and imperialism are isolated concepts in the public mind and could hypothetically be eliminated without seriously challenging the modern way of life. This is, of course, a fallacy, but at this point in the article I was referring to the danger posed by the Earth/animal liberation message. For much of the mainstream, racism means only overt discrimination, and it is easy to imagine life without it. There is no way, however, to imagine the modern economy without animal

Please try to keep letters to 300 words or less

slaves. This is why, I posited, the state considers the Earth and animal liberation movements to be particularly dangerous. By saying that it is wrong to exploit *any* form of life, we force listeners to reconsider the nature of the entire society.

I realize, to my embarrassment, that I did get carried away with absolutist words like "only" and "alone," but the last thing I wanted to do was invalidate other radical movements and struggles. Arizona EF! has always worked hard to tear down the barriers between "environmentalism" and "anti-racism," whether by defending sacred indigenous land or standing *almost* alone in formulating a radical response to local border vigilantes. The last thing we want or need is more divisions.

Hasta la Victoria,

—BEN PACHANO

Dear SFB,

Lots of talk lately about the snitch problem and what to do about it. The fact is people will do almost anything to stay out of prison, and great pressure is placed on them to inform on others. They don't even have to tell the truth—lies will do quite nicely for the FBI, if it leads to movement paranoia and division.

We'd like to draw attention to a long time EF!er arrested on non-Earth-defense charges, heavily pressured by the FBI and US Forest Service (USFS) to snitch, and didn't.

On September 11, 2001, JJ Hicks (aka "Scout") was spotted by a freddy near a small pot patch outside the USFS boundary. JJ was never one to give up, and so began a truly great escape story, known locally as the case of the "Nude Fugitive."

JJ eluded cops that were on foot, horse, car and helicopter. He finally escaped by floating down the river to an undisclosed location. JJ managed to stay free for a year and a half, but sadly, too many folks knew where he was, and a scumbag turned him in for the reward.

He was placed in solitary, and due to his association with Katúah EF!, he was interrogated by the FBI and USFS, who were hoping to make him snitch. When they searched his place they found some guns, so they threatened him with career criminal status and life in jail, then threatened his pregnant girlfriend. They offered him an easy ride if he'd help "bring down the Earth Liberation Front (ELF)." His lawyer urged him to cooperate; JJ could've just made up some lies about fellow activists but didn't. All he did was confirm that he knew his fellow EF!ers.

He's now serving a six-year term and needs more support. Please write him at Thomas W. "JJ" Hicks, #18231058, FCI McKean, POB 8000, Bradford, PA 16701. Books and magazines must be sent straight from the publisher. He also needs money for phone cards, stamps and commissary. Send US Postal Service money orders *only*, with his full name and number, to Federal Bureau of Prisons, POB 474701, Des Moines, IA 50947-0001.

For more information, contact nudéfugitive@yahoo.com; www.myspace.com/nudéfugitive.

Please support prisoners, not just the ones listed in the *Journal*. Defeat snitch culture!

—COREY AND BILL

Ona Move!

To all at the *Earth First! Journal* collective: I want to

send my revolutionary greeting of *Ona Move!* for myself and the MOVE family, and our sincere appreciation for all y'all do in defense of *Mama* and support of those who love and protect and work and live in harmony with Her. Thanks much!

I truly appreciate your efforts in making sure that my family and I receive your publication. Its vivid photos and content are always a source of motivation for me and a useful tool for me to use in showing those around me the *all serious* need for people to change their ways of living, to get *away* from this reform world system's *training*, or they will *not* survive! We know that *Mama-Life* will *always* be *forever*. It is "man" who will no longer exist or live as *he* knows it to be.

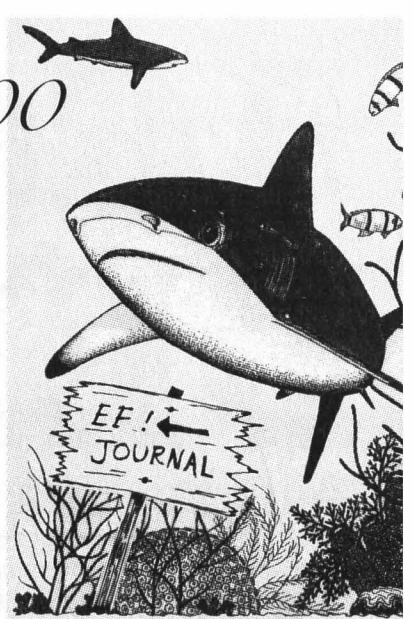
Anyway, I wanted to send you this painting of a "treespiker" as a small show of appreciation from the MOVE Organization and myself for all you do. Your work is of the *utmost* importance, for *nothing* is more important than the *Force* that keeps you *alive!* Which is why we in MOVE have committed our lives to this cause. *Long Live Mama Forever!*

Again, I just wanted to send you all this token of thanks for all the work you do and for your continued support of those of us on the inside and your unbending defense of *Life/Nature/Mama*.

To all the *Earth First! Journal* collective, take care, stay strong by staying active and committed to the work of Life. You can be sure that we in MOVE will be forever doing the same. *Long Live Mama Forever!*

Ona Move!
Yours in life,

—PHIL AFRICA



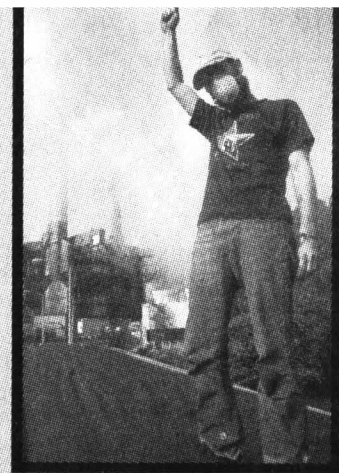
Editors,

So far, none of the defendants in the ELF arrests have to my knowledge invoked the necessity defense, but the defense of necessity was raised repeatedly in ELF press releases. Before we judge their actions, let's first look at the three essential elements for a provable case of necessity as recognized for centuries under common law and today under the Geneva Convention. There has to be an imminent and irreparable harm being done. Only a bonehead would argue that the ELF did not meet this test. The second element is that all other legal options have been tried and exhausted. Well, I don't know about the ELF, but those arrested certainly meet this test if anyone living does. On to number three, they must have a reasonable chance of succeeding. This is what is being argued today, and if anyone says the Vail fire was unsuccessful they have a right to say that. But if they believe, as I do, since number one and number two are unassailably provable, you also have to entertain the idea that the Vail fire was successful, like the Boston Tea Party, which did not even affect the price of tea in the colonies. This gives them three out of three. Patriots, I say!

—MIKE ROSELLE

ACCESS DENIED

Anatomy of a Power Plant Blockade



photos courtesy Mountain Justice Media

BY COAL DUST

It's 11:30 at night—only five and a half hours before we have to drag our sleep-deprived asses out of bed to shut down one of the dirtiest coal power plants in the Southeast, and things aren't looking so good. During our last practice run, one of the tripod's legs snapped, and the resulting fall has mangled the pod and nearly maimed us. Shouts, profanities and general blasphemy fill the air. What the hell are we going to do?

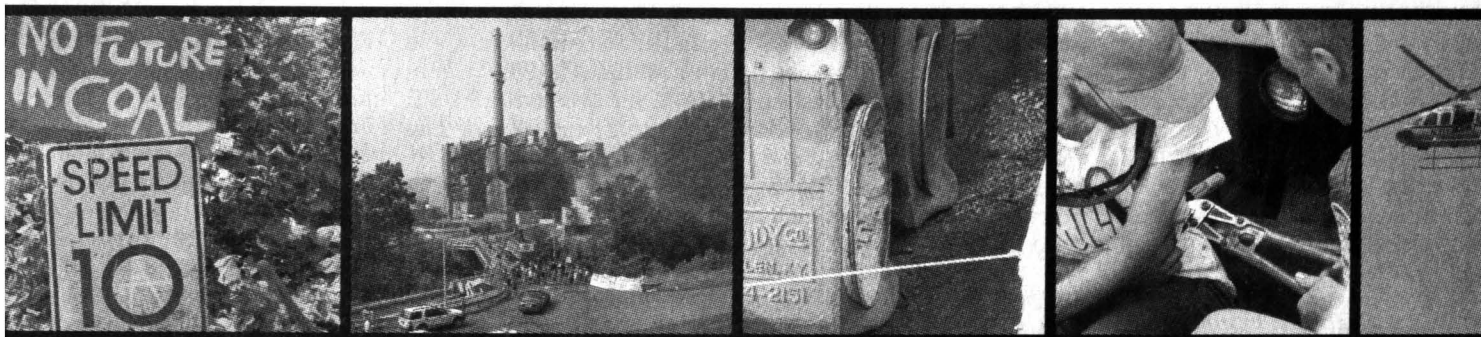
Fortunately, we Earth First!ers are a resilient bunch, and soon enough we have a pretty decent contingency plan: We'll just wave a coal truck onto the only bridge that accesses the plant and commandeer it, while the

to the different affinity groups. It's time to roll. A-Team, consisting of the pod-hanging crew and the truck-commandeering posse, heads out to the first rendezvous point, Hardee's. A-Team chills at this fine eating establishment, while an advanced scout and distraction crew—armed with fireworks and air horns, just in case—is deployed to the power plant. Meanwhile, B-Team, which consists of worker liaisons, soft blockaders and cable lockers, is busy rallying the rest of the masses—otherwise known as C-Team—to a nearby rendezvous point. When that task is accomplished, they send an emissary to Hardee's to loudly order a cup of coffee. That's A-Team's signal to mobilize for action.

We pile into the A-Team van (actually a truck), and our small caravan

This is where things start to get a bit surreal. Our cars roll up to the bridge, and we hop out and get down to business. But wait... there appears to be a security truck on the bridge! Well shit, what do we do now? Amazingly, the security guard—perhaps sensing his powerlessness in the situation—just keeps rolling off the premises and out of our way without saying a word. After this initial confusion, a crew headed by the one and only B.A. Baracus gets to work stretching a rope across the bridge and hanging it over the side—a three-story drop. There is a small platform at the end of the rope, and within a minute, Baracus has rappelled down to the platform and made himself comfortable.

Meanwhile, two other folks are locking steel cables across the bridge on



other half of the blockade is being set up. Sounds good, *hasta manana!*

Now it's dark and early on a fine Monday morning—a beautiful day to raise some hell in southern Appalachia. We all meet up at the parking lot to gather our gear and wits. Patriotic magnets cover up animal liberation and Earth First! bumper stickers, and synchronized watches are distributed

of trouble is on its way. We get to our hidden staging spot about a mile from the power plant entrance. As arranged, B-Team drives past us five minutes later and does a U-turn. It's time for action. A-Team and B-Team are now a bona fide six-car caravan of whoop-ass that's swiftly approaching the only entrance to American Electric Power's (AEP) filthy Clinch River Power Plant.

both sides of the hanging platform to ensure that no wingnuts try to drive their vehicle through Baracus' only support line.

The first half of the blockade is in place; the other half is up to fate. And sure enough, like clockwork, an unsuspecting truck overloaded with coal comes around the bend. Will our plan work? Well fuck, it's worth

a shot. Murdoch, our traffic controller, stands in the middle of the bridge wearing an orange vest and holding a flag—actually a torn red T-shirt attached to a small branch that was constructed on the spot about a minute before. Using his advanced Jedi skills, Murdoch starts waving the truck onto the bridge. Amazingly, the trucker takes the bait and follows Murdoch's instructions—despite the fact that the bridge has numerous cables and ropes stretched across it, and the 20 people already on site are clearly up to no good (especially the three individuals lurking to the side in black masks). With the truck in position, the rest of the posse gets to work. Face locks himself to the bumper, while Hannibal clammers on top of the trailer and finds a secure place to lock down—but not before unfurling an Earth First! banner, of course. Meanwhile, a more mobile affinity group busts out handy valve-stem removers and lets the air out of the eight rear tires, ensuring that this most unlucky truck will be going nowhere.

Once again, our timing is magnificent, and the rest of the crowd rolls in just as we are putting the final touches on the blockade. The crowd of approximately 75 EF!ers starts chanting, "King Coal, off with his head!" and holding banners reading, "There are no jobs on a dead planet," and "The beauty of the mountains runs deeper than a coal seam." Dust masks are

their trucks and wait to see what will happen. A collection is taken up, and \$100 is offered to the driver whose truck has been commandeered (for lost wages). He refuses it twice, remarking, "You should just put it toward your next cause!"

Eventually some county cops show up and aren't really sure what to make of the situation. For the next several hours, there is a steady influx of various state and county cops, more head scratching and no attempt to dismantle the blockade—even though some of these locks could be snipped by a bolt cutter. Eventually one of the alpha cops candidly asks our police liaison, "Well, what do you think we should do?" You know you're in good shape when the cops are asking the protesters for advice.

The situation continues to get more bizarre. A few cops videotape and photograph us from every angle possible, while others are directing news crews to where they can get the best shots of the blockade. Still other cops are giving us advice on how to look better for the media and telling us, "Get ready, 'cause there's going to be a news van here in two minutes." At some point a separate crew manages to paint "No MTR" (out of coal sludge) on AEP's front entrance sign, without anyone noticing.

Finally the cops—after five hours of taking pictures and twiddling their thumbs—offer us a deal: Dismantle the

him safely to shore. Hannibal unlocks himself, but Face refuses, insisting that the cops should cut him out. The cops oblige, and soon enough he is cut free. While all this is going on, a rather impressive convoy of about 30 state-trooper squad cars, two armored riot vehicles, a SWAT team and a bomb squad delivered via helicopter swarms onto the scene. Fortunately for us, the deal remains in place, and everyone walks unfettered past the seemingly endless pig parade. Oh yeah, they let us keep all the locks, cables and climbing gear too. Thanks y'all.

Coal Dust has a fear of flying just like B.A.—because of the fuel consumption.

American Electric Power's Clinch River Coal Power Plant

American Electric Power's aging Clinch River Power Plant is one of the dirtiest coal plants in the Southeast. It releases more than four million pounds of carbon dioxide annually, as well as hundreds of pounds of mercury, lead, arsenic and other heavy metals. The plant is responsible for 59 "premature" deaths per year, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

We also targeted this plant to highlight the connection between coal consumption and the destruction of Appalachia by mountaintop removal (MTR) mining. The county adjacent to the Clinch River plant currently has 41,000 acres of mountains permitted for MTR and other forms of strip-mining. Southern Appalachia has already seen more than 800 square miles of mountains flattened and at least 1,200 miles of streams buried due to MTR.

Although the coal industry is one of the main employers in southwestern Virginia, the blockade was surprisingly well-received. One local even told us that he wished he had known about the action ahead of time so that he could have locked down as well!

Katúah Earth First! would like to thank everyone who came to the rendezvous and the action for their support and solidarity in our fight to topple King Coal.



distributed, and arms are linked across the bridge entrance to shield those who are locked down.

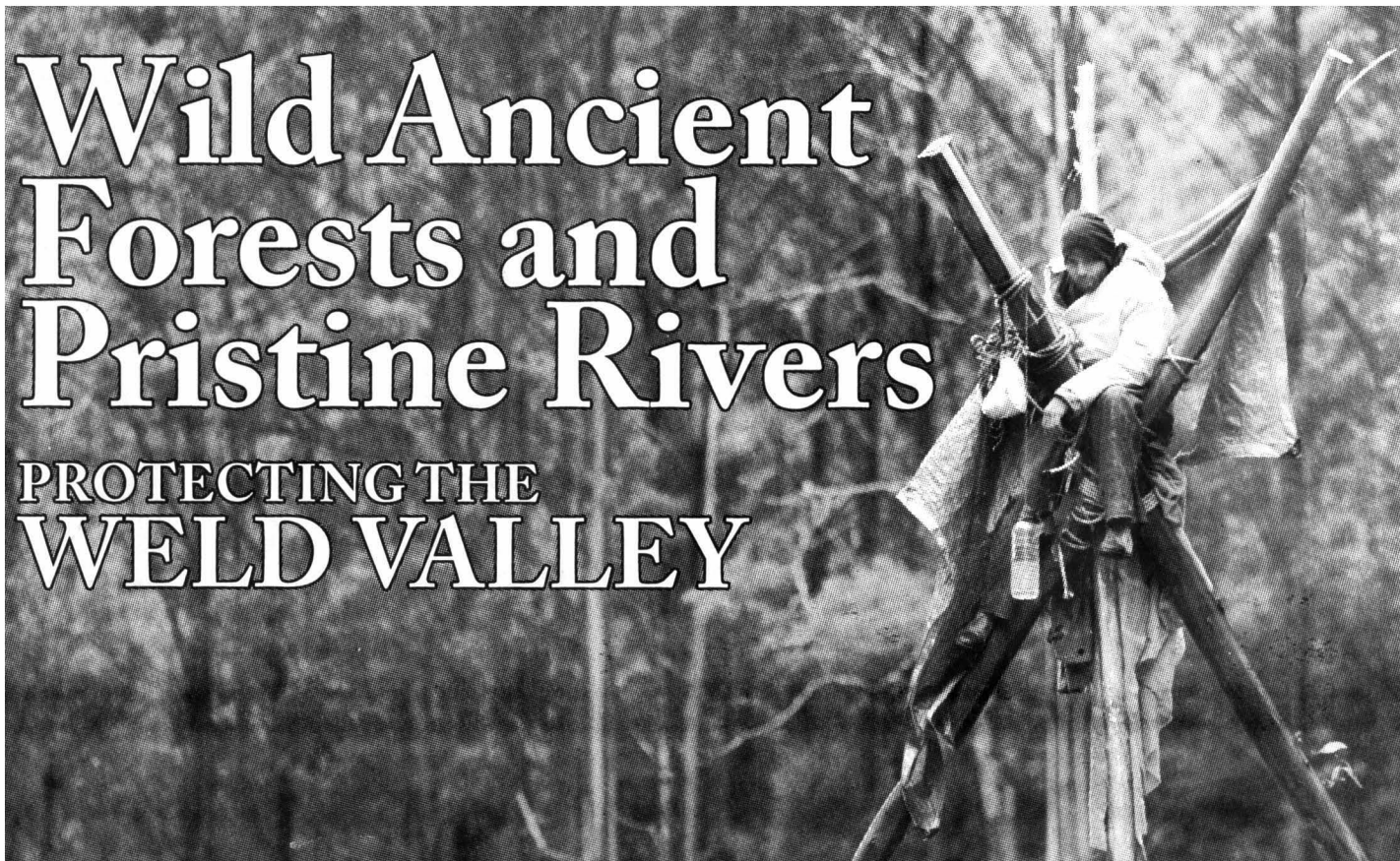
Soon enough, coal trucks are piling up on the approaching roads, a few workers are scratching their hard hats, and an eerie calm fills the air. The worker liaisons do an excellent job explaining what's going on to the truckers, who mainly just chill out in

blockade, and nobody will be arrested. The folks in the various lockdowns confer with each other and agree that the benefits of walking free outweigh the gains made by holding the blockade. Besides, it will probably take the cops at least a few more hours to figure out how to move the disabled coal truck.

With that said, Baracus rappels down to a police boat, which delivers

Wild Ancient Forests and Pristine Rivers

PROTECTING THE WELD VALLEY



Activist Warrick Jordan blockades a road to stop logging in Denison Forest, which borders Weld Valley in southern Tasmania.

BY JENNY WEBER

The Weld Valley is one of many wilderness areas in southern Tasmania, Australia, that are slated for destruction to produce wood chips for export, pulping or power. But residents are putting up a hell of a fight. For more than five years, the valley has been a site of direct-action, ecological resistance to a proposed logging road, which would enable the felling of nearly 5,000 acres of pristine, ancient eucalyptus forest. In January 2005, forest defenders established a blockade that eventually helped win a six-month moratorium on road construction by Forestry Tasmania—a government business enterprise that manages 3.7 million acres of the state's public forests.

When that moratorium expired in September 2005, activists returned to Camp Weld, where they remain one year later. The camp is a constantly evolving entity; activists and artists have built a fort, treesits, monopods, tripods, dragons, living quarters, artistic sculptures and the Weld Ark, a magnificent full-size, road-blocking pirate ship! More than 50 people helped defend the camp during the Summer of 2005-2006, and over the last 18 months, the Weld blockade has attracted activists, artists, researchers, media and travelers from more than 20 countries. It's a powerful local response to a state-wide problem.

Loggers: The Real Tasmanian Devils

Tasmania, the wild southern island, is Australia's poorest and smallest state. It is a place where government and its corporate friends are in the throes of industrial colonization, where forestry rights for 20 years are sold to Malaysian logging companies at today's prices, where

the wholesale destruction of ecosystems and grave loss of habitat continue to rob Tasmania of its world heritage values. Tasmania is the only state in Australia that clearcuts rainforest; most other states are phasing out native forest logging altogether.

Tasmania also exports more wood chips than all other states combined, even though the demand for the export is falling as Indonesia and South America become sources of cheaper wood chips. Thus, a new wood-fired power station and pulp mill have been proposed in order to prop up the terminally ailing Tasmanian wood-chip industry. Gunns Ltd., the largest logging company in Australia and the largest hardwood wood-chip exporter in the world, has proposed a pulp mill for northeast Tasmania, demanding 30-year access to Tasmania's native forests in return. If this proposal is approved, it will mean that Gunns' level of wood-chipping in Tasmania will leap from the current five million tons per year to nearly eight million tons per year.

Gunns is already decimating Tasmania's native forests and raking in the profits. To add insult to injury, in some forests, only 30 percent of the trees are removed to chip mills. The remaining 70 percent of the felled vegetation is considered waste and firebombed with a napalm-like substance. Smoke from a recent "regeneration burn" in northeast Tasmania was so thick that schools and major highways were forced to close. And now, this kind of total destruction is threatening to engulf the Weld Valley.

A Precious Ecology

The Weld River flows wild and undisturbed for 30 miles from the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area—a region recognized by the United Nations to include some

of the “most important and significant natural habitats for in situ conservation of biological diversity.” The Weld Valley has been recognized by numerous national and international experts as possessing the same natural significance and the same need for protection as the adjacent world heritage area. The temperate rainforest—replete with myrtle-beech, sassafras, leatherwood, celery-top pine, eucalyptus and many other plant species—is situated in valleys with large creeks and small river systems. Some of these species are not found anywhere else in the world and date back to the prehistoric supercontinent of Gondwana. The region also contains one of the largest karst areas (i.e., eroded limestone containing fissures, sinkholes, caverns and underground streams) in Tasmania, including Australia’s deepest cave. Another cave presents evidence of human occupation in the Weld Valley as early as 20,000 years ago, at the height of the last ice age—the southern-most evidence of human presence during that era.

