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Earth First!

Mabon September-October 2007

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DEFENDING THE WILD in the Land of Fire and Ice

BY JAAP KRATER

This year, Iceland saw its third Summer of direct action against heavy industry and large dams. In a much-disputed master plan, all the

glacial rivers and geothermal potential of Europe's largest wilderness would be harnessed for aluminum production (see *EF!J* May-June 2006). Activists from around the world have gathered to protect Europe's largest

remaining wilderness and oppose aluminum corporations.

Icelanders were joined by activists from Africa, South and North America, and Europe for an international conference entitled, "Global Consequences of Heavy Industry and Large Dams." Organized by Saving Iceland, the conference looked at the effects of large dams on ecosystems, climate and communities. It also focused on the role of aluminum in the arms industry and on the green-washing strategies of large corporations. Activists recognized the remarkable similarities in manipulative and ecologically destructive corporate strategies between their different countries and continents. The next activist conference will be in Trinidad and Tobago, where local communities oppose an Alcoa aluminum smelter (see *EF!J* January-February 2007). Other campaigns that were presented included Brazil's Movement of Dam-Affected People and India's Save the Narmada Movement.

Reclaiming Reykjavik

The resistance against heavy industry and large dams in Iceland has heated up—and not just because of global warming. Activists set up camp about 10 miles north of Reykjavik, Iceland's capital, and built a dam in front of the prime minister's office. Reverend Billy, of the Church of Stop Shopping, held a sermon in Reykjavik's largest mall, connecting heavy industry to consumerism. A public meeting was held in Reykjavik with the people of Thorlakhöfn (the site for two planned aluminum smelters) and activists from anti-heavy-industry struggles in South Africa and Trinidad.

On July 14, Bastille Day, about 100 people danced all over Reykjavik's ring road in a carnival against heavy industry. Iceland's first Reclaim the Streets action began cheerfully as a clown army danced to music into the city center. This Rave Against the Machine was organized by Saving

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Saving Iceland reclaims the streets.

photo courtesy Saving Iceland

What Goes Around Comes Around

Day of Action Against I-69 After the 2007 EF! Rendezvous

BY FOLLOW AND LITTLE MISS MARKER

On July 9, following this year's Round River Rendezvous, the Oakland City and Petersburg Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) planning offices for the construction of Interstate-69's Sections 1 and 2 were mysteriously evicted (see *EF!J* May-June 2007). Concurrently, two other planning offices in Bloomington, Indiana were occupied by affinity groups who disrupted and delayed business-as-usual for the corporate plotters, evicting them for the day. Activists also performed two simultaneous banner drops in Bloomington, one from atop an I-69 office rooftop and the other over a busy intersection.

These actions were taken only days after INDOT began its own series of aggressive evictions. Half a dozen families along the southern portion of Indiana's planned I-69 segment have been forced from their homes using intimidation and trickery, and they have only been meagerly compensated for the loss of their houses. Unless I-69 is stopped, another 450 families will face a similar process of dispossession. This is only the beginning of the latest wave of destruction brought forth by the state's obsession with laying pavement and expanding commerce. But this is only the beginning of the next chapter of resistance.

Early in the afternoon, a small group of masked individuals entered the downtown Bloomington INDOT office of I-69's Section 5, yelling, "Evict Michael J. Baker!" before running out of the office

and promising to return. Michael J. Baker is a planning firm that specializes in pushing controversial infrastructure projects and has enthusiastically signed on to help build I-69.

Another affinity group hung a banner from a busy intersection that read, "For our farms, for our families, for our future: Resist I-69!" At the same

redecorated the office's signs and continued to protest outside.

After this, Earth Firsters marched festively around downtown Bloomington with whistles and chalk, leaving it covered with anti-road messages, and made a stop at the Section 5 Michael J. Baker office to shut it down for the second time that day. The group left the entire front of the building covered with chalked messages, continuing on before the police were able to prepare a response. After marching for a little while longer, the group dispersed with no arrests.

Meanwhile, in southern Indiana, where evictions have already begun, planning offices for I-69 Sections 1 and 2 received surprise visits from "Hayduke's Moving Company." While the office workers watched helplessly, the movers quickly and efficiently emptied the offices of maps, office supplies and other items, leaving it all on the curb. Prior to the police's arrival, the moving teams were able to hop in their vehicles and leave, with no one arrested or identified.

Dating back to its inception as a conduit for international trade, the specter of I-69 has loomed over southern Indiana, the first battleground in this catastrophic project's growth (and where it will certainly find its eventual demise). From the local to the federal level, the state has made clear that I-69 is a vital organ in the growing beast of global capital. It is dedicated to building this monster. Despite vast public outcry

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EF!ers approach an I-69 planning office.

photo courtesy Roadblock EF!

time, another group climbed the Section 4 office in Bloomington and hung a banner reading "Stop I-69" from the roof, shutting down the office for the day. Unfortunately, following the banner drop, workers at the office locked the doors, preventing a march of about 50 people from entering. Making the best of the situation, the demonstrators

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"If I can't dance, it's not my revolution." —Emma Goldman

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the task at hand

When I realize that I started working at the *Journal* more than a year ago, it reminds me of the other aspects of my life that changed when I moved here—two in particular. First, there is the desert. Right now, I am tempted to ramble on about southern Arizona's emerald and beige inland sea. But the desert only adds to the second aspect, which is a deeper understanding of how urgent it is that we fight for the Earth, and now. It hits me more all the time, as I am flooded with both depressing news about the state of the environment and with the magnificence of the Sonoran desert's changing seasons.

Working at the *Journal* often feels like the most responsibility I have ever had in my life. It is the largest project I have ever worked on. I dream about it. And during my waking hours, I am caught up in its successes and struggles. I dwell on the thoughts of our readership (you), on our awesome variety of content and on our stupid finances.

As I write this, I have no idea what the issue you are holding will look like. I do know that it was created with a genuine focus on what this publication should mean within the EF! movement. We want this tabloid style to address more directly EF!'s media needs—with more space, more relevance and greater sustainability, as well as a sense of humor. We hope you like it.

With this movement focus in mind, we also hope to inspire the creation of new Earth First! groups and other biocentric action communities. Decisions to take action are what actually change things; volumes have been written about how things need to change. The revolution will not be televised, and the collapse will not happen over the Internet.



Tarahumara frog

And the *Journal* is *not* the most responsibility I've ever had. The true task at hand is to defend the Earth. Without this, there is nothing—no *Journal*, no Sonoran desert.

We must be careful to intertwine our personal health and our activism. But if the Earth is our passion and a part of us, and its destruction is our nightmare, then it is surely our joy to fight for it.

The *Journal* will continue to document events, it will continue to give those who speak for the Earth a voice, and it will continue to provide a space for debate within the movement. But it is only a part of the work we need to do to stop the fabric of the world from being torn apart. Reality on Earth will continue to stride toward either a wasteland or toward liberation. Let's tip the scales.

—SOPHIA

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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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Agribusiness: The Downfall of Brazil

BY JUAN REARDON

What do you get when you fuse the most brutal landowners of the Global South with some of the most powerful corporations of the North, such as Monsanto, DuPont, British Petroleum and Morgan Stanley? You get transnational corporations that reap billions of dollars in profits, Brazil's landowning elite with a new lease on its degenerate lifestyle, the devastation of Brazil's precious ecosystems, and a people who inherit polluted aquifers, exhausted soils and genetically contaminated agricultural systems. Fortunately for all of us, Brazil's Landless Workers' Movement (MST) has its eyes, minds, hands and sickles directed at corporate agrofuel expansion.

With the new hype about substituting petroleum-based energy products with agrofuels, international investment in Brazil's large-scale production of sugarcane, soy and other agrofuel monoculture is providing nothing less than a lifeline to the feudal lords of Brazil's colonial past. Last year, \$9 billion in international investments went into the agrofuel industry. In Brazil, three percent of landowners own two-thirds of all land on which food crops could be grown. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, in 1999, more than a quarter of Brazil's population (or 44 million people) lived in absolute poverty; (on \$1.06 per day). Recent figures suggest that this number is now more than 50 million. It is also estimated that poverty forces three million Brazilian children out of schools and into work—40 percent of them in the agricultural sector.

As a class, the feudal lords who benefit from land concentration have been facing real threats to their existence since the 1950s, and even more so in recent decades. The 1984 constitution, rewritten after 20 years of military dictatorship, empowered the state to expropriate and redistribute idle agricultural lands, leading thousands of organized landless peasants—waving MST flags and banners—to occupy vacant lots to pressure the government to implement real agrarian reform. By 2002, thanks to the efforts of the MST, 20 million acres of agricultural lands had been redistributed to roughly 350,000 previously landless families. When Brazil's first working-class president, Luis Inacio "Lula" da Silva, was elected that year, many predicted the arrival of the long-awaited democratization of land resources. Doubts grew when the Lula government granted \$12 billion to subsidize agribusiness in 2003, and only \$2.3 billion for agrarian reform. Five years and one re-election later, it is safe to say international pressures to promote large-scale agro-export commodities have halted advances in Brazil's agrarian reform.

George Soros—an investor whose net worth is estimated to be \$8.5 billion—recently purchased 66,718 acres of land in Brazil. Shortly after this purchase, Soros established a business partnership with the colonial-era coffee-growing Vieri Family. The partnership now has plans to mill 12 million tons of sugar cane annually, much of it to be converted to ethanol. During a recent visit to Brazil, Soros spoke of "distinct competitive advantages." Was Soros referring to the slave labor currently used in Brazilian cane production, like the 1,108 slaves freed just a few weeks ago from a sugar cane-for-ethanol plantation in northern Brazil—the largest raid against debt slavery in Brazil's history? Or is it Brazil's untapped land and water resources that make it "competitive"? Maybe he was thinking of Brazil's Pantanal wetland, which forms part of the world's largest tropical wetlands—home to

at least 650 bird species, more than 190 species of mammals, 50 kinds of reptiles, more than 1,100 butterfly species and 270 fish species. According to the Global Nature Fund, the installment of new ethanol distilleries is threatening the wetlands' hydrological cycles.

And don't forget our friends in the biotech industry who, faced with worldwide opposition to human consumption of genetically modified (GM) foods, see agrofuel production as a new market for their GM creations. Monsanto, for example, has created a RoundUp Ready soy variety, which is modified to withstand massive applications of Monsanto's infamous RoundUp herbicide. And coming soon: RoundUp Ready



MST marching through Brasilia

photo by Juan Reardon

worker control, as part of a polycultural agricultural system, with environmental protections and with the objective of energy sovereignty for the people living in each ecological region." Far from being an empty threat, this declaration was made following two years of in-depth analysis and discussion on the part of the three million MST militants who sent their delegates to the congress.

Already, the MST has begun occupying plantations and mills operated by transnational corporations. It also occupied a major river diversion project that, if constructed, will inundate critical habitat to provide irrigated lands for new agro-export and agrofuel plantations. After 2,000 activists from more than 25 social movements joined together to occupy a construction site of the Brazilian government's Rio São Francisco Diversion Project, they declared their determination to "continue struggling so that the needs and priorities of the people and the environment in which they live prevail over the interests of capital."

If you're looking for a starting point in the collective struggle for a more just environment and economy—and if it is to succeed, it must be collective—the MST's João Pedro Stediles has some suggestions for how movements, organizations and individuals in the Global North can help: "The first thing is to bring down your neoliberal governments. Second, help us to get rid of foreign debt... Third, fight; build mass struggles. Don't delude yourself that because you have a higher living standard than us, you can build a better world. It's impossible for you to maintain your current patterns of consumption without exploiting us, so you have to battle to change the type of consumerism that you're caught up in."

Wherever you live, wherever you work, wherever you study, organize, educate, mobilize and radicalize!

For more information, visit www.mstbrazil.org or email info@mstbrazil.org.

Juan Reardon, is a student of agroecology and a member of Friends of the MST.

RECLAIMING LAND CAN BE DEADLY

Last July, in the town of Coronel Sapucaia, in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, Ortiz Lopes was murdered for taking action to reclaim stolen land for his community, the Guarani-Kaiowá people. His story is painfully familiar for those involved in the Brazilian land disputes.

In the 1970s, the Guarani's land (and livelihood) was stolen from them by cattle ranchers. Since then, they have been forced to work on sugar plantations, doing back-breaking labor for barely any pay.

In January, the Guarani occupied the Madama ranch—a portion of the land seized 30 years ago. Soon after, they were violently evicted and charged with squatting. During the eviction, Xurete Lopes, a 70-year-old community spiritual leader, was killed.

In May, the Guarani made an official claim on the contested land. The wealthy ranchers, feeling threatened and furious about being confronted, sent a gunman to kill Lopes while the government took its time sorting out the land-dispute lawsuit.

According to the Pastoral Land Commission, an organization that monitors land conflicts, in 2006, there were 39 murders related to these land disputes in Brazil, with another 72 murders attempted. In the past 10 years, the death toll related to land disputes stands at 1,464—yet only 71 paramilitaries and 19 contractors have been found guilty.

With the addition of Lopes' murder, the number of killings in Mato Grosso in 2007 is already greater than the total for all of 2006.

sugarcane varieties, expected in Brazilian cane fields by 2009.

The MST, respected worldwide for its ability to organize, educate and mobilize the rural poor in the fight for the democratization of land and resources, has announced its every intention to impede corporate agrofuel expansion. With more than 20 years of experience under its belt and a praxis built upon the experiences of hundreds of thousands of organized landless workers, the MST is wholly prepared for the challenges it will face. As a result of the land occupations conducted over the years by hundreds of families at once—a tactic that wards off eviction by government or private armies—two million people now live on lands secured through direct action. These two million people, who carry an understanding of the importance of collective mass action, continually mobilize to pressure local, state and federal governments for improved access to schools, roads, health care and more. They are joined by an additional 120,000 MST families who currently occupy unproductive estates across Brazil. These three million people make up the MST's militant base of operations, a force that no one can ignore.

Marina dos Santos is the daughter of small farmers who lost their lands in the 1980s. She is now a member of the MST's National Coordinating Body. Marina recently identified corporate agrofuel expansion as "the principal enemy of the movement" for its role in subordinating Brazil's lands and other natural resources to the needs of transnational corporations. During the MST's Fifth National Congress, a week-long gathering held in June, 18,000 MST delegates announced their plans to "fight for the production of agrofuels under peasant and rural

DEAR SHIT FER BRAINS

Dear Shit for Brains,

Greetings from MDC Brooklyn—a fortress designed to get those awaiting trial to plead out (or worse, cooperate) due to absurd rules governing every aspect of prisoner life. While I am waiting to be shipped out, I figured I would shoot a letter off to express my heartfelt thanks to the *Journal* and the *Journal* community for the support. Thank you for covering the case (the so-called Operation Backfire) so closely and for soliciting (arm-twisting) articles from the defendants' support groups every issue. On a personal note, thanks for making sure I always receive the *Journal* on the inside—it's read and enjoyed by many here!

Since I'm constrained by the scant SFB word limit, I'll just touch on probably one of the more controversial topics on people's minds: cooperating witnesses. To simplify matters (and because, sadly, the list is long!), I'll just beg of you to support the people who, in dealing with this case, have shown great integrity and honor: Sadie (Joyanna Zacher), Exile (Nathan Block) and Jonathan Paul. My lawyers have told me that Briana Waters in the Washington case also is not cooperating. Show these people love—they have earned it. As for the others, I'll deal with that later—suffice to say, the time for lies and sneakiness is over.

Keep up the good fight, refuse to become single-issue in your work and don't let them get you down. If I can do it, so can you.

With love behind enemy lines,

—DANIEL MCGOWAN

P.S. Free and Avalon—I miss you.

On the Move!

In August 2008, the MOVE 9 will be eligible for parole, after spending 30 years in prison for a crime they did not commit. According to the parole guidelines, the MOVE 9 should be released. But we don't want people to relax with this, because the parole board is notorious for denying inmates' parole for not admitting guilt, even when they're not guilty—or denying people parole for other reasons that have nothing to do with their institutional record and "rehabilitation."

This is a tactic that is misused by the parole board and a huge injustice to political prisoners like Leonard Peltier, Sundiata Acoli, Herman Bell... and prisoners all over the nation, especially if you are innocent of the charges, like the MOVE 9 are.

The threat of staying in prison for not admitting guilt is intimidating people into confessing to crimes they didn't commit. For the parole board to keep people in prison for

not admitting guilt whether they are guilty or not is to re-sentence a person on the same charges to another jail term, which ain't nothin' but double jeopardy. That is supposed to be illegal.

The parole board makes people admit guilt so these judges are not liable. But whether you admit guilt or not should have no bearing—you have been tried, convicted and sentenced to a prison term. You've paid for that conviction. And for the parole board to deny your release after paying for a conviction makes them rotten merchants. It's like paying for merchandise and not getting what you paid for. And MOVE is not gonna accept this injustice. It's a G-d-given right to fight for what's right.

Judges send innocent poor people to prison all the time. Cops and district attorneys deliberately send poor people to prison who are not guilty of certain crimes. Since the DNA testing law has been in existence, more than 200 people have been released from prison who were falsely convicted. This has only been within a few years. In many of those cases, these men were denied parole (release) up to five times or more, because they refused to admit guilt because they were not guilty. They spent 21 and 22 years in prison before being released, only due to DNA evidence. Two hundred people. That should tell you just how many thousands of people are in prison and not guilty of crimes they've been convicted of. These people cannot prove their innocence through a blood/swab test. These people who are on death row or were executed, but cannot prove their innocence, are just at the mercy of this system's apathy, deadness, arrogance and insensitivity.

Everybody in prison is feeling the effects of this thievin' behavior of the parole board—stealing years, decades, from people's lives by denying their release when they come up for parole. This is inexplicable and unacceptable, and MOVE is not gonna give up fighting for our innocence. To quote John Africa, "This is a system folks are living in. It was devised from an idea, and the rules—the so-called laws, the practices of this system, this idea, this civilization—have influenced everybody in the system since the beginning of the system. So if you got crime now, it is because you had it when you started. Criminals don't come from the womb of a woman, they're influenced to be criminals when they enter the crime-oriented cavity of civilization."

—MOVE

Dear Paula,

Sorry, but you are wrong. Well at least partially wrong. It simply isn't true that "you, me,

the animals, the Earth Liberation Front and the Animal Liberation Front—we're all in this together" (see *EF!* July-August 2007). The reality of our community is that while many of us are both "environmental" and "animal welfare" at the same time, there are many of us who have just an "environmental" or just an "animal welfare" focus. Usually the issues upon which we work are such that this makes no difference, but sometimes this is not the case, and we can even be on opposite sides. One of the greatest challenges we face is how to maintain cooperation on the issues where we are natural "allies" in spite of the fact that every now and again issues will come up where we are "enemies."

This is a very fundamental division akin to a difference in religions, and no wishful thinking can make it go away. Perhaps all too often, compromises because of practicality are seen by those on the "animal welfare" side to mean that they are making progress in converting all "environmentals" to their "religion." But it simply isn't so. There are "environmentals" who do not aspire to become some higher, nobler beings than animals. They would deny that there is something higher, more noble. Herbivores eat plants, carnivores eat other animals, omnivores eat some of both, and they would classify themselves as omnivores (what sort of animal humans are). They would equate the claim that "humans would be better beings as herbivores" (because they could be) roughly the same way were that claim being made, say, about a raccoon or a black bear. They interpret the argument that humans should do this "because they can—it's wrong for the raccoon or bear, but they can't help themselves" as a denial of the worthiness of animality.

Look, at a gathering such as a Round River Rendezvous the group kitchen is vegan. This is not an example of "progress" in converting the unenlightened. It's an example of the sort of compromise necessary for logistic reasons. Too difficult to supply and operate two kitchens, one for vegans and one for omnivores, and the vegans have to be able to eat. If you imagined the reason was along the lines, "to avoid upsetting us by letting us see that they are the sort of people who kill and eat animals; we couldn't associate with people who did evil things like that," then sorry, you are wrong (mistaken). You were surprised that there was to be a workshop in tanning? Well, that's different from the kitchen situation—doesn't displace any possibilities for vegans. Presumably, whoever was planning for this thought it useful to share the skill of using all of an animal

that might be killed for meat. A matter of respect for the life of the animal, of a different sort than perhaps you are used to, but respect nevertheless.

Perhaps this troubles you, troubles you to know that some of your erstwhile allies are not "animal welfare" types. Perhaps more troubling is anything that threatens the illusion that the "animal welfare" folks are making progress in converting those who are just "environmental," perhaps even of the "primitivist" sort (a "tanning" workshop is suggestive of that perspective). Perhaps you really would be too uncomfortable working on projects where the difference shouldn't matter "because they are people of that sort." That's the sort of question you can only answer for yourself. As I said, this is a great challenge. The solution is not going to be, "well, the environmentalists will simply have to change religion," because that won't happen.

For the Earth,

—MICHAEL D. NOVACK

Dear Shit fer Brains:

First, Ben Pachano's SFB (see *EF!* July-August 2007) was right on in its assessment of Donny's editorial (see *EF!* May-June 2007). Addressing oppression is imperative, but if it's not being done in a context that promotes biocentric direct action, it's not *EF!*. Things like the Trans' and Women's Action Camp (TWAC) that took place before the Rendezvous have potential to maintain some focus on *EF!*-style action while addressing internal patriarchal/oppressive movement dynamics, but at this point they're the exception, not the norm—most discussion of these issues in *EF!* right now fails to keep the focus on *EF!*.

Second, DN's "A Challenge Worth Meeting" was a textbook example of the wishful positivism that oftentimes characterizes internal *EF!* dialogue (see *EF!* July-August 2007). DN claims that "in the long run, Operation Backfire might be remembered as a galvanizing experience and not just a simple tragedy." Unfortunately, the lack of *EF!*-style actions and campaigns in this country says otherwise. By arresting, prosecuting and sentencing radical environmentalists, the government has not "performed a service—albeit at a great cost to individuals—by educating and radicalizing people through its repressive actions," as DN states. It has badly scared folks and delivered another hard blow to an already faltering movement.

And third, the workshop at the recent Rendezvous addressing the direction of *EF!* failed to yield a critical look at where *EF!* as a movement stands. At the start of the workshop, we

were asked to articulate what we needed from the movement. This could have engendered a frank dialogue about the dwindling number of *EF!* groups and the future of *EF!*, but instead lost focus and ended up somewhere completely different (a fitting allegory if I've ever seen one).

These three examples point to a serious lack of critical thinking and constructive self-criticism within *EF!*. We can start by focusing on direct action for the planet (people included), not trying to pass off unlikely hopes for the future as probable outcomes of dire events and putting our attention where it's needed in our movement. But we'll also need to start thinking strategically if we're going to stand a fighting chance.

—BLUEBERRY

Dear SFB,

Having followed *EF!* from the sidelines for years, I am excited about becoming more active in this community, especially as folks in the movement increasingly address and deal with how interactions among one another reflect our society's interactions with ecological systems.

In response to Ben Pachano's letter, I do not think that Donny intended to imply that the primary focus of *EF!*'s "fourth wave" should be internal, social struggles. Within this forum, the conversations I've participated in that deal with oppression have been in the context that not only are relations between people and nature oppressive, but also that relations with one another are too often oppressive and that without addressing social oppression, a movement that confronts ecological oppression can never truly be successful.

It is understandable how Donny's editorial could have been interpreted as Ben and perhaps others did, but to say that "sitting around and talking about our shit, writing anti-oppression policies and 'calling out' sexual offenders are not biocentric direct action, nor do they lead to it," is destructive. If people who find it impossible to work with *EF!* groups are constantly dropping out of this community because they are not in any given majority and the larger group won't even acknowledge its oppressive behavior, this movement will never reach the scale it needs to.

Furthermore, Ben's statement implies that every action true *EF!*ers take is biocentric and/or direct action. Ideally, that is our intent, but the reality is that we take daily actions that are not exclusively biocentric and many of our actions are oppressive in some way. This is especially true considering that our society is structured so that we cannot

comprehend, let alone trace, every consequence of every decision. In my eyes, to supplement biocentric direct action with those that better social relations is not only beneficial but necessary. The two are not mutually exclusive; indeed, to believe so is dangerous.

In conversation, others have criticized this year's TWAC, basically calling it a distraction. I see it as an important opportunity for a specific group of people who have faced oppression to arm themselves with skills to further the EF! movement. Hopefully, others will find both strength within themselves and a respecting forum for their concerns and suggestions to be voiced.

Both TWAC and this past Organizers' Conference (OC) sexual assault and Confronting Oppression Within discussions were products of continuing conversations on internal oppression (and remember, the sexual assault discussion was a request by our host because of our history and reputation). These represent a sliver of topics that should be addressed by this movement. I found having two conversations (one broader and one focused, as at the OC) to be more helpful than having one sole, open discussion about internal oppression (as at this year's Rendezvous). Perhaps at next year's OC, we can have conversation about another specific manifestation of internal oppression, as well as more open discussion, with the intent that such discussions will create healthier relationships with one another and strengthen the Earth First! movement.

Yours truly,

—COLLEEN ELIZABETH

Dear Shit for Brains,

Greetings from Katúah, y'all. The mountain laurel's in bloom, and the bears are roaring. You wouldn't see it though, if you were not here... which is how it also works concerning changes and evolution within activist groups. If you're experiencing oppression issues within your faction, or any group of folks, you can bet it won't improve without some constructive input. After that, time. Using patriarchy as an example... you don't get culturally deprogrammed in a week or a month. If you really want to see changes in a group dynamic, it helps to stay active within the group. Really! You have to stick it out and make some noise. It seems to me patriarchy is fueled by ignorance and accommodation, and it takes communication to get out of the pattern. The only way to build community and trust and to move past any divisive issue is to stay active. Drive-by radicalism and far-flung dirty laundry are not nearly as effective as consistent meetings, potlucks, camp-outs and similar social constructions. Am I talking to you? I don't know. I'm just sayin'.

—ED IN K-LAND

EF!J,

Your decision to allow a forum for two maximum-security prisoners to "correct" my account of prison life was irresponsible and possibly not without disastrous consequences (see EF!J July-August 2007). Because of this

decision, we are now left with an untold number of activists paralyzed by fear over the thought of prison being "just like the movies."

As stated, my account of prison life was applicable to federal prisons only. As also stated, the information was applicable to a security level of medium and lower. Even for arson cases, classification above medium is an extreme improbability. Furthermore, most politically charged cases are prosecuted federally. Thus the depictions of prison life in maximum security state prisons are not only irrelevant to most activists, they are as much a "response" to my article as the experience of a Bel Air resident carries over to life in Tijuana. Different worlds.

The authors of these responses both sit in maximum-security state prisons. Both "maximum-security" and "state" are crucial distinctions. The culture of federal prisons versus state is almost night and day, as is the culture of maximum versus medium. For the EF!J to give maximum-security state prisoners a forum to "rebut" the words of a medium-security federal prisoner was ignorant, dangerous and irresponsible. It is unfortunate both authors felt qualified to challenge my commentary on an experience so dramatically different from their own, leaving a confused and probably fearful readership. One fear-instilling prison article can silence a thousand who might otherwise act as their hearts tell them. And I would hate to see it happen.