The Weld Valley and the surrounding forests are also home to many threatened animal species. The Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle—Australia’s largest bird of prey—is an iconic and critically endangered subspecies with fewer than 1,000 individuals left in the wild. Nevertheless, Forestry Tasmania continues to log near crucial nesting sites, leaving just a small and insufficient 25-acre buffer. Current practices provide a patchwork landscape for an eagle whose territory should span an area as large as 20 to 750 square miles, depending upon the availability of food. In 2004, a Forestry Tasmania-commissioned study modelled the future of the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle over the next 200 years. The study concluded that the eagle faces an extinction risk of 62 percent from human-induced causes, excluding logging. With logging factored in, the likelihood of extinction exceeds 90 percent. The Weld Valley and similar old-growth wilderness areas are critical habitat for this majestic eagle.

Turning Anger into Action

The high conservation value of the Weld Valley and the surrounding old-growth forests has spurred the local community into action against Forestry Tasmania and Gunns Ltd. The campaign to protect the southern forests, including the Weld Valley, is spearheaded by the local Huon Valley Environment Center (HVEC). The anger of the Tasmanian community regarding ongoing forest destruction has resulted in increased frontline ecodefense, as demonstrated by the formation and escalating activities of direct-action groups, such as Save the Weld Action

Group and the Forest Defense Unit. Fourteen forest-defense actions have occurred in southern Tasmania’s Weld, Picton, Denison and Styx forests since February. In the Styx Valley, a treesitter occupied a 250-foot-tall eucalyptus tree for 50 days, until he was arrested and removed via police helicopter.

Direct action has also spread to Hobart, the state capital. On May 18, 20 activists occupied Forestry Tasmania’s headquarters in order to draw attention to the clearcutting of the Weld and Styx valleys, and to highlight the plight of the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle. The atrium of the headquarters is designed to look like an indoor rainforest. Activists made this rainforest more realistic by playing a loop of eagle calls and revving chainsaws over a sound system. Four people locked down to various points around the atrium, including the top of a 65-foot-tall elevator shaft and a walkway at the top of atrium. After four hours, five people were arrested on trespassing charges.

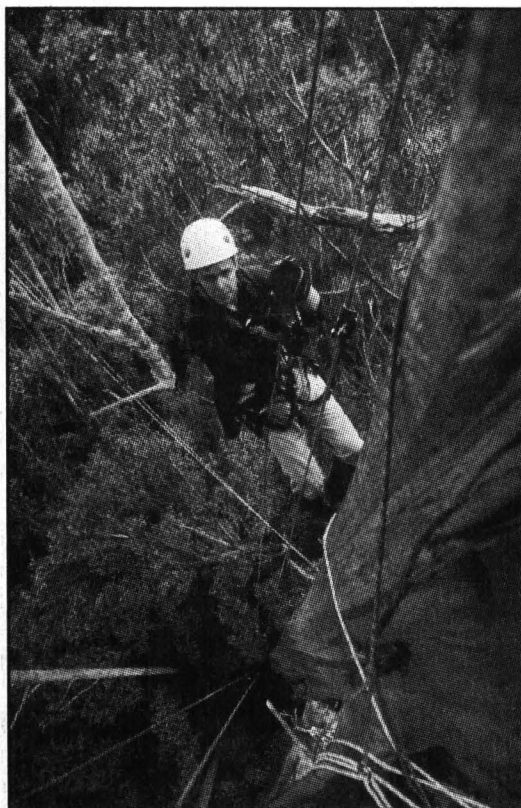
Currently, Gunns is suing 20 defendants, including environmentalists, community members, a dentist, a doctor, a senator, a member of parliament, HVEC and the Wilderness Society. The company is seeking \$5 million in damages, claiming that the defendants have conspired to defame its character and impair its business. The Gunns lawsuit is an attempt to silence the debate about the destruction of forests. The state government claims to be protecting both the forests and jobs. Meanwhile, the federal government has left the forests to fend for themselves, claiming to have solved the debate in Tasmania.

On the ground, activists are not convinced. Napalm clouds from recent regeneration burns burst through our sunny days. Logging companies race to

clearcut the forests surrounding wedge-tailed eagle nest sites before breeding season starts. Wood-fired power stations and native-forest pulp mills funded by the state government continue through the planning stages. Help stop the destruction!

For more information, contact Huon Valley Environmental Centre, 3/17 Wilmot Rd, Huonville, Tasmania, Australia 7109; 03 6264 1286; centre@huon.org; www.huon.org/weldvalley; www.gunns20.org; www.forestdefenceunit.org.

Jenny is a longtime forest activist and mother who works for the protection of Tasmania’s ancient southern forests. She is also a founding member of the Huon Valley Environment Center, Jenny currently lives with her daughter and partner on a 1.5-square-mile private wildlife reserve in southern Tasmania.



Jai Critchley builds treesit platforms in the Eucalyptus canopy of Weld Valley, Tasmania.

photos courtesy www.mathewnewton.com.au

G8'S "ENERGY SECURITY" MET

BY RISING TIDE NORTH AMERICA

On July 15-17, the Group of Eight (G8)—which comprises the world's eight richest industrialized nations—met in St. Petersburg, Russia, to further consolidate its power and influence around the world. This year's focus was the suspiciously benign-sounding theme of "energy security." Though the G8 countries make up only 15 percent of the world's population, they use about 45 percent of the world's fossil fuels. With the threat of dwindling oil supplies in the air, the focus of this meeting was indeed energy *security*—that is, securing the world's remaining fossil fuel reserves into the hands of the world's richest nations and their corporate allies.

While it appears that no concrete plan came out of the G8, the gang did issue a statement promising to invest heavily in fossil fuel infrastructure projects, open up "closed markets" to private investors and encourage more intensive exploration of any remaining oil reserves. The only time that G8 leaders even attempted to address global warming was in their commitment to greatly expand the nuclear power complex.

As the Gang of Eight plotted the further expansion of its oil empire—and with it a nightmarish scenario of cataclysmic climate change—people around the world were weaving a different story of what our future should look like. In an international day of action against climate change and the G8, dozens of protests took place across the globe to demand a world free of fossil fuels, nuclear power and other bullshit "solutions" to our current climate crisis.

Critical Mass

Critical Mass bike rides seemed to be a common theme as protestors confronted car culture by demonstrating a people-powered alternative.

Washington, DC: A Critical Mass ride dropped by oilman/Vice President Dick Cheney's house and then continued to the home of Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman, where a lively protest took place.

Amsterdam, Netherlands: Bicyclists reclaimed a few of the city's busiest highways, ending their ride at a Shell office

to show solidarity with activists currently fighting a Shell pipeline in Ireland.

Auckland, New Zealand: There were five simultaneous banner drops demanding climate justice, as Critical Mass riders took over the business district.

Critical Mass bike rides also occurred in Paris, France; Manchester and Gloucester, UK; and Asheville, North Carolina. A Reclaim the Streets action for climate justice was reported in Brisbane, Australia.



A march in Moscow three days before the G8 summit

Russian Resistance

St. Petersburg: The entrance of a hotel and a main thoroughfare used by G8 summit participants was blockaded in a protest against G8's support for nuclear energy and the commercialization of education. About 30 people were arrested.

Participants in the Russian Social Forum—which was held on July 13-15—were not allowed to have a march, although they had requested permission weeks before. Police blocked them at St. Petersburg's Kirov Stadium, where the social forum was held, and prevented them from taking to the streets. About 150 activists held a rally behind closed gates, facing lines of riot police, who outnumbered the activists.

Additionally, thirteen environmental activists were arrested after staging an anti-nuclear protest in St. Petersburg. Organizers from the Norwegian environmental group Bellona said the activists were roughed up by police at the demonstration against the storage of nuclear waste in Russia.

In the Belly of the Beast

Davis, California: At the Department of Agriculture building, protesters rallied against the biotech-sponsored "Monsanto Bill," which would block local communities from their constitutional right to vote on whether or not genetically modified crops can be grown in their voting district.

Lawrence, Kansas: A Carnival Against Capital featured food, face painting, and live punk, folk and hip-hop music.

Augusta, Maine: On July 15, a truckload of construction and demolition debris was dumped in Governor Baldacci's driveway by the Maine Toxic Avengers, bringing attention

WITH PROTESTS WORLDWIDE

to his continued support for the importation, dumping, and burning of toxic construction and demolition debris.

Europe Makes Noise

Oxfordshire, UK: On July 18, activists from Reclaim Power, a climate change pressure group, occupied a lighting tower at Didcot Power Station. Three climbers scaled the tower and unfurled a 50-foot-long banner reading, "Climate Crime." They remained there for several hours to highlight the role of coal-fired power plants in climate change.

London, UK: On July 15, a banner reading "CO2" was unfurled, and leaflets were distributed outside the office of Tulchan Communications, a public-relations firm. Tulchan represents the Drax Group, which owns and runs the UK's dirtiest coal-fired power plant.

Hamburg, Germany: A Reclaim the Streets Day was organized under the slogan: "We are not going to demand anything. We are not going to ask for anything. We are going to take. We are going to occupy." The festivities ended when police forces arrested 70 participants.

Straslund, Germany: On July 13, about 1,500 people from the peace, anti-globalization and anti-fascist movements rallied against US President George Bush and German Chancellor Angela Merkel's pre-G8 meeting in Straslund.

Madrid, Spain: Activists from Global Action Madrid symbolically hanged straw effigies representing G8 leaders to denounce their criminal treatment of indebted countries.

Around the World

Gao, Mali: The fifth edition of the People's Forum—a popular convergence to educate, exchange, communicate, organize and elaborate alternatives to neoliberal globalization—was attended by several hundred people. This three-day gathering raised awareness of the problems faced by poor people in western Africa, including the neocolonial plunder of the natural and energy resources of the Southern Hemisphere.

Manila, Philippines: An anarchist festival celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Spanish Revolution and mobilized resistance to the Philippine president's annual State of the Nation address.

Maracaibo, Venezuela: A full week of activities against coal mining in the indigenous territory of the Sierra de Perijá—including film screenings, eco-games, mural

painting and art exhibitions—culminated in a protest and rally on July 15.

There were innumerable other creative protests throughout the weekend, and Russian embassies everywhere were also getting lots of heat.

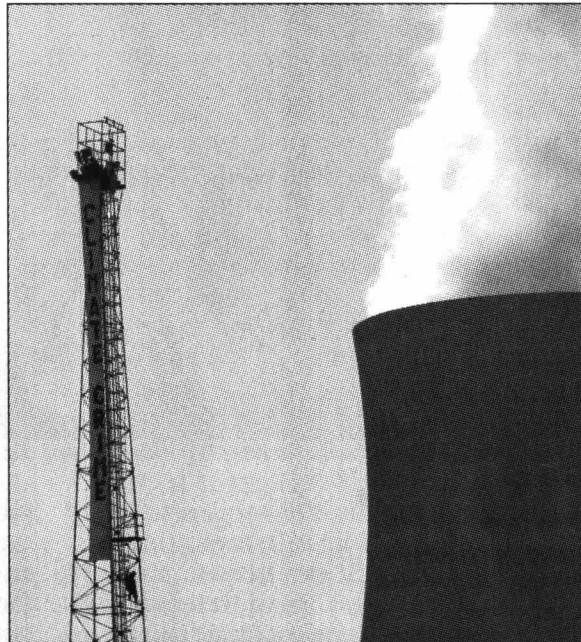
Rising Tide North America (RTNA) is inspired by the actions that took place in response to the G8's diabolical plans to perpetuate and accelerate the Earth's climate crisis. While the protests may not have made an impact on the G8's policies, there is no doubt that these actions helped further the fight against climate change in the communities in which they happened. We believe that real solutions to the Earth's climate crisis will come from empowered communities, not politicians or corporations.

After a number of productive meetings and workshops at this year's EF! Round River Rendezvous, RTNA continues to grow as we focus our strategy for bringing down the fossil fuel empire. We are sending two of our secret agents overseas to the UK Camp for Climate Action, where we hope to learn a thing or two from our British friends and build stronger ties with the international Rising Tide network. RTNA is building links with Mexican activists in preparation for the G8+5 meetings (the G8 plus the "emerging" countries of Brazil, India, China, South Africa and

Mexico) on climate change that will be held in Mexico City on October 3-4. The focus of these meetings will be on developing carbon-trading, *not* drastically reducing global carbon dioxide emissions.

Looking a little further ahead, RTNA is in the beginning stages of organizing a cross-country road show for Spring 2007. The road show will build momentum for a national direct action Climate Convergence that Summer. We are continuing in our efforts to build links with and give support to communities resisting fossil fuel extraction, as well as those beginning to feel the impacts of climate change. This includes doing support work with communities in Black Mesa and southern Appalachia who are resisting coal mining, as well as networking with activists doing emergency response and solidarity work for climate disasters.

If you are interested in setting up a gig for our Spring road show, donating money or looking for other ways you can combat climate change, please contact Rising Tide North America, contact@risingtidenorthamerica.org; www.risingtidenorthamerica.org.



The banner dropped by Reclaim Power amid the Didcot Power Plant's towering smokestacks

photo by the urchin

OIL SANDS MINING

THE DEATH OF THE CANADIAN WILDERNESS

BY ERIN

Canada is home to one of North America's longest undammed rivers, the Athabasca. It flows northward through Alberta for 955 miles, from Jasper National Park to Wood Buffalo National Park. As the Athabasca River approaches Wood Buffalo, it passes the McClelland Wetland Complex. This complex contains 12 sink holes, McClelland Lake and an ancient bog that is home to various rare plants, including five carnivorous species. However, the growing interest in oil sands mining poses a serious threat to the survival of this

ecosystem. This area was protected from such devastation until the late 1990s, when Syncrude—the world's largest oil sands company—squeezed its greasy, greedy fingers around the neck of Alberta's politicians. Now, 50 percent of the McClelland complex could be destroyed to extract oil sands.

Oil sands—considered an “alternative” to petroleum—are extracted by strip-mining large amounts of land, leaving gaping holes in the Earth. The sand underneath contains bitumen, a thick substance that can be turned into oil. First, the sand is treated with water and caustic soda to make it into a sludge-like material. It is then mixed with hot water, and the bitumen is skimmed off the top. Because it is still so thick, the bitumen has to be mixed with liquid or gas petroleum, and the resulting substance is upgraded to crude oil. This process not only wreaks

havoc on the local environment, it also produces millions of pounds of greenhouse gases, uses a lot of water and, most importantly, doesn't bring us any closer to the end of oil dependency.

In the last century, water levels in the Athabasca River have decreased



The free-flowing Athabasca River is threatened by oil sands mining.

by 20 percent. Oil sands extraction and processing is exacerbating this problem. Each day, between two and five million gallons of water are used to produce one million barrels of crude oil. While current operations use 92 billion gallons of water every year, this volume will only increase as oil sands production becomes more widespread. Most of the water used for these operations comes from the Athabasca River, and this removal will have life-threatening effects on the fish that inhabit these waters. Due to the combined effects of global warming and the oil sands industry, the river is at risk of drying up in the

Fall. With water levels naturally lower in the Winter, fish populations may barely survive, if at all.

The water used for oil sands production is too contaminated to be released back into the ecosystem, so it ends up in toxic ponds. In an attempt to recycle some of this water, oil sands companies have developed another way to extract the oil. It is a process called steam-assisted gravity drainage, an “in situ” method that processes the oil sands in their original location prior to extraction. Most of the sands suitable for oil extraction—up to 90 percent—lie too far beneath the surface to mine. To solve this

problem, the in situ method implements long drills that pump steam into an upper hole to melt the tar, which then travels to a lower hole, where the bitumen is pumped to the surface. This process does not decrease the environmental impact of oil sands mining but merely hides it underground in deep wells or landfills. These in situ operations may not rip up the landscape, but they do create an equally devastating puzzle of roads, test holes and pipes.

As climate chaos increases throughout the world, it is counterproductive to invest millions of dollars into oil sands mining projects. The process of extracting this oil emits three times as

OIL SANDS PRODUCE MILLIONS OF POUNDS OF GREENHOUSE GASES, USES A LOT OF WATER AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, DOESN'T BRING US ANY CLOSER TO THE END OF OIL DEPENDENCY.

many greenhouse gases as conventional oil production. In 2002, under the Kyoto Protocol, Canada promised to cut greenhouse gas emissions six percent by 2012. Since 1990, however, emissions have increased 35 percent. Governments and corporations claim that



photo courtesy the Pembina Institute

The result of Syncrude's oil sands operation

they are devising new technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but their "alternatives" still won't be enough to reverse the major damage that they have inflicted on the environment thus far.

Companies involved in oil sands mining emphasize the measures they are taking to reclaim the lands that they have so viciously destroyed. For example, what was an oil sands mine 20 years ago outside Edmonton, Alberta, is now a picturesque landscape, scattered with young trees and populated by wild bison. However, the water there is so unsuitable for waterfowl that propane-powered cannons are set off every few seconds to scare away any birds that might attempt to land in the contaminated wetlands. Two of the largest oil sands companies, Syncrude and Sunco, have claimed that 20 percent of the land they have mined has been restored. They claim that the boreal ecosystems that were destroyed have been restored in a mere 20 years. In reality, it will take 300 years for these forests to become healthy again; the wetlands may never return. To add fuel to the fire, last Fall, the Alberta government released the Mineable Oil Sands Strategy (MOSS), which stated that thousands of miles of boreal forests and wetlands were only useful for extracting oil. Because of public protest, MOSS is undergoing a one-year review.

To the naked eye, Alberta's wilderness still seems awe-inspiring, with its lush green forests, white-capped mountains, glacier-fed lakes and rivers, and its native flora and fauna. The terrifying reality is that Alberta's 410,000 square miles—inhabited by only three million people—is steadily succumbing to the mercy of those who want to exploit it for financial gain. Logging, gas development and now the rise of oil sands mining has reduced Alberta's natural forests to 40 percent of their original range. The areas that still remain are littered with industrial activities. The caribou, grizzly bear, lynx, martin and other species that call this land home are very sensitive to human interference. The devastation that further oil sands mining will create is unfathomable. Drastic measures must be taken to ensure the survival of this precious ecosystem. We must not let greed and corruption rob us of the irreplaceable biodiversity that makes up the remaining Canadian wilderness.

For more information, contact The Pembina Institute, POB 7558, Drayton, Alberta, T7A 1S7 Canada; www.oilsandswatch.org

This is erin's first article for the Earth First! Journal. She has family living in Alberta, Canada. Currently she is living in California at Yosemite National Park but will soon return to live in Tucson. Erin enjoys dogs and the outdoors above all else in this world.

BARE BONES

Mining with Cyanide in Romania

Gabriel Resources, a Canadian mining company, is poised to create Europe's largest open-pit gold mine in Rosia Montana, Romania. After millennia of mining, all that remains is gold dust, which can be obtained only by violently excavating the area and using toxic cyanide to isolate the precious metal. Not only would the mine destroy a Roman ruin and displace more than 2,000 residents, it would also pulverize the Rosia Montana Valley and transform the Corna Valley into a dammed cyanide storage pond. In total, the project would generate nearly 200 million tons of cyanide waste.

On July 18, Greenpeace activists chained themselves to the entrance of the Romanian environmental ministry in Bucharest, to draw attention to the highly controversial project.

The Buzz on GM Mosquitoes

Researchers at Brazil's René Rachou Research Center have successfully introduced an enzyme into mosquitoes in order to prevent the insects from spreading malaria. The enzyme—a component of bee venom—prevents the parasite that causes malaria from leaving the mosquito's intestines. So far, only the species of mosquito that causes malaria in chickens has been genetically modified. Eventually, scientists hope to engineer the mosquito species that transmits the disease among humans, breed the transgenic insect and release it into the wild so that it can replace natural mosquito populations.

Gabriel Fernandes, coordinator of the Campaign for a Transgenic-Free Brazil, suggests that the engineered mosquitoes may pose a greater risk than genetically modified plants because the insects are highly mobile.

AGAINST THE CURRENT

The Plastic Sea

BY CAPTAIN PAUL WATSON

On the beach of San Juan Island, Washington, Allison Lance walks her dogs every morning. She carries a plastic bag in her hand to collect the bits and pieces of plastic debris she picks up. Each morning she fills the bag, but by the next morning there is always another bag to be filled. Joey Racano does the same in Huntington Beach, California. The harvest of plastic waste is never-ending. Allison and Joey's beaches—and practically all beaches around the world—are similarly cursed.

In June, a UN Environment Program report estimated that there are an average of 46,000 pieces of plastic debris floating on or near the surface of every square mile of ocean.

We live in a plastic convenience culture; virtually every human being on this planet uses plastic materials directly and indirectly every day. Our babies begin life on Earth by using some 210 million pounds of plastic diapers each year; we give them plastic milk bottles, plastic toys and food from plastic jars—paying with a plastic credit card. Even avoiding those babies by using contraceptives results in the mass disposal of billions of latex condoms, diaphragms and birth control pill containers each year.

Every year, we eat and drink from 34 billion newly manufactured bottles and containers. We patronize fast-food restaurants and buy products that consume another 14 billion pounds of plastic. In total, humans produce an estimated 60 billion tons of plastic material every year. Each of us uses an average of 190 pounds of plastic annually: bottled water, fast-food packaging, furniture, syringes, computers, packing materials, garbage

dumped into lakes, rivers and oceans. When incinerated, the plastics disperse non-biodegradable pollutants, many of which inevitably find their way into marine ecosystems as microscopic particles.

Back in 1991, my ship, the *Sea Shepherd*, was anchored in the harbor of Port of Spain, Trinidad. It began to rain a hard, steady downpour. A few hours later, the entire surface area of the harbor was dirty white, as if an ice floe had entered this tropical port. The "floe" consisted of styrofoam, plastic bottles and assorted plastic materials, as far as the eye could see. It had come down from the streets, gutters and streams into the harbor. And, of course, it was all washing out to sea, dispersed by wind and tide.

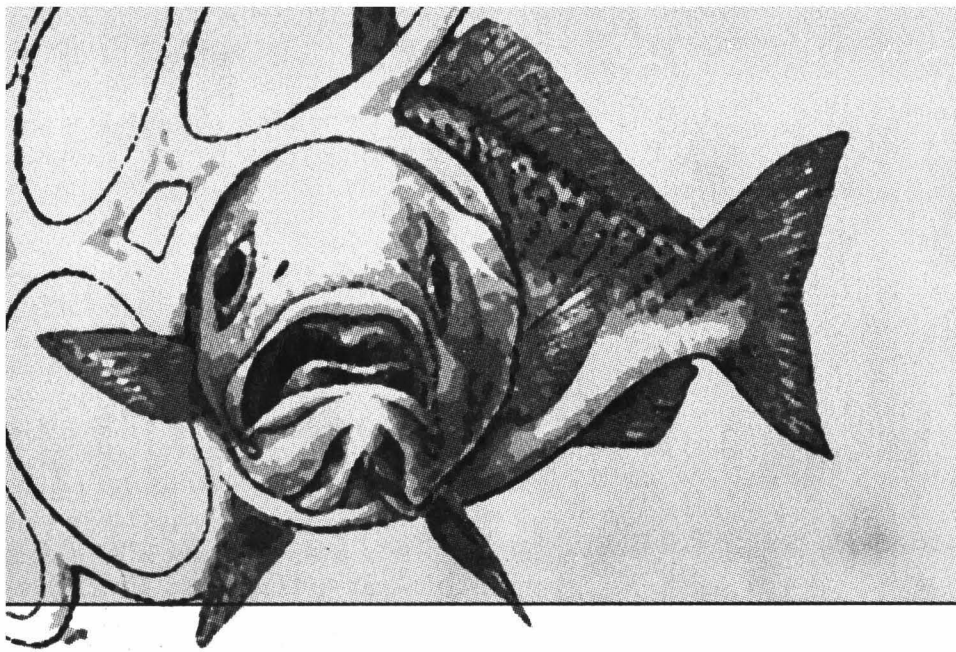
What happened to it after that? The sun and the brine broke it down into

little pellets of styrofoam and little pieces of plastic—each an insidious, floating, deadly mine set adrift in an ocean of life. And over the years these little nodules have drifted. There is no place in the oceans where a fine trawl will not reveal the plastic nodules. Studies by Captain Charles Moore and the Algalita Foundation found that even in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, plastic nodules outweigh plankton by a ratio of six to one.

There are an average of 46,000 pieces of plastic debris floating on or near the surface of every square mile of ocean.

bags and much more. When you consider that this plastic does not biodegrade and remains in our ecosystems permanently, we are looking at an incredibly high volume of plastic trash that has been accumulating since the mid-20th century.

Where does it go? There are only three places it can go: our earth, our air and our oceans. All the plastic that has ever been produced has been buried in landfills, incinerated, or



Similar studies in the Atlantic have revealed the same ratio. The simple fact is that when you drop a styro-foam cup onto the street, you're causing more damage than you would by dropping a stick of dynamite into the ocean. You set in motion an invasion of thousands of killer plastibots that will cause death and destruction for centuries to come.

We give this global threat very little thought at all. It is out of sight of land-dwelling humanity and thus out of mind. The only industry that seems concerned about plastic pollution is the marine insurance business. The intake of plastics into the cooling systems of engines is one of the leading causes of maritime engine failures. Last year, Japanese insurance companies paid \$50 million in claims involving plastic-related engine and propeller damage.

Drifting in our seas are tens of thousands of miles of monofilament drift nets and lines. This same netting ensnares ship propellers, sea lions and turtles. Over the years, my crew has retrieved hundreds of floating monofilament nets from the sea. All of them contained the rotting corpses of fish and birds.

In a well-documented beach clean up in Orange County, California, volunteers collected 106 million items, weighing 13 tons. The debris included preproduction plastic pellets, foamed plastics and hard plastics; plastic constituted 99 percent

of the total material collected. Most abundant were preproduction plastic pellets, the bulk of which originated from transport losses. Approximately one quadrillion of these pellets—or 60 billion pounds—are manufactured annually in the US alone. Plastic nodules are lost routinely in both the shipping and manufacturing stages, spilling from shipboard containers or from trucks onto streets and into storm drains.

Oil spills occur every day in our oceans, and major spills occur approximately every two weeks somewhere in the world's marine ecosystems. Although these oil spills are notorious killers of marine wildlife, their deadly impact is confined to relatively small geographic areas, and the impact is reduced with time. The Exxon Valdez spill, for example, was confined to Alaska's Prince William Sound, and although the impact on wildlife was felt for many years, the ecosystem is slowly recovering. Yet this other kind of petrochemical spill, in the form of solid plastics, is more invasive and permanent. This type of spill is cumulative. The spillage is never cleaned up and removed, but accumulates perpetually.

I don't think that I am exaggerating when I say that the spillage of plastic resin pellets poses a significant and unappreciated threat to the survival of sea life. The oceans are becoming plasticized. This threat becomes more

continued on next page

BARE BONES

IWC Endorses Commercial Whaling

On June 18, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) adopted the St. Kitts and Nevis Declaration, which asserts the IWC's desire to resume commercial whaling. Although the IWC's pro-whaling faction did not achieve the two-thirds majority necessary to overturn the 1982 whaling moratorium, its success in passing the declaration (by 33 votes to 32) signals a clear shift in the IWC's intentions. Many of the pro-whaling votes were secured through Japan's documented policy of bribing poorer IWC member-nations in exchange for their support.

Surely the most bizarre of the declaration's assertions is that "scientific research has shown that whales consume huge quantities of fish, making the issue a matter of food security for coastal nations." The IWC is trying to execute whales for depleting worldwide fish populations, when humans are the primary culprits of overfishing.

UK Animal Experimentation Reaches 14-Year High

In 2005, the annual number of experiments performed on animals in the UK rose to approximately 2.9 million—the highest since 1992. Nearly 60,000 more procedures were carried out than in 2004—a 1.5 percent increase. 85 percent of the experiments were performed on mice, rats, rabbits and other rodents. More than 4,600 of the procedures involved primates—an increase of 11 percent. 33 percent of all procedures involved genetically modified animals—up from eight percent in 1995. Only 40 percent of the experiments employed some form of anesthesia.

Activists greeted the depressing news from the UK Home Office with a mock funeral procession of mourning animals led by a Tony Blair look-alike.

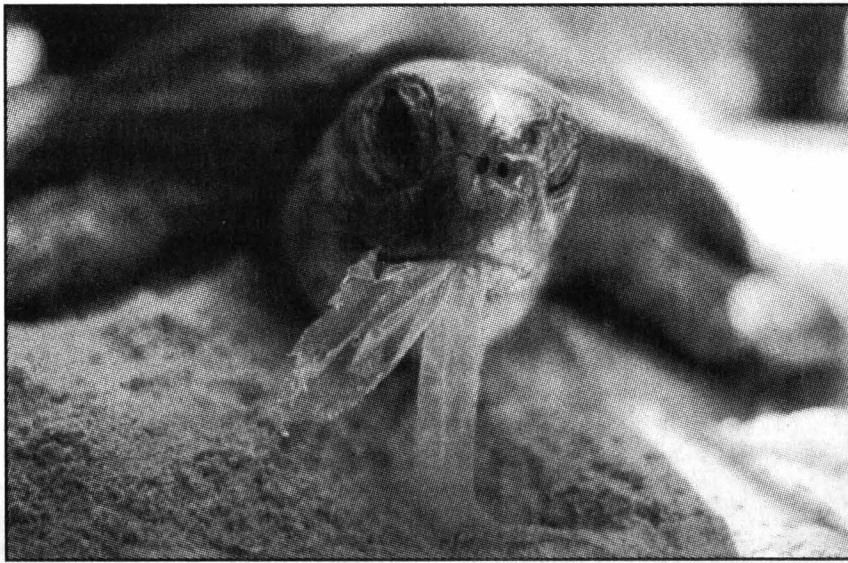


photo courtesy Melbourne Zoo

shearwaters examined contained ingested plastic.

Of the world's 312 species of seabirds, some 111 species, or 36 percent, are known to commonly and mistakenly ingest plastic. In Hawaii, 16 of the 18 resident seabird species are plastic ingestors, and 70 percent of this ingestion is of floating plastic resin pellets. Seabirds in Alaska have been found to have stomachs entirely filled with indigestible plastic. Penguins on South African beaches have suffered high chick mortality from eating plastic regurgitated by the parents, and 90 percent of blue petrel chicks examined on South Africa's remote Marion Island had plastic particles in their stomachs. It is a global problem, and for seabirds there are no safe places.

For most people, the ocean is a big toilet. The belief is that garbage, sewage and plastics are dispersed and taken away. Unfortunately, nothing is really ever "taken away"; it is simply perpetually circulated. The oceans are pulsating with powerful currents, which keep plastic debris in constant circulation. As a result, debris travels in what are called gyres, which concentrate the garbage in

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lethal each year as the cumulative amount increases. The impact of this spillage contributes to more casualties than all of the world's oil spills, yet we know very little about the problem. In fact, the public does not even recognize that plastic resin pellet spillage is a problem at all.

Plastic pellets also pose an additional threat: They act as a transport

medium for toxic chemicals. Many of these pellets contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The chemicals were either absorbed by the pellets from ambient seawater or used in the manufacture of plastics prior to the 1970s. The transfer of PCBs from ingested pellets into birds was conclusively proven and documented in the fatty tissues of great shearwaters. Studies have shown that 75 percent of all

Frontlines

First Nations and Anti-Logging Protesters Blockade Highway

On July 13, about 100 protesters—including members of the Grassy Narrows First Nation, the Rainforest Action Network and ForestEthics—shut down Trans-Canada Highway 17, near Kenora, Ontario. The blockade, which included a 30-foot-tall tripod and protesters locked to a logging truck, successfully prevented Weyerhaeuser from transporting trees cut on Grassy Narrows traditional territory to a nearby timber mill. Police made no arrests or attempts to remove the blockade, which was peacefully disbanded after 12 hours.

In retaliation, approximately 50 Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers blocked access to the Grassy Narrows support camp on July 15. At highway checkpoints, the OPP arrested nearly a dozen Six Nations and non-Native supporters. Numerous others were detained or issued citations.

The July 13 blockade was just the latest action in a decade-long struggle against Weyerhaeuser and Abitibi's logging of Grassy Narrows territory without community

consent. Since December 2002, the Grassy Narrows First Nation has maintained the longest-running indigenous blockade against logging in Canadian history. While this has stopped loggers from accessing old growth, younger areas of the forest continue to be cut.

Saboteurs Trash Development in Illinois

On June 3, saboteurs attacked the future site of a 110-acre development in Mokena, Illinois, causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage. They smashed the windows of three bulldozers, three diggers and a pickup truck, poured grease inside several of the vehicles, and spray-painted "No more new houses" and "Fuck Mokena" around the site.

Sabotage of the planned, 146-home subdivision began last Fall, after developers cut down hundreds of mature oak trees, some of which were more than 200 years old. On September 22, workers discovered the phrase "Fuck you, tree killer" spray-painted on tree-removal machines. In the early Spring, someone went for a joyride on a bulldozer, and in May, a portable toilet was hooked to a vehicle and dragged around the construction site.

areas where currents meet. For example, one of the largest of these movements in the Atlantic is called the Central Gyre, and it moves in a clockwise circular pattern driven by the Gulf Stream. The Central Gyre concentrates heavily in the northern Sargasso Sea, a place that is also host to numerous spawning fish species.

The number of floating plastic pellets found in the Sargasso Sea has been measured in excess of 9,000 parts per square mile. The same density has been found in the waters off the southern coast of Africa. This study found that plastic pollution had increased in South African waters by 190 percent since 1989.

Birds, turtles and fish mistake the tiny nodules for fish eggs. Garbage bags, plastic soda rings and styrofoam particles are regularly eaten by sea turtles. A floating garbage bag looks like a jellyfish to a turtle. The plastic clogs the turtle's intestines, robbing the animal of vital nutrients. This has been the cause of untold losses of turtles to starvation. All seven of

the world's sea turtle species suffer mortality from both plastic ingestion and plastic entanglement. One turtle found dead off Hawaii carried over 1,000 pieces of plastic in its stomach and intestines. And recently, a land-based turtle rescued from a Florida waterway was unable to submerge

One turtle found dead off Hawaii carried over 1,000 pieces of plastic in its stomach and intestines.

due to the amount of styrofoam trapped in its body, making it permanently buoyant.

The amount of plastic pellets present on beaches is astonishingly high. In New Zealand, one beach was found to contain more than 80,000 pellets per square yard. Thus, it is not so far-fetched to suggest that people are literally sunbathing on plastic beaches. I have stopped my

ship in mid-ocean and found flip-flops, suntan oil bottles, plastic soda bottles, garbage bags and even large industrial plastic sheets. In each place sampled, we have also found plastic pellets.

Once, on the bottom of the Mediterranean, off the coast of France, I witnessed a scene that appalled me. The entire bottom was made of plastic. Bottles and plastic bags swayed with the tide, replacing the sea grasses and algae. It was especially sad to see one little fish scurry to take cover from me in a sunken automobile tire.

Brushing aside a drifting plastic bag, I spied a flicker of red on the bottom. What I found was a plastic face staring up at me with a great big smile and two enormous plastic ears. It was the decapitated head of a Mickey Mouse doll.

It's a plastic sea out there.

Captain Paul Watson is the founder of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and a founding director of the Greenpeace Foundation.

ALF Liberates Goats from Military Research Lab in UK

In July, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) rescued nine goats from the QinetiQ Center for Human Sciences in the UK, and placed the animals in safe and caring homes. QinetiQ studies decompression sickness, which can occur in divers who surface too quickly, by placing goats in a hyperbaric chamber and subjecting them to intense pressure variations. According to the ALF communiqué, "Every year dozens of goats are killed [by QinetiQ] in decompression and recompression experiments.... The animals are used over and over, until the ordeal becomes too much and they die."

QinetiQ, a defense technology corporation with ties to the British Ministry of Defense and the Carlyle Group, claims such experiments proved "useful" during the Kursk submarine disaster in 2001. This is a hollow rationalization, considering that all 118 people aboard the Kursk died. Other countries, such as France, use computer simulations and human trials to more accurately study decompression sickness.

The ALF dedicated this action to Gari Allen, a former ALF prisoner who died in July.

Sea Shepherd Flagship Escapes Detention in South Africa

On June 15, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's (SSCS) flagship, the *Farley Mowat*, escaped from Cape Town, South Africa, after being detained there for nearly six months.

When the *Farley Mowat* arrived in Table Bay Harbor on January 24, it was immediately detained by the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) on the grounds that the ship did not have the proper commercial certification. The *Farley Mowat*, however, is registered as a private yacht, not a commercial vessel, and therefore had no way of obtaining the required documentation. SSCS spent months fighting this legal catch-22 in court. However, once it became clear that the *Farley Mowat* would not be allowed to leave, the crew decided to sneak out of Cape Town under cover of night.

The *Farley Mowat* docked in South Africa at the end of last Winter's campaign against Japanese whaling in the Antarctic Whale Sanctuary. While detained, SSCS discovered that whale meat is illegally transferred between ships in Cape Town harbor—an indication that SAMSA's detention order was politically motivated.

ARMED WITH VISIONS

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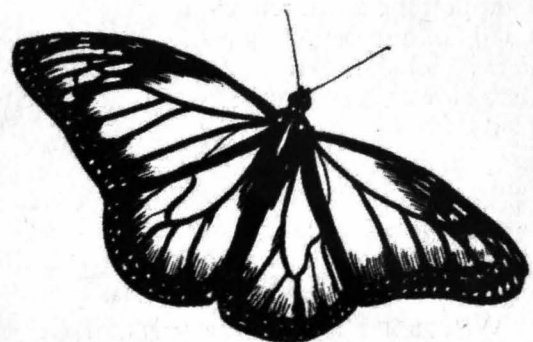
Clear as cut glass
& just as dangerous

Losing Avalon, Finding Avalon

When I heard of his reported death
I was convinced it was murder
another suffocation torture
the victims with hoods over their heads
in Guantanamo Bay, Iraq, Afghanistan.
All I could see was his face
looking at me so calmly
in the desert Spring
outside the info shop Catalyst
where he made a home
for Love and overt purpose.
For two nights
I woke up continuously,
every time seeing his face—
the second night I asked him
again, again, again
how it happened,
his soul's departure—
until he told me so calmly,
mentioning the plastic bag,
not confused, not surprised.
I couldn't remember in the morning
exactly what he said
but I awoke
from the third night
thinking about the living,
what to do for them,
organizing, not despairing
yet with the weight
of memory against forgetting.
For many suicides
are still political murders
as the system takes us by the throat
and shakes us like helpless prey
leering at us demonically,
a crazed vampire,
sucking out our spirit,
using overwhelming force
overtaking us in a frenzy
of sterile consumption,
reducing Society
to mesmerized spectators.

We must remember the Avalon
he always set before us—
that misty isle across the lake
where knights were tamed
wounds were healed
harmony reigned
under the gentle wise eyes
of the magical matriarchy.
That Avalon still awaits us
if we find the strength to focus
the stillness inside to center
the buoyancy of spirit
to row across the waters,
follow the wild animal trails
through the woods
—as Avalon guided us
on his night hikes—
the courage to lose ourselves
in the mists of risks
to find what is worthwhile
to commit ourselves fully
as he did—to the Wild.

—Karen Coulter
2/7/06 around dusk



Endgame Poem

No one in Olympia in their right mind
is out in the woods today,
beneath these buckets of hard rain.
I, unhindered by a right mind,
am thoroughly blissfully drenched,
though thoughtful as I carry the weight
of reading Derrick's newest book.
Not only are we going to crash, he says,
the end of so-called civilization,
but conscience requires of us
that we fight like a mother bear
to make it happen sooner.
I really don't know what to do—
but I've yet to get to volume two.

He writes about our fine friend Jen,
better known as Remedy,
whose year-long symbiosis
with a giant coastal redwood
brought her joy and fear and fame,
then years of swimming upstream
in a polluted river of litigation.
The ancient being she defended
stands mutilated, a limbless pole,
(though still alive and occupied)
on the edge of another clearcut ruin.

Now there's a Green Scare nightmare,
and people I used to see downtown
are in Eugene in jail cell hell,
threatened with life sentences
for killing trucks and tree farms.
Jesus Christ with a monkey wrench,
things are getting heavy now.

As my cloddish monster boots
stumble down the soggy trail,
I watch for salamanders.
This can be my epitaph:
At Least He Watched For Salamanders.

Derrick will visit our bookstore
and I'll tell the good folks there:
"Thanks for coming to Orca Books,
and please turn off the damn cell phones.
Better yet, and I'm sure Derrick agrees,
put 'em on the floor and stomp on 'em.
And now let's have a nice welcome
for our friend Derrick Jensen."

—Craig Oare

Send Poems to:

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

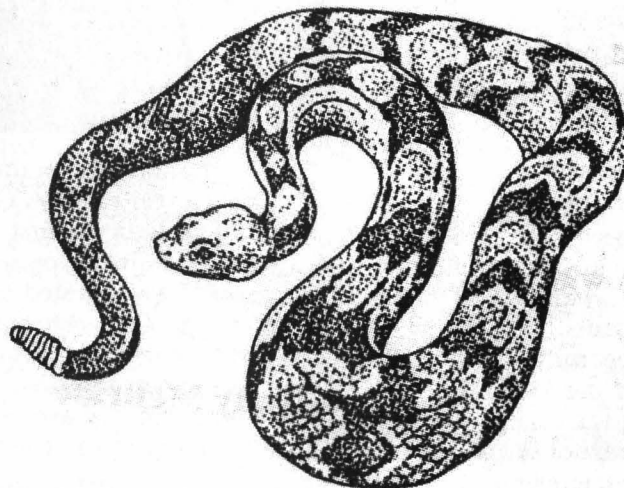
To a Rattlesnake

My dear rattlesnake, how I appreciate thee!
While strolling down this June moonlit forest lane
our paths crossed and you rattled,

"GET BACK!"

I obeyed, being the guest in your home.
Satisfied, your authority established, you went on.
And that was that.
How nobler and kinder than so many other humans I've known;
Your honesty and mercy impresses me more than they,
who will call you a friend just to lure you in to their trap,
to use you, then discard you and/or give you a bum rap.
I'd trust a rattlesnake before I would most any woman or man.
At least I know where you're at.
Your spirit is pure.
Your intent is good.
And that, my dear friend, is that.