—PETER YOUNG

Dear Shit fer Brains,

When coming home after a long, hard day of work after this year's Rondo, I was surprised and disappointed to realize that almost all of the editors of the EF!J had left to go home before the post-Rondo action. With all the talk around the *Journal* about low content and all the complaining about the small number of actions happening around the US, I would think supporting actions when they do occur would be somewhat of a no brainer and something that the editors from Tucson would be eager to be a part of. Or maybe this frustration is my fault, for thinking that these "armchair anarchists" would actually step outside their fluffy positions of privilege and do something. Psht!

—BABARCHOLINI TOOTSYYWOOD

Editor's Note: Babarcholini's criticism is more than valid. By the end of the Rondo, we were overly anxious to return to Tucson to get started on the next issue of the Journal. We knew the change to tabloid format would take extra work, and our production schedule was shortened already because of our journey to Indiana. Still, in retrospect, having more of us stay for the action would have been a good decision. However, calling the rest of us "armchair anarchists" or "privileged" because we work on a project that leaves little time for cross-country direct action doesn't make sense to us. For the record, the current long-term collective has been a part of the previous three post-gathering actions.

Dear EF!

The July-August 2007 issue was the best I've ever read!

The many articles on practical do-it-yourself strategies to fight oppression and corporate rapacity; the cogent, insightful and useful pieces on state repression and how to successfully confront it; plus the articles with a positive spin. All in all, an excellent collection. Thank you for sharing it with me.

One article in particular I felt deserved special plaudit: "Unsustainable Activism." "Dr. Hyena" brought up a point that receives little attention—the fact that the eco-movement is so guilt-centric and riddled with angst.

If it was more associated with pleasure, joy, love of nature and the other things people are willing to fight for (rather than all the negatives that are headline grabbers), the movement would find it easier to attract a wider membership and more support.

I'm not suggesting EF! downplay the many horrendous things taking place; and I certainly agree with direct action—and making your impact felt economically, physically, etc. But I do think the way to make a major change in society is through emphasizing universal sensations that transcend differences that divide us.

We all want to be wanted, to love and be loved. As the physical world we inhabit is a complex web of interactions, we are *part* of nature, and extending love to the Earth is as close and "natural" as a walk on the beach or a quiet moment sitting in a forest. Include the senses, the body and our dreams in the dialogue with Mother Earth (and each other). I feel that's the best way to reach out and convince people to change their lives in ways EF!ers can applaud.

Again, thank you for the special issue, and keep up the good work.

In solidarity,

—THOMAS MARC HOY

Dear Earth First!

Great article on secession (see EF!J July-August 2007)! Now, you are finally addressing a fundamental action that we can take to regain ownership of our political and economic systems. And only with some real sense of ownership can we begin to affect change. Evidence and history suggests that once a nation exceeds around 10 million people, its capacity for sane government rapidly diminishes. More than 100 million, insanity is virtually guaranteed.

Some fear that small secessionist states will allow "the bad guys" to take over—the racists, the wealthy few, the lunatics. This is a completely irrational fear (and in fact not so much a legitimate fear as fear-mongering by those who oppose secession). In a small state, people are neither better nor worse than in a large one. You will still have the same mix of visionaries, greedheads, racists and idealists. But because everything is more transparent, bad deeds are more readily exposed, and good deeds more quickly rewarded.

Furthermore, the power of the malevolent few, who tend to rise to power in large, opaque social systems, is greatly reduced. And the

power of the many is greatly increased.

Kirkpatrick Sale neglects to mention two vital texts on secession: Leopold Kohr's *Breakdown of Nations* (1957) and, more recently, Naylor and Willimon's *Downsizing the USA* (1997). Both are "must reads" on the subject and are even more relevant than, for example, Schumacher's *Small Is Beautiful* (1987).

The American political-economic system is irredeemably corrupt and, barring total collapse, will not change for the better in our lifetime. Secession is a chance to start over on a human scale and do things right. Radical bioregionalism is the only way to build an ecologically sustainable society. There is an essential truth here that few seem to appreciate: Nothing will work in a state that is too large; everything is possible in a state that is human-scale.

—DAVID SKRBINA

Dear SFB,

"Cruelty to nature" is a phrase Carl Hiaasen uses in his book *Flush*, which is about an environmentally conscious father. His book *Hoot* is also a well-written book geared for junior high to high school kids. What a good way to put it. I had only used "cruelty to animals" before.

Was very disappointed that I couldn't get to the RRR—only three and a half hours drive from where I live, too.

Would like to see more Dear SFB letters printed—two or three pages. They're both informative and food for thought, and are sometimes quite entertaining. It'd be great to be able to get in touch with the people who write some of the letters.

Thanks for all of your great work!

—ANIMALS HAVE SOULS

Dear SFB,

I was reading a magazine the other day, and I was struck by the relevance of two articles in the magazine to issues in Earth First!. There are clear ramifications here that necessitate our consideration....

In British Columbia, there has been an application of a machine called the "sawfish." This is a refrigerator-sized yellow box with a pincer and moving chainsaw blade in one end. It is tethered by a cable to a joystick and video monitor. The pilot of the sawfish sits in a barge. In this case, the barge is floating on a British Columbian lake. The cameras in the sawfish help guide the pilot to propel the machine to the bottom of the lake, where a suitable tree is located. The sawfish grabs the tree in the pincer and saws it off. The tree then rockets to the surface, where it is towed and stacked onto another barge. Workers in this industry have likened this process to "a rocket being launched."

Another project planned for this underwater logging machine is at a reservoir made by a dam. Adherents of the machine say that one of the best things about it is "it's quiet." So, here, we have a great reason for building dams. Not only do we create jobs and hydroelectric power, but after all the indigenous people are forced to relocate, we can

log underwater with less pressure than aboveground!

On the one hand, underwater logging of existing dammed reservoirs would result in more space for water and therefore more potential for hydroelectricity. On the other, logging of lakes would be presented to the sun. Think of it this way; would you rather live in a forest or a desert?

If you were a fish, would you rather live in a glass bowl with sand in the bottom or in a boggy lake with plenty of dark, shady spots, rich in smells and tastes? They say that wood does not decay rapidly, but have you ever tried to start a fire with wet twigs? Underwater logging necessitates the drying of wet logs, and that takes heat. Most lumber mills kiln-dry their products, but these trees have been sitting underwater for perhaps decades. A tricky issue; as far as I know, trees don't really grow hydroponically....

A suitable experiment would be to take two identical fish-bowls, one with only water in it, the other with water plus a lot of twigs and sticks, mud, etc. Then set them out in the Mojave Desert and see which one dries out faster....

The other article, perhaps less relevant, involved underwater mining near Australia. A "black smoker" is a volcanic vent. Over time, the vent builds up a tube, somewhat like an underwater volcano. The "entrepreneur" in this venture noticed that a "dead" black smoker, one that was no longer active, had high percentages of valuable metals, silver, gold, nickel, etc.

So he found a way to grind up the tube and vacuum it up to a surface ship, where presumably it underwent further processes to extract the minerals. A "live" black smoker cannot be processed because it is too hot.

At first glance, this process seems less harmful than underwater logging; however, I have read that 98 percent of gold mined is used for jewelry... besides, if gold was that "useful," why did they build a huge fort to hold a zillion tons of it and let it sit there? Yes, it is used in industry—thread for silicon chips and shields for satellites—but these parts use very little of the total gold mined.

When I found a dead bird, I would cut off its feet and make earrings out of them. Hey, it was dead! I prided myself on collecting different pairs of dead birds' feet. They were voodoo charms. People would say, "Man oh man, didja see that guy with the bird's foot in his ear?!" But then, I noticed that, after a year or two, the feet decayed and turned to powder. I'm glad I did that. I don't do it anymore. That taught me not to collect what you don't need, what you do collect, either use it or pass it on to someone who can.

But finding a dead bird is a lot different than using machines to disturb profound ecosystems. How did the bird and the ecosystems die? As a result of man, more than likely. At least the Incas made art out of gold, instead of plain ingots....

Thank you; see you next time.

—JOHN MUELLER

Defending the Wild in Iceland

continued from page 1

Iceland to "reclaim our public areas and make it a space to be free to dance, free from dreary industrial car culture and free to throw a festival in opposition to the grim industrialization plans for Iceland."

When the rave reached Reykjavik's town center, police blocked the road and a stand-off ensued. After an hour, police attacked the raving protesters. The filth was all too happy to use all the techniques they learned from training with American SWAT teams, such as foot-cuffing. YouTube removed videos of police brutality without explanation, possibly at the request of the Icelandic government.

Direct Action

On July 18, Saving Iceland closed the supply road to Century Aluminum's Grundartangi smelter and the Icelandic Alloys steel factory. Two days later, Saving Iceland invaded Reykjavik Energy and raised a huge banner accusing the electricity company of supplying energy to war-mongering corporations Rio Tinto Alcan and Century/RUSAL. Two days after that, another banner was dropped over Reykjavik's City Council, which owns Reykjavik Energy.

Then, on July 20, the Icelandic consulate in Edinburgh, Scotland, was painted red under the slogan "Iceland Bleeds," and locks were glued.

Not even a week later, on July 24, Saving Iceland blocked the gates of Rio Tinto Alcan's Straumsvik smelter in Hafnarfjordur. Previous protests against Alcan have been successful. Recently, in Kashipur, India, Alcan had to give up its participation in a bauxite mine because of protests against its human rights violations and environmental devastation. Alcan has been accused of cultural genocide in Kashipur because mining and dams have already displaced 150,000 mainly tribal people there.

In Iceland, the people of Hafnarfjordur have stopped the expansion of the Straumsvik smelter with a referendum, but the mayor of Hafnarfjordur and representatives from Alcan are hinting at expanding the smelter anyway. They say that the referendum only applied to a certain spot by the existing factory and that it could not stop the smelter expansion being built on a landfill on the other side of the factory. Locals continue to protest these plans and dropped banners stating "No Means No" and "Nietzsche Killed God, Ludvik [the Mayor] Killed Democracy."

On July 26, Saving Iceland invaded Reykjavik Energy's construction site for expansion of the Hellisheidi geothermal power plant in Hengill. People locked themselves onto machinery, climbed a giant crane and blockaded the entrance roads. The action must have been successful, since Reykjavik Energy has announced its intention to sue the protesters for losses caused by stopped work on the site.

Finally, the Earth Liberation Front struck Rio Tinto in England, in solidarity. "In the early hours of July 30, saboteurs struck at Smurfit Kappa, a plastics factory owned by Rio Tinto Alcan in Chelmsford, Essex. The gates were locked shut, office doors and loading bays were sabotaged with glue, and a message was painted on the wall. Vehicles belonging to

Rio Tinto were also sabotaged," read the ELF's statement.

Myths About Geothermal Power

"The goal of enlarging the Hellisheidi power plant is to meet industries' demands for energy," states the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The energy is needed particularly for the Century expansion at Grundartangi and possible new Alcan and Century plants. The current Icelandic government says it opposes more smelters, but the Hellisheidi power



Saving Iceland "raves" into Iceland's capital.

plant is still being expanded. Once the expansion is completed, this will force Iceland to build more smelters, because the electricity needs to be sold to get the money from investments back. In the meantime, farmers pay twice as much for electricity as Century does.

Even without the smelters, the Hellsheidi and other geothermal power plants are not as green as Reykjavik Energy suggests. Hot and toxic waste water is disposed of by pumping it back into the borehole, commonly increasing the frequency of earthquakes in this very active fault zone or by pumping it untreated into streams and lakes, wiping out valuable ecosystems because treatment is considered too expensive. The northern end of Lake Thingvallavatn, which is near Hengill, is already biologically dead in parts due



A banner-hang at City Council

to wastewater pumping and must be protected from more damage.

In addition, extraction of underground fluids leads to changes in groundwater movements, commonly including the drying of unique hot springs and geysers and pollution of pure subsurface spring water.

Smelter Expansion

Alcoa, Rio Tinto Alcan, Norsk Hydro and Century/RUSAL are all scheming for new smelters in Iceland. Century Aluminum wants to build a second smelter, this time in Helgukvík, with a projected capacity of at least 276,000 tons per year. The planned site is designed to accommodate further expansion. An EIA for the Helgukvík smelter is currently under review by the aluminum industry's foremost construction engineers.

It is absurd that an engineering company with a vested interest in the smelter's construction could be

considered to produce an objective EIA. The document makes idiotic claims, such as stating that air pollution is really not a problem because Helgukvík is such a windy place that the pollution will just blow away.

This smelter will demand four new geothermal power plants on the Reykjanes peninsula (south of Reykjavik), as well as in the Hengill area, which has already been seriously damaged by the Hellisheidi plant. The EIA does not take these places into account, nor does it consider the impact of the huge number of power lines and

pylons required. Also, the smelter's required energy exceeds the natural capacity of the geothermal spots, which will cool down anyway in three or four decades. Century admits it wants the site to expand further in the coming decades. So, it is obvious that this smelter will not just ruin Reykjanes, but also need additional hydropower.

Expansion of Icelandic alloy and aluminum smelters considerably contributes to Iceland's greenhouse gas emissions. If there are no further expansions of heavy industry beyond Grundartangi and Alcoa's Fjarðal (a new smelter in the east), Iceland will emit 38 percent more greenhouse gases than in 1990. If other expansion plans continue, levels would rise to an incredible 63 percent above 1990 levels.

"This shows that all the talk about 'green energy' from hydro and geothermal sources is, in reality, a lie. Icelanders have to rise up against these transnational corporations," says Saving Iceland.

Aluminum Equals War

One effect of this year's actions has been to expose the dubious role of aluminum companies in the arms industry. Much of the aluminum produced goes directly to the war efforts of the US, Russia and elsewhere. Aluminum is the single most important bulk metal for modern warfare: It makes missiles, tanks, fighter planes and nuclear weapons.

"It's as if Iceland is organizing a competition between Alcoa, Rio Tinto Alcan and Century/RUSAL—whichever has committed the most human rights and environmental crimes gets Iceland's energy," says Saving Iceland.

Alcoa's links to the US military-industrial complex is well known. But until now, Century and Alcan have managed to stay out of the picture. Century is a subsidiary of Glencore, which is notorious for shady deals with apartheid South Africa, the Soviet Union, Iran and Iraq under Saddam Hussein. Glencore has merged with RUSAL, making the largest aluminum company in the world. RUSAL, the main aluminum supplier of the Russian military, contributes directly to the war in Chechnya, where at least 35,000 civilians have been killed with bombs and missiles

made of aluminum. Glencore is also known to have recently massacred Wayúu people and local farmers in Colombia for mine expansion.

Rio Tinto Alcan's aluminum alloys are sold for a whole range of military purposes. Alcan is the main supplier for the European Aeronautic Defense and Space company (EADS), producer of helicopters, jets and satellites. EADS is the world's leading producer of missiles. Alcan also supplies to international arms manufacturers like Boeing in the US and Dassault in France.

Colonizing Africa

Rio Tinto Alcan recently signed a letter of intent with the government of Cameroon to expand its existing Alucam smelter to 165,000 tons per year and to build a new 165,000-ton-per-year smelter. The Lom Pangar Dam, to be constructed by the government, would provide power for this. Alcan has a large number of projects planned in Africa. Its

Greenfield Project Pipeline will run through Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Madagascar and South Africa. "Greenfield" means that untouched nature will be destroyed for the planned smelters and the dams that would power them, as well as mines and infrastructure.

Alcan was active in apartheid South Africa between 1949 and 1986. Now, it wants to come back and develop a new smelter in the almost tax-free Coega Development Zone near Port Elizabeth. This would be powered by coal and nuclear energy delivered by Eskom, one of the world's largest electricity companies. "Thirty percent of the poor communities of South Africa don't have electricity, and now it will all be going straight to Alcan," says Lerato Maregele, a South African activist.

Eskom is a sister company of Iceland's national power company Landsvirkjun. Landsvirkjun can be expected to try to sell its expertise to Eskom's various hydroprojects in Mozambique, Uganda and the Congo. It wants to have a role in damming the Congo River, a project twice the size of China's Three Gorges Dam. This dam would have a devastating effect on the central African rainforest. In the meantime, Alcoa is planning seven new dams in the Amazon rainforest to power aluminum smelters.

Kick Them Out!

Aluminum corporations are posing a massive threat to wildlife, wilderness and people around the world. In Iceland, people have seen the destruction wrought by the Karahnjúkar dam and are increasingly hesitant about bringing more heavy industry into the country. Stopping Alcoa, Rio Tinto Alcan and Century/RUSAL in Iceland will be a major slap in their faces, and it is definitely possible to win the struggle in Iceland if Icelanders continue to receive international support and solidarity. More and more, a global network against heavy industry is forming. Kicking these companies out of Iceland can be a first step in kicking the evil bastards off the planet.

Jaap Krater is a green anarchist writer and edits the Dutch quarterly *Out of Order*. He has been involved with *Earth First!* in the Netherlands and Britain since the mid-'90s, as well as the recent campaign against heavy industry in Iceland.

Activist Killed as Nazis Attack Anti-Nuclear Camp

COMPILED BY DONNY

In the early morning of July 21, neo-Nazi skinheads launched a vicious and unprovoked attack on an anti-nuclear protest camp at the Yelovskoye Reservoir near Angarsk, Siberia, Russia. The Nazis violently attacked activists in their sleeping bags and tents with iron rods, knives, baseball bats and air pressure guns. Ilya Borodaenko suffered a head-fracture during the attack and later died in the hospital. At least nine others were seriously injured, including one person who had both of their legs broken. The attackers also set tents on fire and stole campers' belongings. Since Borodaenko's death, people have come to the camp to light candles in his memory.

Although the protesters knew about the planned attack and had organized night guards, there were too few of them to stop the attack. According to

police, at least 15 skinheads wearing camouflage clothing and white arm bands raided the camp of 21. Police say that two attackers have been arrested, and 13 more have been identified, but claim that the motive for the attack was robbery. Later, the police even denied that those who were attacked were activists, calling them tourists. This is utterly inconsistent with witness reports that the Nazis were shouting, "Antifa, ha, ha," and were otherwise "spitefully swearing" about the Russian anti-fascist movement as they beat the campers.

Neo-Nazi attacks on migrants, anti-fascists and other political activists in Russia have increased markedly in recent years. This was at least the fourth murder of a young, active anti-fascist in less than two years.

Ever since the arrival of the activists, police have arrested people illegally and otherwise harassed the protesters in an attempt to intimidate them. The cops also made a practice of entering the camp in an attempt to gather information about planned actions.

Nuclear Storage

The camp started on July 15, and was aimed at protesting a planned International Uranium Enrichment Center (IUEC) in Angarsk. Ros-Atom, Russia's state agency for the nuclear industry,

has plans to establish an IUEC at the Angarsk Uranium Enrichment Plant to supply fuel to Russian and other nuclear power stations. The site is within the boundaries of the town of Angarsk and just 62 miles from Lake Baikal—the world's deepest lake, classed as a World Natural Heritage Site. The Ecological Wave of Baikal (EWB), the banner organization behind the camp, had planned various rallies in the surrounding area to inform locals about



the campaign and drum up support. Rainbow Keepers (an environmental group) and Autonomous Action (an anti-fascist group) were also central to the planning of the camp.

With neither a buffer safety area nor a radiation-control zone, the IUEC opponents say that the new proposals pave the way for another nuclear disaster like the Chernobyl meltdown in 1986. Since many countries that the plant will provide fuel for have little or no nuclear storage of their own, the Angarsk plant would be obligated to reclaim and store the spent nuclear fuel. A third concern is that depleted uranium hexafluoride is produced as a result of uranium enrichment and would be stored in the open at the Angarsk plant.

The IUEC at Angarsk will make atomic technology accessible to many countries for the first time. How did the plans for this IUEC come about? Surprise, surprise: The first agreement about the creation of a network of IUECs was reached at last Summer's meeting of the Group of Eight in St. Petersburg. On Russian President Vladimir Putin's initiative, it was decided that the first such center would be built in Angarsk.

Conclusion

Putin has been internationally criticized for suppressing protest, and

banning critical press and political dissent. Meanwhile, people around Angarsk have generally reacted positively to protests in the hope that their futures will be free of nuclear horrors. The EWB is encouraging people to show support for the memory of Ilya Borodaenko, as well as the survivors of this attack, by organizing protests at Russian embassies.

Financial help and other forms of solidarity are also urgently needed.

If you are able to provide assistance of any kind, contact xmakimax@gmail.com or ogopogos@gmail.com. To donate funds, contact War Resisters International at info@wri-irg.org; www.wri-irg.org.

Post-Script

More recently, it was announced that a new country, the Baikal Nuclear-Free Republic (BNFR), was founded on August 1. According to a statement, the BNFR has declared a ban on nuclear waste operations,

nuclear reactor construction and government violence. Russia and the United Nations were notified of the establishment of the BNFR, formerly a part of Russia.

The centerpiece of the BNFR was an unfinished administrative building next to government offices in the Siberian city of Irkutsk. Twenty activists affiliated with Ecodefense! (a group based in Kaliningrad and the only Russian contact listed in the directory of the *EF!*) occupied the three-story building, blocked the entrances and stairs, and declared it a territory of the BNFR. Protesters hung a large banner from the roof, reading "Stop IUEC," as well as several smaller banners on various floors with anti-nuclear messages.

Because of its shared borders with Russia, citizens of the BNFR are concerned about Russia's proclivity to import radioactive waste and enrich uranium. In this spirit, the BNFR declared its opposition to the proposed IUEC in Angarsk.

Unfortunately, Russian police invaded the autonomous BNFR later in the day, arresting every citizen of the fledgling country. Released with fines the next day, BNFR officials confirmed they would continue to work in exile to fight the nuclear danger in the Baikal area of Siberia.

Statement From the Environmental Protest Camp in Angarsk, Siberia

On July 21, at 5 a.m., our sleeping camp was brutally attacked. Some scumbags suddenly tumbled down our tents, burned and stole our things and beat us, sleeping in our tents, with bats, hammers, cudgels and legs. At the same time, they were spitefully swearing at Antifa (the anti-fascists). The terrible and premeditated cruelty of their attack leaves no doubt that it was not the work of some ordinary hooligans, but rather the thought-over action of Nazis. It is necessary to note the long absence of the police (more than a half hour) at the place of the crime, the subsequent attempts of the police to deny any existence of Nazi groups in Angarsk, and pressing requests by representatives of the police and the Office of the Public Prosecutor asking us not to make a scandal of this and to avoid any communication with journalists. But we cannot be silent, because indignation and a desire for retribution overflows in us.

Last night, we lost our comrade: Ilya Borodaenko, an anarchist from Nakhodka and a member of Autonomous Action, has died because of a craniocerebral trauma and violent beating. He and two other participants of the camp were on duty, and Ilya was the first who faced the Nazi scum. Some our comrades were sent to the hospital in grave condition (with concussions of the brain and fractured arms and legs). Our tents were cut and burned, and our flags were stolen.

However, we will forget nothing. We won't forgive Ilya Borodaenko's death, regardless of the successes or failures of the official repressive system investigating the crime. We won't stop activity at our environmental protest camp; we won't stop our struggle against the fascist plague and nuclear mafia, against authoritative ideas and racist dregs, against all that destroys nature, human life and dignity. Today we grieve. Tomorrow we will continue our struggle.

BARE BONES

Florida Developers Bury Tortoises Alive

Phoenix, the largest gopher tortoise ever recorded, died on April 28, at South Florida Reptile Rescue. He was at least 60 years old. Phoenix had been hit by a backhoe, buried alive and left for dead at a Fort Myers construction site in late February. Miraculously, he emerged from his would-be tomb two weeks later and was taken to the rescue center.

Tortoises are often buried alive by developers in Florida. During the past 16 years, officials have issued permits allowing developers to bury more than 94,000 tortoises, severely impacting the health of the species. When buried, tortoises can take months to die, due to their low metabolic rate.

Massive Dams Approved for Amazon Rainforest

On July 9, the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) gave preliminary approval for two hydroelectric dams to be built on the Madeira River, a tributary of the Amazon. Although additional permits still need to be secured, contractors will soon be able to bid on the construction of the Santo Antonio and Jirau dams. The project, which is expected to cost more than \$10 billion, could be completed as soon as 2012.

IBAMA also imposed 33 restrictions on the dams in an effort to reduce their impact on the environment and human communities. Despite these restrictions, local environmental groups warn that the dams would flood hundreds of square miles of pristine Amazon rainforest, could lead to the extinction of ecologically important fish species and may even increase the risk of malaria.

Salvage Logging Fueled 2002 Biscuit Fire

In June, Oregon State University (OSU) and the US Forest Service (USFS) released a study claiming that the 2002 Biscuit fire in the Siskiyou National Forest was most severe in areas that had been salvage logged and replanted after a 1987 fire in the same area. The Biscuit fire was 16 to 61 percent more severe in areas that had been salvage logged than in places that had been allowed to regenerate naturally.

This study adds to the controversy over the fate of the Biscuit, which the USFS is planning to log as salvage despite the opposition of many environmental groups (see *EF!* March-April 2005). In January 2006, six OSU professors and the USFS tried to prevent the journal *Science* from publishing a similar paper, which stated that areas of the Biscuit that were burned severely but left intact were regenerating more effectively than areas that had been salvage logged.



BY NELL

This Summer's Round River Rendezvous in southern Indiana was, overall, a positive space for me. The Rondy was preceded by the Trans' and Wimmin's Action Camp (TWAC). Both were bottomlined by the awesome folks of Roadblock Earth First!, and both were set in the same beautiful deciduous woods. It was a great space in which to spend time with friends, meet new people, go for refreshing swims, hang out around fires, get tips on how to be a better wingnut and conspire about actions.

Located on private land for the first time, the Rondy was set up around a lake. Workshop spaces, a communal kitchen, the sketchy-smelling medic tent and various camps were nestled among paw paws, wild ginger, sassafras and even endangered goldenseal

and ginseng. Bigger critters were few, but birds filled the canopy with calls, and spiders built their webs on tents and tarps and ropes.

It felt good to be closer to the fight against I-69 that I've been hearing so much about. I enjoyed getting to know more folks involved with Roadblock EF!. They did a great job hosting the Rendezvous, especially in the midst of a busy campaign. However, while I-69 was definitely on everyone's minds and was the topic of a few workshops, there could have been a greater effort to get people excited about stopping the road. Perhaps, as happened last year in Katúah, inviting locals affected by the road to come and speak would have encouraged more excitement.

Regardless, I know some folks who have plans to return to Indiana next Spring to stop the road. With next year's TWAC and Rondy in Ohio, EF!ers will again be drawn to the region.

There was a lot of awesome nakedness during the week, which was more comfortable and more gender-balanced than at last year's Rondy. At many of the workshops I attended, a good number of folks were actively aware of how much they were speaking and how their presence affected others. Clearly, we all still have a lot to work on, but I definitely noticed some positive improvements.

There were a lot of awesome workshops, making for a full schedule. Folks did workshops on ecofeminism, the Umoja shantytown in Miami, Rising Tide, Root Force, combating Big Coal, the Green Scare, re-radicalizing Mountain Justice Summer, the *Journal*, Challenging Oppression Within, a bioregional roundup, native plant walks, kimchi-making and drag. There were also climbing and blockade trainings, though some folks expressed

that a greater concentration on practical direct action skills would have been helpful. Unfortunately there was no time set aside for men's, trans' or wimmin's circles.

The rally featured a diversity of voices. There were plenty of songs and poems, including a wing-nut rant about killing in cold blood, sarcastic parodies, amazing spoken word and remembrances of fallen EF!ers. The plaid bloc made its presence known, the kegs were delicious and helped raise funds for the *Journal*, and plenty of heckling and space bags made their way around the fire.