—Van Kelly
1998



Rotting Orange

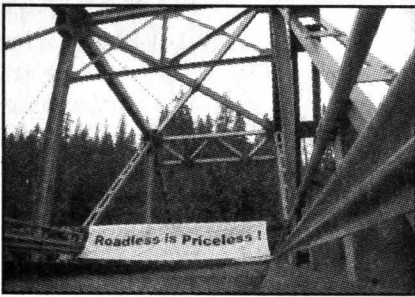
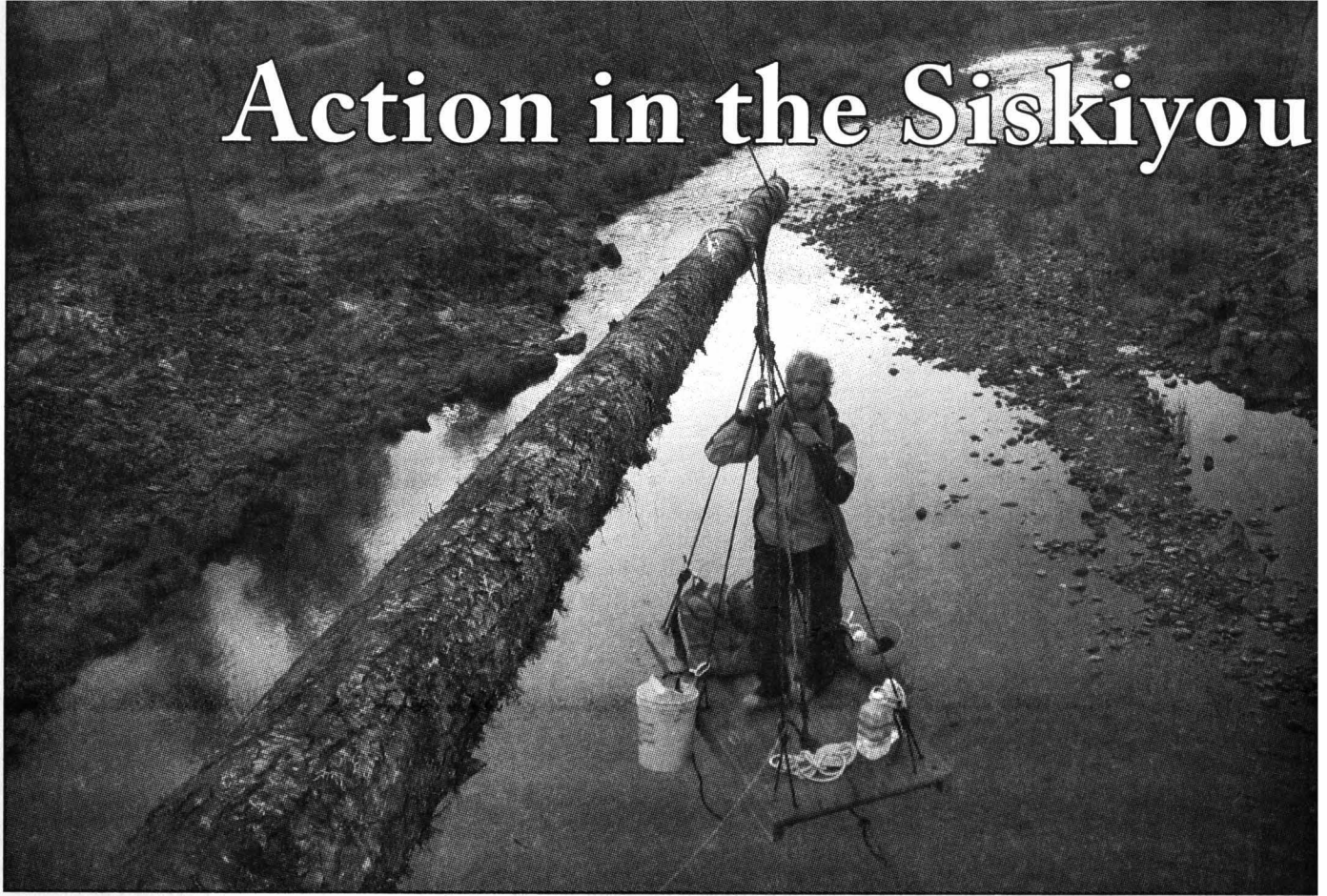
On the flight I take out an orange
A brown spot covers part of it
I cut it out and try to eat it
but the orange is rotten to the core

Later the plane flies over my childhood home
Where once we played in fields and woods
there are now suburbs and malls and highways
The brown spot spreading from the city
I want to cut it all out—
but I too am part of it....

—Dwight Worker

Action in the Siskiyou

photos by Rolf Skar



Laurel Sutherlin of the Oxygen Collective is suspended in a pod which blocks logging at the Mike's Gulch timber sale in the Siskiyou National Forest. This timber sale is the first incursion into an inventoried roadless area since the Roadless Rule was passed in 2001.

Laurel was arrested hours later after a contracted climber lowered the pod (with Laurel in it) to waiting police.

The predawn road blockade on the "Green Bridge"—which crosses the Illinois River—followed years of lawsuits, rallies, public comment periods and actions, which have resulted in over 100 arrests. The most notable of these was a blockade on the same bridge in March 2005 (see *EF!J* May-June 2005).

SUPPORT THE SOUTH CENTRAL 10

In recent months, activists from around the country converged at the 14-acre South Central Farm, in Los Angeles, California, in order to help local residents defend their food security and sovereignty (see *EF!J* January-February 2006). Sadly, the farmers and their supporters were evicted from this inner-city oasis on June 13.

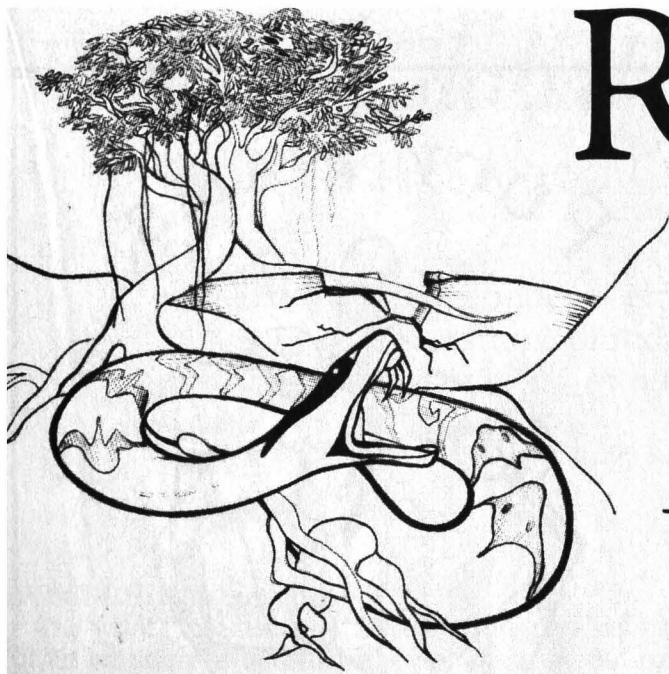
On July 5, a number of activists placed their bodies in front of bulldozers in an attempt to prevent the destruction of the farm. Ten activists were arrested and charged with vandalism and trespassing. Three of them are facing particularly serious charges, including felony

vandalism. One woman has been charged with assaulting a police officer (for allegedly throwing a milk crate at a cop). Their trials began in late August and will likely continue through October.

So far, the South Central 10 have not been receiving sufficient support. According to one of the defendants, "The farm leadership and the supporters have disavowed the actions... taken on July 5, and are refusing to provide information, housing or any other form of support." Moreover, the South Central 10 are being represented by public defenders, who are frequently overburdened.

If you live in the Los Angeles area, please help the South Central 10 by providing them with housing for the duration of their trials, helping them look for better lawyers, and organizing and attending rallies on court dates. Folks everywhere are encouraged to donate money and organize fundraising events in order to help the defendants afford competent counsel, gas, food and other basic expenses during their trials. Finally, please call the Los Angeles district attorney at (213) 974-3512, and ask that the charges be reduced or dropped completely.

If you would like to help support the South Central 10, contact (916) 607-9141; eireannach_99@yahoo.com.



ROOT FORCE

Demolishing Colonialism At Its Foundations

The Problem

The Earth is dying. No—the Earth is being killed. We are losing cultural and biological diversity at rates unheard of in the history of our species—and despite all our efforts, these rates are only accelerating.

The Earth is being murdered by a global system that tortures and kills every human or nonhuman that it cannot dominate. This system kills hundreds of thousands of civilians each year in wars for oil and water. It tortures millions of nonhuman animals a year in laboratories and factory farms. It destroys indigenous communities, dispossesses small farmers, enslaves workers in fields and factories, and poisons every living thing with chemicals and radiation.

War has been declared, and we are all losing. These are not opinions; these are well-known, well-documented truths. The question is: What are we going to do about it?

From Defensive to Offensive

Up to this point, resistance within the Empire's core (especially the US) has been overwhelmingly defensive in nature, focused on stopping a particular timber sale or development, the expansion of a particular corporation or the exploitation of a particular community. While this approach has delivered some important victories, it has also left a significant gap in our efforts.

No struggle—whether war or fistfight, physical or social—can be won by someone who is always on the defensive. Consider: Even if we save all of the world's remaining wilderness, the chemical industry will still ultimately poison everything that lives. Communities around the world can throw back corporate invasion after corporate invasion, but another attack will always be just around the corner. If we intend to ever do more than win a few scattered victories while our world dies around us, we *must* take the offensive against the system that has created the need for all our struggles.

Whatever we call this system—"neoliberalism," "capitalism," "the state" or even "civilization"—it must be destroyed. As residents of the First World, we have an important advantage in this task: the same privilege that shields

us from the brunt of the system's violence also provides us with access to its inner workings. That's the purpose of the Root Force campaign—to seek out and exploit strategic weak points in the system, thus hastening its collapse.

Make no mistake—this is not about reform. This is not about making the system kinder and gentler; it's about burying it forever. This is revolution. This is war.

Attacking the System's Weak Points

If you want to bring the system down, the first thing to do is identify a significant weakness, such as: *the US economy is entirely dependent upon imports*. First World economies are founded on colonialism; without a constant influx of cheap labor and raw materials from around the world, the lights would go out, the factories would shut down, and the system would collapse. Cheap labor, of course, means forcing people into poverty and keeping them there; cheap materials means turning living ecosystems into dams, mines and two-by-fours. Historically and in the modern day, the US's favored source of pillage and slaves has always been Latin America. Constrict the flow from the south, and the entire system will feel the pinch.

We can do this. The political and business leaders of the continent recognize this weakness. That's why a major focus of *every* American government is expanding the infrastructure of "trade" to accelerate the extraction and transport of resources to the wealthy North (e.g., projects like the Plan Puebla Panamá). On one level, this means more megadams, electrical and communication grids, ports and superhighways. On another level, it means punching these projects into relatively untouched ecologies and dislocating the sustainable, Earth-based cultures that live there—forcing the people into wage slavery and enabling the logging, mining and all-out destruction of some of the most biodiverse spots on the globe.

The unstated reason for the push behind these projects is that as resources start to run out around the world, the US will need to import an ever-increasing volume of raw materials just to sustain its consumer lifestyle. Prevent this from

happening, and we are not just defending this hemisphere's most important reservoirs of cultural and ecological diversity; we are undermining the foundations of the whole system. That's the purpose of the Root Force campaign.

Root Force: Demolishing Colonialism at its Foundations

The system is a vast, interconnected machine and is therefore highly vulnerable. Pressure applied at one strategic point is felt everywhere. For this reason, Root Force targets a small number of specific infrastructure projects at a time. Usually, these projects are already facing fierce resistance from local affected communities, to which we add our own brand of pressure: Every company that has anything to do with these colonial projects is a target of Root Force. Whether investors, construction companies, public relations firms or "unrelated" companies owned by someone who is spearheading these genocidal projects, *all collaborators will be held accountable*.

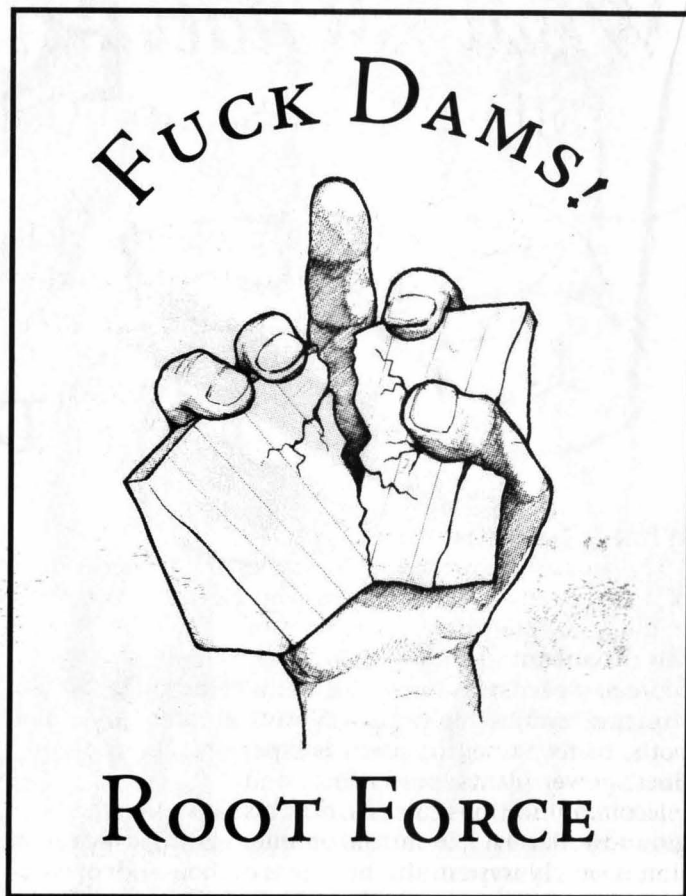
Root Force publicizes information about these collaborators, and that's where you come in: We need autonomous affinity groups around the US to step up and take action, finding creative ways to pressure each of these companies and their key employees. If a company pulls out of the project, we'll back off. Until then, **diversity of tactics** and **no compromise** are the buzzwords. Flood them with letters and faxes, driving home the message that their behavior is unacceptable. Take direct action and cost them the money that they value more than lives. Or use psychological warfare and take the accountability directly to the key employees, the architects of genocide. Shame them to their neighbors; confront them with their crimes; deprive them of any rest or sanctuary.

We need it all. We need to overwhelm them and raise the costs of business until we drive away all the sources of funding for these ecocidal projects. When one project is cancelled, we'll go on to the next, and the next. As we do this, the entire system will feel the pinch.

This is a strategy that has worked particularly well for the anti-vivisection movement, with impacts felt even by the pharmaceutical and construction industries. It has also been used to great effect by the anti-apartheid movement, ACT UP and others. By uniting to take down one target at a time and attacking the weak points inherent in global capitalism, a disparate and unfocused movement can become a serious powerhouse.

Bringing the War Home

It's long past time for people in the First World to rise up and say "NO" to the genocide and ecocide that are waged to sustain this way of life. Peasants are massacred and indigenous lifeways are eradicated in Latin America to provide cars, toilet paper and soybeans for North Americans. Hundreds of species *a day* are driven extinct, and the politicians, business leaders and media personalities claim that it's being done for us. But *we don't want this world*. We want a world where all beings—human and nonhuman—have lives of freedom and dignity, where we live in harmony with the Earth and not in a state of constant war. "We want a world where many worlds fit," where people are free to *not* be consumers, workers or Europeans. And isn't it long past



time for privileged North Americans to stand up and defend the right of indigenous people to remain indigenous?

There is something powerful in that message. There is power in saying that we, the supposed beneficiaries of this system, will no longer tolerate it. There is power in not just "dropping out," but *striking back*. And that is something that, ultimately, the system cannot endure.

On April 17, 2006, Subcomandante Marcos of the Zapatista National Liberation Army said, "What we are preparing is an uprising... but one that will not end simply with putting in another [government] that is not oppressing us. Rather, it will not end until we have destroyed the system that keeps us in misery; the system that wants to dispossess us of our land; the system that expels us from our country to seek work on another side; the system that wants to destroy nature; and the system that wants to kill us as we are—as Indian people, as farmers."

On the other side of an imaginary line, we are also preparing an uprising. Or maybe it's the same uprising, because after all it's the same system. And we, too, will not rest until the forces of colonialism have been destroyed. Until no one can commit genocide at work, then go home and pretend that everything is OK. Until we have demolished the system that is killing not just Latin America, but ourselves and everything we love.

That's what Root Force means. We're the forces of nature, of history, and we're demolishing colonialism at its foundations. All around the country, all around the world, we'll turn the forces of destruction back, until this whole sick system has no option left but to crumble and leave us free.

What is Globalized Infrastructure?

The PPP, IIRSA and Colonialist Alphabet Soup

“The neoliberal globalization of capitalism is based on exploitation, plunder, contempt and repression for those who resist it—in other words, the same as before, only now globalized.”

—ZAPATISTA NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY, “SIXTH DECLARATION FROM THE LACANDON JUNGLE”

What Is Infrastructure?

The word “infrastructure” describes the physical basis of an economy—the transportation, electrical and communications networks required for the extraction and movement of resources. Specific examples of infrastructure include highways, railways, ports, dams, mines, oil and gas pipelines, power plants, power lines and telecommunications cables. Until this groundwork is laid, industrial production is simply impossible.

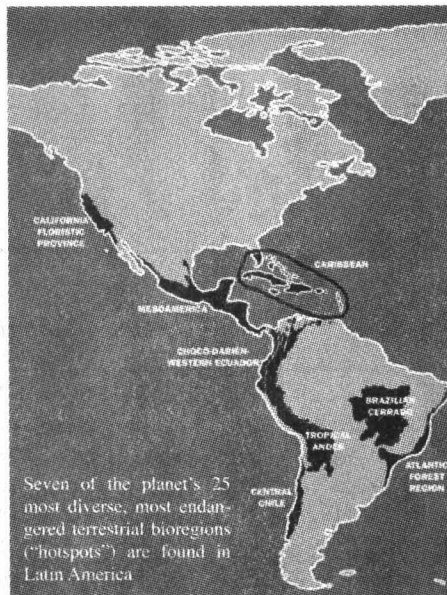
Infrastructure Projects in the Americas

Expanding “international trade infrastructure” is one of the top priorities for business and political leaders throughout the Americas. The best-known example is a megaproject called the Plan Puebla Panamá (PPP), introduced in 2001. Originally, the PPP included a variety of highways, ports, dams and other projects throughout southern Mexico and Central America.

Widespread popular resistance, however, forced the region’s governments to backtrack on their rhetoric. The most controversial projects, including all dams, were officially removed from the plan. But this was a change on paper only, as none of the “removed” projects actually lost their funding or government endorsement. In 2003, Mexican officials were instructed to stop making public statements about the PPP, and the projects continue in relative secrecy.

In South America, every country—from the US-backed, fascist state of Colombia to “revolutionary, socialist” Venezuela—is involved in the South American Regional Infrastructure Integration Initiative (IIRSA), nearly identical to the PPP in concept and design. Throughout the Americas, similar projects are under way, although not necessarily under the umbrella of a megaproject like the PPP or IIRSA. Yet no matter how individual projects are classified, they are all part of a stated plan to integrate the Americas into one massive transportation, electrical and communications network. Together, these projects will provide

the infrastructure necessary for the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and, eventually, the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).



Infrastructure as Colonialism

These globalized infrastructure projects are colonialism, plain and simple, designed to guarantee a supply of cheap materials and labor to the wealthy North at the expense of local communities. By no coincidence, they are overwhelmingly slated for territories of indigenous or *campesino* (subsistence farmer) peoples.

These territories hold two powerful attractions for modern colonialists, just as they always have. First of all, Earth-based cultures tend to live in highly biodiverse areas, where there are still “resources” to be exploited (intact forests for lumber; intact land above oil or minerals; intact, undammed rivers). The second advantage is just as important: If members

of traditional societies can be forced off their land by highways, dams or other such projects, they instantly become a cheap work force.

The PPP is explicit in this second goal, incorporating a massive belt of *maquiladoras* (export-oriented sweatshops) in southern Mexico, in order to “exploit the competitive advantage” offered by the region’s crushing poverty. The IIRSA likewise encourages the creation of industrial and agricultural zones dependent on cheap labor.

Of course, none of the benefits of these projects will flow to local communities. To give just one example, the power generated by PPP-associated dams is to be integrated into a massive Mexican/Central American grid and then sold to the southwestern US.

These goals have been explicitly stated time and again by the corporate/government architects of these plans. Cheap labor, cheap resources, benefits flowing to the wealthy and powerful—it’s the classic blueprint of colonial exploitation.

LA PAROTA DAM

*Campesin@s blockade construction,
CFE murders organizers and
EZLN threatens war*

La Parota, a 765-megawatt hydroelectric dam slated for the Papagayo River in Guerrero, Mexico, is a classic infrastructure expansion project in all the worst ways. Ecological devastation, massive dislocation and cultural disruption, and the imprisonment and murder of those who resist—all so the wealthy can have more electricity.

In 2003, Mexico's Federal Electric Commission (CFE) officially proposed the construction of La Parota on the Papagayo. This river flows southwest down through the Sierra Madre del Sur mountain range, joining with the Omilán River and then continuing to the Pacific Ocean.

The construction of La Parota, which is expected to cost the Mexican people US\$800 million, would submerge 43,000 acres of forest and farmland along the banks of the Papagayo, displacing at least 25,000 *campesinas* and *campesinos* from the Communal Lands of Caca-huetepec. Like all large dams, La Parota would decrease downstream water quality and dry out nearby watersheds. Furthermore, the loss of nutrient-filled water from upstream would degrade soil and increase its salinity. Fisheries would be destroyed, and the incidence of waterborne diseases such as malaria would likely increase.

Large dams are also significant contributors to global warming. As the tremendous biomass of a tropical forest decays beneath a reservoir, it gives off greenhouse gases. Dams in tropical regions have been shown to produce anywhere from *two to 40 times* as much carbon dioxide as an equivalent coal-fired plant.

Finally, communities downstream of dams are at risk of catastrophic flooding should the dam spill over or burst—a particular concern with La Parota, which would be built above the San Andreas Fault.

The plants and animals that cannot tolerate these and other environmental changes will be forced to relocate or die, just like the *campesin@s*. And while the CFE claims that it will provide dislocated farmers with new land, this land would be in a different ecology and of poorer quality. Most of the folks who are forced off of their land will end up in the cities, having lost the means to provide food and water for themselves, and forced to work in *maquiladoras*. Widespread depression and suicide have inevitably resulted from similar "relocations."

The reason for this blatant genocide and ecocide? Electricity generated from La Parota would be incorporated into an international energy grid and used to power factory-centers,

maquiladora corridors, tourist cities (such as Acapulco, 19 miles from the proposed site) and the southwestern US. Water from the reservoir would be diverted from downstream communities to Acapulco.

The CFE made no attempt to include the *campesin@s* in the decision-making process regarding La Parota. In July 2003, without seeking permission, the commission sent in machinery to build two tunnels to divert the flow of the Papagayo River. Farmers from multiple communities organized road blockades and encampments to keep CFE equipment

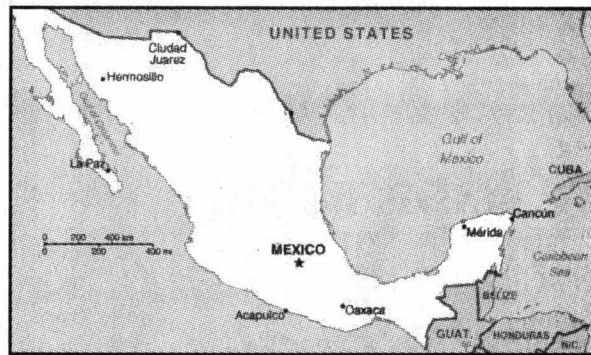
out of the area. The ongoing roadblocks have been largely successful, and the CFE has been forced to pull out most of its equipment. In October 2003, protests against La Parota were staged in local communities, Acapulco and Chilpancingo, the state capital—where they were 30,000 strong. The protesters' message was clear: "We are ready to die for the land."