I noticed a lot of great discussions and debates happening both in facilitated workshops and scattered more informally throughout the camp. Some discussions critically evaluated where folks see EF! now and focused on effective strategies that reflect where we are. Others addressed where EF! is headed, and still others reflected on where folks see themselves within EF! or in relation to EF! within a larger radical environmental or green anarchist movement. A lot of these ideas were given context by the "History of EF!" workshop and were synthesized in the "Future of EF!" workshop. Many of the discussions included talk around how biocentric direct action and challenging oppression interact within EF! and whether they are opposed or necessarily complimentary.

I was also aware of a tension between more experienced and often older EF!ers and folks who are somewhat newer to radical environmental circles. I think the separation between these two groups stems from some differing opinions and is highlighted by different social circles. It is important to understand how EF! has evolved over the years and to hear from folks who have a lot of experience so we can learn

from their mistakes and victories. Yet by holding onto tradition a little more tightly than is healthy, the perception of a somewhat elite, inaccessible and mostly male core of more seasoned EF!ers has been reinforced. As a younger womyn who is newer to EF!, I felt the presence of this core throughout the Rondy. For example, the history workshop consisted of almost all male voices. This was the most gender-imbalanced discussion that I attended during the week.

But one of the great things about being a loosely organized network of autonomous, bioregional groups is that we can all have a hand in redefining what EF! is through our own actions and groups. There were definitely plenty of people at the Rondy who are not connected to seasoned EF!ers, but who have good ideas, plenty of energy, direct action experience and plans to participate in EF!.

I think this Summer's Rondy showed that both more experienced and newer EF!ers are working to actively challenge alienating forces that exist within EF!. The "Future of EF!" workshop included many different voices, and the overall atmosphere of the Rondy felt safer and more inclusive to me than last year's. The TWAC had a really positive influence on the gathering and is going to happen again next year. From my perspective, roles in post-Rondy actions were more equally distributed among genders and levels of experience. Addressing the patriarchy, ageism, racism, transphobia and ableism that exist within EF! is essential if EF! wants to gain more participants and sustain direct action campaigns that are open and inclusive for all.

Nell wants to encourage other people to write in about their Rondy experiences and looks forward to kickin' Molasses' ass in future Ultimate Death Matches.

Day of Action Against I-69

continued from page 1

from the affected communities, despite more than a decade of protest from environmentalists and anti-capitalists, despite the loss of funding and the cancellation of related road-building projects, I-69 endures. Now it is coming to the final phase prior to actual construction.

I-69 has repeatedly been called the NAFTA Superhighway. True, it will benefit the wealthy rulers of the North while demolishing homes and some of the few remaining wild spaces where it passes. But in fact, the reaches of this behemoth run deeper than North America. If built, it will facilitate the moving of more goods stolen from the hands of exploited, impoverished workers throughout this hemisphere. Connecting with related colonialist infrastructure and capitalist integration programs such as Plan Puebla Panama and Atlantica, I-69 will provide one segment of road that will stretch from Eastern Canada to Central America and beyond. For all of these reasons, we will never let them build this road.

Already built from the Port Huron, Michigan, border crossing to Indianapolis in the 1950s, the next segment of I-69 is slated to run over our homes in southern Indiana and, if left unchecked, bury forests, small farms and communities all the way to the Mexican border at Brownsville, Texas. From Indianapolis to Evansville, evictions of family homes along the route have just begun. Construction of the road itself—a massive undertaking that could take decades, given its enormous size—could begin anytime within the next year.

Earth First!ers participating in the actions made it clear that the simultaneous demonstrations and evictions were in retaliation for INDOT's aggressive displacement of families in southern Indiana. Small papers, both corporate and independent, covered the actions. People in communities across the southern portion of the route heard about the resistance.

Additionally, a crew of activists from Bloomington visited the affected communities later

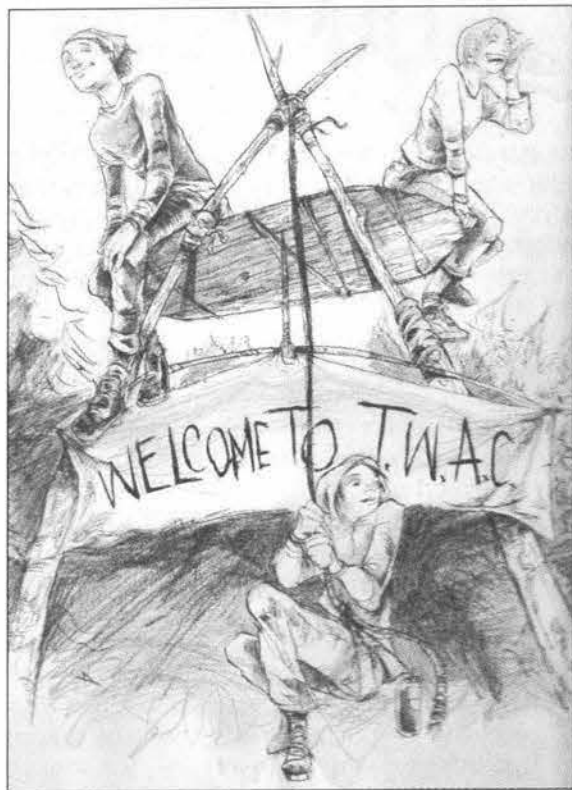
that week in order to pass out flyers about the office evictions and speak with the families facing evictions. It was heartening to hear that many people along the route had already learned about the post-Rondy actions and felt a morale boost to continue the fight because of it. One of the main goals of the actions was to break the atmosphere of isolation that many locals resisting I-69 in experience, and to show that INDOT is not invulnerable. Thus, to hear people directly threatened by the road laugh thanks to the office evictions was an amazing experience.

The enemy's response has been predictable. Some of the local corporate papers alleged that property destruction occurred, while the Indiana State Police claim that they are investigating the July 9 actions. On an Evansville, Indiana TV station, an INDOT spokesman names Kent Ahrentholtz was asked if Earth First! was capable of stopping I-69. His answer: "nuh-uh" (translation: "no"). Let's see if we can prove him wrong.



Photos courtesy: Roadblock EF!

EF!ers demonstrate outside of an INDOT office, while others are evicting the office inside.



artwork by Marty Destrutto

Action Camp

even only by a day, the amount of time between the two events in order to avoid overlap.

The number of people who attended ranged from 15 to 30, depending on the day. Unfortunately, the number of people who identified as transgendered was markedly low, as was attendance in general. For an event that seemed well appreciated and enjoyed by those in attendance, it is regrettable that TWAC was not more widely promoted. The first day consisted largely of last-minute setup, skinny dipping, eating dumpster chocolate and reading *Harry Potter* to one another in English accents. It ended

with a discussion on what people wished to accomplish at TWAC. Sadly, setup cut into an already limited time schedule, but it was a good opportunity for TWAC-goers to get to know one another in a relaxed and casual atmosphere.

While TWAC was short and there were fewer workshops than one may have hoped, the workshops were informative, accessible to people of varying levels of experience and were, overall, "the cat's meow." Workshops included basic knots, tree climbing, blockades (including a 20-something-foot bipod!), do-it-yourself gynecology and some impromptu skillshares such as wood chopping and fire building. There were also casual group discussions every night ranging from topics such as being a trans ally to responses to combating oppressive behavior.

Despite some disorganization, one of the strong points of TWAC was the positive atmosphere achieved. A number of attendants mentioned that they had never experienced a more comfortable learning environment, minus

the brown recluse spiders. Some expressed that they felt less intimidated learning more physical, hands-on tasks that are often attributed to "masculinity" in a trans- and wimmin-only environment. There were, however, mentions of a lack of trans-inclusiveness and it was suggested that next time there should be further outreach to transgendered communities.

Another Earth First! first (at least on the national level) was that TWAC was a sober space—though it was decided that if the group agreed, the last night could include drinking. But this was a moot point because the last day of TWAC fell on the Good Lord's Day, on which one cannot buy alcohol in Indiana. The decision to have TWAC be a sober space was met with mixed reactions, as many expressed that they had been excited to drink in a space in which they felt safer. Some also articulated that they felt uncomfortable with the fact that the same space, when occupied by male-identified or -assigned people a few hours later, would allow drinking.

In our opinion, TWAC was a step in the right direction for the Earth First! movement, which has been criticized for its lack of trans and feminist politics. TWAC was born out of Challenging Oppression Within (COW), a working group within EF!. As with all gatherings, improvements to TWAC could have been made, but overall, this shit was off the hook.

Cheers to next year's TWAC!

Triple C, aka Team Awkward, like to live their lives in the fast lane, popping champagne and refusing to change for the glamorous. They Summer at the Cape, Winter in southern Florida, eat overpriced vegan food out of the dumpster and blare offensive top 40 hits from the cars in which they hitch rides. In the off-season, they like to organize demonstrations, intentional communities and dance parties—as well as watch their awkward tan lines fade away.

BY TRIPLE C

This year's Round River Rendezvous in Indiana was preceded by the first ever (hopefully annual) Earth First! Trans and Wimmin's Action Camp (TWAC). In a last-minute controversial move, the location of TWAC was changed to be the same as the Rendezvous. This decision had both positive and negative outcomes. The arrival of other Rendezvous-goers meant that TWAC could not run longer, even though many participants expressed interest in this. Similarly, there were issues with male-identified or male-assigned folks showing up early to the land. On the other hand, many people at TWAC were happy that they were able to explore the layout of the land before the Rendezvous began. Also, this choice of location allowed for the consolidation of resources and work involved in setup for the Rendezvous and TWAC. One way to avoid these dilemmas without a separate location could be to lengthen, perhaps

BARE BONES

Tanzanian Chemical Plant Threatens Flamingos

India's Tata Chemicals has announced plans to build a soda-ash plant on the shore of northern Tanzania's Lake Natron, the primary nursery of the threatened lesser flamingo. The plant would include a coal-fired power station, housing for 1,200 construction workers and heavy machinery for extracting more than 500,000 tons of soda-ash per year.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania have both warned that the project could drive the species to extinction. Three-quarters of the world's breeding population—or roughly 500,000 birds—nest at Lake Natron. The flamingos are extremely susceptible to changes in water depth and water quality, meaning that any development on the lake could affect the species in unpredictable ways.

Police Attack Anti-Mining Protesters in Honduras

On July 17, Honduran police violently broke up a number of roadblocks, arresting 72 people and injuring 12. "They came at us wielding clubs; we have several injured," stated Salvador Zuniga, consultant for to the Coordinator of Peasant and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras. The group organized the blockades, which were located 75 miles north of the capital, Tegucigalpa.

The roadblocks were intended to pressure the government to pass a law forbidding open pit mining, as well as the use of cyanide, mercury and other poisons. Demonstrators also called for companies to limit the impacts of mining and for communities to be allowed to decide whether mining should occur. Goldcorp, a Canadian mining company, was the primary target of the recent protests.

Government Captures Endangered Mexican Wolves

This Spring, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) eliminated the Saddle Pack of Mexican wolves in an effort to prevent the depredation of livestock. USFWS released the Saddle Pack into New Mexico's Gila National Forest in 2004, as part of a reintroduction program for the endangered subspecies. Today, only about 50 Mexican wolves remain in the wild.

Since the pack's release, a number of members have been killed by poachers or cars, or have died due to capture-related stress. In March, a "genetically irreplaceable" wolf was shot by USFWS after he killed three cows. Finally, in late May, two wolves and their seven pups were captured and removed to Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility due to three confirmed incidents of cattle depredation. Only one member of the Saddle pack remains in the wilderness and is considered a lone wolf.

ANSWERING THE CALL OF THE WILD EARTH

BY PAT RASMUSSEN

On June 1-7, more than 100 activists gathered at the Wild Earth Rendezvous 2007 on southern Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada, to learn, share and improve their direct-action skills. The gathering took place on Ditidaht First Nation land, and a Ditidaht elder opened the gathering with sacred songs and prayers, blessing our work. First Nations leaders from across British Columbia shared inspiring messages asking for support and involvement in their community struggles to stop damaging development and resource extraction projects. Activists from Oregon, Washington and other US states met activists from across Canada. Tasmanians also joined us, asking for international help to stop the destructive clearcutting of Tasmania's ancient forests (see *EF!* May-June 2007).

Chief Qwatsinas (Ed Moody) of the Nuxalk Nation's House of Smayusta delivered the keynote address on the problems with the Great Bear Rainforest agreement and the Nuxalk Nation's commitment to defending the forests of their sacred and ancestral lands (see *EF!* May-June 2007).

The gathering marked eight years of training and networking for eco-action in British Columbia. Since

1999, more than 900 people have attended workshops on topics ranging from civil disobedience to indigenous rights. The annual boot camp is hosted by an independent, ad hoc group of volunteers. Most of the food and supplies are donated by the community. More than 30 workshops were offered this year. Admission was by donation and included meals, snacks and childcare for the week.

The campsite featured beautiful old-growth forests and a swimming dock—no modern amenities. The camp, workshops, campfires and kitchen were alcohol- and drug-free. Attendees volunteered to help with all of the cooking, cleaning, childcare, transportation and cash.

Will Horter of the Dogwood Initiative kicked off the workshops with a session on "Civil Disobedience Against Climate Change." Sessions on activist security, the Green Scare and legal rights for arrestees followed. Brian of Rising Tide North America and I led a workshop on organizing to stop climate change and the die-off of forests due to global warming. Plant identification walks, media tactics for activists, sustainable building, survival skills, nonviolent direct-action training, civil disobedience, activism against animal cruelty, dealing with police repression, herbal first aid, radical silk-screening sessions



Hala'qwit, the Ditiidaht First Nation song-keeper, welcomed campers with his daughter.

photo by Red Cedar

and herb walks were interspersed with workshops on forest defense, the Buffalo Field Campaign, peak oil and local food production. Tree-climbing training was ongoing.

What made Wild Earth so successful? Great organizing by Zoe Blunt is one important reason. Zoe is absolutely dedicated to re-energizing and empowering the direct action community in British Columbia. The free, the wild, those who love wilderness and those with hope for a life lived in harmony with the Wild Earth heard Zoe's call and found their way to the gathering. A big thank you to Zoe, Tim, Fern, Dani Rubin and all the activists in British Columbia who care enough to make Wild Earth happen.

For more information, visit wildearth2007.blogspot.com.

Pat Rasmussen is coordinator of the World Temperate Rainforest Network.

Rising Tide and Bumble Bus Take on CLIMATE CHANGE

BY RISING TIDE NORTH AMERICA

If you haven't heard of Rising Tide North America (RTNA) yet, with our infamously never-ending organizing meetings or the four-month North American Climate Justice Action Tour that covered both coasts and the mid-land in a bus resembling a giant bumble-bee, then we're not sure what forest you've been living in.

This spring, Rising Tide brought the global struggle for climate justice to the belly of the beast, connecting the dots between the overarching crisis of climate change and the grassroots struggles of communities resisting the fossil fuel industry's assault on their land and culture. Partnering with local environmental and climate justice organizations in each region, the tour sought to amplify the voices of those most affected by climate change and the fossil fuel industry, creating a culture of solidarity across lines of race, class and gender.

Starting in Austin, Texas, at the Earth First! Organizers' Conference back in February, the tour hit more than 70 stops in roughly 25 states in the Southeast, the Northeast and—in collaboration with the Beehive Collective—on the West Coast. The tour also made two forays into Canada. We were invited to the Radical Encuentro at Belle Springs, Texas; the Latin American Solidarity Conference in Chicago; the Seed Sow Road Show bike tour in Rhode Island; BioJustice 2007 in Boston; and the Anarchist Bookfair in Montreal.

The tour's presentations were held at a variety of venues including high schools, community centers, libraries, bike collectives, squats, urban farms, a labor organizing office and even a Christian commune. It brought us to some of the most beautiful areas in the US: the Maine coast, Ithaca's gorges, the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Zapata Falls, the Rio Grande gorge, the San Juan Mountains, the Sand Hills Dunes, the Tetons and Goodwin Lake—the site of one of the earliest Earth First! victories!

The tour took a popular education approach to organizing and agitating for climate justice, employing live acoustic music by Rising Tider Evan Greer, as well as local musicians like Thistle and Kate Byrd. It offered participatory games, slide-shows and stories from the frontlines of fossil fuel resistance in Appalachia, Black Mesa, Venezuela and the UK to foment life-affirming resistance. The presentation confronted Al Gore's solution of consumer-driven green capitalism and debunked false solutions to climate change—such as carbon trading, hydrogen and nuclear power, ethanol or biofuels, and “clean” coal.

The folks on the Climate Justice Action Tour were ready to do in-depth workshops including

Confronting Hopelessness: Climate Change and Radical Mental Health; Indigenous Struggles in Venezuela: Resisting Fossil Fuels; Direct Action 101; Building Community Healthcare Networks; Forest Defense 101; Strategic Planning and Campaigning; Gaia theory and Climate Science; Organizing Large Scale Convergences: Horizontalism and Logistics; Ecodefense in Oceania; and Making the Links: Radical Feminism and Environmental Ethics. We were also prepared to do workshops on food sovereignty, climate change resistance, colonialism and environmental racism, anti-oppression, grassroots

successful in teaching folks all over the region about the Liquefied Natural Gas infrastructure proposals throughout the Northwest, directly undermining the industry's desire to keep people complacent and in the dark about where our energy comes from.

Our goal for the presentations during the Rockies tour was to localize each stop, revolving each presentation around the issues that each community we visited was working on. Using the East Coast presentation as our guide, each stop became an experiment for trying out new things and tweaking what we already had. It was a work in progress until the very last day. By the end, we had created a workshop presentation of which we are all quite proud.

We hope that our presentations provided informative, interactive learning for everyone who came, but we, too, learned so much from each and every stop. In the spirit of sharing this information with everyone, the tour resource packet is available on the web at www.risingtide.org.uk/pdfs/rtnatour.pdf. Use any aspects of it for your own education work!

We're all in agreement that, overall, meeting tons of people and witnessing so many of the amazing struggles going on around the US (and Canada) were the best things about the tour. We set out to educate and agitate, but, in the end, it was we who had learned the most.

We'd like to share a list of some amazing groups and struggles that we came across and learned from:

- Radical Encuentro, www.radicalencuentro.org;
- Umoja Village, Miami, www.takebacktheland.blogspot.com;
- Larry Gibson and his land outside Charleston, West Virginia, www.mountainkeeper.org;
- Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, Chicago, Illinois, www.lvejo.org;
- The Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Celebration, Chicago, www.ciw-online.org/2007truthtour/;
- Anti-I-69 struggle, Bloomington, Indiana, www.i69news.bee-town.com;
- BioJustice, Boston, www.biojustice2007.org;
- Six Nations, www.reclamationinfo.com; auto_sol.tao.ca/node/view/2012;
- Anarchist Bookfair, Montreal, Quebec, Canada www.anarchistbookfair.ca/en;
- RNC Welcoming Committee, Minneapolis, www.rncwelcomingcommittee.org;
- Leonard Peltier Annual Memorial, Oglala, South Dakota, www.freepeltier.org; and
- Nova High School, Seattle, where graffiti of Zapatista quotes covered the walls and the students read Howard Zinn as their text. These kids know what's up!



Rising Tide North America tour crew



Folks gather to watch an RTNA presentation.

disaster relief training, basic first aid and health and safety training, rebel clown army training, and consensus facilitation training.

There is no one person who can tell the whole story of the climate action tours. Approximately 20 people went on tour for various amounts of time during different legs of the journey.

Over in the Northwest, Cascadia Rising Tide linked up with the Beehive Collective to visit dozens of communities during a two-week-long tour. Sharing stories of resistance against the fossil fuel industry and making the connections between imperialism, militarization and resource extraction, the team explained how colonialism is at the heart of US energy policy. The tour was also

RTNA Climate Justice Action Tour Visits Pine Ridge

BY STORM WATERS

In my humble opinion, there are no coincidences. A Greater Power is at work. This was manifested on the morning of our tour presentation in the small Nebraska town of Chadron. We had been in town for a couple of days and were thankful for a break from the brutal heat and from our tight schedule. Quite fatigued, we were debating whether to stop in the Daily Grind coffee house before or after starting our errands for that day. Rather whimsically, we opted to go for the fair-trade, shade-grown caffeine first.

There we happened to meet three native wimmin, who were headed North to the Pine Ridge Reservation for an annual ceremony in honor of Leonard Peltier. The event was to take place the next day on the Jumping Bull property outside of the poverty-stricken community of

Oglala—where the tragic shoot-out had occurred 27 years ago on that date (June 26).

Conversation between us sprang up as we were talking with the barista about the radio show we had just done—addressing indigenous solidarity, environmental racism and the overall Rising Tide presentation—and one of these wimmin recognized one of us from the Indigenous Environmental Network's Protecting Mother Earth Conferences. The wimmin invited us up to the rez to participate in the ceremony, and we postponed our trek to Lincoln in order to do so. This was what the folks in Bree, Middle Earth, would call a “chance meeting.”

The next morning, we packed up and drove north from Chadron to Oglala, where we met with other participants (many of them locals from the rez, others from places as far away as Australia) at “Our Lady

of the Sioux” Catholic Church (anybody else get the twisted irony in that?). We then drove to the cemetery where many native victims of the infamous Bureau of Indian Affairs/FBI/Guardians of the Oglala Nation “Reign of Terror” of the mid-1970s are buried. After a prayer ceremony in their honor, we walked reverently to the Jumping Bull property about a mile away. There, an incredibly powerful and poignant ceremony transpired that included a recorded statement from Peltier from inside the Fort Leavenworth concentration camp in Kansas.

After the ceremony, we drove back to the church compound outside of Oglala for an evening of food, amazing music (traditional Lakota, folk, blues, rock and hip-hop) and spoken-word statements. Much to our pleasant surprise, RTNA was invited to speak onstage between bands, and we gave a five-minute talk about RTNA's

efforts and aspirations (particularly along the lines of environmental justice, anti-racism, indigenous solidarity and cross-cultural alliance building). After this, we received much applause—complete with hand-shakes, hugs and tears—and were invited back for next year's ceremony. We gave away lots of literature, traded contact information and were sent away with food, clothing and many prayers and blessings. As we left, we were told, “Come back next year! The people will remember you!” We were also told by Leonard Peltier's family that they would tell him about us. When we left that night to log some miles toward Lincoln, Nebraska, before sleeping on the side of the road, we were more empowered as people.

There is hope, after all.
Storm Waters is a radical atmospheric scientist who has been learning from and collaborating with indigenous people for 20 years.

FUN With CATS

BY HAYDUKE

Disclaimer: Neither the author nor the Journal, nor any of our friends, family, neighbors, lovers or pets, necessarily encourage anyone to do the things discussed below, and the contents should not be legally construed as anything other than mindless entertainment. This is a continuation of "Fun With Diesel Engines" (see EF!) July-August 2007).

Dozers

The Caterpillar (CAT) D-Series is found in numerous configurations, from the pickup-sized, 16,227-pound D3G to the house-sized, 230,581-pound D11R. Known as track-type tractors, 95 percent of the D-Series have a mechanically-powered drive train, meaning that a drive shaft is connected to the engine and shafts turn the track. You can tell this type of drive train from its triangular track shape. The large wheel found at the top of the triangle is known as the final drive. Filled with five gallons of oil, this is the final point of gear reduction. On the D10T, each final drive costs more than \$40,000. There is no sensor to monitor the drives, and the oil is accessible with a 3/4-inch ratchet. The exceptions to this rule are the D3G, D4G and D5G.

The transmission is located at the very rear of the machine and is difficult to access. The transmission fluid fill-point is typically located on the right side of the engine compartment. The transmission on the D10T is worth \$73,000. Repairing damage to the parts is often more expensive than the cost of the entire machine, when labor is factored in. This is true for most equipment.

The engine on the D-Series is sunken low in the front, and 75 percent of it is inaccessible without removing plates. The vented openings do allow you access to the air filter and the top of the engine. Look for the large can near the operator's station. The side that has no tube running from it will allow access to the filter. D10Ts and D11Rs have two filters. Air intakes on smaller D-Series machines go directly into the intake manifold via the turbo. The filter is typically located on the left side of the vehicle.

The undercarriage (the frame the tracks move around) is vulnerable at the pivot shaft. There is a bump below and slightly in front of the final drive that is accessible with a 1/2-inch ratchet.

The fuel fill-point is located either on the right side of the machine or the rear of the machine near the operator's compartment. Look for the symbol that looks like a gas pump with a "D" for diesel.

The hydraulic tank fill-point is almost always on the left side of the machine. The cap has a small lever that must be raised in order to remove it. It will be on tight. Anything small enough to go through a screen will do a fair amount of damage. On smaller, track-type tractors, the screen can be removed from the fill point.

Hydraulic Excavators

Hydraulic excavators come in a wide range of sizes, from the "mini," 3,549-pound 301.6C to the massive, 187,360-pound 385CL. Mechanically, there are few differences between

excavators. They are completely hydraulic. The engine is always in the rear. The hydraulic pump is tied directly to the engine. From the operator's station, you can look to your right and find the fuel and hydraulic tanks on the other side of the boom. Access to the engine is from the top cover or, on the large machines, from the catwalk behind the operator's station. The radiator, cooler and air filters are usually on the same side as the operator's station, but this not always the case.

On the tracked versions, the rear wheels are usually the only ones actually powered. On wheeled forestry versions, there may be four powered wheels. The final drive is usually accessed with a 1/2-inch screwdriver. Some use a 5/8-inch hex. See the dozer section above for ideas.

Zerts: The grease fittings are located in a cluster for the boom arm. Two



grease zerts are under the main platform at the pivot.

If a boom arm is raised, never mess with the hydraulic lines. There is more oil in the system than you can imagine.

Operator's Station: The two foot-pedals that are connected to sticks directly at the front window move the machine. The two joysticks control the boom arm and the movement of the pivot. If you have to move this machine (in an emergency), it has a "back-up alarm" for any movement. There is a cutoff switch for this alarm (with a picture of a horn) on the right-hand control near your elbow. The arm that is on the other side of the left hand control must be in the down position. (On smaller machines, the actual joystick control must be lowered.)

Backhoe

A backhoe is basically a tractor with a bucket or forks on the front and a large crane boom on the rear. Backhoes are very common on most construction sites. The engine on CAT backhoes is not really accessible, but almost everything else is. The hood release is located under the driver's-side step. Reach directly under the lock, and you will find a T-handle that pulls toward you. If the handle won't move, an operator's key will unlock it.

All backhoes except the newest have a bat-wing hood (opens from the side). The newest models have a hood similar to a car hood. Most major fluid fill-points and the air filter are located

directly under the hood.

The differential is easily accessible from under the chassis. The bottom of the machine has no protective plates.

The outriggers, arms that lower in the back, have a U-shaped hydraulic tube that has very little clearance when the arm is raised or lowered. If someone were to pry this tube up about one inch from the boom, it will crimp in the guard and have to be replaced.

Skid Steers and Other Small Equipment

Most equipment produced by CAT has smaller variants know as Compact Construction Equipment (CCE). If there is a similar large piece of equipment, the same tactics will apply to its smaller cousin. There are some pieces of equipment that are only produced as CCEs. Skid

steers (bobcats) will be the most common. The engine, located at the rear of the machine, is the only thing easily accessed. Skid steers do not, at this time, have an Electronic Control Module (ECM) capable of shutting the machine off in case of fatal faults in the system. These machines will run until they become boat anchors. No oil, no coolant—not a problem.