In the face of growing resistance, the CFE was forced to change its tactics. In April 2004, it held an assembly in which it bribed locals to vote in favor of the dam. Some of these people had been convinced that the dam would bring jobs to the area—a myth that is gaining some support and turning locals against each other. With the help of 1,500 police and federal agents, the CFE was also able to scare away many who wanted to vote against the dam.

In June 2004, construction equipment was brought in by force, and police escorted engineers and laborers to the dam site. On July 27, undercover police and soldiers, who were monitoring one of the blockades, arrested and beat a leader in the struggle against La Parota, along with his sister. The following day, another organizer was arrested. They were released in August following an international support campaign.

That same month, locals banded together to form the Council of *Ejid*os and Communities in Opposition to La Parota Dam (CECOP), joining forces with the national Movement of Persons and Communities Affected by Dams and in Defense of Rivers (the *ejido* is a form of communal landholding established after the Mexican Revolution). Meanwhile, *campesin@s* and researchers from across Mexico challenged the CFE's environmental impact statement in court.

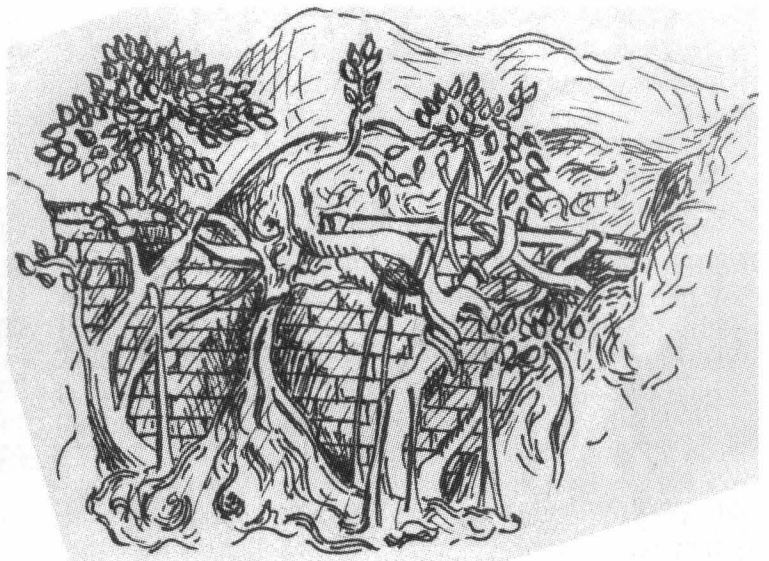
Because of legal challenges and massive resistance, the building of La Parota has technically been suspended. However, the government's suspension does not mean much. In April 2006, three community leaders were murdered



by dam supporters. Some locals believe that the CFE is paying people to assassinate key movement leaders. Regardless, it is certainly dividing people and inciting them to harm one another. The people directly opposing La Parota are facing intimidation, imprisonment and death. It seems that the CFE is only biding its time, waiting for the resistance to die down, so that the dam can go forward.

On April 16, 2006, the Zapatista National Liberation Army upped the stakes in the struggle, threatening armed resistance in solidarity with CECOP. Speaking in Aguacaliente, Guerrero, Subcomandante Marcos said, "We bring a very simple message from... the indigenous commanders who represent the Zapatista communities in the mountains of the Mexican Southeast.... In simple words, our commitment is that they will only be able to build this dam with a war in the Mexican Southeast."

The privatization of nature is nothing new. Throughout the world, the powerful gain more power by dominating the Earth and its inhabitants, turning life into a commodity. The construction of La Parota would privatize the water that flows through the Papagayo River; the water that



once gave life to the surrounding land, creatures and people would become a commodity for the powerful and their armies. The people who live with the Papagayo River are ready to die to protect it. What are we willing to do to bring an end to an empire of enslavement and murder?

Infrastructure Expansion, Migration and *Radical Border Solutions*

In the past few years, public attention in the US has increasingly focused on the issue of so-called "illegal immigration." In April 2005, a vigilante group called the Minuteman Project undertook armed patrols of the Arizona-Mexico border, allegedly to help capture undocumented migrants. A year later, the mainstream was shaken when millions of immigrants and their supporters (one million in Los Angeles alone) took to the streets in protest of new bills that would further criminalize immigrants and militarize the US-Mexico border. Liberal pundits declared the birth of a new civil rights movement, while those on the right began to mutter about the possibility of a coming culture or race war.

Liberal solutions have predictably failed to address the root causes of migration or the sources of racist injustice. Amnesty and legalization will undeniably make life better for migrants currently living in the US,

but they will do nothing to prevent yet more *indigenas* and *latinos* from being driven from their homes, and they will do nothing to change the US economy's dependence on cheap migrant labor.

A truly radical analysis of migration must acknowledge that most migrants would prefer to stay home, but desperate circumstances force them to risk their lives in the hopes of finding work in the US. It must recognize the effect of treaties like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which forces hundreds of thousands of *campesin@s* off their land every year by dumping cheap, subsidized, US corn on the Mexican market (according to some estimates, migration across the US's southern border has tripled since NAFTA went into effect in 1994). It must take into account the way that CAFTA will exacerbate the problem, and it must acknowledge the role of infrastructure projects like the PPP in facilitating these trade agreements.

Infrastructure projects, in and of themselves, also dislocate millions of people every year. The World Commission on Dams estimates that those *directly* displaced by dam construction in the last 60 years number 40-80 million worldwide. In Latin America, these dislocations inevitably feed northward migration.

A truly radical solution to the plight of migrants in US society must address the underlying causes of this migration. It must not only defend the safety of those who choose to migrate, it also must defend the right of indigenous and *campesin@* peoples to preserve their lands and cultures—to live at home, with dignity, if that is their wish. It must address the racist, colonialist economy that demands cheap labor and forces migrants and people of color into these roles. Attacking the infrastructure of this colonialism might be a good place to start.

EL ANILLO PERIFÉRICO

Keystone of the PPP

Just as the PPP lays the foundations necessary for CAFTA and eventually the FTA, the entire PPP hinges on San Salvador's Anillo Periférico highway. According to Action for Community and Ecology in the Rainforests of Central America, the Anillo Periférico is the "critical node around which... the entire PPP network [gravitates]."

The city of San Salvador, capital of El Salvador, occupies a critical position in American geography. The Central American isthmus is a bottleneck through which all commerce between South and North must pass. The simplest way to move land cargo across Central America is the Pan-American Highway, which passes right through San Salvador. Currently, such cargo loads must travel through the center of the city, leading to the kinds of delays familiar to anyone who has ever driven through a major urban center. Hence the plan for a highway bypass: the Anillo Periférico, or Peripheral Ring.

As a part of the PPP, the Anillo Periférico was initially conceived in 2001 as a project of the Salvadoran government, with US\$1 billion in funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). It would be 7 lanes wide, running a 44-mile (70-kilometer) circuit around the city. The government has promised that the highway would reduce traffic and gas use in the

city, as well as increasing the accessibility from one part of the city to another. This happy picture is a lie, of course, and as that lie became apparent, the government's plans quickly began to unravel.

The first problem with the story is that the Anillo Periférico, as planned, would not encircle the San Salvador metropolitan area; rather, it would circle the urban center, punching directly through densely populated communities at the city's outskirts. In the past few decades, hundreds of thousands of rural inhabitants have migrated to El Salvador's cities because of poverty and war; estimates suggest that up to one in three Salvadorans was displaced by the country's 12-year civil war. Now tens of thousands of these same families stand to be dislocated by the Anillo Periférico. Inhabitants of the communities that are not destroyed will be cut off from relatives in other villages and from the city center where many of



them work. In fact, even a study by the government's Salvadoran Fund for Pre-Investment Studies predicted that the highway would actually make transportation into and out of the city more difficult.

But can't people just use the new highway to get around? In fact, the Anillo Periférico will have precisely

Some Architects of Infrastructure Expansion in Latin America

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB/IADB)

The IDB (or BID, in Spanish) is composed of 47 member countries from across the world, with those of the Global North being the lenders, and those in Latin America and the Caribbean being forced into debt. The IDB operates by lending impoverished countries money to build infrastructure projects such as roads and dams; repaying the debt incurred by these projects then forces the borrowing countries to cut social programs. In case after case, IDB projects have led to the privatization of social services, land and

water; the destruction of ecosystems; the militarization of borders; and the virtual enslavement of low-wage factory workers.

The IDB is the primary financial institution behind the planning, financing and execution of the PPP. It has been called the "World Bank of Latin America"; however, even the World Bank's dismal environmental and humanitarian standards are more stringent than those of the IDB.

A list of everyone who works at the IDB could easily fill dozens of pages.

While that might be a fun and profitable project for someone living in the Washington, DC area, the rest of you will have to make do with just one sample terrorist:



Guillermo Calvo

Guillermo Calvo, chief economist and research department manager, (202) 623-2843. Calvo is also the current president of the International Economic Association.

He was senior advisor in the Research Department of the International Monetary Fund from 1988-1994. He has testified before

zero benefit for those San Salvadorans without personal vehicles—more than 80 percent. Only one of the road's stated purposes is accurate: to transport *maquiladora*-assembled goods through Central America to markets in the North and South. Those who stand to be affected by the highway agree; when surveyed, 93 percent could think of no personal benefit from the project.

It is not only the neighborhoods in the highway's path that stand to be harmed by its construction. El Salvador has already lost 98 percent of its forest cover, making it the second most deforested country in the Americas. Yet 80,000 trees are to be clearcut in order to make way for the Anillo Periférico, some in protected ecological areas such as El Espino Reserve. This cutting is taking place on the slopes of the San Salvador Volcano, with a further 30 feet (10 meters) of soil to be excavated for construction. The communities on the volcano's slopes already live under constant threat of landslides, which are exacerbated by deforestation.

Trees and other vegetation hold soil together even in the torrential rains that visit the tropics every Summer; when this cover is removed, catastrophe results. In 1998, mudslides and floods accounted for the majority of the 18,000 deaths caused by Hurricane Mitch in Central America; aerial surveys found that the vast majority of slides occurred on deforested slopes, while very few occurred on slopes that retained their forest cover. Increased flooding and erosion also stand to degrade the aquifers that all life in the region depends on; deforested slopes are less absorbent, leading to a steady and inevitable depletion of the area's water recharge zones.

Resistance to the Anillo Periférico has been fierce from the beginning. More than 39 communities have declared themselves opposed to the project and lodged complaints with the Ministry of Public Works (MOP). Many of these communities have banded together to form the Association of Communities Affected by the Anillo Periférico (ACAP),

which has organized popular mobilizations against a variety of the national and international institutions pushing the project. In October, 2002, El Salvador was paralyzed when 28,000 protesters against the Anillo Periférico blocked highways, bridges and border crossings nationwide.

The government and the IDB were quickly forced into damage-control mode. Originally, the highway was to be built in four major stages, with a completion date of 2012. In 2002, however—the same year that the eastern portion was supposed to be completed—the IDB cut funding for the project, handing it off to the less transparent Central American Economic Integration Bank (BCIE). Immediately, the IDB began to insist that the Anillo Periférico was no longer part of the PPP.

Work on the eastern portion was completed in 2004. The revised construction schedule has the western portion slated for 2006-2008, the southern for 2010-2012 and the northern for 2013-2015. However, roadwork on the southern portion began in April 2004. Because the government is no longer willing to identify specific constructions as part of the Anillo Periférico, it is difficult to determine if the work underway is part of the highway proper or is "just" a connecting road.

Construction in the west also began in September 2005. When road-building crews first arrived for work, they were confronted by a blockade of machete-wielding protesters. Unfortunately, the crews managed to bypass the blockades and resume work.

Nonetheless, the bulk of the highway remains unbuilt, and resistance is still strong. The MOP appears to be leaving the most controversial sections of the highway for last, but these are also the weak links that can cause the "ring" to remain incomplete. A plethora of multinational companies are already up to their elbows in this project; strategic pressure from the North could still cause the whole thing to fail.

the US Congress on "the 1994 Mexican crisis." Zapatistas, anyone?

The headquarters of the Inter-American Development Bank are located at 1300 New York Ave NW, Washington, DC 20577, USA; www.iadb.org.

Central American Economic Integration Bank (BCIE)

The BCIE is a regional development bank in the vein of the World Bank or IDB, with an exclusive focus on Central America. It is the largest financial institution in the area; the IDB has jokingly referred to it as "our ATM in the region." Sixty percent of the bank's portfolio is directed toward infrastructure projects, approximately \$1.6 billion.

In recent years, the BCIE has rapidly taken on a role as the IDB's

junior partner in funding PPP-related projects. Because the BCIE is even less transparent than the IDB and has virtually *no* environmental or social standards for the projects it finances, it has increasingly taken over funding for the most controversial and destructive projects from the IDB.

BCIE, Edificio Sede, Bulevar Suyapa, Aptdo Postal 772, Tegucigalpa, Honduras; (504) 240-2243; (504) 240-2185 (fax).

Mexico's Federal Electricity Commission (CFE)

The CFE is a loosely regulated federal entity responsible for the creation, maintenance, expansion and oversight of all electricity produced in Mexico. The Mexican Constitution explicitly states, "Electricity as a

public service [is] the exclusive domain of the state. Private contracts will not be awarded in this arena." Nevertheless, the CFE has been steadily facilitating the privatization of Mexico's electricity.

The CFE uses its position in the federal government to wield extraordinary power. It has gone so far as offering to fully finance local politicians' campaigns in exchange for their endorsement of controversial projects.

Comisión Federal de Electricidad, 2a. Secc. Del Bosque De Chapultepec—Museo Tecnológico, Miguel Hidalgo, Miguel Hidalgo, DF, Mexico; www.cfe.gob.mx.

Ing. Alfredo Elias, AYUB, General Director, 5229-4400 x90000, 90001, 90002, 90003 (phone); 5533-5321 (fax); alfredo.elias@cfe.gob.mx.

Get Involved with Root Force!



Take Direct Action

Root Force is a decentralized campaign founded on affinity groups taking autonomous action, and it needs your creativity and passion. There is almost certainly a Root Force target near you, happily getting away with murder. You don't need any centralized body's permission to take action, and you don't need to check in. Just take direct action against any Root Force target, whether at their main office, one of their chain stores or at the CEO's vacation home!

No one can tell you what action to take, because only you and your affinity group know what your skills, interests and unique advantages are. But when planning direct actions, here are a few things to consider:

Get Creative: Blockades and other classic direct-action tactics are great, but there's a lot more that can be done. Remember that at the other end of every direct action is a person whose ways you want to change. What is the best way to reach them? It might be simply to cost them money, along with a witty or militant message making it clear why the action has been taken. It might be more psychological: in other campaigns, activists have visited the bad guys at home or at church; wanted posters have been handed out to their neighbors; people's water has been shut off and the valve sealed with concrete; mortuaries have inexplicably sent coffins to pick up living people's bodies; embarrassing magazine subscriptions have started arriving at people's offices... the possibilities are endless!

Don't Get Caught: Jail sentences for even minor acts of civil disobedience are skyrocketing. Before doing any direct action, seriously consider whether you're willing to face prison time rather than testify against a comrade. If the answer is no, stick to legal actions! Also, try to think of ways to do your action without getting arrested. Maybe instead of taking over someone's office, you could do a lightning raid—charging inside wearing masks, screwing up the computers with magnets or just by pulling out all the cables, then scattering! For literature about security culture, contact us.

Use the Media, Don't Get Used: Be smart with your communiqués and press releases; make sure that communiqués about covert actions are sent untraceably. Be sure to make the link between your action and the particular project being targeted (e.g., La Parota or the Anillo Periférico). It's unnecessary, however—and may bring more law-enforcement pressure—to claim that you took an action in order to bring down the system. Likewise, there is no need to claim your actions as "Root Force" actions. The larger Root Force strategy can function even if targets are ignorant of it.

Nevertheless, we encourage everyone to send a short summary of their actions to the contact address below. A diary of actions will be posted on the Root Force website as a source of ideas, inspiration and amusement.

For the most up-to-date information on current Root Force targets, visit www.rootforce.org. To receive email alerts and updates on new targets, email us and ask to be put on our listserv. Information on targets can also be mailed via the US Postal Service.

The Root Force Road Show

Root Force Road Shows travel the country periodically, doing presentations for colleges, community organizations or just groups of friends, to build momentum around the revolutionary Root Force strategy. Inspiring musicians, witty puppet shows and fiery speeches are just some of the treats you're in for when the Root Force Road Show rolls into town! For upcoming tour dates or to book a road show stop, just contact us!

Root Force Merchandise

We have Root Force merchandise like T-shirts and patches, as well as other great resources (CDs, DVDs, posters, books, etc.) that we sell or recommend. For lists and prices of Root Force merchandise, visit the website or contact us.

Join the Uprising!

With your participation, the Root Force campaign can be a potent tool to help bring this system down. But it needs you. Research and road shows are not enough: To make this strategy work, we need action. We need you. The whole planet needs you.

It's time to make "solidarity" and "revolution" more than just empty words. It's time to renounce a First-World privilege founded on genocide and extinction. It's time to bring the war home.

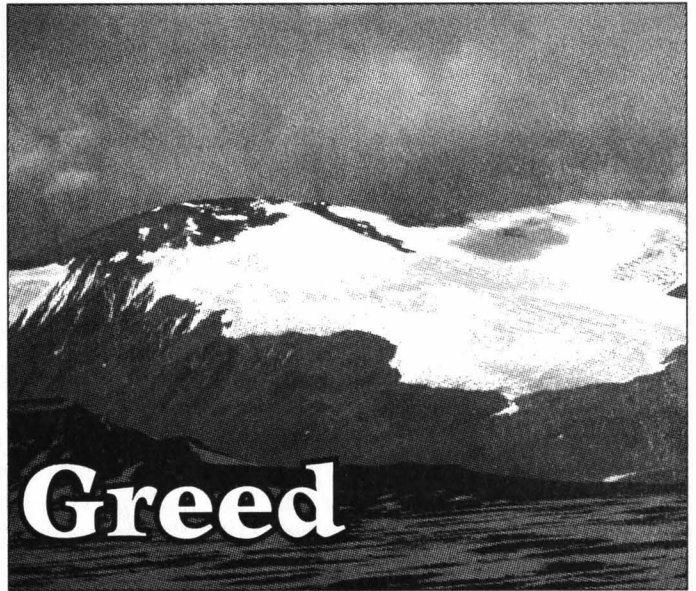
ROOT FORCE: DEMOLISHING COLONIALISM AT ITS FOUNDATIONS



Root Force, PO Box
1302, Tucson, AZ 85702;
info@rootforce.org;
www.rootforce.org.

Pascua Lama

is Spanish for Insatiable Greed



GOLD-DIGGERS PREPARE TO MOVE GLACIERS IN SEARCH OF PROFIT

BY PIPPI THE RAT

Are you cheering the pace of climate change? Can't get rid of those retreating glaciers fast enough? Then the Toronto-based Barick Gold Mining Corporation has a gift for you.

These insatiable gold-diggers have located the mother lode: 1.5 million pounds of gold, the largest untapped source on the planet. However, this deposit is hidden beneath three glaciers in the San Felix Valley, a fragile oasis in Chile's Atacama Desert. So Barick is proposing to remove the three glaciers to get at the gold in the Pascua Lama Mine.

Nobody's ever attempted to remove glaciers before—although global warming is doing an admirable job without any additional assistance. In a process dubbed "ice relocation," Barick wants to chip the ice into manageable chunks, truck it off-site and create a fourth glacier.

Barick estimates the project will cost \$1.5 billion over 20 years. That's a hefty price tag for controversial, untested technology, but the fact that the price of gold has more than doubled in the past five years provides a clear incentive.

The glaciers feed two pristine rivers that provide the only water for the farmers of the Huasco Valley. And the Barick gold mine would use toxic sodium cyanide to extract the precious metal—a common practice that presents huge risks.

"Around the world, the primary impacts of gold mining are usually on water," says Radhika Sarin, the international campaign coordinator for Earthworks, a Washington, DC-based mining watchdog group. "Mining requires large amounts of water and... contaminates the quality of the groundwater. It essentially pollutes for life."

Last year, more than a thousand people protested Pascua Lama, in Santiago, Chile's capital, and the northern city of Vallenar. When demonstrators tried to deliver a petition with more than 18,000 signatures to the presidential palace, they were met with police violence.

At a world mining conference in Santiago, Igor Gonzales, the President of Barick Gold South America, told reporters that the project's remaining details were on track for final approval. "The biggest challenges we are facing by far, in both South America and Africa, are 'social' in nature," he said.

But Denver-based Newmont Mining Corporation learned a few lessons about underestimating "social" challenges in 2004, when local opposition to a Peruvian mine forced them to abandon the project.

Deb Whittmer, Newmont's vice president of communications, is clear on why that campaign was successful. "They were not just blockading the new exploration; they were blockading the road to our existing operation, which was the largest gold mine in Latin America. That cost us a lot of money and was very effective.

"It was a very big deal," she admits. "We just can't operate in the old ways. You might have the legal right to go into an area, but if you don't have the social license to operate, you're not going to be successful. You'll get stopped in your tracks."

But in Chile, far from listening to local opinion, Barick is attempting to create it. It has purchased television ads highlighting the alleged social benefits of the mine and portraying the project as environmentally benign. Meanwhile, the Ministry of the Interior has imposed a ban on a group of farmers who want to make a televised appeal to save their valley and homes.

The locals in the San Felix Valley—and anyone else opposed to this monstrosity—might take a cue from Peruvian mining activists and start targeting Barick where it will hurt the most.

Pippi the Rat climbs mountains, teaches womens self-defense and has worked as a journalist from southeast Alaska to southeast Asia. She's constantly amazed by the destructive powers of human greed.

how Earth First! got its groove back

BY DENNIS FRITZINGER

I knew I couldn't miss this year's Round River Rendezvous—I've missed a few in the past—after reading the pre-rondy write-up in the *Journal*. And I wasn't disappointed; not only was the site awesome, there were also no mosquitoes to speak of. There were no-see-ums, though, and timber rattlers and copperheads—there were a few encounters, but nobody got bitten. Days ranged from hot and muggy to cool and rainy, and at night 60 degrees even felt cold.

The Rondy committee hadn't organized a kitchen beyond bringing equipment, but Scott arrived out of nowhere and immediately took over, getting plenty of kitchen help and donations of food, and everything ran smoothly from then on. Way to go, Scott!

Shitters were a problem, since the committee had nixed the idea of renting porta-potties (too expensive) and instead settled on a plastic-bucket-and-toilet-seat arrangement (with sawdust to cover the poop and hand sanitizer to clean the hands). Unfortunately, the Freddies didn't like this solution, and we had some uncomfortable meetings with them until everything was resolved.

Morning circles were laid back and usually ended late, but we still managed to get most of the workshops in, even if some had to be rescheduled. Workshops ranged from the *Earth First! Journal* to Deep Ecology and everything in between, including the annual Warrior Poets meeting. There were plant walks, gender circles, rope climbing and even beer making. The highlight of the *Journal* meeting came when several people committed to short-termining, starting with this issue. A collective wave of relief went over those present—especially Josh and Oskar, who had been faced with putting out the *Journal* entirely by themselves.

This year's rally was something special—the best one we've had in a long time. Unlike many in recent memory—which were more like talent shows—this one really *rallied*. There were musicians, poets, crazy impromptu skits, speeches and a tight structure. We did it all without a sound system, which makes me think that maybe my insisting on one in the past was the wrong way to go. We had the rally in a meadow near the parking area/welcome table. Except for the chiggers that I picked up there, it was an ideal spot—easily accessible to any locals who wanted to come and easily within reach of cars to get more beer or food from.

This was the best Earth First! Rendezvous I've been to in a long time. The number of Katúahns who pitched in to make the Rondy happen—and the number of locals who dropped by to visit and tell us about their experiences with the coal industry—was awesome. While small by EF! standards (175-200 people in all), it still really rocked! I can think of a number of reasons.

First, Katúah EF! has been together for a long time, and folks are used to working together. Second, Katúah EF!ers are very focused, spending much of their time fighting mountaintop removal (MTR) mining, the signal issue in southern Appalachia. Their enthusiasm was very infectious. Third, they invited many locals who are long-time opponents of MTR—and who have roots in the area going back generations—to come speak to us and fill us in on what's going on. The locals were knowledgeable and inspiring, and they clearly deserve our help.

Larry Bush led a tour at an MTR site. We walked around, looking at the devastated mountain, the pond filled with poisonous green water, the dirt sprayed with a mixture of weed seeds and green dye (so the company could say it had "reclaimed" the site), the crumbling shale and sandstone and the odd pieces of coal sticking out of the dirt.

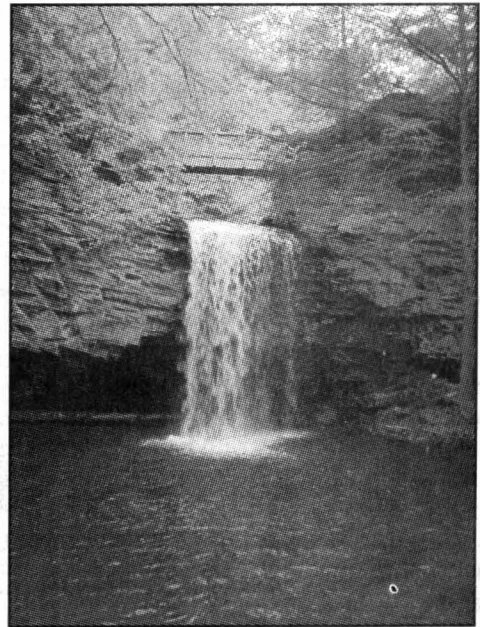


photo by Michael Fugate

This mine site had once looked like our campsite: lush, mixed hardwood forest with ferns everywhere, club moss, rhododendrons, tulip poplars, white oaks, thousands of American chestnut saplings, blueberries, poison ivy, sassafras, ginseng, chicory, Queen Anne's lace, hot-pink pea flowers and, of course, invasive kudzu. Now the mine site looked like Vietnam did after Rome plows and defoliant got through with it. It was as if the spot where we camped was the "before" photo, and the coalfield was the "after" photo.

It's the "before" that we are trying to preserve.

Dennis Fritzinger edits the *Journal's* poetry page and lives in Berkeley, California.

The State of the Journal

A Report from the 2006 Round River Rendezvous

BY THE *EF!J* EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE

Putting together a magazine like the *Earth First! Journal* is never easy, but during the past few years the editorial collective has struggled with a number of growing problems: a shrinking subscription base, declining merchandise sales, waning contributions from writers and artists, a frustrating lack of funds, an often inconsistent pool of short-term editor applicants, a dwindling long-term editorial staff, and an overall shortage of movement participation and support. Recognizing that the future of the *Journal* depends upon the movement's response to these urgent concerns, the editorial collective arrived at the 2006 Round River Rendezvous (RRR) on a mission to devise concrete, practical and lasting solutions to these problems. What follows is a summary of the *EF! Journal* discussion that occurred at the RRR.

Staffing

The editorial collective addressed staffing first, as all our other concerns can be traced back to this one problem. Before the RRR, multiple people had committed to working on this issue of the *Journal* as short-term editors, only to drop out at the last minute. We arrived at the RRR with two long-termers, zero short-termers and a genuine concern about whether or not we would be able to put out this issue. Thus we emphasized our

need for immediate short-term help. (Thankfully, someone at the RRR volunteered to return with us to Tucson, Arizona, and work on this issue of the *Journal*.) We also made it clear that it's important for the *Journal* to have a consistent level of movement participation throughout the year.

Ideally, the collective should consist of four long-term editors, plus one or two different short-termers

The result is that a skeleton crew of two editors is now responsible for a wide range of duties that had once been handled by a half-dozen people: training short-termers and volunteers, soliciting and writing content, editing, layout, data entry, accounting, mass mailings, distribution management and more. With *Journal* production obviously taking priority, the collective has been forced to neglect fund-

raising, subscription boosting, merchandise sales, market analysis and other complicated tasks that are integral to the long-term stability and success of the *Journal*. We're left treating the symptoms but ignoring the illness.

Obviously, this is far from ideal, and it produces a very nasty feedback loop: Having fewer editors leads to more responsibility, which leads to more stress, which leads to burnout, which leads to fewer editors. Oskar has already exceeded his original commitment to the *Journal* and

would like to transition to a volunteer role as soon as possible. Josh intends to stick around until 2008. However, neither can leave until replacements are found, and this kind of uncertainty makes the job even more stressful.

Thus, the editorial collective emphasized that our top priority is finding at least two new long-term editors within the next six months. Having a full collective would distribute the workload more fairly and efficiently,

continued on next page



each issue. Since January 2006, each issue has been produced by only two long-termers—Oskar and Josh—and two short-termers. Turtle, who had been an editor since the *Journal* moved to Tucson in 2001, has scaled back her responsibilities over the past year, and she is now involved only in a volunteer and support capacity. Volunteers who had handled accounting, taxes and distribution—all crucial and complicated tasks—have also left.

allow us to address areas of concern and undertake improvement projects, and permit editors to depart when their commitments are fulfilled.

Location

A number of people expressed concern that the *Journal's* location in Tucson might be contributing to our staffing problem. Could the extremely hot Summers be deterring people? Would relocating the *Journal* help? If so, how would the current editorial collective feel about moving the *Journal* in the near future? The collective explained that our primary concern is the health of the *Journal*. If moving the *Journal* would solve its problems, we would support the move. However, choosing a new location and preparing for the move are complicated and difficult tasks, and the current collective would not endorse a move unless we felt that it was being handled responsibly.

Our top five needs in descending order: long-term editors, short-term editors, subscription sales, article and artwork contributions, and fundraising.

Presently, there are very few active EF! groups capable of adopting the *Journal*, which would severely limit the options. The *Journal* would need a community base strong enough to support it, without sapping energy from EF! campaigns or competing with other radical publications for attention. Should an EF! group decide that it wants the *Journal*, a formal relocation proposal would need to be presented at the next national gathering, discussed further and approved by consensus at the following RRR.

But the process wouldn't stop there. Affordable and reliable infrastructure—including office space, bank and post office accounts, a printer and other vendors—would have to be researched and acquired, funds raised and an official transition plan formulated. Most importantly, a transition team composed of incoming and outgoing editors would work together in Tucson, relocate the office together and continue to produce the *Journal* in the new location until the new collective was prepared to assume full

responsibility. This transition process alone can take up to a year.

For these reasons, the *Journal* is not going anywhere until Summer 2008 at the very earliest. We told folks at the RRR that while a move might offer a long-term solution to some of the *Journal's* problems, it does not address any of our immediate concerns. Whether the *Journal* stays in Tucson or moves elsewhere in two years, the collective still needs more long-term editors *now*.

Subscriptions

A shrinking subscriber base is another major concern that the collective has not had time to sufficiently address. Of the approximately 6,000 copies of the *Journal* printed each issue, about 900 are sent to paying, single-copy subscribers. (The remaining copies are sent out to EF! groups and other contacts, distributors, contributors and prisoners; used for tabling and outreach; or kept in our

back issues archive.) The number of current subscribers is a fraction of what it was 10 or 15 years ago. This is a major problem for the *Journal*, considering that subscriptions generate the majority of our income. So, selling new subscriptions is a crucial task. EF! groups and other contacts can keep five dollars from each \$25 subscription they sell while tabling—a great way to fund both local organizing and the *Journal*!

Unfortunately, current subscription rates in areas with EF! groups are rarely much higher than areas without them. Oregon is the second-largest subscriber base in the country, with 88 subscriptions (eight percent of total subscribers). Yet this is a very small number, considering Cascadia's long EF! legacy. The subscription rates in other regions with EF! groups are even more alarming: Florida has 36 subs (3 percent of the national total), North Carolina has 18 (2 percent), Maine has 15 (1 percent) and Tennessee has 6 (less than one percent). Clearly, there is much work that can be done by local groups

to boost these numbers. While the editorial collective should certainly take a leadership role in sub-boosting, this is yet another project that we do not currently have the personnel to effectively address.

Distribution

Most copies of the *Journal* are shipped to our distributors. Two hundred copies are sent directly to 20 small distributors (bookstores, info-shops, food co-ops, etc.), while approximately 3,000 copies are sent to eight large distributors, which then ship the magazine to numerous bookstores and newsstands throughout the US and Canada. While this helps to provide the *Journal* and the EF! movement with significant visibility, the substantial discounts and credits demanded by large distributors assure that we receive only a fraction of the cover price for each copy sold.

For these reasons, we encouraged everyone at the RRR who regularly buys the *Journal* at bookstores, info-shops or newsstands to subscribe instead. And if you bought *this* copy at one of those places, we encourage you to do the same! We'll receive all the money you send us, not some miniscule percentage.

Distribution represents yet another area that is not receiving sufficient attention. We would like to perform a detailed distribution analysis to identify small bookstores, markets and info-shops that might be willing to receive the *Journal* directly from us, rather than through corporate distributors. We'd like to calculate each distributor's return rate in order to decide whether or not they're actually selling enough copies to make it worth our while. And if they're requesting more copies than they can possibly sell, we'd like to reduce the number they receive in order to preserve our financial and natural resources. Once again, these tasks cannot be undertaken without more long-term editorial help.

Survey Results

This Spring, the collective sent a survey to about 80 former editors, long-time EF! organizers and contacts—those most qualified to make informed suggestions about the future of the *Journal*. We received 24 responses and presented the results

at the RRR. Asked whether or not the *Journal* should stay at six issues per year or switch to four issues, 71 percent said stay at six issues, 21 percent supported four issues, four percent proposed a return to eight issues, and four percent abstained. Presented with a hypothetical proposal to make the *Journal* a quarterly magazine (more like the now-defunct British publication *Do or Die*) and to start producing a monthly news tabloid, 58 percent rejected this idea, 29 percent asked us to research it further, four percent supported it, and eight percent abstained.

With regard to newsstand sales, 71 percent said they are important, 13 percent said they don't matter, and 17 percent abstained. Ninety-two percent supported the idea of including more ads from "green" businesses if it would help the *Journal* financially, four percent said no to more ads, while four percent abstained. Finally, 58 percent said that it is important for the *Journal* to sell merchandise, 29 percent said merchandise is unimportant, and 12 percent abstained.

Overall, the survey results suggested that the *Journal* should continue what we're already doing: producing six issues per year, distributing the *Journal* to bookstores and newsstands, increasing our ad sales to boost our income and selling merchandise. It is this last responsibility that has become particularly difficult in recent years and thus required additional attention at the RRR.

Merchandise

As the editorial collective has scaled back, merchandise was one of the first areas to be deemed nonessential. While the *Journal's* three standard EF! T-shirt designs are still popular, the books and music currently offered are not. Finding, producing and marketing new music, books, pins, stickers, apparel and other paraphernalia takes

time and money, both of which are in short supply at the moment. Given that merchandise is considered vital by most people and has the potential to generate significant funds if handled properly, a proposal was



presented and approved at the RRR to indefinitely transfer management of merchandise from the *Journal* to Maine EF! (MEF!).

While some of the details are still being worked out, this is the plan so far: The *Journal* will continue to sell the three T-shirt designs and *Ecodefense*. All our remaining books, music, bumper stickers and unused shirt designs will be given to MEF! in lieu of startup capital. MEF! will gradually expand its selection, produce a merchandise catalog and a website for online sales, and receive free advertising space in the *Journal*. Eventually, if merchandise sales produce enough profit, MEF! will donate some of this to the *Journal*. Like the *Journal*, MEF!'s merchandise distro will serve as a public face of EF! and will therefore remain accountable to the movement. The *Journal* feels confident that this model will finally grant merchandise the attention that it deserves.

The Path Ahead

As the *Journal* discussion wrapped up, the collective listed our top five needs in descending order: long-term editors, short-term editors, subscription sales, article and artwork contributions, and fundraising. Everyone

responded very positively and energetically. A number of people expressed interest in short-terming during the coming months, and a few are interested in possibly staying on as long-term editors. This is a great start, but we still need to find more short-termers for next Spring, Summer and beyond. And we still encourage folks who might be interested in long-terming to contact us.

Others voiced interest in doing outreach and selling subscriptions. If you care about the *Journal*, please subscribe right away! Convince your family, friends, local libraries and activist groups to subscribe. And EF! groups and other contacts should consider it a responsibility to sell subscriptions while tabling and doing outreach.

We can't put out the *Journal* without article contributions from y'all. If you don't tell us about your project, campaign or action, we won't know about it. What makes the *Journal* so great is that the articles are written by the people who know their subjects best, but this non-hierarchical system won't work without your active participation.

Finally, fundraising for the *Journal* is something that everyone can do. Organize a sponsored bike ride, all-you-can-eat dessert party, keg party, movie screening, DIY-skill raffle, art auction, poetry slam, open-mic night or dance-a-thon and donate the proceeds to the *Journal*. Be imaginative and have fun!

Thanks to the genuine interest, dedication and generosity of everyone at the RRR, the *Journal* collective left Virginia with more than \$1,000—an amazing haul! More importantly, we accomplished many of our goals and outlined a path for achieving the rest. While we're not on solid ground yet, the amazing gestures of support that greeted us at the RRR have given us renewed hope and excitement for the future. Thanks everybody!

EVOLVING earth first!!

BY PANAGIOTI

Those of us who have held on to the Earth First! banner through the years have long boasted of the effectiveness of our decentralized, action-based style. The loose network that makes up what we call the "EF! movement" is one of the longest standing radical activist endeavors of the past several decades. The *Earth First! Journal*—our voice in the world—is possibly the most accountable and activist-driven publication out on the shelves today. What other magazine that makes it onto newsstands across the US has two annual public gatherings that shape its content and direction.

Despite numerous internal squabbles and several waves of state repression, EF! has held on. That is something we can all be inspired by. However, success and effectiveness in defending Mother Earth will take more than simply holding on. EF! needs to continue growing and evolving. Although action is the glue that holds this network together—like Gerrard Winstanley said, "If thou dost not act, thou dost nothing"—it's also essential to feel that you share some common outlook and vision with the people around you. At the 2006 Organizers' Conference, there was an unfortunate avoidance of the scheduled theory and vision dialogue, but it's something that can't be put off for too much longer. If we desire to grow and thrive as a community of resistance, we need to work on internal understanding. Below are some thoughts on that evolution.

Throughout the history of the EF! movement, our three unifying principles have been clear and simple: a biocentric worldview (that means humans ain't at the top of the ladder); a no-compromise stance against ecological destruction (which applies to our ecodefense, *not our ego-defense*); and a confrontational, creative direct-action approach to defending the wild. While it has been the simplicity and straight-forwardness of these principles that have made EF! appealing to many of us, a lot has happened since EF! began. This invites a reassessment and renewal of our shared visions, goals, priorities and actions.

This is not a rant advocating some new rigid structure, a lefty-commie takeover or a total EF! overhaul; for the most part, it's an attempt to solidify a few changes of perspective that have already become pretty commonplace in our circles. There are some potentially controversial elements here, but they should be nothing new to anyone who has been paying attention to EF! and radical environmentalism in general for the past few years.

Earth First! Has No Use for Misanthropy

We are opposed to a lot of things in human societies: industry, capital, authority, racism, patriarchy, etc. We are against human civilization, yeah. But anti-human? What's the point?

Misanthropy is the "white guilt" of radical ecology. While it may reflect a deep and legitimate frustration with the human species, it is not helpful or beneficial for the goal of creating a holistic resistance movement that will take on industrial civilization and help restore the damage we've done. Vasectomies, voluntary human extinction, sure—go for it. Do what feels right for you, but don't get consumed in genocidal fantasies of depopulation. Collapse is likely to come whether we like it or not, and it will be a nice time to have plenty of close friends to weather the transition with. Our mission should be to defend, restore and rewild the Earth—ourselves included.

Earth First! Is Not a Science-based Movement

While many of us in EF! are drawn toward a scientific approach to ecology, that is not the backbone of the EF! movement. We are not focused on environmental science or conservation biology. Instead, EF! is attacking the root of the planet's biological crisis: the human disconnection from wild nature and the disconnection from each other that results from it. Our support is directed, for example, toward *campesinos* fighting for a land-based lifestyle or a community defending their neighborhood, as much as it is toward biologists sounding the alarm about climate change or the loss of biodiversity. People are moved to action by things that are real to them—things they can see,



If thou dost not act, thou dost nothing

—Gerrard Winstanley

feel and smell. Academic studies will never be the driving force behind a successful resistance movement in defense of the planet.

Earth First! Is Not Ideologically Nonviolent

While nonviolence is an ethic that we have been carrying around for some time, it is not a tactic that serves us as a movement. For the most part, it is nothing more than our failed attempt to protect ourselves from media slander and political backlash. Adopting nonviolence has never been consented on at an EF! gathering, yet somehow it made it into our movement's primer. While EF! clearly does not emphasize or utilize violence, this broad movement does recognize the need for a full range of tactics in defending the land. It's not that we need to adopt a pro-violence policy; we should just avoid the subject altogether in reference to ecodefense. It tends to muddle our messages (rarely in our favor), and when nonviolence is construed as being in our favor, it reeks of moralistic elitism.

EF! has been in solidarity with warriors around the world who are resisting by any means necessary. We are not in a position to pass judgment on any form of struggle that is motivated by a sincere love for the Earth. However, this may not always be clear and simple to discern. It will require plenty of investigation and intuition so that we do not stand in blind solidarity with insincere actions or corrupt, authoritarian movements. But it is a challenge worthy of the effort.

Earth First! Is in Solidarity with Migrating People

While EF! does not focus energy on human issues, we obviously interact with other humans. EF! has a troubling past of affiliations with pro-border, anti-immigrant bigotry. It's time to shake free of that, once and for all, and stand in solidarity with immigrants and migrating people worldwide. They are very often experiencing a forced displacement at the hands of globalization, and they often have deeper connections to the land because of their Earth-based cultures. We have a lot to learn from the experiences of those in migration, and we have a lot to gain from expressing our support for their plight and strengthening our relationships with immigration activists.

Besides, government-imposed borders have no place in our vision of a bioregional future. Duh.

Earth First! Favors Ecological Autonomy

EF! has been inspired by the permaculture movement's steps toward healing our relationship with the planet. We have also been increasingly shaped by the ideas and actions of anarchist and autonomous movements, both past and present. EF! is in favor of decentralized, small-scale, egalitarian communities that strive to (re)connect to their bioregions and make strides toward recovering the wild nature inside us all. This is not just some utopian fantasy. People are nurturing these communities here and now, in the hearts of cities and in the mountains, some new and some existing for several millennia old, all over the world.

Discussion of these points will allow EF! to evolve towards a more current manifestation of the radical environmental perspective. Specifically, we must create a space that guides us toward strengthened ties with urban communities and indigenous resistance, and that allows more space for the growing strain of the "green anarchy" folks involved in EF!.

We are already feeling the effects of movement disintegration. It's not that the radical environmental movement is disappearing. On the contrary, ecological resistance has kept a steady pace around the world. The need for such a well-established and networked movement has clearly not expired, but EF! is nevertheless at risk of slipping toward the direction of irrelevancy. Anyone who has been to our biannual gatherings in the past several years knows this to be true. Our energy had been waning, but the need for us has never been greater.

There is plenty more to be said about our vision for Earth First!. Maybe this will help get that discussion moving.

This article was presented during a discussion at this year's Round River Rendezvous and was amended slightly following that gathering. Its author hopes to see further dialogue on these subjects in these pages and at the 2007 Organizers' Conference.

Editors' Note: The editorial collective strongly supports the idea of an ongoing discussion about the future of EF!, including lively and productive responses to the suggestions raised here. With your help, we hope to publish a counterpoint to this article in the next issue of the Journal.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Throw Monkey from the Train

In June, a wild monkey boarded a train in a New Delhi, India rail station and frightened some passengers by scowling at them. After three stops, the monkey got off the train and continued on its way. In order to prevent any repeats of this episode, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has hired a trained professional to take care of the problem.

The professional is a langur monkey, who will patrol the stations that have had monkey boarding problems in the past and scare away any other monkeys. The monkey has been trained since he was three months old, and his owner is paid \$150 a month for the monkey's services. The rail corporation has happily stated that since the monkey was hired, there have been no reported incidents of sneering monkeys scaring commuters.