Dust is the biggest enemy of this engine. Most engines are replaced due to "dusting" (dirt wearing away the cylinder wall). Like all equipment CAT produces, there is no warning light that comes on if the filter is not present. Engine replacements typically cost \$8,000. Running the equipment without a filter voids the warranty.

The fuel tank is located on the right-hand side of the operator's compartment just above the sill. Dirt, rust, plastic bags, gloves, or other bits and pieces will clog the fuel pump or fuel intake tube. Due to the design of the A- and B-Model machines, rust is the most fun/expensive to remove from the tank.

Without tools, the hydraulic system is only vulnerable from the hydraulic tank. Use only fine powder in hydraulic or other fluids. There is a fine mesh screen to keep debris out of the system. If you can find it, brass is the best fine metal to add here.

There is a small drain plug, removable with a 1/2-inch ratchet, on each side of the machine in front of the rear wheel. This will drain the oil from the chain box (if it is a wheeled version). There are about two gallons of oil per side. Lack of oil will eventually cause the chain to brake.

There is a small gap beside and behind the operator station on the left of the CCE that allows limited access to the pump compartment. The wiring harness is typically routed here within easy reach so it can have a section removed. If a gallon of flammable fluid was added here and lit, it would completely destroy the machine. However, this is *not recommended!* Remember that 1) arson gives the cops a hard-on to find you and 2) due to the amount of hydraulic fluid and fuel, this fire would burn hot, bright and for quite some time.

Hayduke is working on more fun guides to machinery for future issues of the Journal.

BARE BONES

Europe to Lift Ban on Genetically Modified Crops

In July, the UK's *The Times* revealed that the European Commission—the executive branch of the European Union—is about to end its ban on commercially grown genetically modified (GM) crops. Applications for at least four GM crops—including a potato meant for industrial paper production and three varieties of maize intended for human consumption—are in the final approval stages and could be planted as soon as next year. More applications are in the works.

The moratorium was enacted in 1998, in response to widespread public outcry about the potential health and ecological risks of GM crops. However, the US government and biotechnology corporations have placed significant pressure on the EU to drop the ban.

Permanent Freeze on US Government Chimp Breeding

On May 24, the National Institutes of Health (NIH)—a division of US Department of Health and Human Services—announced that its current moratorium on chimpanzee breeding will become permanent due to financial reasons. The NIH's National Center for Research Resources is responsible for roughly 500 of the 1,200 chimps kept in US laboratories. Chimps are currently used by only nine labs in the US.

The NIH began aggressively breeding chimps during the 1980s, assuming that they would be useful for HIV and AIDS research. However, chimpanzees proved resistant to HIV and do not develop AIDS, making them useless as research subjects.

Ecuador Waffles on Illegal Shark Fin Trade

In June, a sting operation undertaken by the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (SSCS) and Ecuadorian police resulted in four arrests and the seizure of 18,673 shark fins—roughly equivalent to 4,500 sharks and worth more than \$140,000. The fins are considered a delicacy in Chinese cuisine.

"This is a cruel and senseless act," stated Sean O'Hearn-Gimenez of SSCS. "The shark is finned alive, thrown back into the water and left to bleed to an agonizing death."

Although the export of shark fins is illegal in Ecuador, President Rafael Correa has undermined efforts to crack down on the trade. On July 20, Correa allowed fisherman to sell fins from sharks who had been caught accidentally, thus creating a legal loophole for poachers. On August 3, Correa demanded the arrest and deportation of O'Hearn-Gimenez for "interfering with the sovereignty of Ecuador," even though he had been aiding police. The expulsion order was reversed the following day.

Frontlines

Animal Liberationists Target UCLA Vivisector

Bomb threats, evacuations and a burning car; if your name is Arthur Rosenbaum it sucks to be you right now. This July activists stepped up their efforts against Arthur Rosenbaum, a University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) vivisector, using a variety of methods. Rosenbaum's entire neighborhood was evacuated twice for bomb threats and suspicious packages, and his car mysteriously caught fire in the middle of the night. Rosenbaum is in charge of research at UCLA that includes injecting Botox into primates' eyes and gluing metal coils to their eyelids to study severe cross-eyedness. A communiqué released by the Animal Liberation Brigade, which claimed responsibility for the burning of Rosenbaum's car, denounced the uselessness of the tests and vowed to return if Rosenbaum continued. "We have seen by our own eyes the torture of fully conscious primates... and have heard their whimpers. We have seen hell, and it's in Rosenbaum's lab."

Poisoned Worker Takes Revenge on Cell Towers

On July 15, an ex-telecommunications worker in Sydney, Australia, who had been suffering from radiation poisoning from years of working on Telstra cell phone towers, took matters into his own hands. John Patterson stole an armored tank he had been restoring at his current job and used it to demolish six cell phone towers he had previously worked on. During his rampage, he also took out an electricity substation, and telecommunication relay sheds. Twenty police cars pursued the tank while Patterson periodically leaned out the side window to wave at them as he rammed through fences in various suburbs. The rampage came to an end when the tank stalled during Patterson's attempt to take out a seventh cell tower.

Tibetans Riot Over Mining

On May 27, hundreds of Tibetans took to the streets of Bamei to protest the ongoing destruction and exploitation of Yala Mountain, which they consider sacred. Since the Chinese government gave permission to a mining company to begin extracting lead and zinc from the mountain, resistance from locals has been fierce. Most recently, enraged Tibetans began physically attacking government officials and smashing cars at the mining company's office in the Sichuan province of southwest China. The resistance became even stronger when eight Bamei village elders, who were vocal in their opposition to the mine, went missing.

Clownin' Around About Dams

Dozens of activists held a colorful demonstration inside the Lloyd Center's Sears in Portland, Oregon, on July 8, to protest its involvement in the financing of La Parota Dam. Dressed as clowns and holding onto balloons, activists walked through the mall handing out literature about the dam. Several banners were dropped inside and outside the mall informing shoppers of Sears' evil ways. Sears Holding's Corporation is tied to Mexican conglomerate Grupo Carso, owned by Carlos Slim, who has stated that all subsidiaries of Grupo Carso will be involved in every aspect of the dam project.

ALF Sets Liberation Record

On the night of July 9, the Swedish Animal Liberation Front (ALF) freed 128 hens from Aniagra, a facility that houses more than 145,000 hens in deplorable conditions. According to the ALF, the action sets a new Swedish record for the most hens liberated in one night. An ALF communiqué denounced both the facility for its disregard of animal welfare guides and the entire system that creates profit from destroying the lives of innocent creatures. The ALF warned that the liberation was not a random event, and that it would



Activists gather outside Bank of America.

continue to attack as long as Aniagra was open: "The ALF will never sit still and watch when animals are humiliated in the most disgusting ways. The resistance has begun, the limits are passed."

Hittin' 'Em Where It Hurts

Across several states in Mexico, at least a dozen companies—including Hershey's, Nissan, and Kellogg's—had to suspend production due to an attack on a key natural gas pipeline in July. In a press release, the People's Revolutionary Army (EPR) claimed the attack and stated that it is waging a prolonged people's war: "We have started a national campaign of harassment against the economic interests of the oligarchy and the anti-people government, and we declare those interests to be legitimate military targets." The destruction of the gas line cost the companies a reported \$6.4 million a day. Unsatisfied with economic sabotage, the EPR stated it will continue the attacks until the government releases several political prisoners being held in Oaxaca.

Descendants of Brazilian Slaves Take Back the Land

More than 500 people invaded part of a eucalyptus plantation in Brazil on July 24, reclaiming the land inhabited by their slave ancestors. Setting up several roadblocks, the group took over 25,000 acres of land. According to Brazilian law, descendants of former slaves are entitled to the land that slaves originally inhabited. The Aracruz plantation had been under investigation for land rights when the community of descendants invaded the area. Long bureaucratic messes had tied up the court process of reclaiming the land for so long that the frustrated group decided to take matters into their own hands. Now that they have reclaimed the land, the community has resolved to stay there until the court recognizes their rightful ownership.

ALF Warns Oregon Vivisector

In late July, the ALF paid a visit to Eliot Spindel, a vivisector at Oregon Health and Science University, informing him of what would happen if he did not stop his research on primates. Caustic chemicals were used to debilitate Spindel's car, and his driveway and garage were spray painted with warnings such as "ALF Eyes on You." Spindel's work consists of addicting pregnant primates to nicotine and killing the newborn infants to study the effects of smoking on pregnancy. The ALF warned Spindel that his hefty paycheck from murdering primates comes with a price: "Whatever they pay you in one year, we can match in damage in one night."

War Against King Coal Enters the Big Apple

On July 27 and 30, activists took to the streets of New York City to protest Citibank and Bank of America's involvement in Massey Energy. Taking over six different bank lobbies throughout Manhattan, activists chanted, held signs, passed out literature and made speeches, bringing business to a halt as tellers and patrons stopped to watch the action. Massey has been targeted by activists for its destruction of entire Appalachian ecosystems through mountaintop removal coal mining. The actions taken in New York are just a hint of what activists have said is in store for businesses that continue to work with Massey.

Activists Give Restaurant-Goers Food for Thought

Restaurants in Austin, Texas, are feeling the heat from animal activists. In early July several restaurants were vandalized for selling veal and foie gras. Windows in each restaurant were smashed, and slogans denouncing the inhumanity of the veal and foie gras industries were spraypainted on walls. Local news agencies have greatly publicized the event, to the point of broadcasting videos of baby cows in crates and ducks being force-fed to enlarge their livers. Those responsible for the damage promised that the cost they would continue to inflict on the restaurants would, in the end, greatly outweigh the profits made from these cruel dinner selections.



Polar bears protest against coal mining in Asheville.

Canaries Blockade Bank of America

On August 12, more than 40 activists descended upon a Bank of America in downtown Asheville, North Carolina, to protest its investment in companies responsible for mountaintop removal coal mining. Dozens of activists dressed as polar bears and canaries stood outside the bank chanting and holding signs that read "Bank of America Stop Funding Climate Change." Inside, several activists presented bank tellers and customers with lumps of coal while others blocked the entrance. Two activists used bike locks to lockdown to the bank, stating they would not move until Bank of America pulled out of its investments in coal companies. Riot police were called in and used excessive force to subdue the activists before removing them from the bank. Five activists were arrested and held on \$6,000 bail.

Anti-Oppression Policy for the Earth First! Journal

BY THE EF/J EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE

Editors' Note: The Earth First! Journal collective presented a draft of this policy for critique and revision during a special workshop at the 2007 Round River Rendezvous. That workshop formally endorsed this revised policy. During the Journal discussion at the Rondy, the movement empowered the Journal collective to adopt and maintain the policy as we see fit. Additionally, the Journal collective will add this policy and information on healthy communication to our website and our orientation guide for short-term editors.

The *Earth First! Journal* editorial collective recognizes that the institutional, economic, political, social and cultural dynamics of hierarchy, power and privilege that define mainstream society also permeate the radical environmental movement. These dynamics are expressed in various interlocking systems of oppression (e.g., racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism, ageism, ableism, speciesism, etc.), which prevent equal access to resources and safety, disrupt healthy communities and movement building, and severely—sometimes irreparably—harm our allies, our friends, our loved ones and ourselves.

Over the years, the *Journal* has featured a growing number of articles addressing the need to challenge these systems of oppression. This is a reflection of the editorial collective's understanding that implicit in our desire to stop the domination and exploitation of the Earth is a need to create communities that are free of oppressive social relations. We understand that failing to address oppressive behavior not only weakens our movement by alienating and further victimizing our friends and allies, it also calls into question our commitment to a better world and our qualification as a radical movement.

For these reasons, the *Earth First! Journal* editorial collective has drafted this policy of active opposition to oppressive behavior of all kinds within the editorial collective, the *Journal* community and the pages of the *Journal* itself.

Definitions

We define oppressive behavior as any conduct (typically along lines of institutionalized power and privilege) that demeans, marginalizes, rejects, threatens or harms any living being on the basis of ability, activist experience, age, class/income level, cultural background, education, ethnicity, gender, immigration status, language, nationality, physical appearance, race, religion, self-expression, sexual orientation, species, status as a parent or other such factors. Oppressive behavior comes in a wide variety of forms, from seemingly harmless jokes to threats of violence, from interrupting to verbal abuse, from unwanted touching to rape, from hitting to murder. Some forms are more extreme and irreparable than others, but all are unacceptable under the *Journal's* anti-oppression policy.

Goals

This policy aims to:

- affirm and protect the personal autonomy, safety and well-being of

all who participate in the *Journal*, including short-term editors, long-term staff and volunteers;

- empower all *Journal* participants to challenge oppressive behavior and provide them with skills and resources to do so effectively (including educational materials, response strategies, etc.);

- nurture a strong, safe, healthy, reliable, egalitarian and diverse community surrounding the production of the *Journal*;

- make the *Journal* more accountable to both the Tucson community and the Earth First! movement;

- support and promote anti-oppression principles and practices within the editorial collective and the pages of *Journal*;

- overcome barriers preventing cooperation and solidarity with oppressed individuals and groups who feel unsafe or unwelcome at the *Journal*; and

- combat the troubling legacy of oppression that continues to plague the *Journal*, Earth First!, the radical environmental movement and our society as a whole.

Limitations

The *Journal* collective acknowledges the limitations of such a policy. Developing an anti-oppression policy is an ongoing process; this policy will undoubtedly need periodic review and revision. Additionally, this policy will not automatically make the *Journal* oppression-free, eliminate oppressive organizational structures and personal behaviors, or erase the grievances of previously oppressed and marginalized people. Realistically, our anti-oppression policy is only as strong as our commitment to addressing and confronting oppressive behavior on a regular basis.

Prevention and Education

The best way to deal with oppressive behavior is to prevent it from happening in the first place. Therefore, the *Journal* collective will ensure that all editors, staff and volunteers are familiar with this policy, with the understanding that all participants in the *Journal* community are expected to abide by it. Additionally, we will support individuals who are unfamiliar with the terms and ideas used in this policy by making available more resources (e.g., zines, essays, books, websites and previous *Journal* articles) on topics such as: building conflict resolution skills; promoting consent and mental health; dealing with sexual assault, animal abuse and other forms of violence; confronting male/heterosexual/white privilege; and supporting anti-racist organizing and border justice.

Toward a Restorative Justice Model

Every instance of oppressive behavior is unique and thus requires a unique response. Moreover, different types of oppressive behavior demand significantly different reactions (e.g., the strategy for confronting someone who makes an anti-Semitic joke will be different from the strategy for confronting someone who commits a sexual assault). Nevertheless, there are some familiar patterns that often arise when challenging oppression. We believe that anticipating these

patterns, avoiding counter-productive reactions and aiming for ideal outcomes will benefit nearly all anti-oppression processes.

One common response to oppressive behavior is to ignore or deny it. Oppressed groups are refused power and privilege, including the power to protect themselves and the privilege of being believed when they express grievances. This marginalizing response to oppression breeds an atmosphere that encourages even more oppression. All participants in the *Journal* community should consider it their responsibility to be aware of oppressive behavior, to challenge it actively whenever it occurs and to create a safe space for people facing oppression to share their experiences.

It is important to recognize that oppressive behavior occurs every day, often in seemingly trivial ways. For example, interrupting is a common behavior that reinforces power dynamics. Those with white/male/heterosexual privilege frequently interrupt or talk over those without this privilege, thereby marginalizing people of color, women and queer folks. Over time, seemingly minor interruptions, jokes, slurs and stereotypes can snowball into a pattern of oppression that is far more damaging than an isolated incident.

It is important to consider that some methods of challenging mundane oppression are more productive than others. For instance, instead of insulting someone for making a transphobic comment or voicing vague disapproval of such behavior, it is far more effective to clearly and calmly explain what about the comment was offensive and why, while providing as much specific information as possible. Offering resources on transgender issues would be a good next step. Likewise, acting aggressively defensive or passively guilty when being challenged for oppressive behavior is another common reaction. A far more effective response to being called out is to listen patiently and attentively to the grievance, take action by apologizing or making amends, and engage in further education and reflection on the situation.

When dealing with more extreme or violent instances of oppressive behavior, a common response is to expel the offender immediately, with no attempt at mediation or reconciliation. This can create a dynamic of demonization that does nothing to help the offender admit what they've done and change their behavior. It can also prevent the oppressed individual from achieving much-needed healing and closure, as well as create incurable rifts in the community at large. Moreover, immediately expelling an offender increases the likelihood that they will simply move on to other communities where they will continue their patterns of oppression. Thus, whenever possible and appropriate, the *Journal* collective favors the method of encouraging offenders to undertake an accountability process of education, introspection, self-growth and reparations.

While stressing the need for personal responsibility and accountability, the *Journal* collective also acknowledges that we have all been socialized into systems of power and

privilege. At one time or another, every one of us will be an oppressor; at another time, every one of us will be oppressed. Although this does not absolve us of responsibility, it does emphasize the universal need for effective anti-oppression strategies. Our collective goal is to acknowledge and unlearn oppressive behaviors without rejecting anyone. This community-oriented approach to oppressive behavior is commonly referred to as "restorative justice."

Nevertheless, the *Journal* collective realizes that this ideal outcome is not always possible. Even when reconciliation does occur, it often requires a great deal of time and effort on the part of the offender, the oppressed individual and the community as a whole. Therefore, while we view the reconciliation of all parties and the growth of the offender as desirable results, we must stress that any process for confronting oppression must be guided (whenever possible) by the oppressed individual and primarily concerned with their needs for dignity, healing and safety. If the oppressed individual's needs cannot be met through mediation, reconciliation and accountability processes, or if the offender does not sufficiently participate in these processes, then the expulsion of the offender may be the only possible recourse.

Forming a Process

For the reasons presented above, the *Journal* collective believes that adopting a single process for dealing with all instances of oppressive behavior would be unrealistic and ultimately ineffective.

Eventually, the *Journal* collective would like this policy to include a diversity of comprehensive anti-oppression strategies, including effective communication, intervention, mediation, accountability and reconciliation processes, as well as a specific sexual assault response procedure. However, the creation of these measures will likely be a complicated and lengthy undertaking, and we believe that little would be gained by waiting to adopt this policy until such processes are in place.

In the meantime, the *Journal* collective will assemble and make available resources on anti-oppression procedures and diverse response strategies, so that these can be used for guidance and reference when challenging oppressive behavior.

Affirming Other Communities

Since the *Journal* collective is composed of a frequently rotating group of individuals from diverse communities, it can be difficult to ensure that the *Journal* is a safe space. For this reason, if someone (1) is involved with the *Journal* as an editor or volunteer, (2) has a background of oppressive behavior and (3) is required by a survivor, community or accountability process to reveal their background to individuals and groups they work with, then that person is expected to honor and abide by those requirements. This will allow us to respect and reaffirm other communities' anti-oppression policies and processes, and it will help ensure that the *Journal* is a safer space for all.



Earth First! Defeats NATO in the Netherlands



BY JAAP KRATER

For two years, GroenFront! (Earth First! in the Netherlands and parts of Belgium) and the local community in the small rural town of Schinveld, Netherlands, have been fighting against logging in Schinveld's local forest. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Dutch Ministry of Defense want to see the forest destroyed for the sake of the NATO Air Force base Geilenkirchen, located just across the border in Germany. In July, the activists succeeded in securing the cancellation of all logging plans for the woodland. Next step: Shut down the base!

Geilenkirchen hosts a part of NATO's European Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) radar plane fleet, mainly functioning as a training base for the pilots of surveillance planes. Fortunately, the abysmal sight of the military base is hidden by the stunning Schinveld forest and Brunssum moors—wildly biodiverse ecologies for this part of Europe.

For almost 30 years, local protesters in Schinveld have fought against NATO—first to stop the reopening of the base, then to reduce the nuisance caused by the AWACS radar plane engines. A few years ago, the base threatened more than the locals' health and sense of hearing: The forest surrounding Geilenkirchen was threatening to block the pilots' view, so the Ministry of Defense decided that 50 acres of trees would need to be logged. Locals contacted GroenFront!, and a campaign against the logging started with a canopy treesit village in 2006. GroenFront! held workshops and direct-action trainings, and anti-militarists destroyed fences at the base. Local support was incredible. Schinvelders brought fresh coffee to the trees in the morning and hot vegan food in the evening.

Schinveld is far away from the Netherlands' government center in The Hague, and Schinvelders have a less affectionate attitude toward the national government than people in the western Netherlands. Schinveld's local council decided to support the protesters and refuse the Ministry a logging permit. The massive local support was extremely frightening for party politicians. In



GroenFront! taking to the trees

photo courtesy: GroenFront!

response, the Dutch government appointed a new mayor to Schinveld, who declared a state of emergency, ordered citizens to stay in their houses and made it illegal to support protesters. The mayor threatened that the global movement of violent, riotous anarchists would soon descend on his peaceful little community, and it was his duty to protect Schinveld.

Instead, camo-clad locals sneaked through the woods, avoiding the cops to bring the treesitters hot food, rum-chocolate and blankets on the freezing January nights. The fire department, which was asked to provide flood lights, refused to assist the eviction, and German assistance had to be called in. When the eviction finally occurred, many police called in sick. In a final show of solidarity, 1,500 locals—more than half the village—marched through police lines to join the camp. Some villagers locked down, many had to be dragged off from soft blockades, and others did sit-ins on the access roads. This was a rare spectacle in a country that is very law-abiding.

Schinveld's council appealed to the Supreme Court, and the national government responded by cutting the acreage to be logged from 52 to 15. Two days into the eviction, 700 military and riot police were still not able to remove all of the treehouses. The last activists voluntarily left when they were told that of the 15 acres slated for destruction, the two acres defended by their treehouses would be spared.

This Summer, NATO and the Ministry of Defense once more set their sights on the 52 acres while

GroenFront! was preparing to reoccupy the woods depending on the final outcome of the legal battle. On July 18, the court ruled that the logging of all 52 acres was illegal. To their great surprise, the protesters were vindicated, and the remaining forests were saved from NATO's bloody claws.

Looking back, these protests have served to radicalize the local community. The local protest group changed its name and mission from "Stop AWACS Noise Pollution" to "Stop AWACS." The group says that it won't rest until NATO closes the base. In the meantime, locals are planting new trees in the area that was illegally destroyed before the entire area could be spared.

For more information, visit www.groenfront.nl/english.

Forest Defense in San Isidro Aloapam

BY RATTYTATT

On August 3, we piled into large trucks and drove out of the city of Oaxaca, Mexico. Five hours of winding rural roads, giggles and gasps later, we stumbled out of the trucks and into a greeting of handshakes, flowers and... a live band!

Welcome to the community of San Isidro Aloapam, a pueblo in the Sierra Norte mountains in Oaxaca state. The group I was with arrived for San Isidro's three-day event focused on defending both the forest surrounding their pueblo and the life of their community.

Originally, the people of San Isidro and neighboring San Miguel Aloapam lived together as a community. In the early to mid-1900s, the community that is now San Isidro moved farther away to cultivate its crops. Members of the same families live in both of these towns, and the forest is the "property" of both communities.

Serious problems have arisen because San Miguel has been illegally logging the forest. This is not supported by the entire community of San Miguel, but definitely by those in power. San Isidro feels very differently.

"We have lived here for more than 500 years, and we have the responsibility to take care of and protect our Mother Earth," one community member explained.

The story San Isidro residents tell reaches back to August 11, 2002, when people from San Miguel were logging the forest. Most of the men in San Isidro had already gone to work that day, so the women gathered together. One woman from San Isidro shared her experience: "When we came, they were drunk. When we tried to start a dialogue, they started to beat us. The mayor of San Miguel was there and drunkenly shot his pistol in the air." State police stood by and watched as the mayor ordered the people of San Miguel to attack the women. Two of these women were pregnant and lost their babies because of this violence.

On June 18, 700 people from San Miguel returned to log. Again, the mayor was inebriated, pistol in hand. More than 40 people from San Isidro came again to talk them out of cutting the trees. Again, the mayor ordered for the people of San Isidro to be rounded up. The San Isidro residents dispersed, returning to their pueblo, but several were caught, beaten and threatened with death. Two people from San Miguel were killed from gunshot wounds during an internal conflict. In a corrupt fabrication by the San Miguel government, six people from the community of San Isidro—including a mother of three children—were arrested for the murders. They are currently being held in jail.



Residents of San Isidro discuss the illegal logging near their community.

photo courtesy: rattyatt

There have been several other court cases over this issue. In one case, interests from San Miguel successfully bribed two lawyers with about \$60,000 to influence the court to rule in their favor. In another instance, San Miguel residents bribed authorities for an illegal logging permit; went into the forest under the guise of cleaning out unhealthy, dead trees (sound familiar?); and proceeded to cut healthy trees instead, selling them to paper factories.

The people of the state of Oaxaca have endured much repression. More than 25 people have been killed in the past year; many more have been disappeared, tortured and imprisoned. Despite the terror that comes with this repression, the people of San Isidro are still organizing and speaking out for the release of their imprisoned family members and for the survival of the forest.

The community members of San Isidro are fighting for their lives as indigenous people. Their culture is alive. They still speak their indigenous language of Zapoteco. Their children speak Zapoteco. Their traditional herbal knowledge is intact. They gather and practice herbal medicine. Their traditional dance forms are still performed. Their existence is intertwined with the existence of this forest.

We demand freedom for Juana Morales Pérez, Juventino Cruz Pérez, Artemio Pérez Cruz, Anastasio López Pérez, Eufimio Méndez López and Santos Pérez Cruz!

For more information, visit www.nodo50.org/cipo. rattyatt is wingnuttin' around Oaxaca, eatin' some snackusss and learnin' some shiat.

ARMED WITH VISIONS

Clear as cut glass

& just as dangerous

photo courtesy Sky Jacobs

Untitled

Enjoying this beautiful canyon
Soon after dusk
A breeze comes
Settling down the drainage
From up there
Where ponderosa, spruce and fir dwell
Here it's oak
Moving to the canyon slopes
The vegetation thins out
Becoming catclaw and other shrubs
Bats are maneuvering about
Putting no dent in the
Monsoon mosquito population
An owl flies up
Curious
I love the Sonoran Desert
Wide valleys
Gently sloping toward
Scattered mountain ranges
Rising up like islands
Out of the sea
The view from these islands
Immense
Huge valleys of creosote
Washes meandering through them
This is an arid place
But the monsoon moisture makes it feel
Almost subtropical

—Sky Jacobs

The Old Grand Gulch at Night

Once when the moon hung big and round
In the old Grand Gulch at night,
Eerie the shadows on the ground,
Uncanny was the light.

High in the cliffs where the old ones dwelt
Ancient spirits rose and stirred.
They crowded about, their presence I felt,
Then their whispered words I heard.

They told of when the corn maidens danced
While the drummers beat and swayed.
Around and around they wheeled and pranced
While the hump-back flute player played.

Those were the days when life was good,
When there was time to sit and dream
While the soft winds played in the cottonwood
And the beavers dammed the stream.

When gold the squash lay on the ground,
Corn leaves rustled in the breeze,
And all about game did abound,
And there were song birds in the trees.

These are the things that were whispered to me
In the old Grand Gulch that night,
Not of the droughts or the misery
Of survival's struggling flight.

So when I look high on the wall
And the crumbling ruins I see,
Then is the time that I recall
What the spirits said to me.

Then I feel the drummer's beat,
Hear the hump-backed flutter play,
See the dancing girls on nimble feet
As they circle, prance, and sway.

This to me is what the old Gulch means,
When I sit down here below.
And I know they're true, these ancient scenes,
For the old ones told me so.

—Vaughn Short

El Niño

Hey,
I am El Niño,
the bad boy.
I'm the weather system
that's in your face,
on your back,
blowing you off,
and coming down on you.
I'm crossing your borders
and I don't need no stinking
passport.
But you can welcome me anyway,
go with my flow—
feel me like a river
and maybe bust out
the levees that hold you back.
Or maybe
throw your head back wide open to me
like my love,
the Pacific—
welling up warm
to meet me,
taking
thousands of my droplets
into your body,
feeling each
wet little bomb
land like a kiss.
Yeah, you can ride my wildness
or you can let me
ruin your parade
and drown your dreams,
because part of it
is up to you.
And whether you got a house
that's built
on a rock
or you ain't got no
home at all
You can't control
me—
I
am El Niño!

—Kirk Lumpkin

Kersarge Landing

Smoke still stings the eyes
even with the sweet scent of birch

—Bart Semcer

Send poems to
Warrior Poets Society
POB 14501
Berkeley, CA 94712-5501
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Waiting While Mountains Purple

Sage sips the dryness from the hillside
Grasses twitch erect
Distant river gargles rocks
Lichen grows orange on stone.
We wait under a half moon while
The heat dispels and mountains
Swell with purple.

What do you bring us?

Lamar Valley sweeps clean
The ticky-tacky tally of centuries.
Bison rumble patiently
With primordial power
In their skeleton mass and wool.
Waiting while mountains purple
We are touched by the flicker
Of starkly wild lives
Clear and raw before our eyes.

What do we want from you?

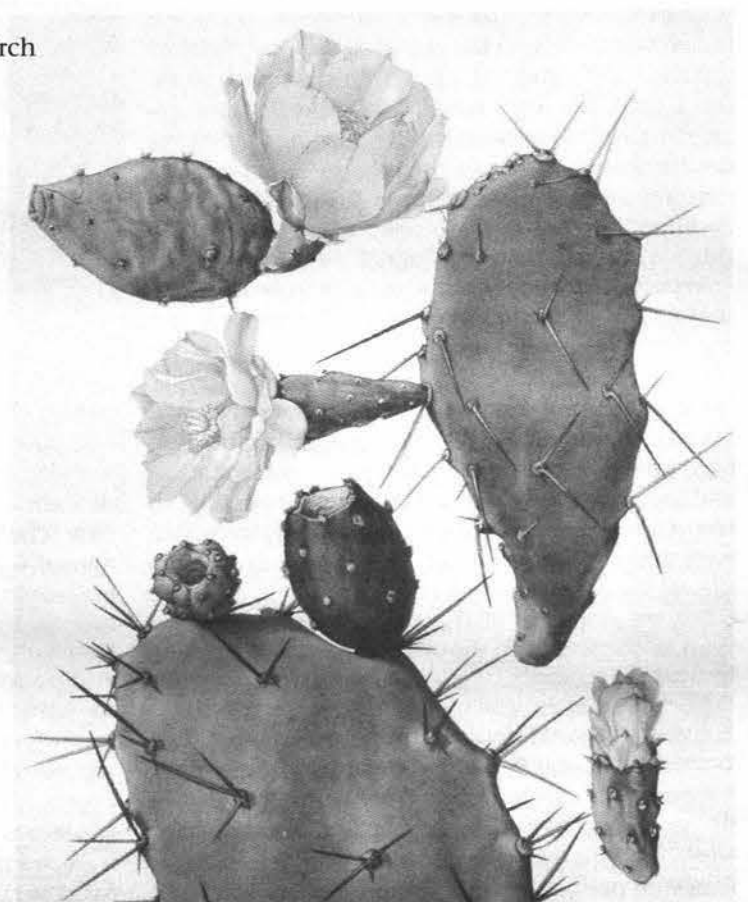
A glimpse of your society
So rightly afraid of ours;
A look into your knowing eyes
So readily like ours;
To see you moving freely
Along the valley we can only visit.
To see you claiming your game and your land
Feeds the tiny bead of hope that has receded
To our innermost souls as the forest falls.
If we can see a Wyoming wolf tonight
Perhaps we will see the Earth cool down some
Tomorrow.

—Jenny McBride

Photosynthesis

My heart is a mountain range
undulating ridges
crests canyons and streams
My hands work lesser wonders
than any roadside weed.

—JIB



The Environmental Impacts of Mass Protest

Entering Rostock and Heiligendamm

BY BUDGE

This year saw the Group of Eight (G8) summit taking place in Heiligendamm, Germany, adjacent to the Baltic Sea. Like the site of previous G8 summits, this area is fairly remote, requiring a large amount of organizing and travel for those attending the week of protests surrounding the summit. Since the street battles of Seattle, meetings of institutions such as the World Trade Organization and the G8 continually locate to less and less urbanized areas, making travel for activists longer and less efficient.

After helping to organize a G8 information tour stop in Los Angeles in April, I decided to attend the G8—given my desire to meet with No Borders activists in the UK and Germany. I also wanted to take part in the migration-based protests and organizing planned for the Sunday and Monday of the anti-G8 protests.

Throughout my week at the G8, I was faced with many concerns over methods and successes of action, solidarity with those arrested and imprisoned, remembering to eat and staying out of police reach. I was also continually nagged by a growing realization of the environmental impacts that we were directly creating through protest. While several documents were produced and distributed in various languages informing activists from outside Germany what to expect regarding their rights and police repression, I do not recall seeing anything relating to the literal environment that protestors would be entering. I do not posit that I am the first to come to the realization that mass protests are inadvertently (and often not-so inadvertently) detrimental to the environment. This is, however, something that requires more discourse within activist circles, particularly concerning global convergences.

Arriving at the G8

Discussions surrounding the guilt faced by many activists traveling to distant parts of the globe to protest are nothing new and do not need to be rehashed here. Nor does the increased risk to the environment due to ever cheapening flights—particularly within Europe, where flights are offered starting at less than two dollars (see *EF!* July-August 2007). Though many of us opt to travel by bicycle on a daily basis, we are also aware that our carbon footprint is easily blown out by just one flight a year, let alone several more for those of us privileged enough to be global travelers.

On the opening day of protests surrounding the G8, I traveled by bus alongside a number of people from Australia, Germany and the US to the site of the protests. We had managed to acquire tickets on a bus chartered by a union in Berlin, taking a relatively short three-hour journey north to the seaside town of Rostock in the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. During our travel, we passed countless police vans, along with the intimidating sight of military tanks and trucks guarding strategic sites. On arrival, we were struck with the sight of approximately 80 large charter buses lined up along the autobahn. Earlier in the week, we had heard a rumor that there were no buses left for hire within Berlin as they had all been reserved for the G8, and this was becoming increasingly evident.

Reports also stated that there would be approximately 16,000 German police in attendance, coming from across the nation. This meant that not only were those protesting using excessive levels of transportation, but that the police-state that had been deployed to the region would bring its own high levels of motorized transit, accommodation and food requirements. At times, it was possible to count triple figures of large green and white police vans and cars on the road. This continued across the region for the next week.

For the duration of the week, three camps had been constructed to house activists. These were located in Rostock, Reddelich and Wichmannsdorf, spanning approximately 22 miles in distance. Somewhat thankfully, organizers had managed to convince the regional train operators to run a train between the camps and into the center of Rostock on an hourly basis, 24 hours a day, for the entire week. Though this led undeniably to a decreased reliance on personal transportation (and an increased

ability to actively travel between different actions), the use of mass transit also led to unprecedented travel in the region.

The feeling within the camps was mixed, something between radical gathering and rock concert (there was a nightly concert on a stage in a nearby field). The campsites were divided into barrios; my group decided to set up in the Queer Barrio at Reddelich. Within the Reddelich camp—the supposedly more “radical” base—were the Queer, Zapatista, Anarchist Teapot, Interventionist Left, Black Bloc and several other barrios. Most barrios contained their own kitchen, providing amazing food, coffee, tea and water every day. Alongside these were a “con-cierge,” a media tent, bars, cafes and more. An around-the-clock watch was instituted, partly due to the constant police presence surrounding the camp. In addition, spaces were set up for decompressing after actions, discussing sexism within the “activist left,” and other important conversations. Low-flying jets, military helicopters, continued threats of neo-Nazi and police attacks, and false alarms in the middle of the night made for low-intensity psychological warfare, leaving campers sleepless and on edge.

Marching in the Streets and Fields

As many have witnessed through various media outlets, the first day of protests saw many thousands taking to the streets of Rostock. A commonly seen spectacle of the protest actions was that of the Black Bloc setting fire to and overturning cars in between back and forth battles with heavily armed police on that day. Less shown were the burned-out and melted trash cans, piles of rubbish in the streets and broken glass from 32-ounce beer bottles being thrown at police or discarded.

The day of action for migration took place on June 4 after a day of organizing at the Rostock convergence center (a five-story squatted school on the outskirts of town). Throughout the day, those seeking asylum could be heard leading the chants, “We are here because you have ruined our countries!” and, “Freedom of movement is everybody’s right!” The Rostock reporting center for those seeking asylum was closed down for the day—a large success for the demonstration. The final migrant rights march was stopped by police claiming that the march contained “violent elements within the crowd,” and that there were 10,000 activists. (We possessed a permit for only 2,000.) With the police clearly nervous from the clashes earlier in the week, we came face-to-face with water cannons, riot police and dogs, which



Activists march through local farmers' fields.

created a heavily militarized zone between the march and the town of Rostock.

As the week progressed and the focus of protests moved from urban areas toward the area of Heiligendamm where the summit had begun, new challenges arose. Though organizers had agreed with local farmers to ensure that protesters would keep out of the surrounding fields and forests, thousands found themselves with no option but to cross these areas to avoid road blocks and police oppression. Though it was impressive to witness massive lines of protesters moving knee-deep through rapeseed fields, an air of frustration and dismay hung low over the actions. Rivers were crossed, habitats were disturbed, waste was discarded and sections of undergrowth were trampled. (Many local farmers later called for reparations for damage to their crops.)

During the days on which we attempted to blockade the summit, the landscape was filled with the constant sight of police roadblocks, armored vehicles, water cannon trucks and military helicopters ferrying people back and forth into the meetings. Many of us cheered, danced and sang when we learned that the nearby airport and many important roads leading to Heiligendamm had been blocked. This meant that



Anti-G8 protesters march to the barricades.

delegates, media and staff would have a much harder time getting into the summit.

Autonomous and larger-organized roadblocks went up across the region, many from the forests bisected by roads near the towns of Bad Doberan, Rostock and Heiligendamm. Though largely successful, the construction and defense of roadblocks resulted in an increased use of sea and air transportation to ensure that the G8 gathering could continue. Traffic jams resulting from the blockades frustrated many locals, who ultimately left their cars idling—sometimes for hours at a time.

A Need to Reflect

Though many conversations could be overheard regarding the impacts that the mass protest actions had imposed on the local environment and population, there appeared to be no specific space for a critical assessment of such impacts. Perhaps a global protest consisting of a convergence of thousands of activists is not the place or time to do so, but when is? Where are the follow-up discussions (or pre-planning discussions) regarding the detrimental impact of mass protests that draw activists, media, police, politicians and many others from across the globe? How do we weigh the benefits of mass protests against the environmental and social impacts brought about by our actions? What alternatives are open to us?

Active reflection is a necessary component of any form of protest. Days of action were planned to protest climate change, but consideration of the surrounding environment was missing. I do not suggest that we as protestors should take the full blame for the increased pressure on the environment in regions where we congregate. The very existence of the G8 and the inability of government leaders and corporations to actively address issues of environmental degradation and global warming must ultimately be held responsible. However, this does not absolve us of all responsibility.

There has been a good deal of discussion surrounding the need for solidarity actions conducted from activists' home cities, towns and regions. Many opt to do this—whether due to environmental, economic, social or mobility-related constraints. But many more continue to travel thousands of miles to attend mass protests. One approach that deserves more attention and participation is the bicycle caravans that approached the G8 after traveling for several weeks, spreading information and inviting others to attend the protests. Though not all of us are in the position to cycle to events such as the G8—due to geographic distance, physical ability and time constraints—bicycle caravans provide a sustainable alternative and a chance for social interaction.

In any case, the need for discourse on how we can and will mitigate the impacts that we, as protestors, bring about is critical.

Budge is an activist geographer from Melbourne, Australia, and can be seen cycling around Los Angeles, calling for the removal of borders and for freedom of movement for all (visit www.noborderscamp.org).

Autonomously Gazing After the G8

BY ONE OF US

The Anti-Capitalist Movement. There it was again for a moment: the exalting feeling that we really can attack sometimes, that we are many, that we are strong and capable of making an impact. It was a spirited beginning, a promising prelude. After the riots in Rostock on June 2, the first headaches we gave the G8 attendees at this summit in Germany, many people were quite pleased with the resoluteness of the Black Bloc—a twinkle smiled at me from so many eyes. No one could think that we were simply asking those in power to be nicer. Any power we had, we seized—no matter what the “authorities” thought.

Yet it’s ironic that, as the Battle of Rostock grew more grandiose in the mainstream media, the actual organizing process of the Black Bloc was quietly collapsing as the mechanisms of communication failed. Aside from the refreshingly assertive actions in Rostock (before the meetings actually started), almost all of our practical plans failed. The much-discussed “autonomous decision-making” inside the camps just didn’t happen. Our organizational structure wasn’t able to make the knowledge of the small insider groups available to the bigger collective. Lots of international protesters waited for days for the German Dissent! folks to share more detailed information with them and to get them involved in orienting discussions. Lacking larger assemblies, our comrades depended even more on personal contacts.

Moreover, after the press started stirring things up against the Black Bloc, only a few still dared to publicly advocate such positions. Because of this, the Interventionist Left suddenly stood as the only voice of the radical left—a monopoly that we would usually never accept. Instead of coming to common evaluations and actions as autonomous anarchists in Heilgendamm, we made ourselves disappear in more than one way before we even gave ourselves a real chance.

Seen on a larger scale, the protests weren’t without successes. There were many situations that the police did not have under control. Some blockades were worked out spontaneously, withdrawing cops from the lockdowns. Actions like a police car being wrapped in tape, with its tires deflated, kept spirits high. The sheer masses of people sitting on the streets and roaming through the forests turned the days into something more than the state wanted.

Nonetheless, there is something perturbing about the “mood swing” in police strategy that—after their show of rudeness at the beginning of the week—occurred just in time for the

commencement of the G8 meetings, when the world started to pay more attention. The pictures of masses of people marching through fields carrying peace flags were, to me, far too compatible with Germany’s self-righteous image cultivation as an oh-so-democratic country. On the other hand, the government’s endeavors to not appear as a police state before the world presented opportunities that we could have used much more effectively. Although these opportunities were foreseen by some, we did not manage to collectively discuss such a situation ahead of time.

How can we deal with a police strategy that wants to impose a constant fear in each of us? Is it *me* targeted by the camera? Is there a microphone

order to act collectively and effectively, we have to recognize each other as militants and make plans together. It’s important to note that we were talking about street blockades. No one was planning to kill the US president. The risk was limited.

In retrospect, we did a poor job of guiding scenarios. Rather often, people in the Bloc exuded an uncertainty in interactions with Bloc’ers from other countries. At times, there was open distrust. Quite a few activists wavered back and forth between an abstract euphoric enthusiasm for using more militant tactics in street-fight situations, and the reflex to think that those employing such tactics were more or less insane and irresponsible.

Asking myself where to go from here, I start to helplessly mumble a bit. Maybe we need to reassert our strengths and our sense of what is possible. My heart sinks each time I see comrades walking separately with hands up to the police to get searched. We don’t have to put up with that! If the cops were the only ones lining up at the announced starting point of the demo, if they had repeated difficulties with unwilling protesters closing tight around them, they might—in the long run—have to stop that shit.

Another point to address is our response to arrests during a demonstration. The cops themselves say that this situation is difficult for them. Too bad we often make it easier for them by doing nothing or just taking pictures. If people successfully resist, we won’t need videos of it that may later be confiscated. Instead of resigning ourselves to defeat, we should do our utmost to prevent arrests. The risk of getting arrested for rescuing “prisoners” diminishes as more people do it. How much more confidently would we act, knowing that our comrades will do their best to free us? In addition to helping other Black Bloc’ers, we should think about how we can provide more protection and support that better enables people to do their own actions safely and successfully.

We need to sort ourselves out anew if we want to see collective actions happening more often. It would be nice to see scenarios where those who vigorously endorse proposals made by other groups during spokescouncils earnestly help turn those ideas into action, instead of retreating at the first chance. Visiting one another’s communities could help rid us of the often frustrating half-heartedness in bringing to life ideas that are not our own.

All in all, whether we like it or not, there seems to be no other way than to maintain that inner fire and not give them our power. So let’s keep on fighting this filthy system.

Vive la commune des brigades internationals!



photo courtesy Hugo

The Black Bloc overturns a car on June 2.

taping *my* voice? Their strategy seeks to repeatedly implant the timid question into our hearts: Will the moment of liberation that we are fighting for end in 20 minutes with an arrest backed up by police videos? One answer to that is the “Just do it!” of our clenched fists. This is what we experienced in Rostock on June 2: There can always be situations where the cops run away from *us*, where they have to bring out fire engines to break our lines, where we manage to collectively overcome their techniques of isolation and intimidation.

There were many moments where we failed to act for fear of possible repression and so denied ourselves the opportunities to conspire beyond our small circles and emerge as the International Black Bloc—surely a force to be reckoned with. How much more collective fighting strength could have emerged if we had used our discussion time more strategically? We should really think about how to challenge our paranoia, which is paralyzing us. Caution must not lead to lonely anxiety and collective silence—or else they have won. In

Asheville Cyclists Confront Bank of America

BY RISING TIDE NORTH AMERICA

On June 8, dozens of cyclists paid a surprise visit to Bank of America—to protest its financial backing of coal companies—as a part of the International Day of Action Against Climate Change and the G8, held in solidarity with the massive anti-G8 protests in Germany and with those suffering from the impacts of the G8’s policies around the world.

After first tying up downtown traffic, the 30-person-strong bike ride descended on the Asheville, North Carolina, headquarters of Bank of America. Once there, activists dumped coal in front of the main entrance, while another person spontaneously sacrificed their bike lock and locked the front doors shut.

With police still not in sight, the bike ride continued on to another Bank of America branch, where participants plastered the bank in stickers, handed out fliers to customers and held banners reading, “Stop Banking on Climate Change” and “Climate Chaos: Brought to you by Bank of America.”

Bank of America plays a major role in perpetuating climate change by its massive investments in the coal industry. Pound for pound, coal burning releases more carbon dioxide emissions than any other fossil fuel. The bank has facilitated nearly \$1 billion in loans to Massey Energy and Arch Coal, two of the largest companies involved in the environmentally devastating process of mountaintop removal coal mining. Mountaintop removal mining has already reduced 500 square miles of

mountains to rubble and buried over 1,200 miles of streams in Southern Appalachia (see *EFJ* January-February 2007).



photo courtesy Asheville Rising Tide

Activists ride against the G8 and climate chaos.

Bank of America has also made loans and facilitated stock offerings for Peabody Energy to the tune of several billion dollars. Peabody is infamous for its human rights violations against Native Americans. Since 1975, more than 14,000 indigenous people, mostly Diné, have been forcibly relocated off of their ancestral lands to make way for Peabody’s Black Mesa strip mine in northeastern Arizona (see *EFJ* March-April 2006). This strip mine, the largest in the US, has devastated thousands of acres of indigenous land and drained local aquifers that are essential for sustaining life in this desert climate.

In addition to these abuses, Peabody Energy, along with a number of other companies funded by Bank of America, is pursuing the construction of a new wave of dirty coal plants.

“By targeting coal industry investors, we can undermine their financial support, which they depend on to continue operation,” said Jennifer Clayson, who participated in the ride. “The less money they have, the less coal they can extract and burn. In the face of cataclysmic climate change, we do not have time to wait for government regulations. We must directly intervene now!”

This year’s G8 meetings failed to even begin to address climate change. While some European countries pushed for 50 percent emissions cuts by 2050, the US managed to derail even this goal, which falls far short of the reductions that are necessary. In the end, the G8 countries agreed to “consider” cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

“In the face of massive species extinction, drought and rising sea levels, the best these world leaders can come up with is to ‘consider’ doing something? Until there is real change, we, along with people around the world, will continue to take direct action against those responsible for climate change,” said Liam Jefferson, another rider.

According to scientists, greenhouse gas emissions need to be slashed at least 80 percent by 2050 to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

The bike ride was organized by Asheville Rising Tide, a group dedicated to confronting the root causes of climate change.

UPDATES...

Umoja Village Burned Again

Just days after celebrating its six-month anniversary, the Umoja Village Shantytown burned to the ground on the night of April 26. All residents escaped the fire physically unharmed, but there was nothing left of the village, which had existed on the corner of a busy intersection in Liberty City, an impoverished black community in Miami, Florida (see *EFJ* January-February 2007). Seizing this as the opportunity they were waiting for, cops and bulldozers were sent in immediately.

Originally, cops allowed the people who were already on the property to remain, but they wouldn't let anybody pass through their cordon to help protect the blackened site that was—and could again be—Umoja. Eventually, police decided that they wanted everybody off the site. Umoja residents and friends formed a soft blockade to block machines from clearing the area, and everybody was arrested. Most were released a few hours later, but three people were held for several days.

Then, Miami city officials offered the site to Umoja residents and Take Back the Land, the group sponsoring Umoja, with the stipulation that a building with at least 60 housing units and commercial space on the ground floor be built there. Residents and organizers ultimately agreed to accept the offer.

After some shadiness by at least one city council member, the council voted unanimously to go ahead with this deal. However, before it could be finalized, a white, wealthy, high-powered lobbyist—who controls much of the cash the site's development partners would have seen—stepped in and killed the agreement. Utilizing shameless intimidation techniques and backroom shenanigans, a single developer scared away Miami city council members and prospective players in the arrangement. Faced with this situation, the council revoked the deal.

While the last few months have obviously brought their share of setbacks, Take Back the Land remains committed to feeding and housing people in its community and stands resolute to do what it takes to make that happen.

Further Repression in Oaxaca

On June 14, more than 300,000 people took part in a march in Oaxaca City, Mexico, that stretched for more than a mile. The march was in remembrance of the violent eviction of the teachers' sit-in strike in the center of the city exactly a year earlier. That eviction set off the chain of events that led to a statewide uprising and a popular movement, with millions of participants in the effort to remove right-wing Governor Ulises Ruiz and replace the entire state government with popular assemblies (see *EFJ* March-April 2007). Barricades reappeared in the city for the first time since the brutal clashes of last November. At least two major highways were blocked, using buses and cars. Crowds gathered to re-enforce the blockades as a festive mood settled across Oaxaca City.

Just over a month later, Oaxacan residents were still running with their resurgence of presence. Their annual cultural festival, the Guelaguetza, had been co-opted by government and commercial interests, turning it into a watered-down event to attract tourists. On July 16, more than 10,000 people marched to the main Guelaguetza auditorium—just outside the city—to perform and witness an alternative Guelaguetza that celebrated their indigenous traditions through dance. As the march arrived at the venue, it was met by federal and state police surrounding the perimeter. The cops attacked the crowd with tear gas, rocks, sticks, explosive projectiles and whatever else they could get their hands on. People retreated as the filth advanced, beating and arresting attendees. One man, Emeterio Merino Cruz Vázquez,

was critically injured when police launched an explosive that burst his intestines. According to the most recent reports, he is in a coma and not doing well. Three photographers are reported to have been beaten, along with countless other marchers. Of the 62 people arrested, only 40 have turned up in jails—all them seriously beaten and tortured. Cops even apprehended people while they were being transported by the Red Cross to receive medical attention.

On August 5, Ruiz's party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), swept state legislative elections while the heavy hand of the government swept the streets. At least three people—two Catalans and one Mexican—were disappeared. In addition, dozens of trucks of armed cops roamed the city, cutting down banners and covering over graffiti that opposed the PRI. More than 80 percent of eligible voters boycotted the elections.

Tip-Top acTivity Ties Tree Torturers in Tasmania

A lot has been on the plate for Tasmanian forest defenders since the *EFJ* last covered their struggles (see *EFJ* May-June 2007). Toward the end of June, the UN World Heritage Committee announced a decision to pay a visit to Tasmania's World Heritage Area to check on local logging practices. Activists from the Huon Valley Environmental Center (HVEC) have been trying to protect the forests directly adjacent to those inside the park's boundary and see this visit as a great coup. These forests are just as deserving of World Heritage Area status and are currently sought after to be cut down. This is a big opportunity for this local campaign to shine internationally, but HVEC activists aren't simply waiting for the visit.



One activist was arrested after confronting the Australian prime minister about government-sanctioned clearcutting.

Arguing that many more square miles of ancient forests need to be protected, HVEC activists halted logging in the Arve Valley on July 30. Logging had already commenced in this vast tract of old growth, but those with HVEC say it's not too late to include the Arve Valley trees into the adjoining Hartz Mountains National Park, affording the area the protection it deserves.

On August 1, forest activists welcomed Australian Prime Minister John Howard to Tasmania with a less-than-friendly protest. One activist was arrested.

"The continued industrial-scale clearcutting of the Styx, Weld and Upper Florentine valleys serve as a testament to John Howard's broken promises," said Ula Majewski, a spokesperson with the Still Wild Still Threatened campaign.

Finally, on August 6, activists hung a giant banner from a cable logger in a huge Weld Valley clearcut to highlight the impact of a proposed chip mill. Two activists suspended themselves from the 45-foot-tall banner that read "Kill Mill."

"If the fast-track chemical and pulp mill is allowed to proceed, continued brutal logging scars will spoil Tasmania's landscape, contribute to climate change and habitat loss, and damage

water catchments," said Jenny Weber, spokesperson for HVEC.

Diné Resist Third Coal Plant

Diné elders and their families have set up a resistance camp directly east of the site of the proposed Desert Rock Energy Facility, a \$3-billion coal-fueled power plant that would pump electricity—which many reservation residents don't have—to Las Vegas and other western cities (see *EFJ* March-April 2007). The coal plant would use water—a resource of uncertain quantities in the Navajo Nation's desert home—at the rate of 1.6 billion gallons each year. It would be the third such plant in San Juan County.

About 25 miles into the Navajo Nation, the Dooda Desert Rock ("No Desert Rock," in Diné) resisters cook food, chop wood and plan for the next steps of the resistance. Volunteers from local colleges, towns, media groups and organizations concerned about the environment gather to deliver food and firewood to the resisters, who keep a constant vigil at the site.

Less than one mile from the camp, an enormous dragline machine already scrapes coal around the clock in what has been described by locals as their own Grand Canyon, pumping the energy out on giant transmission lines that are the only thing marring the billboard-free, ad-free reservation.

The Dooda Desert Rock camp has faced runs with both tribal and state police. Earlier this year, tribal police entered the site of the resistance camp and tore it down, dragging it about a mile to its current location. Activists reassembled the camp, adding a heavy iron wood stove and a permanent renewable energy supply. The whole camp—consisting of two trailers, a large gathering room and campers—is powered with solar panels and a small wind turbine.