A Puuurrrrrrr-fect Feast

In recent years, residents of Sanjing, China, caught and killed the snakes that had been living throughout their village. As a result of the snakes being eradicated, there was a rat infestation. So in April, the village spent more than \$1,500 to purchase 200 cats, which were released to patrol 250 acres of land for rats. To reward the cats for the plentiful harvest predicted for this year, the villagers presented the felines with a heaping banquet of fish.

Planted Evidence

In April 2005, Sebastopol meadowfoam—a federally protected endangered species of plant—was found growing in a grassy field in Sebastopol, California. The field had been slated for a 20-acre housing development to be built sometime during the following year. Unfortunately, state wildlife officials concluded that the meadowfoam had been planted there on purpose to block the development and ordered the plants to be dug up.

This Spring, the tiny white flowers surprised everyone and reappeared in the same spot, holding up the construction of 145 proposed houses and apartments. This begs the question: Is the plant native to that field, or was it transplanted there by some creative conservationists? The controversy—dubbed "Foamgate" by local residents—was enough to derail the development. However, some residents are working with the developers to reach a compromise.

One Ant, Two Ant, Red Ant, New Ant

There are black ants, red ants, fire ants and... swimming ants? Scientists in North Queensland, Australia, have recently discovered a species of ant that can live, swim and



navigate underwater. A researcher found the ants living in submerged mangroves while he was filming insects living there. The ants nest in the mangroves and hide in air pockets, which they then use to swim to the surface.

Out of This World Vegetables

Just when you thought genetically modified plants couldn't get any more alien.... In July, China announced a plan to produce superplants by blasting seeds into outer space, thus exposing them to cosmic radiation and microgravity. Chinese scientists have used this technique in the past to produce tomato and green pepper harvests that were up to 20 percent bigger. They also claim the vegetables have higher vitamin content. China hopes that superplants will solve its looming food crisis—the result of rapid industrialization and an exploding population of 1.3 billion.

A New Ally in the War on Nuclear Power

Those of us opposed to nuclear power have found some unexpected allies in our fight. In July, a nuclear power plant in Japan was forced to decrease its energy output to between 60 and 70 percent of capacity, after a filter in a seawater cooling system was blocked by a mass of jellyfish. After three hours, the jellyfish were removed, and the plant's output returned to normal. Giant jellyfish have cost Japan's coastal industries thousands of dollars in damage and lost revenue. However, this was the first time that the nuclear plant had to lower its output because of jellyfish.

THE CASE AGAINST IL SILVESTRE

On May 4, a police operation in Pisa, Italy, resulted in the arrest of 11 members of the eco-anarchist group Il Silvestre (The Woodland). All have been charged with "subversive conspiracy" to overthrow the state and with using explosives. Some have been charged with the bombing of a power line on September 5, 2005, in San Giuliano Terme, near Pisa. The power line carried electricity into Italy from a French nuclear power plant. Five of the defendants are being held in high-security prisons as they await trial. Five are under house arrest, and another is restricted to his hometown.

Il Silvestre was formed in 1998, to fight for the Earth and all its inhabitants in a radical and non-hierarchical way. Members of the group publish a quarterly green anarchist journal called *Terra Selvaggia* (Wild Earth). Il Silvestre has been engaged in the struggle against genetically modified organisms, led the anti-vivisection movement with grassroots campaigning, supported eco-prisoners, and published books and zines on many issues. Although nearly every Pisan organizer has been arrested, the Il Silvestre office in central Pisa has stayed open thanks to the support of activists from many different cities.

Of course, the growing support for radical activism in Italy has led to police repression and numerous investigations. Il Silvestre activists have been investigated in relation to Animal Liberation Front actions, eco-sabotages, and made-up conspiracies for anarchist or ecological causes. The May arrests are merely the government's most recent attempt to persecute this movement.

In 2003, a communist-oriented direct-action group called the Revolutionary Offensive Cells (COR) claimed numerous sabotage actions, including the arson of right-wing politicians' homes, a *carabinieri* (militarized police) barracks and a right-wing workers' union. *Terra Selvaggia* received and published a COR communiqué following one of the actions. As a result, the Il Silvestre office/infoshop was raided in June 2004. Some activists were arrested and accused of the COR actions, even though there was no evidence linking them to this group—not to mention the fact that their anarchist ideas are incompatible with COR's communist platform.

The trial, which finally took place this July, was a farce. In the absence of any solid evidence, prosecutors instead scared the jury with caricatures of dangerous revolutionaries and terrorists. Five of the defendants were acquitted of all charges; the remaining six—William Frediani, Benedetta Galante, Francesco Gioia, Leonardo Landi, Alessio Perondi and Constantino Ragusa—were found guilty and given sentences ranging from three and a half years to six years in prison. Frediani, Landi and Perondi are free as they appeal the decision. The others are in prison, awaiting trial for the September 2005 anti-nuclear action.

Please show your support for these dedicated radical activists. Many are under restrictive hour arrest or have been sent to prisons far from their families. They have been denied access to healthy food and have had their mail censored.

For more information, contact Senzagabbie, senzagabbie@yahoo.it; Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk.

This article was written by a friend of the Il Silvestre prisoners. He is active in Italy's grassroots animal and Earth liberation struggles.

Prisoners

- Federico Bonamici, Casa di Reclusione, Via Nuova Poggioreale 177, 80143 Napoli Poggioreale (NA), Italy. Awaiting trial in relation to the September 2005 anti-nuclear sabotage.

- Giuseppe Bonamici, Nuova Casa Circondariale "San Michele," Strada Casale 50/A, 15100 Alessandria, Italy. Awaiting trial in relation to the September 2005 anti-nuclear sabotage.

- Benedetta Galante, Casa Circondariale, Via E Novelli 1, 82100 Benevento (BN), Italy. Serving 3.5 years for COR actions and awaiting trial in relation to the September 2005 anti-nuclear sabotage.

- Francesco Gioia, Casa Circondariale, Via Maiano 10, 06049, Spoleto (PG), Italy. Serving more than five years for COR actions and awaiting trial in relation to the September 2005 anti-nuclear sabotage.

- Silvia Guerini, Carcere "La Dozza," Via Del Gomito 2, 40127 Bologna, Italy. Awaiting trial in relation to the September 2005 anti-nuclear sabotage.

- Costantino Ragusa, Casa Circondariale Nuovo Complesso, Via Prati Nuovi 7, 27058 Voghera (PV), Italy. Serving five years for COR actions and awaiting trial in relation to the September 2005 anti-nuclear sabotage.

The Green Scare Continues

Six Plead Guilty to Arsons and Conspiracy

BY THE CIVIL RIGHTS OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Recent months have seen further troubling developments in "Operation Backfire," the FBI's ongoing attempt to persecute environmental and animal rights activists under the guise of fighting terrorism. This "Green Scare" began with the arrests of six people on December 7, and gradually mushroomed to include a 65-count conspiracy indictment against more than a dozen individuals (see *EF!* May-June 2006). All are accused of participating in a series of Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and Animal Liberation Front (ALF) actions in the Pacific Northwest between 1996 and 2001. As intended, the threat of decades-long prison sentences shattered the spirits of some of the defendants. Bill "Avalon" Rodgers committed suicide in his jail cell on December 22; Stanislas Meyerhoff and Kendall Tankersley immediately agreed to cooperate with the FBI's investigation.

Plea Deals Aplenty

Fast forward to July. Without any public notice, formal change-of-plea hearings were held on July 20 and 21. Chelsea Gerlach, Suzanne Savoie, Darren Thurston, Kevin Tubbs, Meyerhoff and Tankersley all pleaded guilty to a reduced number of conspiracy, arson and attempted arson charges. (When Meyerhoff entered the courtroom, he waved and smiled at the federal prosecutors, who returned the gestures.) The US attorney's office recommended the following sentences: 15 years and eight months for Meyerhoff; 14 years for Tubbs; 10 years for Gerlach; five years and three months for Savoie; four years and three months for Tankersley; and three years and one month for Thurston. All six agreed to testify against others charged in the case and to cooperate with the government's ongoing investigation of similar ELF and ALF actions. These plea agreement and recommended terms of imprisonment are contingent upon the defendants' continued and complete cooperation *for the rest of their lives*. All six are scheduled for formal sentencing on December 14.

At the request of the cooperating defendants' attorneys, all of the plea petitions, cooperation agreements and even the transcripts of the public court hearing were sealed, making them unavailable for public scrutiny, for the time being. The government announced that it would pursue upward enhancement of sentences for the six defendants taking pleas, arguing that the federal terrorism enhancement guidelines apply to their sentences. This enhancement—normally only utilized in cases where human lives were lost—carries up to an additional 30-year sentence.

During the plea hearings, the government seemed especially keen on connecting the ELF and ALF to broader environmental efforts and movements. Prosecutors emphasized that the Vail arson followed unsuccessful litigation and grassroots campaigning against ski resort development in the area, and they alleged that Meyerhoff and other defendants attended an Earth First! party immediately after performing one sabotage. The government also stressed that these defendants used the term "direct action" in reference to the arson incidents. Gerlach and Meyerhoff both swore in court that the late Bill Rodgers was solely responsible for the Vail arson. And for the first time, the state hinted at its intention to prosecute additional ELF arsons that allegedly occurred in eastern Michigan and Phoenix, Arizona.

Lacey Phillabaum—a former *EF! Journal* editor and an unindicted cooperating witness in this case—is expected to enter a guilty plea in Seattle, Washington, in exchange for her cooperation. Jen Kolar, another unindicted cooperating witness, is also expected to enter a plea in the near future. Without the information provided by uncharged informants like Phillabaum, Kolar and particularly Jacob Ferguson—as well as the parroted statements made by the cooperating defendants thus far—there would be no federal case. The informants' statements all vastly contradict each other, and they have changed and evolved as the government changes the story. No hard evidence exists linking the defendants to the ELF actions. Yet in spite of this, Nathan Block, Daniel McGowan and Joyanna Zacher each face a 30-year mandatory minimum sentence and maximums of life plus 300 to 1,015 years!

Non-Cooperating Defendants

Although some prisoners are listed together, they must be written to separately. See page 40 for additional guidelines.

- Nathan Block, #1663667, and Joyanna Zacher, #1662550, Lane County Jail, 101 W 5th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401; supportersofnathanandjoyanna@gmail.com.
- Jeff Hogg, #1065518, 1901 NE F St, Grants Pass, OR 97526.
- Daniel McGowan, released on bail; www.supportdaniel.org.
- Jonathan Paul, released on bail; www.ecoprisoners.org.
- Briana Waters, released on bail; www.supportbriana.org.

Misuse of Grand Juries

On March 21, Camilo Stephenson was subpoenaed to a Denver, Colorado grand jury and questioned about the 1998 Vail ski resort fire. He denied any knowledge of any ELF incidents. Burke Morris was called before a grand jury in Denver on May 18, and Jeff Hogg was subpoenaed to testify in front of a federal grand jury in Eugene, Oregon, on the same day. Morris answered limited questions about his personal life but denied any knowledge of the ELF actions. Hogg refused to testify before the grand jury and was jailed for contempt of court. He has been in jail ever since and could remain there for another seven months if the grand jury is extended.

On June 27, Jim Dawson received a subpoena to appear before a grand jury in Seattle. He consented to be questioned by the FBI in lieu of his scheduled grand jury appearance. His partner, Heather Moore, had earlier agreed to be voluntarily questioned about her community by the feds. The extent of their disclosures to the government is unknown at this time. As a result of their voluntary cooperation, additional subpoenas are possible.

The fact that the feds are continuing to subpoena people would normally lead one to believe that the government is

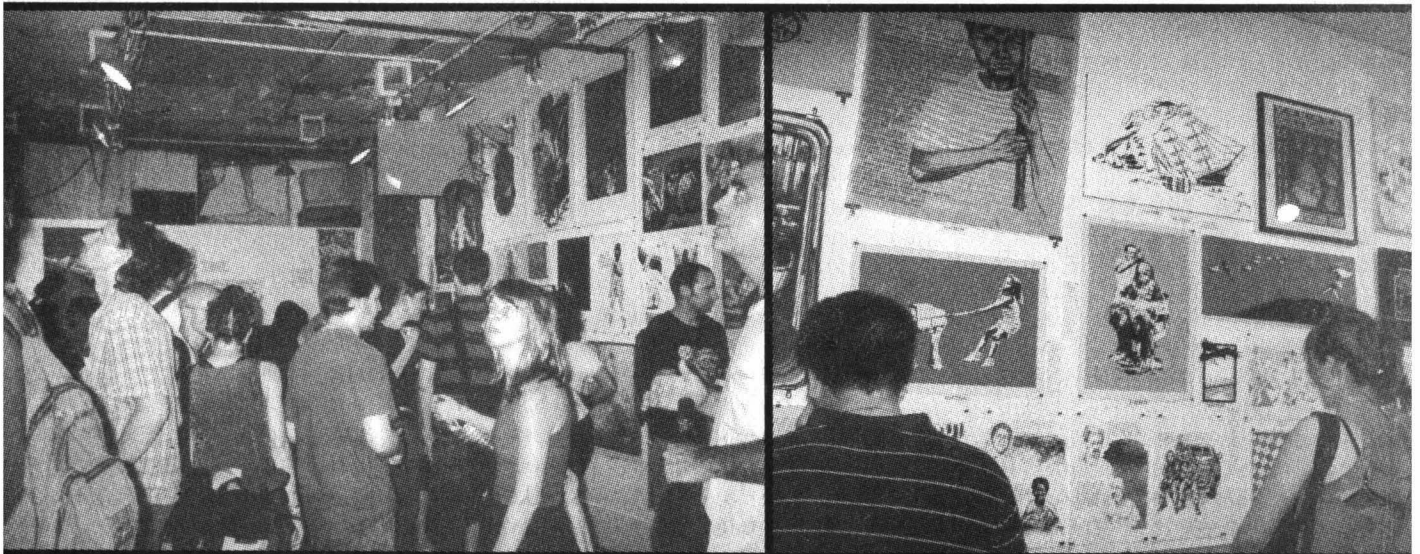
back many years. The discovery hearing was postponed for three weeks.

Engdall then proposed a motion to postpone the October 31 trial to a later date, since the US attorney's office would need time to subpoena witnesses from five federal districts to testify at trial. The hearing for that motion was scheduled for October 31.

The government continues to monitor and scrutinize online sources, such as Indymedia websites. Many of the court filings include voluminous pages printed from Indymedia comment sections, personal email communications and other documents that make it obvious that the government continues to spy on political groups and their activities. There is nothing illegal about doing prisoner support or discussing current events, but the feds persist in manipulating and misrepresenting these communications to their own benefit. Be careful of what you post on the Internet.

Support Information

Don't forget to write to and support the non-cooperating defendants. Talk to your family, friends and neighbors about the Green Scare cases. If you have information about any of the cooperating witnesses, background or history,



photos courtesy Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan

Visual Resistance presented, "If They Come for You in the Morning," at New York City's ABC No Rio in July. Proceeds from the art benefit went to Daniel McGowan's legal fund.

searching for additional defendants in these cases. Grand juries are intended *only* to decide whether or not to bring indictments. In this case, they are being used to gather evidence—an illegal use of a grand jury.

The Latest

On August 22, there was a status hearing on the upcoming trial. The first order of business was a continuance for the upcoming discovery hearing, in which defendants' attorneys will ask the court to release the FBI's surveillance evidence, including intelligence gathered by the National Security Agency. The US attorney's office has been dancing around the release of this surveillance, which could go

and if you are willing to share this information with the non-cooperating defendants' attorneys, please contact Lauren Regan at lregan@cldc.org. Your opinion or anecdote could save a brave person from many years in jail.

For more information, contact the Civil Liberties Defense Center, 259 E 5th Ave, Ste 300A, Eugene, OR 97401; (541) 687-9180; info@cldc.org; www.cldc.org.

The Civil Rights Outreach Committee (CROC) is a media working group that monitors the mainstream press surrounding the Green Scare, produces its own proactive media and assists the defendants in their attempt to get a fair trial. To contact CROC or to make a donation to our work, write to civilrightsoutreach@gmail.com.

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. When prisoners are awaiting trial, it is best not to discuss their cases or related topics. 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

•Padalla Idris Alajaimy, Mohamed Ahmed Alajaimy and Ali Mohamed Alhassen Massad were arrested on April 22, at an anti-dam meeting in Marawi, Sudan. Security forces attacked the unarmed Amri tribespeople with machine guns and heavy artillery, killing three and injuring more than 50. Massad and the Alajaimys have been charged with assault, criminal mischief and waging war against the state. If convicted, they face the death penalty. Their current addresses are unknown. For more information, contact the Sudan Organization Against Torture, Argo House, Kilburn Park Rd, London NW6 5LE, UK; info@soatsudan.org; www.soatsudan.org.

•Natasha Avery, NR 8987, UKDS HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 3JZ, UK. Sentenced in July to 16 months for using abusive words and behavior toward a fox hunter.

•Rodney Coronado, #03895000, CCA Central Arizona Detention Center, POB 6300, Florence, AZ 85232, USA. In August, Coronado was sentenced to eight months in prison and three years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay more than \$100 in restitution for his role in a 2004 Earth First! mountain lion hunt sabotage. In July, Coronado was charged with violating federal wildlife laws that make it illegal to possess eagle feathers. While registered and permitted Native Americans are exempt from these laws, Coronado—a Yaqui—has not enrolled as a member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe for political reasons. Coronado is also awaiting trial for allegedly telling people how to construct an incendiary device during a speech he made at an animal rights gathering in August 2003. For more information, visit www.supportrod.org.

•Matt Crozier was sentenced in August to three years probation and 100 hours of community service, and was fined \$1,000 for his role in a 2004 Earth First! mountain lion hunt sabotage. He

was also ordered not to associate with the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), Earth Liberation Front (ELF), EF! or similar groups that "encourage violence."

•Donald Currie, TN4593, HMP Woodhill, Tattenhoe St, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK4 4DA, UK. Currie has pleaded guilty to arson and possession of explosives in connection with a number of ALF actions against vivisection suppliers. Sentencing is scheduled for September 28.

•Adam Durand has been granted a stay of sentence and released on bail, pending his appeal. In May, Durand was sentenced to six months for trespassing on a Wegman's egg farm to film the cruel treatment of battery hens.

•Amanda Cerezo García, who had been awaiting trial since 2003 for allegedly burning a road-construction vehicle and sending a letter bomb to a neo-Nazi politician, has been awarded "conditional freedom" and released from prison.

•Zachary Jenson, one of the Auburn 3, has signed a plea agreement requiring him to testify against Eric McDavid. The *Journal* condemns any cooperation with authorities against other prisoners and is withdrawing its support from Jenson.

•Jeffrey "Free" Luers, #13797671, OSP, 2605 State St, Salem, OR 97310, USA. On August 20, Luers was released from solitary segregation, where he had been held for more than one month after his urinalysis results were deemed "too clean." Although subsequent drug tests have been negative, he has lost phone and visitor privileges until at least September 5. Luers is serving 22 years and eight months for arson at an SUV dealership and for attempted arson of an oil truck. For more information, visit www.freefreenow.org.

•Heather Nicholson was sentenced in July to 16 months for using abusive words and behavior toward a fox hunter. She was released on August 11, having already served most of her sentence while awaiting trial.

•Robert "Rob los Ricos" Thaxton was released on June 29, after serving seven years for throwing a rock at a cop during a 1999 Reclaim the Streets action in Eugene, Oregon.

•Daniel Wadham, TF5524, HMP Rochester, 1 Fort Rd, Rochester - Kent ME1 3QS, UK. Sentenced in July to 12 months for using abusive words and behavior toward a fox hunter.

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 arsons of logging trucks and vehicles owned by a sand and gravel company. For more information, visit www.trearrow.org.

•Jacob Conroy, Darius Fullmer, Lauren Gazzola, Joshua Harper, Kevin Jonas and Andrew Stepanian are under house arrest, awaiting sentencing for their involvement with Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty. They face up to ten years in prison. For more information, visit www.shac7.com.

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

•Eric McDavid, X-2972521 4E231A, 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. Both of McDavid's former co-defendants, Zachary Jenson and Lauren Weiner, have agreed to testify against him. For more information, visit www.supporteric.org.

•Peter Daniel Young, #10269-111, FCI Victorville Medium II, POB 5700, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA. Awaiting trial for alleged involvement in a 1997 mink liberation in South Dakota. Young is

currently serving two years for releasing mink and foxes from six different fur farms. For more information, visit www.supportpeter.com.

Animal Liberation

•Jon Ablewhite, TB4885, John Smith, TB4887, and Kerry Whitburn, TB4886, HMP Lowdham Grange, Lowdham, Nottingham NG14 7DA, UK. Serving 12 years for conspiracy to blackmail a supplier of guinea pigs for vivisection.

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

•Joshua Demmitt, #12314-081, FCI Safford, POB 9000, Safford, AZ 85548, USA. Serving 2.5 years for the ALF arson of an animal-testing facility. For more information, visit www.supportjosh.org.

•Garfield Marcus Gabbard, TV4271, HMP Moorland (Closed), Bawtry Rd, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN7 6BW, UK. Serving 21 months for threatening to kick a security guard, who had pulled Gabbard off a car during an anti-vivisection protest.

•Sarah Gisborne, LT5393, HMP Cookham Wood, Rochester, Kent ME1 3LU, UK. Serving 5.5 years for conspiracy to cause criminal damage to vehicles owned by people linked to HLS.

•Josephine Mayo, PR6508, HMP Peterborough, Saville Rd, Westwood, Peterborough PE3 7PD, UK. Serving four years for conspiracy to blackmail a supplier of guinea pigs for vivisection.

Ecodefense

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

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

•Christopher McIntosh, #30512-013, USP Hazelton, POB 2000, Bruceton Mills, WV 26525, USA. Serving eight years for a joint ALF/ELF arson against a McDonald's. For more information, visit www.supportchris.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 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. Currently serving nearly nine years 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 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. For more information, visit www.freepeltier.org.

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. Four of the defendants are under house arrest.

•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. For more information, visit www.mapuche-nation.org.

•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."

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

•Jaime Huenchullan Cayul, Juan Carlos Huenulao Tricauko, Florencio Jaime Marileo Saravia, José Patricio Marileo Saravia, Jose Nain Curamil and Patricia Troncoso Robles, Centro Detención Penitenciaria Pedro Aguirre—Cerdeña N° 80 y Los Confines 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. For more information, visit www.onamove.com.