This past Spring, Diné resisters filled New Mexico's state capitol building in Santa Fe day after day to stand, sit and speak in opposition to an \$85-million tax break that the state was thinking of granting the Desert Rock Energy Facility. The bill was permanently tabled following intensive public pressure. Days later, however, the Navajo Nation's own tribal council approved a \$2-million tax break for the plant.

"Our representation doesn't represent us," said Elouise Brown, a Diné elder and founder of the camp. "The tribal council is an embarrassment."

In late July, Diné resisters and supporters began construction of a 1,100-square-foot sustainable Earthship Community Center

at the site of the Dooda Desert Rock camp. The Earthship effort, led by regional Earthship builders who support the movement, will serve local ranchers and community members. The Earthship will also demonstrate a clean energy, alternative-building model as a testimony to sustainable use of the Earth's resources.

To read more about the Dooda Desert Rock Diné resistance victories, visit www.desert-rock-blog.com.

Forest Defense Continues in Northern California

Nanning Creek forest defenders will bid farewell to the marbled murrelets as they make their way back to the Pacific Ocean at the close of nesting season this September. But where will the endangered birds return to next Spring?

Humboldt Forest Defense has protected Nanning Creek for more than two years, in some of the largest trees ever defended in Humboldt County. The group is holding a Fall Action Camp from September 6-9 for organizers and activists interested in participating in the numerous forest actions throughout the Pacific Northwest. For more information, contact (707) 845-9046; humboldtforestdefense.blogspot.com.

Assembly of First Nations Day of Action

BY STAR

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) called for a day of action on June 29, to highlight some of the problems faced by indigenous people in Canada. Primary among these is the continued denial of property rights and land claims by the government. There are currently 800 unsettled indigenous land claims in Canada, in violation of Canadian law and the UN Declaration on Human Rights. This has also led to massive environmental destruction, with companies ignoring treaties and extracting resources from unceded native lands without having to pay benefits to First Nations.

The call to action was issued in support of the Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation's call for a 24-hour railway blockade to force the government to deal with that nation's land claims. "There are only two ways to deal with the white man," Anishinabe Chief Terrance Nelson said. "You either pick up a gun..., or you stand between the white man and his money."

When the day of action arrived, 2,000 people protested in Ottawa, Ontario, while 500 marched in Vancouver, British Columbia. In Toronto, Ontario, 500 people marched in two separate actions. Three hundred members of the Mississauga band rallied in Mississauga, Ontario, to protest an unsettled land claim. In the northwest Ontario town of Kenora, there were

250 protesters. Also in Ontario, the Alderville First Nation blocked County Road 45 near Peterborough, and Highway 17 was blocked by native protesters from Manitoulin Island and the North Shore. Overall there were more than 100 rallies and marches with more than 5,000 people participating.

Tyendinaga Territory blocked the Canadian National (CN) main rail line and Highway 401—the country's busiest highway—between Belleville and Napanee, Ontario, for 11 hours. The Mohawks stepped away from their ongoing action—occupying their unceded ancestral land,

that the land was never relinquished by the Mohawks, yet the quarry continues to function. At the same time, there have been protracted negotiations between the federal government and the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte since 2003.

In April, the same group of Mohawks blocked the CN railroad tracks on the Montréal-Toronto corridor as a way of intensifying their campaign, an action that has landed their spokesperson, Shawn Brant, in serious trouble. CN has sued him for \$108 million for stopping the trains for 30 hours.

The actions did not stop after June 29. Sixty people from the Sechelt Band of British Columbia occupied the office of the band chief on July 11, following his acceptance of an apology from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for pepper-spraying soccer fans. Also on July 11, band members in Lytton blocked a road to protest the loss of ferry services. Members of the N'quatqua Nation blocked an old-growth logging operation in Blackwater starting in early July.

Some First Nations chiefs have suggested that there will be an increase in militancy if the government doesn't start dealing with them in a more transparent way. Nelson said, "What Shawn Brant did is nothing compared to what is going to happen in the future if we can't give our people hope."

Star would like to thank Zoe Blunt for her tireless efforts.



Canadian flags burn on railroad tracks in Vancouver, British Columbia, on July 1.

Sylvester Green, an elder of the Nisga'a Nation, said that the mobilizations "helped inform people about the devastating conditions native people face and helped build solidarity with our fight for justice."

In some of the day's most militant actions, Mohawks from the

now the site of a stone quarry, since March 22—to intensify their primary campaign to force resolution of the quarry land claim. The government unjustly gave the rights to the land to a private company in 2003, as part of the disputed Culbertson Land Tract. The government has acknowledged

UPDATES...

Fern Gully is a treesit village in Freshwater, California. Part of Timber Harvest Plan (THP) #01-446, "the Gully" sits on Pacific Lumber Company (PL) property right above Garfield Elementary School. The grove is perched on unstable slopes, with grades of up to 80 percent. Freshwater has already been designated as an "impaired watershed" by the Regional Water Quality Control Board due to increased upslope logging. Fern Gully's THP was supposed to expire last October, but following a raid of the village by PL workers and subcontractors, it was extended by one year. The company has the ability to extend it again this year, but Fern Gully defenders are crossing their fingers that they won't. To help out or get involved, contact ferngullytreesit@riseup.net; www.ferngully.org.

The Mattole Wildlands Defenders carry the torch of more than six years of nonviolent direct action in defense of the old-growth forests in the Rainbow Ridge area and the headwaters of the North Fork Mattole River. Clearcut and "rehab" logged areas have been sprayed with herbicide to kill the oak and madrone trees, which compete with the more profitable conifers. The exact acreage of land that has been sprayed is unknown. In 2001, there were 3,000 acres of old-growth Douglas firs in the Mattole. Currently, there are approximately 2,000 acres left. Numerous road blockades and treesits are planned for this Winter. For more information, contact (707) 834-3100; saveancientforests.blogspot.com.

Rising Tide UK Takes Off

Rising Tide UK conducted a number of workshops at the UK Climate Camp, which ran from August 14-21. While hastily preparing for that, Rising Tide still found the time to address various other climate campaigns. It had slots on Sky News and Al-Jazeera as a result of its support for the Alive Earth project. Direct action and the climate camp were emphasized—and also that they believe in joy, not hair-shirts... whatever that might mean!

Rising Tide was also on Radio Four, pointing out that the poorest will be, once again, paying the highest price in the proposed carbon economy.

In May, following discussions at the 2007 National Gathering, the Rising Tide UK network adopted the People's Global Action Hallmarks. People's Global Action (PGA) is a network for spreading information and coordinating actions between grassroots movements around the world. The diverse groups under the PGA umbrella share an opposition to capitalism and a commitment to direct action and civil disobedience as the most effective forms of struggle.

Rising Tide has also assisted Art Not Oil with its email campaign to contact artists and judges connected with the British Petroleum-sponsored Portrait of the Year exhibition (see *EF!J* March-April 2007).

For more information, visit www.risingtide.org.uk; www.climateconvergence.org.

ICC Construction Is Set Back

Court dates of October 1 and October 29 were set for the two lawsuits against the construction of the Inter-County Connector (ICC) in Maryland's Prince George County (see *EF!J* May-June 2007).

Since the state agreed not to build while the lawsuits are pending, this should legally stop the entire 2008 construction season!

Unfortunately, there has been a sudden burst of activity at ICC staging areas, suggesting an attempt to get ready for a push of activity in November—or possibly an effort to begin construction illegally. Past activity has been confined to drilling to determine bedrock depth, surveying and similar preliminary tasks. Sudden movements of a different nature now, while they are not supposed to build, are highly suspicious.

A one-lane road has been built into the forest near New Hampshire Avenue (near the Paint Branch, an important nearby creek). In addition, two heavy earthmovers and open gates were spotted in late July at the Georgia Avenue staging area—which is near Rock Creek, another important river in the area.

This smacks of contempt of court, and there may be efforts to get the judge to rule on this matter.

Stumptown EF! Action Camp

Comfortably camped next to Shellrock Lake, in the Mount Hood National Forest of northwestern Oregon, Stumptown Earth First! came together for five days to teach and learn. It covered the basics—tree climbing, EF! history, consensus and consent—and studied the possibilities of organizing methods and strategies for the future.

Perhaps most importantly, attendees met both with experienced organizers who have their roots in Earth First! and with younger folks excited to begin to defend the Earth. Momentum is being built again in Cascadia, and this training was an important first step.

Journal Editors Ditch Tucson for Wild Nights in Monte Carlo



Fed up with the daily grind of life working on the *Earth First! Journal*, as well as the 100-plus-degree days of Summer in Tucson, a current and former editor took refuge in the European resort town of Monte Carlo.

"We were right in the middle of layout!" exclaimed a *Journal* editor who remained in Tucson. "Everybody's working their butts off to get this issue out, then they just up and fly to the Mediterranean!"

Not all *Journal* collective members had exactly the same response.

"I hope they have a good time," remarked a fourth editor. "But I also hope they come back soon. I understand you just have to get away sometimes, but ideally, that's not during the peak of production."

The latest news received from the duo reported gambling losses hovering around \$20,000 and livers shot to hell. As of press time, there was no word about the wayward editors' return.

Naked Mob Threatens Rising Tide

This Summer's Round River Rendezvous was host to not only post-Rondy actions, but also a during-Rondy action, as concerned individuals took to the trails to stop excessive meetings. On Thursday night, just as a rainstorm began, anonymous individuals formed a naked flash mob and set out to disrupt a Rising Tide North America (RTNA) meeting. With chants of "Meetings make the temperature rise!" and "Who cares about global warming when you have no friends!", the mob gained in ranks (later

including members of RTNA itself) as it ran around the camp, noodle-dancing and covered in mud—ready to surprise RTNA members at any moment.

Apparently, the weather (ironic, huh?), miscommunication and the threat of the naked flash mob had already effectively stopped yet another RTNA meeting for the night. But this was surely only the first incarnation of the naked flash mob, which can appear anywhere, at any time, wherever RTNA meets. Beware Rising Tide! Your meetings are not safe!

The Potato Liberation Front Strikes in Massachusetts!

BY TUBERIFIC

On a warm June night in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, the Potato Liberation Front (PLF) made its debut in a rescue operation that saved potatoes doomed to become greasy, crispy chips. The Cape Cod Potato Chip Company (CCPCC), which is responsible for the deaths of 28 million pounds of potatoes each year, held its latest shipment of innocent potatoes in two open tractor-trailers; another closed tractor-trailer nearby was suspected to hold more potatoes.

According to a communiqué, PLFers raided the trucks, which were filled with mountains of potatoes stored in unspeakable conditions. Four potatoes were liberated from a future that would have brought rigorous, involuntary

testing, such as defect and specific gravity analysis. Potatoes that don't meet CCPCC standards are disposed of with little regard for the potatoes' lives; for the sunlight energy, soil nutrients and water needed to grow the potatoes; or for the waste created by reckless consumerism.

Potatoes that meet CCPCC standards go on to fulfill the company's mission to sell a product for profit. They are skinned, sliced, fried in vats of hot oil, packaged in plastic, shipped and sold in stores across the country. Instead, the liberated potatoes were brought to a safe and loving house, where they were stored in a humane way until finally they were cooked in a healthy, less processed manner.

"CCPCC was targeted because of its involvement in

perpetuating monoculture, industrial agriculture and consumer culture," the PLF communiqué read. "These potatoes were grown in environmentally and socially degrading conditions, specifically to be packaged and sold to feed a society that cares only for convenience, no matter what is destroyed along the way. Furthermore, this company sells the idea of a place—Cape Cod, which is portrayed as an idyllic beach getaway, but whose life-sustaining, flood-detering wetlands have been devastated by development and bourgeois tourist traffic."

The PLF recognizes that to target only food processing companies is not enough; every player in this chain must be held accountable. This is only the beginning.



The author of "Cell Phones Suck II: They're Listening" (see EFJ May-June 2007) is seen immediately after leaving Tucson, Arizona, talking on his brand new cell phone! Did he escape the EF! Journal office just to get a cell phone in another state?

m0untainrebel Exposed!

EF!er Cinder commented: "Who is this shadowy m0untainrebel character anyway? Always writing about sketchy topics, ordering shady books through Internet credit-card scams, making readers of his blog vote on which dodgy hacker skill they would most like to learn? WTFuck!? And then getting a cell phone after detailing how sketchy they are? And what's with the '0'? Please tell me it's not some nerdy binary reference!"

Journal Throws Huge Fundraiser, Raises Millions. But What—or Who—Is It For?

We Sneak Into an EF! Journal Fundraiser and Catch a Real Peek at the Shifty Deal!

BY SOAPY GREBS

Clad in sunglasses and smoking cigars, *Journal* editors schmoozed with big name EF!ers over praline truffles and martinis, which capped an exquisite dinner fundraiser. Plates cost \$10,000 to \$100,000 each, depending on whether you ordered tofu dogs or raw, basted mushrooms with vegan crème sauce. But what was this fundraiser for?

Finally, one of the *Journal* editors spilled the beans: "We are so grateful to you all for coming," she declared in a warbling voice. "It's you who made possible the building of this new water park in the *Journal's* side yard. And without it, we'd all be too hot to get through even one day of editing. Without you, there would be no *Journal!*"

But is that the end of the mystery? After this speech, I followed the editor around an abandoned corner of the house. Black eyes all watery, she scratched her neckline... gently at first, but then harder, eventually peeling off the skin on her face to reveal green, scaly skin. She soaked her head thoroughly with a hose. Then she started cackling, and our brave reporter retreated.

After searching around a bit more, I found a blueprint amid the rubble of one of the editor's desks. It depicted plans for a 50-foot-tall, curly water-slide as well as a wave pool, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a sauna and what looked like some sort of disk-like aircraft. According to the blueprint, the water park is to be landscaped with bioregionally correct flora and tin foil.

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When you use Cheatneutral, we'll email you a Cheatneutral Offset Certificate, so you can prove to your loved one that your fooling around has been successfully offset. Then, you and your partner are both happy, a broken heart is mended, and you can feel good about yourself again, all thanks to Cheatneutral.

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You can help.

Do you find it easy to be faithful? Is loyalty part of your nature? Or maybe you're just happy being single. Whatever it is, if you're monogamous or single, you can help those who can't help themselves—and get paid for not getting laid.

When you register to become a Cheatneutral offset project you're joining a global community of fidelity—a massive

cheat-absorbing resource, ensuring the future well-being of millions of unfaithful couples. All you have to do is agree to stay monogamous or single—and if we match you with a suitable cheater, you'll get paid to neutralize their cheating.

Personal Stories

Steve and Lisa

Steve and Lisa met while on holiday in Spain and quickly fell for each other. That Christmas, Steve got drunk and cheated on Lisa with a co-worker. He paid Cheatneutral just \$9.95, and we invested his money in Alex, a single man with no prospect of finding a partner. In return for the payments, Alex has agreed to remain single.

Thanks to us, Steve was able to come clean about his cheating to Lisa. Steve continues to cheat, and continues to fund projects like Alex with his offset payments.

David and Sebastian

David cheated on his partner of 10 years, Sebastian, with a younger man. According to James, "Seb was so angry with me, I felt really bad about what I'd done. I came to Cheatneutral to offset my cheating. Later on, Seb said the only reason he forgave me was because I'd gone to Cheatneutral. Thanks to Cheatneutral, we're still together, I can feel good about my cheating, and I've helped to reduce global cheating as well!"

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Where Can I Get a Poo Panda?

Facing an insurmountable amount of shit, the Chinese government has come up with an ingenious plan to deal with panda poo. The 60 pandas of the Sichuan province wildlife preserve produce more than 330 tons of excrement each year. Removing the feces costs the government nearly \$800 a month. Fortunately, the province has a crack team of researchers to figure out what to do with the shit. Putting the ideas of "reduce, reuse and recycle" to good use, the poo will be turned into souvenirs such as photo frames, bookmarks, fans and panda statues to be sold at next year's Olympic Games. According to the assistant director of the panda preserve, the souvenirs "don't smell too bad because 70 percent of the dung is just remains of the bamboo that the pandas are unable to digest." Olympics, here we come for a Poo Panda.

Finally, True Weather Control

In a bid to control everything, China has concocted a plan to control the weather for next year's Olympics. According to historical research, there is a 50 percent chance of rain for the 2008 Olympics; this is clearly unacceptable. Nothing shall stop the Olympics from going off without a hitch. Weathercasters are planning to fire rockets into the clouds to disperse them, ensuring that the Olympics will have their precious sunlight. According to Wang Yubin, an engineer at the Beijing Meteorological Bureau, "Dispersal is more difficult than rainfall enhancement. In rainfall dispersal, we are still in the experimental stage, but we are continuing our efforts." With any luck, by this time next year, science will have figured out how to control the weather.



Panda creating future panda poo

Bad Ass Whale Says "F You!"

Fishers tried more than 100 years ago to get the better of a 50-ton bowhead whale, but the whale just shrugged them off. They had shot an exploding arrow-shaped projectile into the whale. Unfazed, the whale continued on its way. Between 115 and 130 years old, the projectile was found embedded in the whale's blubber when the whale was killed recently. An adjunct curator of the New Bedford Whaling Museum, John Bockstoce said that the projectile "probably hurt the whale or annoyed him, but it hit him in a non-lethal place. He couldn't have been that bothered if he lived for another 100 years."

Sex-Driven Men Threaten Tree

Randy Ugandan men are threatening the future of a native tree. The *Citropos articulata*, also known as the Ugandan "sex tree," is popular among men as a natural form of Viagra, increasing the users' inner potency. A great aphrodisiac and a national treasure, the tree is sought after by men acting like sex-crazed teenagers. Unable to perform without its help, men seek the tree and rip up its roots. The

roots are either chewed fresh or dried, pounded into a powder and consumed with water to form an aphrodisiac concoction. Because of the method of extraction and the trees' long growth period, the trees are in danger of being wiped out entirely by horny men.

Fearing Safety, Monsanto Employees Nix GM Foods

In a radical move, the employees of Monsanto have insisted that their cafeteria not serve genetically modified foods. Fearful of the harmful effects of " Frankenfoods," the employees petitioned Monsanto's catering company. Granada Foods is now actively working to protect Monsanto employees from the dangers of biotech contamination. Someone should maybe inform the employees what it is that the company does exactly. Apparently, Monsanto's workers have no idea. Monsanto's director of corporate affairs wants to ensure that there is no confusion by arguing with the public that it was the caterers, not the employees, who made this choice. "It has nothing to do with us, really."

Zombie Seeds Provide the Answer

In a reverse of terminator gene technology, biotech companies are developing "zombie seeds," to avoid bans on the use of terminator seeds. Instead of using sterile seeds that are useless after one planting, with no ability to reproduce, you can buy chemicals to wake up once-sterile seeds. An ingenious solution to a real problem, this will certainly make things better and the companies very rich. No more having to buy new seeds every year. Now, you would only need to buy chemicals every year to spray on all of your crops. This research is also important and well funded because it is a solution to the potentially harmful effects of the spreading of genetically modified crops and pollen.

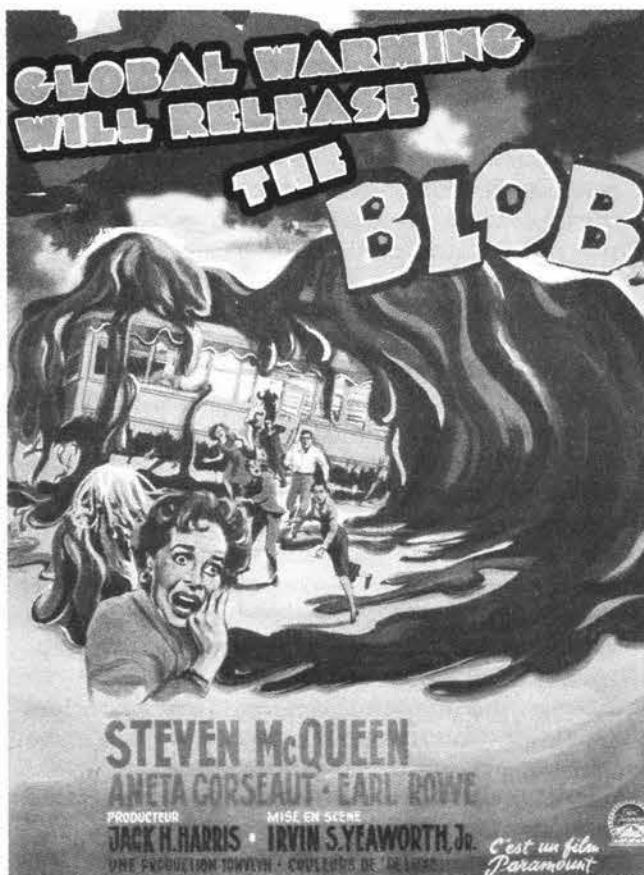
GLOBAL WARMING WILL RELEASE THE BLOB!

BY STOP THE BLOB CAMPAIGN

There is a terrible new threat being posed by global warming. This time, it comes in the form of a monster from outer space known only as the Blob. Exactly 50 years ago in September 1957, this formless terror crashed to Earth in a meteor in the rural town of Downingtown, Pennsylvania. In the span of only a few hours, the Blob killed and devoured more than 50 people, growing from the size of a softball to larger than a school bus. There is no known way to kill the Blob. Officer Dave of the Downingtown Police Department, who confronted the monster in 1957, stated, "I don't think it can be killed," pointing out that high voltage electricity, bullets and acid were useless in destroying it. The Blob was stopped only by freezing it with carbon dioxide fire extinguishers for long enough to allow the military to fly it to the Arctic. Downingtown resident Steve Andrews, who was nearly killed by the Blob, explained that the monster could only be contained "as long as the Arctic stays cold."

Climatologists warn that global warming and the melting of the Arctic threaten to reawaken this hideous monster. Activists say global warming must be stopped before the Blob thaws. If re-released, it could wipe out humanity in a matter of months.

"Nonsense," countered Steed Struts, an Oregon-based researcher funded by the global corporation Genetics Italy (GenItalia). "These whacko extremists don't understand that if we can sequence the Blob's genetic code, we can save mankind by inserting never-dying Blob-genes into everything from large scale monoculture plantations of trees and grasses for biofuels to soy for human consumption—and there is even a potential for the Blob to sequester carbon!" Struts continued. "All of which will allow market-based solutions to prevent climate change and allow capital investment to flourish, thus providing a stable lifestyle for all Americans. And think of the military potential of



the Blob and how it could further protect America from those who hate freedom!"

A Global Justice Ecology Project spokesperson disagreed, stating, "Due to global warming, we stand at a critical juncture for the survival of all species, including the human race. Industry and governments, however, are proposing only profit-making false solutions to this oncoming climate chaos. Market-based fixes such as large scale production of biofuels, nuclear power, carbon trading and genetic engineering endanger fragile ecosystems while lining the pockets of these grimy speculators. We need to challenge the gluttonous over-consumption of developed countries that

continue to exploit the resources and people of the Global South. We desperately need community-based responses and actions that address these problems and stop false solutions before it's too late."

On the 50th anniversary of the Blob's invasion, activists across the globe are banding together to "Stop the Blob." The goal of the Stop the Blob Campaign is to immediately reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by the minimum 80 percent that climate scientists say is necessary to help end global warming, halting the melting of the Arctic and stopping the Blob. Protests to Stop the Blob are urged for every major city on the globe in conjunction with meetings of institutions that continue to contribute to global warming, including the World Bank, the Group of Eight and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change—which oversees the Kyoto Protocol global warming agreement. Decentralized actions all the way down to state and local governments are encouraged.

"The Kyoto Protocol is completely inadequate to stop climate chaos," stated Amanda La, a spokesperson for Stop the Blob Campaign. "What we need is immediate action to cut greenhouse gas emissions. That's why we're calling for these global days of action around financial institutions, governmental meetings and the UN."

"If our so-called 'leaders' won't act on their own, we'll force them to take action. No more business as usual until global warming is halted, and no more wars for oil or other resources to keep lifestyles of the empire intact. We have no recourse but to act now before it is too late; those in charge have proven they are neither intelligent enough nor ethical enough to take the necessary steps for the survival of our planet."

To learn more about actions to stop global warming, contact the Stop the Blob Campaign at stoptheblob@gmail.com; www.globaljusticeecology.org.

PEAK DENIAL

BY DENNY HALDEMAN

We now find ourselves at a crossroads where peak oil, peak soil, peak population and peak consumption meet with peak pandering, peak public ambivalence and peak plans to make our people-made disaster on Earth far worse. The failed presidency, failed oil wars and failed foreign policies have added to the peak blues concert, bringing us to the cusp of devouring our remaining soil, water and ecosystems to fuel our sacred, but unsustainable, American Weigh.

Skyler Simmons presented an excellent overview of the food versus fuel debate in "Full Tanks, Empty Stomachs," but there is a far more insidious plan afoot to ultimately use forests directly for fuel (see *EFJ* March-April 2007).

A number of biofuel proponents have indicated that corn ethanol is merely a small part of our ultimate agrofuels future. Corn is an easy transitional fuel to desensitize and pander to the public. As prices rise for animal products, tortillas, beer and tequila, the public will demand a tempering of food production competition. The same 11 acres needed to feed a car for a year would also feed seven people for a year. Currently, the sheeple still believe that there is a technological solution to our cultural problem of hyperconsumption. Most believe we must do all we can to avoid reality, conservation, efficiency and major changes in lifestyles. It is comforting and disastrous thinking.

As Simmons pointed out, agrofuels are already pushing into native forest lands around the planet as palm, soy, eucalyptus, sugar cane and other plantations expand. The burning Bush announced in his last Estate of the Union address that the US has resolved to develop the technology "for producing ethanol not just from corn, but from wood chips, stalks and switchgrass."

Currently, the "lignin barrier" has been an economic hurdle to using trees for agrofuel. Lignin is that pesky substance that makes trees strong and resilient to pestilence and disease. It also prevents easy conversion of their carbohydrates to car fuel. Millions of government and private research dollars are attacking this lignin problem and hope for a breakthrough within the next few years. Among the grand plans to break the lignin barrier is the genetic engineering of enzymes, microbes, fungi and, most insidiously, low-lignin trees. If you think the terminator gene was one scary genie, imagine low-lignin genetic drift into remaining native ecosystems.

One day in 1992, at Oregon State University's botany department, Professor Elaine Ingham stepped into a potential biotech Chernobyl. One of her graduate students discovered that all the wheat plants they had been growing in jars had turned to brown mush, a result of exposure to a genetically modified (GM) strain of *Klebsiella planticola*, a common soil bacteria. The GM species was designed to decompose plant stubble and debris into fertilizers, sludge and alcohol.

Ingham saw the extreme danger presented if the bacteria had escaped into the wild: "That would have been the end of all terrestrial plants.... It would have been dispersed any time a bird moved it to another field." She noted this even though the Environmental Protection Agency had already approved GM *K. planticola* as safe and ready for deployment. The monster germ was reluctantly shelved, Ingham and her graduate student were politically silenced, and the incident was covered up.

ArborGen, a US tree genetics company, has asked the US Department of Agriculture for permission to plant 355 GM eucalyptus trees at a secret location near Mobile, Alabama. Like all forest-consuming scams, ArborGen says that this will actually save forests by growing more

fiber on less land. In a hurricane zone, one can only imagine how fast and far genetic drift could occur. If ArborGen's latest crop has low-lignin properties, once it drifts into native forests, it will flatten those forests and make the survivors highly susceptible to disease and infestation.

When I was a young, somewhat naïve tree planter in the South before reading Ed Abbey books, the industry said it could provide for all of the nation's paper needs on five to 10 million acres. Now, 25 years later, there are more than 40 million acres of pine farms in the South, with the vast majority of the newest plantations created at the expense of native woodlands. Even before, we were planting in clearcut hardwood forests, drained wetlands and estuary islands. Most tree

"We fit into both the paper and biofuels industries from a feedstock standpoint," says Barbara Wells, ArborGen's president and CEO. She doesn't discount the possibility that these companies could be major players in the cellulosic ethanol industry in the future. "We are in the stage of evaluating how we can best utilize these facilities," she continued. Some paper mills might choose to convert their existing facilities to produce ethanol from pulp.

In November 2000, the US General Accounting Office reported that "according to the US Forest Service, 67 million acres on national forests across the country are at a moderate-to-high risk from catastrophic wildfires and need to be treated over a 15-year period." The National Fire Plan and the

National Energy Policy assume that half of these forest lands can be thinned for fire prevention. This would mean the extraction of approximately 50 tons of biomass per acre—or 110 million tons of biomass material per year from national forests—for a period of at least 15 years. A typical biomass power facility consumes 15,000 tons of fuel to produce one megawatt. The thinning of national forests would likely produce more than 7,000 megawatts per year—enough electricity to supply more than 7 million homes per year. This doesn't include other potential biomass fuel sources from private lands, state lands, tribal trust lands, lumber manufacturing residuals, agricultural waste, landfills and other sources.

If you listen to the TVA, this country is made up of "over-abundant, under-utilized, low-grade forests" on private lands that can only be fixed by removal to make way for a "vibrant new healthy forest." Nearly everyone now realizes that idea came from over-abundant, over-utilized, low-grade

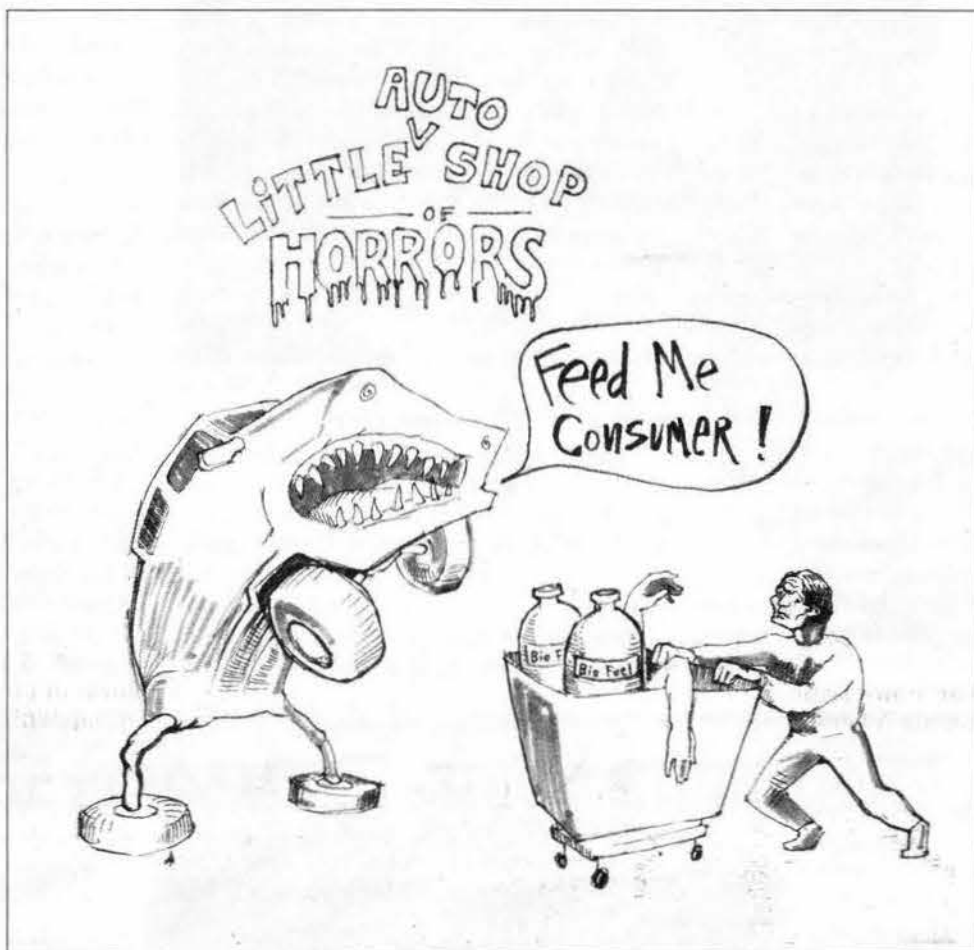
foresters, the same ones who are now pushing biofuels to "save" these last, best forests.

Colorado-based Range Fuels has received a construction permit for a forest-using ethanol plant in Soperton, Georgia. It is expected to be the first commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol plant in the US. While this facility plans on using gasification to produce ethanol, BC International's proposed forest ethanol plant in Florida plans on using GM *E. coli* bacteria, and the Mascoma Plant in Michigan has yet to disclose its method to bust the lignin barrier.

Ethanol production also requires vast amounts of energy and water, and is often codependent on new coal plants, nuke plants and, in some cases, wood-fired energy production. Green Mountain Energy of Austin, Texas, is already cofiring wood to produce electricity for its clients. Combine the pulp and paper industry's power demands with those of ethanol fuel production, and we have a full-fledged assault on what remains of the forests.

As seen in the chip-mill infestation battle, when folks unite to educate each other and their communities, a bad idea can be nipped in the bud, and reason can be restored. There is a promising proliferation of anti-corn-ethanol articles shaking things up and making investors nervous. Communities all over are defeating ethanol plant scams by fighting along social, economic, quality of life, and water and air quality angles. We need to shake things up on the forest front and chase those investors away from this fuelish idea as well.

Denny Haldeman is an off-grid carpenter living near Chattanooga, Tennessee. He has been active in forest issues for more than 25 years, predominantly working with the Dogwood Alliance and Heartwood and most recently, trying to stir up forest activists to fight the newest, absolute worst threat we've faced... bio-fuels.



plantations are highly unsustainable, with short rotations, imbalanced soil nutrients and increasing inputs of fossil-fuel fertilizers and pesticides to make up for strip-mining of soil nutrients.

There is no reason to believe that using forests for fuels will be anything less than a disaster for soils, water supplies, native ecosystems and wildlife. The new, faster-growing tree crops being touted by many will only exacerbate the soil mining, put pressure on marginal lands, cause incursions into native woodlands, and increase the incidence and severity of clearcuts. When we fought to ward off the chip mill infestation of the '90s, the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Environmental Impact Statement assured us that the chip mills would take only the stems of the trees and leave the tops, which held most of the nutrients, to mitigate the soil devastation.

When the pulp and paper industry started deploying in-woods chippers to take advantage of the "junk trees" and tree tops, the already egregious clearcuts were severely devoid of any remaining biomass that would have mitigated erosion and nutrient depletion.

There is also the potential for the pulp and paper industry to work in concert with the new biofuels scams. As Nicolas Zeman wrote in *Ethanol Producers Magazine*, "ArborGen's strong ties to the paper milling industry could be a plus in its cellulosic research efforts. Academic and industry sources have indicated that the paper and pulp industries could have powerful synergies with cellulosic ethanol production. That's because paper mills are already equipped with wastewater treatment facilities, boilers, heat and power, and have the necessary permits to operate." ArborGen was first established in 2000, as a joint venture between three of the world's largest paper companies: International Paper, MeadWestvaco, and Rubicon.

The Return of Nature

BY JOSH

The World Without Us, by Alan Weisman, Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press, 2007.

The imagining of a pristine, post-civilization world is central to the radical environmental movement. It shows up in the pages of the *Earth First! Journal*, *Green Anarchy*, *Species Traitor* and the late *Do or Die*. It's discussed at gatherings like Feral Visions and the Round River Rendezvous. It's championed by Paul Shepard, John Zerzan, Chellis Glendinning, Daniel Quinn and Derrick Jensen. It's celebrated around campfires in the songs of Desert Rat and Casey Neill. And it's in our hearts; it's what inspires so many of us to take action to save the places that we love.

The problem, however, is that our fantasies of a post-civilization world are often just that: fantasy. We imagine the ruins and detritus of civilization melting away, as if they had never existed; indigenous species rebounding, while invasive ones wither; ecosystems not only recovering but returning to their original states, leaving no sign of the destruction that we had heaped upon them. But would this really happen? If humanity were to suddenly disappear tomorrow, leaving all our things behind, what would happen next?

In *The World Without Us*, journalist Alan Weisman successfully and superbly answers these very questions. Not only does the book offer the most convincing depiction of a post-civilization biosphere that I have ever encountered, it is also a compelling exploration of our growing ecological crisis. In short, *The World Without Us* is essential reading for anyone concerned about the uncertain fate of the natural world—from reform-minded Sierra Club and Green Party members to Earth First!ers and primitivists pining for the collapse.

In both style and substance, *The World Without Us* bears a strong resemblance to Bill McKibben's *The End of Nature* (1990). Like that now-classic exploration of human-caused climate change, *The World Without Us* successfully translates complex, technical concepts—such as the chemistry of plastics and the physics of nuclear fission—into language that is clear enough for regular folks to understand. Overall, this helps to decentralize knowledge about dire topics that are everyone's business, not just scientific and political elites. Also like McKibben, Weisman writes with poetic elegance and romantic charm. He endows his descriptions of nature with an almost spiritual reverence, and he never shies away from philosophizing about the folly and frailty of our excessively ambitious species.

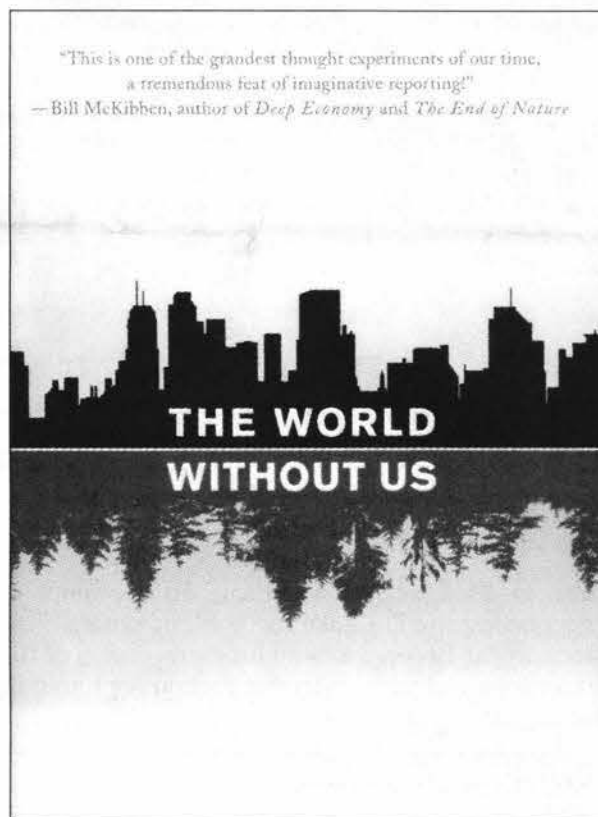
The fruit of years of painstaking research, *The World Without Us* presents a comprehensive vision of an Earth without humans. In a mere 300 pages, Weisman describes what would happen to our homes; to New York City and the Panama Canal; to plastics and petrochemical infrastructure; to farmland, crops and pesticides; to birds and endangered species; to nuclear power plants and radioactive waste; and to paintings and sculpture. Looking to the past for clues, he summarizes potential reasons for the extinction of Pleistocene megafauna and the collapse of Mayan civilization. For examples of what recovering ecosystems actually look like, he visits the African savanna, an old-growth forest along the Poland-Belarus border, the Korean demilitarized zone, the war-torn island of Cyprus and the toxic site of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Weisman diligently assembles expert testimony from diverse and often unexpected sources—from paleoecologists and atmospheric physicists to oil refinery inspectors and subway maintenance supervisors. The inclusion of so much evidence means that *The World Without Us* is an extremely complex book. Yet, Weisman's skill as a writer enables him to weave these many strands together into a coherent and credible narrative.

One of the book's greatest strengths is its uncompromising commitment to forming the most plausible picture possible of a post-civilization world. Weisman avoids both excessive sentimentality and cynical defeatism, allowing the evidence to speak for itself. As a result, the predictions of *The World Without Us* are alternately reassuring and alarming, expected and mind-blowing.

It's shocking to discover, for instance, how quickly our cities—the most humbling products of human industry—will crumble. Within 36 hours, the pumps that remove 13 million gallons of water from New York City's subways every day will shut down, and the entire subway system will flood. Within 20 years, the streets above subways will cave in, and new streams, rivers and marshes will form. Glass and steel skyscrapers—those marvels of modern engineering—will shatter and tumble within only a few centuries. The city's many bridges will collapse in less than 300 years, but until then, they will help coyotes, deer, black bears and wolves return to Manhattan Island. After 500 years, mature forests will once again dominate New York City.

Ironically, it's not our monuments that will last indefinitely, but our waste. Weisman documents the massive quantities of plastic garbage that we have already produced. Most of this washes out to sea and is gathered together by ocean currents to form fields of debris that stretch for thousands of miles. Indeed, plastic is so indestructible that no one can be sure how long it will take to degrade. Unless some microbe evolves the ability to digest plastic, our disposable bottles and bags will persist in the environment until they are decimated by geological forces. Think about that: Our trash is so unnatural that nothing can destroy it but the very mechanisms that move continents and build mountains. Sadly, plastic, pesticides and nuclear waste will form our shameful legacy.



The depressing truth revealed in *The World Without Us* is that much of the damage that humans have done will never go away. Yes, buildings will fall, but many invasive species will remain and flourish. Japanese barberry, Oriental bitter-sweet and Chinese ailanthus will stand alongside native oak, maple and chestnut in New York City's regenerated hardwood forests. Wildlife is already returning to Chernobyl, but the animals who survive the radiation will be significantly and unpredictably altered by it. With our disappearance, the planet's ecology will find a new balance, but it will never again be what it once was. There is no going back to the paradise we so eagerly imagine.

Although Weisman emphasizes this point, *The World Without Us* smartly avoids the fatalism and blanket misanthropy that could easily have crippled the book. Weisman never delights in the disappearance of humans, and he certainly does not advocate the extinction of our species. Why write a book about it, then? Because *Homo sapiens* has proven to be such a wildly unpredictable variable in the planetary ecology that there is simply no way to visualize our complex legacy unless we are unceremoniously and immediately removed from the equation. Fundamentally, *The World Without Us* seems less interested in us disappearing and more concerned with all our stuff staying behind.

In many ways, Weisman is really talking about a world without civilization. Plop an evenly distributed and sustainable human population of hunter-gatherers onto the planet, and most of *The World Without Us* will probably still apply. I suspect that many of the book's predictions will remain accurate even in the presence of pastoralism or subsistence agriculture. Cities and dams will still collapse; most arable land will revert to wilderness; and existing plastic, greenhouse gases and nuclear waste will still poison the Earth.

In fact, a close reading of *The World Without Us* reveals that Weisman's scenario depends most heavily on the disappearance of the experts required to maintain civilization's infrastructure. In some cases, this will prove ideal. Human cities will quickly decay once people cease repairing them and protecting them from the elements. Plastic and oil manufacture will cease immediately, as will the release of emissions from 600 million passenger cars.

In other cases, however, it is actually the instantaneous disappearance of experts that leads to greater disaster. One of Weisman's most chilling revelations is that all of the world's 441 nuclear plants will quickly undergo some kind of catastrophic meltdown without humans present to regulate them. Similarly, much of the world's petrochemical infrastructure will explode and burn. The rebirth of the Earth will be ushered in by a global holocaust of flames and fallout.

Taking this into account, the sudden vanishing of humanity or civilization doesn't seem like the best idea. Of course, that doesn't mean our species and the industrial monstrosity we have built should remain intact just so we can ward off a planetary catastrophe by keeping nuclear plants and refineries active. There is, of course, a third option. If civilization voluntarily disbands in some kind of choreographed power-down scheme, there's a chance we can get out of this mess in one piece. That'd be ideal, but I don't see it happening.

When the end of civilization comes someday—and it surely will—it's unlikely that everyone will disappear. Some humans will survive, although questions like "Where?" and "How many?" will depend heavily on people's capacity for self-sufficiency and the ability of their bioregion to sustain life. Institutionalized systems of power and privilege will play a decisive role. If abandoned oil refineries really do spontaneously combust, those who live nearby—in the US, predominantly poor folks and people of color—will suffer most. Then again, the radioactive fallout from 441 deceased nuclear plants will be far less discriminating.

That's why I think we need to radically rethink our concept of rewilding. Flint-knapping and brain-tanning will certainly be useful skills after the collapse, but they shouldn't be all we learn to prepare for a post-civilization world. In addition to identifying native edible plants, we should be able to recognize invasive species so we can get rid of them. We should try to develop methods of safely decommissioning and dismantling infrastructure. Granted that's extremely ambitious, but if we survive the fall of civilization, we might as well help clean up the mess. I doubt that Weisman intended this, but I think *The World Without Us* will prove invaluable as we start to figure out what will collapse on its own, what will need a little push and what will require some serious cleanup.

That's not to say that the more imaginative and motivated readers of *The World Without Us* need to sit around, awaiting the collapse so the fun can begin. If Weisman makes a single point, it's that the infrastructure of industrial civilization is weaker than it seems. For those resisting the construction of new dams, factories, petrochemical plants and other atrocities, this knowledge could prove very useful.

Ultimately, *The World Without Us* is more than just a nifty thought experiment. At the very least, it's an argument against nuclear power and fossil fuels. More radically, it's a condemnation of civilization and a warning of what will happen if we don't start proactively dismantling the system. And finally, it's an indispensable guide to the joys, horrors and responsibilities we should expect after the collapse.

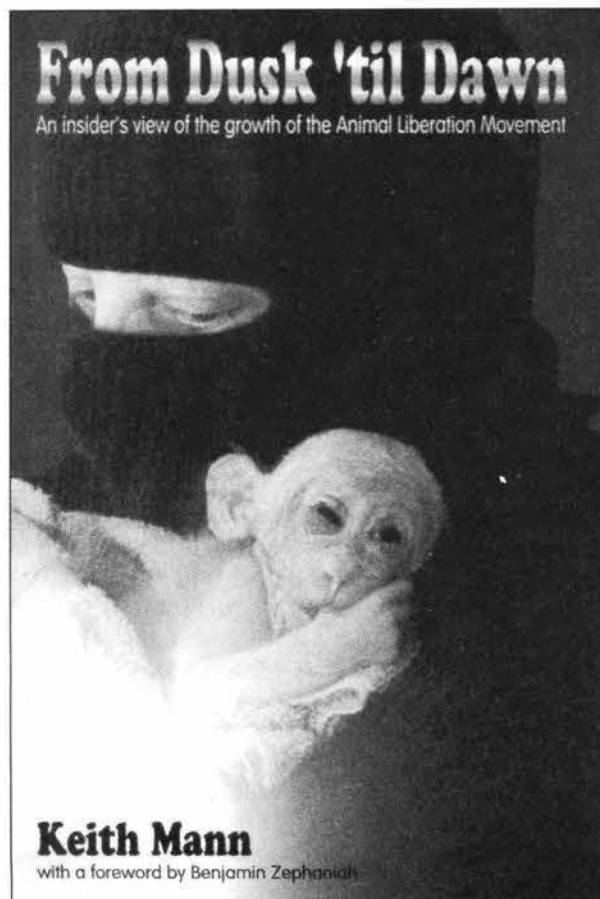
For once, a book Josh didn't hate. Fancy that!

A Beacon in the Darkness

BY STAR

"We have enslaved the rest of the animal creation and have treated our distant cousins in fur and feathers so badly that, beyond doubt, if they were able to formulate a religion, they would depict the devil in human form."

—Anglican Priest Rev. William Inge



From *Dusk, 'Til Dawn*, by Keith Mann, *Puppy Pincher Press*, 2007.

At 647 pages *From Dusk, 'Til Dawn* is quite an undertaking, but it's well worth the effort. There are few such authoritative histories of the movement. Focusing on the UK with great detail, Mann outlines the years of animal liberation since its genesis, while interspersing important events within the movement from elsewhere—including Europe, Asia and the Americas.

Few individuals within the animal liberation movement are more inspiring, and thus, few people are more fitting to tell this story. Mann has been involved in the movement since the 1980s, consistently giving his all to ensure the well-being of animals. He includes numerous personal anecdotes, which serve to teach, inspire and bring hope. Beyond his personal stories, Mann includes many firsthand accounts of animal liberations.

We travel with Mann as he takes us through the humble beginnings of the movement, starting with hunt sabotage and the first liberation of battery chickens. From here, we see the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) blossom as more groups begin to follow these examples. We watch as other groups take the mantle and employ more diverse tactics, such as daytime raids, to gather information highlighting the horrors experienced by animals in labs and on farms. As people were looking to further impact the industries making money off of the abuse of animals, activists' tactics became more daring. During the late '80s, groups began using arson. Considered too dangerous by some, the tactic proved to be very effective, and the fur industry was greatly hurt. Into the '90s and beyond, more and more groups were taking action, and the animal liberation movement spread around the world. Tactics have continued

to develop and change. One thing that Mann does well throughout the book is highlight and give respect to those people who paid the ultimate price, giving it all for the cause.

In the nearly 30-year history of animal liberation, there are many stories to tell. For me, the one that stands above the others is the freeing of baboons in France. Operation Greystoke was remarkable in the lengths to which everyone went to ensure the safety of the animals. Beyond creating a plan to free the animals, the liberators secured homes for the baboons. Most importantly, they found a sympathetic veterinarian to do the intensive surgeries required to remove the vivisectionists' implants. The baboons were transported a great distance to ensure their safety—at great personal risk to their liberators. Everything in the world was done to make sure they would be able to live peacefully. What is most remarkable about this story is the way the liberators gave everything they had and risked their freedom for the happiness of the baboons. It is certainly an example for us all to follow in our daily lives.

Personally, I've never really enjoyed animal liberation literature because I become overwhelmed by the descriptions of the mechanisms of torture. I understand the plight of animals—which is why I became vegan and have stuck with it. Mann manages to mitigate the horror through his writing, mixing hope among the despair. This is the most inspiring book I've read in a very long time, if not the most inspiring book that I've ever read. No matter what your personal beliefs are, this book you can't help but be motivated and moved by it. It is a must read for anyone.

Star is in awe of Keith Mann and can't wait to meet him.

BURNING IN THE NIGHT

BY SASHA EDGE

The *Earth Liberation Front: 1997-2002*, by Leslie James Pickering, *Arissa Media*, 2007.

While *The Earth Liberation Front 1997-2002* is a wonderful resource for information regarding the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), it reads more like a very long Wikipedia entry than a novel. Unlike previous books on the ELF, there are no personal anecdotes from those who have taken action to defend the Earth—which I found disappointing. Instead, this is a collection of various press pieces and interviews that were created while Pickering was in charge of the North American ELF Press Office. While it wasn't the most thrilling book to read, what it lacks in story, it more than makes up for with facts.

The first section of the book is a collection of every communiqué that passed through the press office between 1997 and 2002—when it was headed by Pickering. It was inspiring to read about various actions from the past and the authors' heartfelt reasonings behind them. At the same time, it was heartbreaking to read communiqués from events that have recently landed so many freedom fighters behind bars.

The second section—and the least exciting for anyone who knows about the ELF prior to reading the book—is the ELF Frequently Asked Questions, which seems as though they were taken directly from the ELF website. With questions like, "What is the ideology of the ELF?" and, "Is the ELF a terrorist organization?", the section can be a bit rudimentary for those previously privy to the ideas, motivations and tactics of the ELF. However, this section is great for those who may not know why someone would take the measures the ELF takes to protect the environment. The section could

also be used to persuade those on the fence of supporting the ELF. Like the book in general, this section can become a bit redundant—many of the questions and answers in this section are found in other parts of the book.

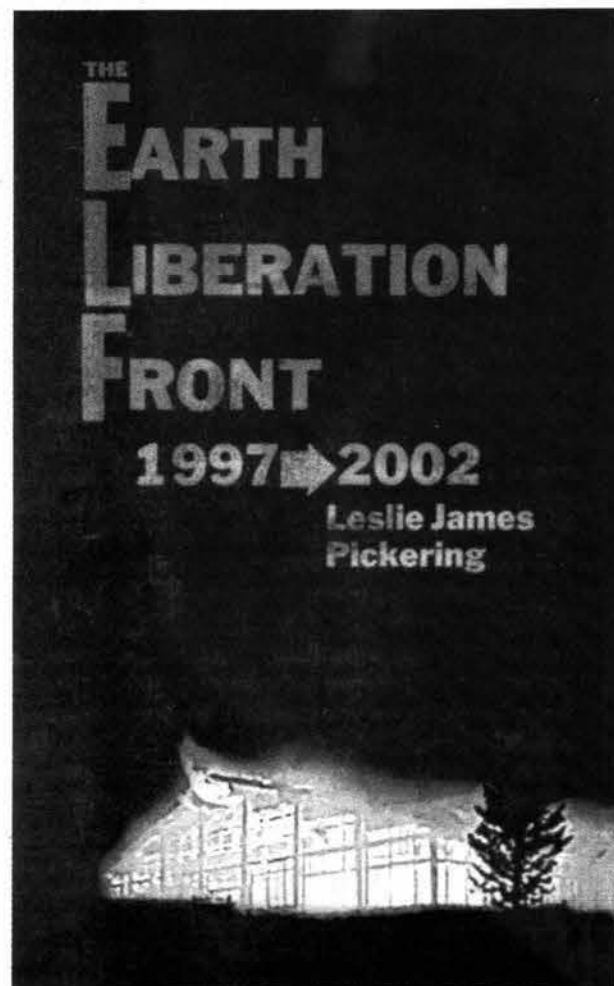
Also included in the book is a collection of three issues of *Resistance*—a zine put out by the press office, that contains articles, photos and legal events related to the ELF throughout the first five years. The most interesting parts of the zine are the writings of various defendants and FBI targets, including Josh Harper.

The other major section in the book is the "Subcommittee Hearing on Ecoterrorism," a collection of all the testimonies that took place inside the Congressional courtroom during the hearing in 2002. With testimonies from ELF targets, the Forest Service and other law enforcement agencies, sociologists and professors, it is incredible to read some of the outlandish things they had to say about the ELF in court. At one point, Richard Berman, the Director of the Center for Consumer Freedom, blamed People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals for ELF actions, and made efforts to connect the Animal Liberation Front and ELF actions to the events of September 11, 2001. Most of the testimony was laughable, while at the same time mind blowing—knowing that the people in charge of the court system fully believed what was being said to them. Questions directed to Craig Rosebraugh, who also headed the press office, during the hearing are also included in the section. However, there are only a few times where his responses are recorded.

Although the book is not the most compelling to read, it is a great in-depth look at the way the ELF thinks and works, and what those involved

did during the first years that the ELF was forming in the US.