•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 Graterford, POB 244, Graterford, 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, Follies Rd, Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612-0286, 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, FCI Yazoo City Medium, POB 5888, Yazoo City, MS 39194-5888, 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.

•Fran Thompson, #1090915 HU 1C, WERDCC, POB 300, 1101 E Hwy 54, 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.eco-prisoners.org.

announcements

Philly Zine Fest

September 24 • West Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania

The goal of the Philly Zine Fest is the embrace of written and verbal communication without constraints. At the fest, be prepared for everything from personal experiences, to artistic talent, to first-hand politics. Please note that the fest is not a "conference"; there will be no superstars or "special guest" appearances. Workshops and speakers will be focused on the topic, not the person giving the information.

For more information, contact phillyzinefest@yahoo.com; www.philadelphiazinefest.com.

Third Annual Madison Zine Fest

October 21 • Madison, Wisconsin

The Madison Zine Fest (MZF), an annual event celebrating zines, will be held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, in conjunction with the Wisconsin Book Festival. Organizers aim to expand the zine community, increase individual and institutional awareness of zines, and encourage the creation of independent media and alternative publishing. The MZF will include workshops, panel discussions, a zine fair and zine readings. Admission is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact madzinefest@yahoo.com; www.madisonzinefest.org.

Earthbound Gathering

September 22-25 • Eveleth, Minnesota

"Greetings! We would like to invite you to the Earthbound Gathering. We seek to bring together Native and non-Native people who share concerns about the Earth, to create a space to make and strengthen such connections, and to address many of the issues that can make organizing between Native and non-Native communities painful and difficult. Last year's gathering was a resounding success, and we seek to continue building these relationships and creating new ones.

"We have seen and experienced strength in coalitions between Native people defending their homelands and traditions, and non-Natives who feel a strong connection to the Earth and a drive to defend her. We have also seen similar coalitions fail due to ignorance, lack of cross-cultural understanding or basic disrespect. We wish to study these situations in the hopes of learning from them.

"We are aware of some things that have repeatedly prevented coalitions from forming in the past and would like to address them as part of our planning. For one, Earthbound is firmly drug- and alcohol-free. We hope to provide travel stipends for elders, youth or others who need it. Also, we have seen that the dominant culture and its members consistently lack listening skills. We expect everyone present to have a basic respect for one another and to strive to really listen. We would like each person who attends to be interested in healing and seeking mutual understanding across the lines of race and other distinctions. If you feel that there are other common barriers that we should be addressing, please let us know.

"We hope that an uncommon spirit of honesty and healing will again animate this gathering, so that we can discover common ground in our struggles to live in balance with the Earth and resist the destructive forces that threaten us all. We believe in our hearts that we can support each other in new ways, not only to make a new world, but also to save the old.

"Topics to be addressed during the gathering include: racism, cultural appropriation and white guilt; cultural genocide information and experience-sharing; strong coalitions created in the past; current resistance campaigns; life in the US and the struggle for cultural identity; techniques for reconnecting with one another, the Earth and ourselves; youth in activism and coalition; and traditional/Earth-based skills and crafts.

"Earthbound will be held at YMCA Camp Warren, 3726 Miller Trunk Rd, Eveleth, Minnesota, on September 22-25. It will be free to all. Meals will be provided, but please plan to bring bedding, toiletries and camping gear. Some cabins are available; please contact us in advance if you need this kind of shelter.

"If you want to help organize, give input or criticism, present a workshop, donate resources, fundraise or ask questions, please contact us. Please pass this message along to anyone you think might be interested. Hope to see you this Fall!"

—The Earthbound Collective

For more information, contact the Earthbound Collective, POB 490, Finland, MN 55603; (800) 619-3772; earthboundmn.livejournal.com.

The Doohickey Project

September-December

The Doohickey Project is a group of friends struggling to reclaim knowledge and control over their bodies. They are planning a cross-country tour this Fall to initiate a forum for womyn and transgendered people to discuss sexual health. The Doohickey Project will begin its tour in late September, starting in the Northwest and moving clockwise through the US. The project will stop in a number of cities and towns along the way.

The Doohickey Project wants to do this tour because the dominant health care programs in the US function within a system of white supremacy, strict class divisions, assumed heterosexuality, an enforced gender binary, capitalism and specialized knowledge. Mainstream culture thrives off of our alienation from our bodies and our dependence upon doctors. Everyone should be able to share experiences, knowledge and resources freely. Reproductive struggles are linked to all other struggles!

Possible workshop and discussion topics include: sexual anatomy/physiology and self-exams; menstruation; fertility awareness, birth control choices and abortion options (herbal, menstrual extraction and clinical); herbs and pregnancy; sexually transmitted infections; and trans health care.

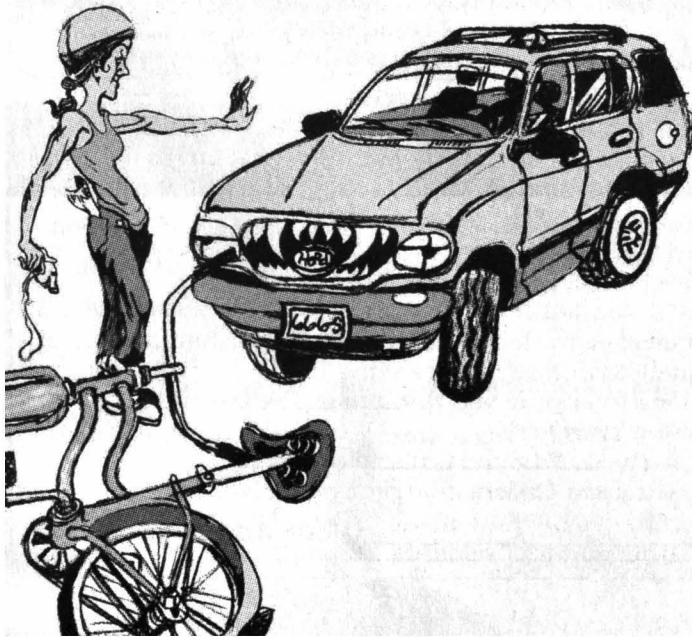
For more information and tour dates, contact doohickey@riseup.net.

World Carfree Day

September 22

Every year, people from all over the world gather to celebrate the fall of the automobile and to illustrate alternative forms of transportation. The official World Carfree Day is September 22, but many places hold activities all week or on the weekend. Last year there were an estimated 1,500 events in 40 countries. Let's make World Carfree Day 2006 the biggest event ever!

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



Buffalo Field Campaign Road Shows

August 23-September 20 • West Coast

September 3-20 • Southwest

October-TBA • East Coast

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

Mike Mease, BFC's co-founder and campaign coordinator, and BFC volunteer Jesse Crocker will travel the West Coast from mid-August until mid-September, giving presentations in communities from Olympia to Malibu. Scheduled events include a series of benefits with Oglala Lakota/Pascua Yaqui musician Good Shield.

Josh Osher, BFC's research and policy coordinator, will embark on the Southwest and Beyond tour in early September. Events in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah are already scheduled, and more stops are being added.

Dan Brister, BFC's project director, and Stephany Seay, BFC's media coordinator, will take to the road in October, traveling from North Carolina to Vermont, visiting colleges, cafés and community centers. BFC still has open dates for the East Coast road show and encourages you to help organize an event in your community!

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

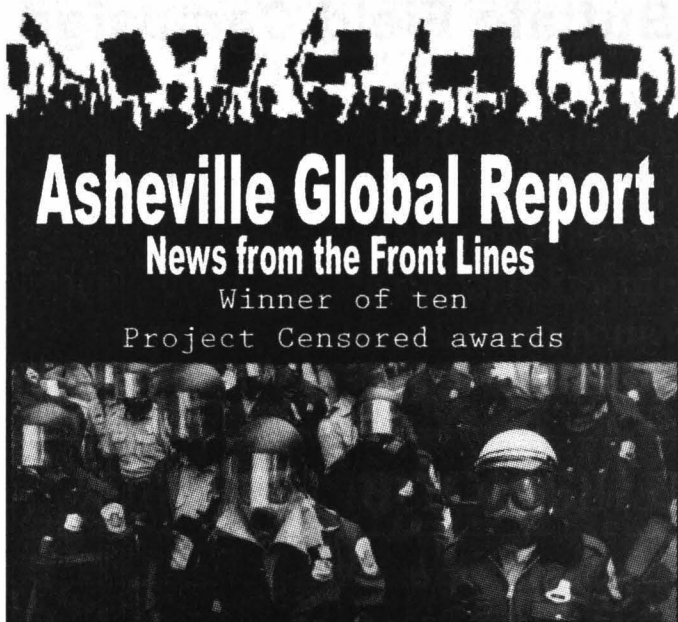
Mexico Solidarity Network Tours

September-December

The Mexico Solidarity Network is proud to announce a series of forums addressing globalization, US trade policies, immigrant policies and femicides. Each forum will include speakers directly affected by the issues being discussed. The tours will travel to the Midwest, East Coast and West Coast. Universities and community-based organizations interested in hosting one of the tours are invited to contact the network.

Three separate tours are planned: "The Politics of Immigration Today: Addressing Root Causes and Preventing Further Criminalization" (October 1-November 4); "Justice for Women on the Border: Stop the Femicide!" (September 24-October 28); and "Women Confronting Globalization: Cultural Resistance, Alternative Economy and Human Rights" (October 29-December 15).

For more information, contact the Mexico Solidarity Network, 4834 North Springfield, Chicago, IL 60625; (773) 583-7728; msn@mexicosolidarity.org; www.mexicosolidarity.org.



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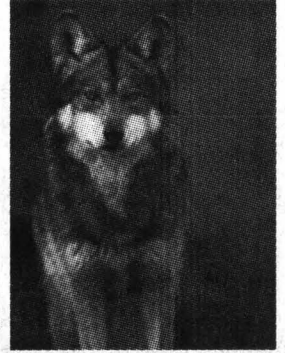
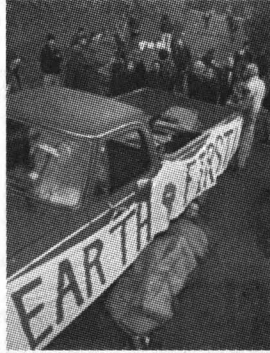
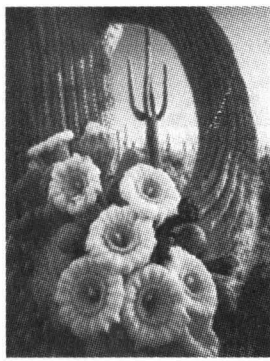
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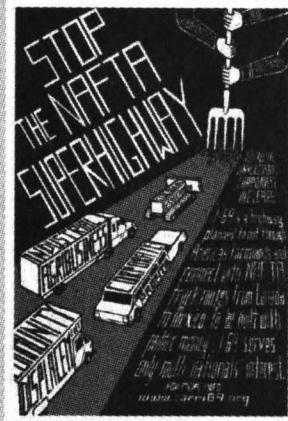
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...and don't forget to enter the Journal's t-shirt design contest! Entries should spark interest, provoke thought, inspire action, capture the spirit of Earth First!, and, most importantly, look totally badass! The winner will receive a one-year subscription to the Journal and a handful of t-shirts featuring their design.

Deadline is November 1, 2006.

For more info. and contest guidelines, contact: (520) 620-6900; ponderosa@earthfirstjournal.org. Send entries to: Earth First! Journal, POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702.

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Catalyst Infoshop

109 N McCormick St, Prescott, AZ 86301
(928) 443-8525; info@catalystinfoshop.org
Chuk'shon EF!

sabthebastards@hotmail.com

Flagstaff Activist Network

POB 911, Flagstaff, AZ 86002
(928) 213-9507; info@flagstaffactivist.org

Phoenix EF!

phoenixef@excite.com

Tucson EF!

az_earth_first@hotmail.com

CALIFORNIA

ACT UP! San Francisco

1884 Market St, San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 864-6686; actupsf@hotmail.com

Direct Action Fund

POB 210, Canyon, CA 94516

Free Mind Media

546 Pacific Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95404
info@freemindmedia.org

Long Haul Infoshop

3124 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, CA 94705
(510) 540-0751; slingshot@tao.ca

North Coast EF!

POB 28, Arcata, CA 95518
(707) 825-6598

Santa Cruz EF!

POB 344, Santa Cruz, CA 95061
cruzef@cruzio.com

Sierra Nevada EF!

935 F St, Fresno, CA 93706
collective@sierranevadaearthfirst.org

smartMeme Strategy & Training Project
2940 16th St #216, San Francisco, CA 94103

info@smartmeme.com

COLORADO

Wilderness Study Group

University of Colorado, Campus Box 207,
Boulder, CO 80309
wsg@colorado.edu

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Environmental Library Fund

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(203) 227-2065; remyc@prodigy.net

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(785) 865-1374

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maineef@yahoo.com

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POB 4875, Portland, ME 04112
info@peoplesfreespace.org

MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Direct Action

POB 484, Somerset, MA 02726
massdirectaction@riseup.net

MINNESOTA

Church of Deep Ecology

POB 16075, St Paul, MN 55116
(800) 862-7031;
contact@churchofdeepecology.org

Forest Ecosystems Action Group

2441 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55405
paarise@mtn.org

MISSOURI

Community Arts & Media Project

POB 63232, St Louis, MO 63163
mberry@riseup.net

MONTANA

Buffalo Field Campaign

POB 957, West Yellowstone, MT 59758
(406) 646-0070; buffalo@wildrockies.org

Wild Rockies EF!

(406) 961-0171; odinswyrd@yahoo.com

NEBRASKA

Environmental Resource Center

(308) 432-3458; buffalobruce@panhandle.net

NEW YORK

Central New York EF!

POB 35463, Syracuse, NY 13235
(585) 802-8330; cnyearthfirst@riseup.net

NORTH CAROLINA

Katúah EF!/Roadkill Faction

POB 1485, Asheville, NC 28802

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bison12@wildmail.com

OHIO

Hock-Hocking EF!

(740) 592-2581; info@easternforestdefense.org

The Wire: A Community Resource Center

21 Kern St, Athens, OH 45701
(740) 589-5111; thewire@riseup.net

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Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project

27803 Williams Ln, Fossil, OR 97830

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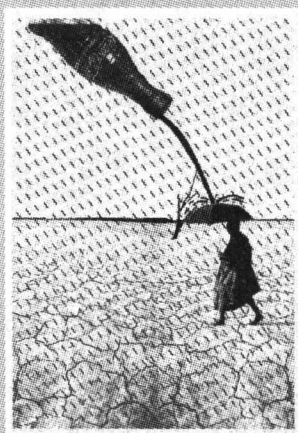
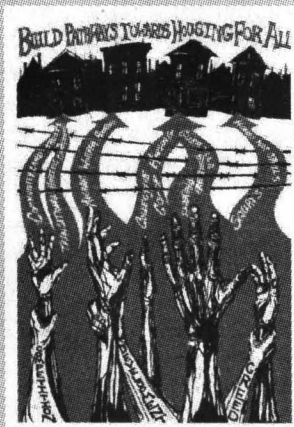
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Cascadia Rising! Ecodefense
POB 12583, Portland, OR 97212
(503) 493-7495; action@cascadiarising.org
Green Anarchy
POB 11331, Eugene, OR 97440
collective@greenanarchy.org
PENNSYLVANIA
EF! Philly
earthfirstphilly@riseup.net
Species Traitor/Black and Green
POB 835, Greensburg, PA 15601
primalwar@hotmail.com
RHODE ISLAND
Ocean State EF!

oceanstate_ef@riseup.net
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(802) 254-4847; larrysvt@hotmail.com
WASHINGTON
The Evergreen State College
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Olympia, WA 98505
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artwork by the Street Art Workers' new series of posters called "Land & Globalization"
www.streetartworkers.org

INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS

AUSTRALIA
EF! Australia
POB 161, Norseman, WA, 6443, Australia
efoz@earthfirst.org.au
EF! OZ-Jervis Bay
POB 295, Nowra, NSW, 2541, Australia
BELGIUM
EF! Belgium Support Group
belgium2005@groenfront.be
CANADA
Elaho EF!
earth_first@resist.ca
CZECH REPUBLIC
Car Busters
Kratka 26, 100 00 Prague 10, Czech Republic
420-274-810-849; info@carbusters.org
EIRE
An Talamh Glas (Green Earth)
atgblue@yahoo.com
ENGLAND
EF! Action Update
12 London Rd, Brighton BN1 4JA, UK

mail@actionupdate.org.uk
Leeds EF! c/o CRC
16 Sholebroke Ave, Leeds LS7 3HB, UK
0113-262-9365; leedsef@ukf.net
London EF!
84B Whitechapel High St, London E1 0, UK
eflondon@ziplip.com
London Rising Tide
62 Fieldgate St, London E1 1ES, UK
0770-879-4665; london@risingtide.org.uk
Manchester EF!
22a Beswick St, Manchester M4 7HS, UK
mancef@nematode.freesev.co.uk
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POB 164, Totnes, TQ9 5WX, UK
020-7729-6973; office@roadblock.org.uk
GERMANY
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green.rage@web.de
ISRAEL
Green Action Israel
POB 4611, Tel Aviv 61046, Israel

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Amsterdam, Netherlands
31-20-668-2236; aseedeur@antenna.nl
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netherlands2005@groenfront.nl
NIGERIA
Environmental Rescue International
20 Dawson Rd, by Forestry Junction, Benin
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environmentalrescue@yahoo.co.uk
RUSSIA
Ecodefense!
POB 1477, Kaliningrad, 236000, Russia
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SOUTH KOREA
Green Korea United
110-740 #605 Korean Ecumenical Bldg 136-56
Younji-Dong, Jongro-Gu, Seoul, South Korea
82-2-747-8500; greenkorea@greenkorea.org

Remembering Murray Bookchin

Pioneering Social Ecologist Dies at 85

BY BRIAN TOKAR AND CHAIA HELLER

Murray Bookchin, the visionary social theorist and activist, died on July 30, in his home in Burlington, Vermont. Throughout a prolific career of writing, teaching, and political and environmental activism that spanned half a century, Bookchin forged a new ecological and social outlook. Inspired by dialectical philosophy and anti-authoritarian revolutionary movements.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Bookchin built upon the legacies of utopian social philosophy and critical theory, linking contemporary ecological and urban crises to problems of capitalism and social hierarchy. Beginning in the mid-1960s, he pioneered a new political and philosophical synthesis—termed “social ecology”—that sought to reclaim local political power from the centralized state by means of direct popular democracy. He would go on to co-found the Institute for Social Ecology in 1974.

Bookchin was the first to articulate many core principles that have become common wisdom among today's eco-radicals. In 1964, he was the first to link ecological thought to the revolutionary tradition in the West. He was also the first to relate problems of industrial agriculture, the rise of environmental illnesses, and urban pollution and overcrowding to the perpetual crises of capitalism. While Marxists were still celebrating the “civilizing” discipline of the industrial workplace, Bookchin saw that ecological sanity required an entirely new technology and a profound decentralization of both urban spaces and political power.

The utopian dimension of Bookchin's social ecology has inspired many generations of activists: the pioneering urban ecology movements of the 1960s; the back-to-the-land, anti-nuclear and sustainable technology movements of the 1970s; the pioneers of Green politics and organic farming in the early 1980s; and the anti-authoritarian global justice movement that came of age on the streets of Seattle in 1999.

Bookchin also turned his sharp critical gaze on present-day social movements, challenging their limitations, while attempting to grasp their underlying revolutionary potential. In the 1980s, he guided many radical ecologists to re-examine their tendency toward misanthropy, which had led some in the movement to attack immigrants, urban dwellers and even AIDS victims—ignoring the racism and social inequities underlying such positions.



Photo courtesy Institute for Social Ecology

It was for this reason that Bookchin turned his pen on the problems he saw as underlying deep ecology during those years. “Deep ecology,” wrote Bookchin in 1987, “has virtually no real sense that our ecological problems have their ultimate roots in society and in social problems. It preaches a gospel of a kind of ‘original sin’ that accuses a vague species called humanity—as though people of color were equatable with whites, women with men, the Third World with the First, the poor with the rich, and the exploited with their exploiters.”

In the 1990s, Bookchin's writings helped open a dialogue that profoundly changed the radical ecology

movement for the better. Bookchin's critique of the misanthropic cult of the lone “eco-warrior” within Earth First! helped create space for the emergence of a new consciousness rooted in feminism, respect for working people and urban issues, and active solidarity with the ecological struggles of nonindustrial peoples and city-dwellers alike. Today, most Earth First!ers understand that a profound social revolution is necessary to overturn the forces of capitalism, greed and empire that continue to ravage our health, our communities and the integrity of the natural world.

Bookchin was one of the last true visionaries. He came from a time when people believed revolution to be not only possible but inevitable. The utopian vision he proposed was not a lofty unattainable one, but a way of reorganizing society by drawing from the best of the leftist tradition that still remains dormant in communities throughout the world. At a time when the anti-authoritarian movement is filled with charismatic critics capable only of articulating the source and dimensions of the problem, Bookchin was a man who dedicated his life to envisioning the solution as well. May his love for humanity and for the rest of the natural world live on in our own attempts to remake this world through our intelligence, creativity and courage in the days to come.

*Brian Tokar directs the Biotechnology Project at the Institute for Social Ecology (www.social-ecology.org), and has authored and edited several books, including *Earth for Sale and Redesigning Life?**

*Chaia Heller has been associated with the Institute for Social Ecology for more than 20 years. She's the author of *Ecology of Everyday Life*, and teaches the anthropology of science and technology at Mount Holyoke College.*

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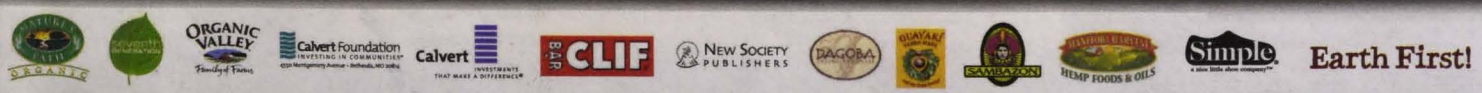
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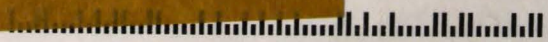


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