Sasha Edge sings *Na-Nach-Nachma-Nachman Meuman* while protecting sandhill cranes from morons with guns.



Awakening From the Nightmare of Zoos

BY E-MAG

Thought to Exist in the Wild: Awakening From the Nightmare of Zoos, by Derrick Jensen, photos by Karen Tweedy-Holmes, No Voice Unheard, 2007.

I've never been to a zoo. They first entered my consciousness last year, when I learned that my four-year-old daughter had been visiting a zoo with her grandma. I was immediately shocked and repulsed. The very thought of enslaving beautiful creatures and shipping them around the world to be put on display made me sick to my stomach. I didn't want my daughter exposed to that kind of violence and horror at such an impressionable age. I voiced my opposition, but I soon realized that I lacked much of an understanding of how zoos worked and wasn't equipped to dispel pro-zoo propaganda. This was the book I needed to read.

In *Thought to Exist in the Wild*, Derrick Jensen discusses the deeper message that zoos teach us as a society and contemplates why we choose to dominate those around us rather than build healthy relationships. To catch a glimpse of an animal in the wild is exciting, but you cannot command an animal to appear at your whim. To see an animal in a cage is not nearly as exciting. Jensen calls it a mere spectacle, relating it to television. What makes a real impression, subconsciously, is how it reinforces the power dynamics of dominance and the idea that humans are superior to other animals.

To put it into a larger perspective, this power dynamic—which may be inherent in civilization—seems to be the cause of all our misery. We enjoy spectacles because we are empty, and they fill us with something for a moment. After the spectacle is over, we are empty again. They cannot give us any real meaning or anything of value. To truly fill the emptiness, we must build healthy relationships with the plants and animals around us and regain our sense of place and community. Real community is larger than human society.

Jensen quotes many zoo supporters and dispels the lie that zoos are good for the animals. Many people think that animals in zoos were "rescued" from something or were bred in captivity to save their species from extinction. In contrast to this, Jensen cites a horrifying account of the capture of elephants from the wild, which involved brutally slaughtering the whole herd as the adults were protecting the young with their bodies. Five young elephants were captured. Two died shortly after, and one was shipped to the Berlin Zoo.

French zoologist Jean-Yves Domalain reckoned the number of animals killed for every one visible at a zoo to be 10." Putting endangered animals in zoos will not help the species, but destroy it.

According to this book, there is a "stock turnover" of one-fifth to one-quarter of zoo animals each year. Apparently there are long "surplus lists" of zoo animals who are older, less attractive or simply no longer part of a trendy species. As new animals are imported from the wild, zoos get rid of their "surplus."

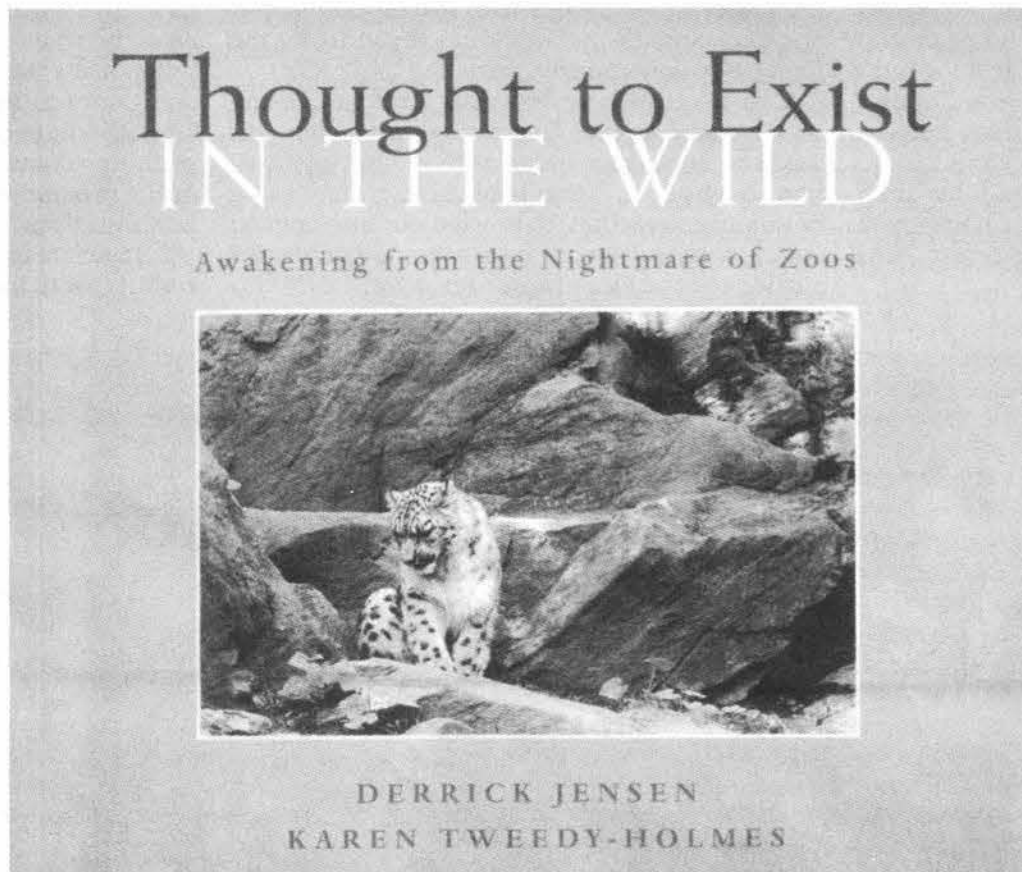
In the US alone, 80,000 animals each year could be considered surplus—more than 200 per day. So what happens to them? As many as half are killed. Even endangered animals, such as Siberian tigers, that are healthy and young are killed.

Jensen writes, "Zoos usually decide what to do with 'surplus' animals based on 'what the market will bear.' Consequently, many thousands of... 'surplus' animals per year are sold to circuses, animal merchants, auctions, individual pet owners, game farms, hunting ranches and trophy collectors." One account of where these animals end up explains that they would be systematically slaughtered and skinned, their heads and pelts sold as wall trophies. "Living evidence was provided by American alligators found with jaws taped and starving to assure unblemished hides for eventual sale," Jensen continues. "And still other 'surplus' animals—many thousands of them—are vivisected, both by scientists at zoos and elsewhere."

Jensen's writing is accompanied by three sections of photos of animals in zoos by photographer Karen Tweedy-Holmes entitled, "Contained," "Confined" and "Imprisoned." The book ends with a photo of two African elephants in the wild.

"A zoo is a nightmare taking shape in concrete and steel, iron and glass, moats and electrified fences. It is a nightmare that, for its victims, has no end save death...."

E-Mag is a wild Viking from Pakistan who rides a giraffe and beat-boxes with baboons.



The traditional way to capture social creatures like elephants is by killing their mothers. Jensen quotes Elisabeth Hardouin-Fugier and Eric Baratay, authors of *Zoo: A History of Zoological Gardens in the West*: "Deaths before embarkation cannot even be guessed at. For most monkeys and for some other animals, the destruction of mothers and, effectively, of their descendents must also be counted. James Fisher, an assistant manager of the London Zoo, estimated that one captured orangutan eliminates four in the wild, of whom three would be potential mothers.

First Epistle: Phoenix From the Flames

BY SADIE AND EXILE

Now that we have been sentenced, we have the opportunity to ease our reticence concerning our situation and would like to candidly address a few points.

First, we would like to offer our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has offered us support and solidarity since we were kidnapped by the state and held as prisoners for these past 16 months. We would extend a most honest thanks to each and every individual who has offered material support through monetary, postal or other means, and also to those who, through their voices or in their hearts, have stood in alignment with us and in opposition to cooperating with the state. Your flame burns bright.

It has been extremely heartening to know that there are those who

stand with us when it seems that so many people whose strength we once considered unassailable have had their roots dislodged and their honor torn asunder. Those who hear the call of direct action should not fear the prospect of imprisonment if their supporters, like ours, continue to act in a responsible and dignified manner as they support those of us who have attracted the wrath of the state. Again, a great thanks to all who have assisted us and continue to do so.

That said, it has come to our attention that, perhaps through naïveté and perhaps through the deliberate spreading of misinformation, there has been some confusion over who among the indictees is worthy of prisoner support, meaning to us anyone who has *not* made statements implicating others—as the purpose of such

statements is the further prosecution and imprisonment of others. Let us make this clear: With the exception of Briana Waters, Daniel McGowan, Jonathan Paul, the late Bill Rodgers and obviously the authors of this piece—the so-called Joyanna Zacher and Nathan Block—all those among the indictees who have been apprehended have dishonored themselves, their families and the very lineage of struggle of which they were once an integral part by becoming vicious traitors and tools of the state. To actively support apprehended indictees not named above is to support not only our incarceration but to wish that same fate upon many others currently living as fugitives or being sought similarly. If there are those among you who feel the need to make excuses for those responsible for our imprisonment, we

ask you to refrain from offering two-faced "support" to us, as it is completely antithetical to the reasons for our captivity.

Those who have signed their cowardly allegiance to the state and, through the state, to those powers that seek to prostitute and obliterate the natural world—as well as strip-mine our souls, clearcut our minds and pollute our very being—are not only directly responsible for our imprisonment, having given the state our physical descriptions, names, legal names and statements on our involvement in direct action (both witnessed and conjectured). Some of them hold responsibility—and the others deep dishonor—for the death of a dear friend and one of the most gentle and pure-hearted beings ever to be found: Avalon (born Bill Rodgers).

continued on next page

SYMBOLIC STRUGGLE OR Meaningful Change?

BY JEFFREY "FREE" LUERS

Over the years, these dispatches have become like a journal for me. They have chronicled my life behind bars—becoming a sanctuary, an outlet or, sometimes, just a place for me to put my hope.

When I was arrested in 2000, I was resigned to doing time. In fact, the moment I decided to act, I knew there was a good chance that I would someday end up with a long prison sentence. Being a warrior means accepting the consequences of your actions long before you act.

Yet, throughout the first year of legal battles, I had hoped that I might actually get out within just a few years. That hope was shattered on the day I was convicted. I accepted that I had two decades to spend in a maximum-security prison. That has been hard. It has ruined relationships with friends and family. I have lost loved ones. I said more goodbyes during my first three years in prison than in all my other years on Earth.

Still, I remained determined to walk my path as a warrior and not as a prisoner. I have never bowed my head or ceased contributing to this struggle that I gave my freedom for.

There have been times when I have felt contempt and anger at our movement for its lack of action and achievement. There have been times I was inspired and moved beyond imagination. However I was feeling, I remained committed to this struggle, this movement and our allies. That commitment has been met in kind by an unwavering international campaign of support. For that, I will always be grateful.

On June 13, the Oregon Court of Appeals rewrote its decision in my appeal to more accurately reflect the case. The stage is now set for my resentencing later this year. While it remains uncertain what my new sentence will be, for the first time in seven years, I feel as if I'm living with one foot out of the door. I no longer look to some far off day in 2021 as my release date. I am almost home.

I have given my entire adult life to activism. I've never really known anything else. I dropped out of college to devote more than 40 hours a week to working for the Sierra Club. I left the Sierra Club to get involved in grassroots activism. I found myself moving to Eugene, Oregon, following a path I believed would lead me to my destiny. I became involved in civil disobedience and militant activism, ultimately living in a tree to protect an ancient forest. It was in that tree that I decided to dedicate my life to revolution. I've never looked back, and I've never wavered in my determination to fight back.

Until now, that is. I have lived a truly amazing life, made many amazing friends and worked with some of the greatest and most inspiring people in this country. I have no regrets about the choices I have made. None.

The time has come for me to direct my energy toward my own life. I have no idea what I'm going to do when I get out. In many ways, regaining my freedom is scarier than doing time. I've only known two lives: resistance and prison. At this time, I do not know what role I will continue to play in this movement. I am aware of how important and far-reaching my voice has become. I hope to be able to find a balance between living a joy-filled life and continuing to be a vocal advocate for change. But I'm tired of constant struggle. I don't want to fight anymore.

There was a time when I was prepared to give my life for this struggle, demanding official recognition of my status as a political prisoner. After numerous conversations with my support collective and careful consideration, I began to lay the foundation for a hunger strike.

A few months later, the mass arrests of Operation Backfire began. One traitor nearly brought down an entire movement without any repercussions or response. If that kind of cowardly act cannot induce a reaction, than what purpose or good could be served by my own personal sacrifice? I abandoned the idea of a hunger strike.



artwork by Bee Young (www.justseeds.org)

In fact, since witnessing more than half of the Backfire defendants cooperate with the state, I have been reevaluating my commitment to this radical movement. Despite the rhetoric spewed by our many publications and the bold statements of activists themselves, I realize now that the struggle to protect our planet, its ecosystems and species, and ultimately ourselves from capitalism, climate change and environmental collapse is largely one of privilege and symbolism.

I make this statement not as a condemnation but a fact. We have failed as a radical movement. There is no shame in admitting it, only in denying it.

What is worse, however, is that we have failed as a society. We have failed ourselves as well as future generations. We are now locked into a climate shift that will result in the extinction of nearly one-third of all species. That figure, along with other dire consequences, will grow exponentially more disastrous the longer it takes us to act.

Our future frightens me. I believe that immediate and radical change is our best hope. Yet, I have no faith that those actions will be taken. Instead, I must now place my hope in reform, because it seems that is the only realistic option.

For the last seven years, I have stood on principle and refused to back down from my militant stance. And even though this movement abandoned militancy years ago, the truth of the matter is that we are right, whether we'll fight for it or not.

But that's just it. We won't fight for it, and I don't want to stand alone on principle anymore. I don't want to continue to face the consequences of those actions. We tried to correct the wrongs of the generations before us. We strived to create new directions.

It's too late to stop climate change or its worldwide impacts. But it's not too late to begin mitigating those impacts and creating solutions. I want to go back to school. I want to learn how to restore damaged ecosystems. I want to learn how to make our communities sustainable and learn how to survive and cope with the environmental changes to come.

I would love to share these skills with our children and their children, and apologize to them for our inability to see what was happening and our failure to take action to correct it.

This struggle is part of me. Yet, more and more, I see my role not as one of fighting or even inspiring others to fight. Rather, I see my path as one of healing—not only healing myself but my relationships with family and loved ones—and searching to find constructive ways to help heal some of the wounds of our planet.

I am sure that as climate change worsens and begins to have discernable socioeconomic impacts, we will again see an upsurge in radical activism and resistance. When that time comes, I will stand in

solidarity and in full support of those warriors because I will understand the deep love within their hearts that compels them to act.

One day, our chance to create real and meaningful change will come. The question is: Will we recognize that opportunity, or will we continue to be stuck in a cycle of symbolic struggle every few decades?

The answer to that question rests with you and the choices you make.

Jeffrey "Free" Luers was sentenced in June 2001 to 22 years and eight months for arson at a car dealership and attempted arson of an oil truck. In February, the court of appeals reversed this sentence. Luers is awaiting resentencing. For his address, see page 28.

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Most importantly, those who now work in collaboration (under the innocuous term "cooperation") with the same powers that they once opposed have, in their wicked apostasy, desecrated the sacred covenant that exists between nature and those who align themselves with the very element of fire and the very essence of destruction in the defense of the wild.

Perhaps these vile turncoats deserve compassion, in the same way that all creatures deserve compassion, and indeed they once deserved acclaim for their physical deeds. But now they deserve neither praise nor forgiveness, for in the hour when the struggle returned for them, when the predator had once again become the prey, they failed in spirit and resolve, cowardly breaking long-held oaths and begging for mercy from their

captors, hoping to gain leniency by offering their former friends, trusted colleagues and any dignity they once held as a sacrifice to the altar of a perverted "justice."

Let the spirits of imprisonment, treason and weak delusion haunt the atrophied vision of those who would turn their backs on the flame of green fire that burns in all our beings, and let those of us who heed the calls so often ignored stand upright, with clear

vision, whether illuminated by the great sun or by a more obscure light that rides with all creatures of the hidden hours: the clawed, the winged, the hooved, and also with those beings referred as "the ancestors," "the fair folk" or, indeed, the "elves."

Air Trees Water Animals Sadie (born Joyanna Zacher) and Exile (born Nathan Block) are serving 7.7 for a series of Earth Liberation Front actions. For their addresses, see page 28.

An Inside Look at

Women's Prisons

BY LAUREN GAZZOLA

As the past two issues of the *Journal* have demonstrated, prison experiences can vary widely (see *EF!* May-June 2007 and July-August 2007). Here's a perspective from a women's prison. What follows applies only to federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facilities; state facilities vary widely.

Classifications/Designations

There are two main differences between men's and women's prisons.

First is the way in which prisoners are classified. As Peter Young explained, male prisoners are categorized into one of four security

By contrast, female inmates socialize and befriend inmates of all races and ethnicities, and race does not present itself as an overt political issue. That's not to say that racism does not exist but to imply that it does not result in major social divisions among race lines. Instead, the primary social division, if any, within women's facilities is the language barrier. Spanish-speaking (including bilingual) inmates tend to socialize with one another, though not exclusively and certainly not with the effect of any animosity between them and inmates who only speak English.

There are fights in women's prison, but they are short-lived and often

Female inmates socialize and befriend inmates of all races and ethnicities, and race does not present itself as an overt political issue.

classifications—camp, low, medium and maximum-security US Penitentiaries (USPs)—with sentence length, criminal history and severity of crime being the primary determining factors.

Female inmates, however, fall into one of only two categories: camps and Federal Correctional Institutions (FCIs). Camps have no fences, never lock the inmates inside the buildings (you can be outside at 3 a.m.) and allow inmates to move freely around the compound whenever they wish.

Most female activists, however, will be designated to an FCI. FCIs house every length of sentence, from 30 days to life, and the crimes of those incarcerated run the gamut—from a 60-year-old serving four months on a misdemeanor offense for crossing the fence at a School of the Americas protest to lifers in here for murder. Most inmates, however, are serving between five and 10 years for drug crimes.

Housing at FCIs varies. Unlike men's facilities—where low security institutions house inmates in cubicles, and mediums and above house inmates in cells—the housing at women's prisons varies. Some facilities have cubicles; others have normal cells. Here at FCI Danbury, we have both. Additionally, at all women's prisons, inmates seal their own outgoing mail.

Social Interactions

The second major difference between men's and women's prison is that social interactions among female inmates are not divided along race lines. From all I've heard about men's facilities, male inmates segregate themselves into social groups by race; racial politics are among the primary controls of social interactions.

not terribly violent. The participants are taken to the hole, and everyone goes on their way.

Day-to-Day Living

The most unexpected thing about prison life, for me, was how much freedom of movement there is. Most activists who have been arrested are familiar with county jails, where you spend your days in a unit with a day room and cells, are permitted an hour of recreation outside and are escorted everywhere you go. Prison, on the other hand, has a somewhat campus or school-building feel, where you can plan your own day, spend your free time where you please and walk alone everywhere you go.

The primary restriction on when and where you go in prison is a system of controlled movement. At FCIs, inmates are only permitted to move from one place on the compound to another during a 10-minute period every hour. Ten-minute moves begin at 7:30 a.m. and occur every hour until 3:30 p.m. All inmates in the federal BOP system, nationwide, are "recalled" to their units at 3:30 p.m. to be counted at 4 p.m. After 4 p.m., inmates have free movement, without 10-minute moves, until they are recalled for the night. The exception to this among female institutions is the new FCI at Hazelton, West Virginia. There, 10-minute moves occur in the evening as well as daytime.

At all institutions other than camps, male and female, inmates are recalled to their units at a certain time for the night. The time varies slightly among institutions; here, it is 9:30 p.m. There is an evening count (10 p.m. here), as well as counts throughout the night while inmates sleep.

Restitution

Most activists will find they owe restitution to the "victims" of their heinous crimes. The BOP will collect this according to a BOP Financial Responsibility Program (FRP) Statement. Unless a court has ordered a schedule for your restitution payments, you are not legally bound to make any while you are incarcerated. However, the prison can rescind some of your privileges due to non-compliance. Namely, if you refuse to make payments, you will be housed in the lowest-quality housing (here, this is a room without a desk or any shelving that houses up to 10 inmates); your commissary purchases will be restricted, permitting you to spend no more than \$25 monthly and only on hygiene products; and your pay from work will be limited to "maintenance pay," which is \$5.25 a month. Most activists will want to avoid being placed on FRP refusal, as they'll most likely need to purchase food off of commissary to supplement vegan diets.

The minimum FRP payment that an inmate must make in order to stay out of refusal is \$25 per quarter. The next payment option is \$25 per month. My case manager claims there is no intermediate option. The prison will determine your payments based on how much money comes through your account, according to a six-month average. This includes funds sent to you from outside, as well as your income from work. The FRP formula permits the prison to collect any funds in excess of \$75 per month for FRP payments. They cannot take your money unless you sign a contract permitting them to do so. However, if you refuse to sign the contract, you will be placed on refusal status. (The other way to end up in refusal is not to have the funds in your account on the day the payment is deducted, usually the 10th of the month.)

Most activists will find they owe restitution to the "victims" of their heinous crimes.

Though technically any funds above a \$450-per-six-month average can be considered for FRP payments, since there is no intermediate rate between \$25 per quarter and \$25 per month, my math tells me that if your six-month average is \$594 or less, upping your payment to \$25 per month will leave you with no more than \$74 per month, which is not permitted.

The best advice for keeping your FRP payments low, beyond being thrifty, is not to have more than \$200 to \$300 when you come in. Within about a month of arriving, your FRP payments will be set. If you have a lot of money in your account

at this time, your case manager will base your payments on an assumption that you will continue to receive approximately this amount monthly. (The permissibility of calculating a prospective six-month average by multiplying rather than dividing when data for only one month is available is questionable in my opinion, but it would require a formal challenge by way of the BOP grievance process in order to stop prison officials from doing it.) I made the mistake of having nearly \$600 in my account when I first arrived in November. Though I didn't have any money come in for several months after that, and even then it wasn't more than \$50 to \$75 a month, my payments were stuck at \$25 a month until June, when my November monies dropped out of my six-month average.

Food

Currently, the food among BOP facilities varies by institution and so do the vegan options. However, in January 2008, the BOP will institute a nationwide meal plan, wherein every facility will serve the same meal on the same day at the same time. This is bound to improve the state of vegan options at some facilities and worsen it at others, depending on their current state. There are rumors that the new menu will include tofu. Some, though not all, facilities currently have salad bars. When the menu is implemented, salad bars will be optional to the institution and based upon the budget. Commissary items vary from institution to institution.

Team

Every six months, you will be required to attend "team." Here, you will meet with your case manager, counselor and unit manager. They will assess and adjust your FRP payments, arrange your travel and half-way house plans when you near

release, encourage you to take classes (exercise, educational, etc.) and discuss your classification points.

Your security-level designation (camps or FCIs for women) is determined by point levels attached to various aspects of your case: criminal history, nature of offense, etc. You can reduce these points by taking classes and avoiding disciplinary actions, and ultimately move from an FCI to a camp (for women) or to lower-security institutions (for men).

Lauren Gazzola is serving 4.3 years for conspiracy charges stemming from her work with Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty. For her address, see page 28.

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 you write to a prisoner. When prisoners are awaiting trial or sentencing, it is best not to discuss their cases or related topics with them. 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

•Natasha Avery, NR8987, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Serving 16 months for using abusive words and behavior toward a fox hunter, and awaiting trial for alleged conspiracy to blackmail people linked to Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). Avery's prison number has changed.

•Grant Barnes, #1533241 22D438, Denver County Jail, POB 1108, Denver, CO 80201, USA. In July, Barnes pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 12 years for the apparent Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arson of SUVs. He has been moved to the above address but will be transferred again soon.

•Nathan "Exile" Block, #36359-086, FCI Lompoc, 3600 Guard Rd, Lompoc, CA 93436, USA. Serving 7.7 years for a series of ELF actions. He has been moved to the above address.

•Wayne Bunch, who was serving one year for sending threatening letters to a supplier of guinea pigs for vivisection, has been released on electronic monitoring.

•Darius Fullmer, #26397-050, FCI Fort Dix, POB 2000, Fort Dix, NJ 08640, USA. Scheduled for release on September 20, after serving 12 months for a conspiracy charge stemming from his work with Stop Huntington Animal Cruelty (SHAC). For more information, visit www.shac7.com.

•Joseph Harris, who was serving two years for damaging the property of people associated with HLS, has been released on electronic monitoring.

•Betty Krawczyk, Alouette Correctional Centre for Women, POB 1000, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 3K4, Canada. In March, Krawczyk was sentenced to 10 months for contempt of court for protesting logging and Olympic development on First Nations territory.

•Daniel McGowan, #63794-053, MDC Brooklyn, POB 329002, Brooklyn, NY 11232, USA. Serving seven years for a series of ELF actions. He has been moved to the above address but will be transferred again soon. For more information, visit www.supportdaniel.org.

•Jonathan Paul was sentenced in August to 4.25 years for the ELF/Animal Liberation Front arson of a horsemeat plant. His address was not available at press time.

•Teresa Portwine, who was serving 15 months for demonstrating outside the offices of companies linked to HLS, has been released on electronic monitoring.

•Suzanne Taylor, TM7154, HMP Foston Hall, Foston, Derby, Derbyshire, DE65 5DN, UK. Serving 2.5 years for demonstrating outside the offices of companies linked to HLS. She has been moved to the above address.

•Joyanna "Sadie" Zacher, #36360-086, FCI Dublin, 5701 8th St, Camp Parks, Dublin, CA 94568, USA. Serving 7.7 years for a series of ELF actions. She has been moved to the above address.

Awaiting Trial or Sentencing

•Mumia Abu-Jamal, #AM8335, SCI Greene, 175 Progress Dr, Waynesburg, PA 15370, USA. Awaiting the results of his May appeals hearing. Abu-Jamal, a politically active journalist, was framed for the murder of

a cop in 1981. For more information, visit www.freemumia.org.

•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.

•Gregg Avery, TA7450, HMP Winchester, Romsey Rd, Winchester, SO22 5DF, UK. Awaiting trial for alleged conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS.

•Sacramento Delfino Cano Hernández and Oscar Santa María Caro, CERESO, Miahuatlán de Porfirio Díaz, Hall B, Cell 5, Oaxaca, Mexico. Awaiting trial on unknown charges stemming from the popular resistance in Oaxaca. Santa María is a known member of Resistance Against Animal Torture.

•Rod Coronado's trial for allegedly telling people how to construct an incendiary device during a speech at an animal rights gathering is scheduled for September 10. For more information, visit www.supportrod.org.

•Jeffrey "Free" Luers, #13797671, OSP, 2605 State St, Salem, OR 97310, USA. Awaiting resentencing for an arson at a car dealership and an attempted arson of an oil truck. For more information, visit www.freefreemow.org.

•Eric McDavid, X-2972521 4E231A, Sacramento County Main Jail, 651 I St, Sacramento, CA 95814, USA. McDavid's trial for alleged conspiracy to destroy the US Forest Service's Institute of Forest Genetics, a dam, cell-phone towers and power plants is scheduled for September 10. For more information, visit www.supporteric.org.

•Heather Nicholson, VM4859, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Awaiting trial for alleged conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS.

•Briana Waters' trial for alleged involvement in an ELF arson is scheduled for February 4. For more information, visit www.supportbriana.org.

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.

•Jacob Conroy, #93501-011, FCI Victorville Medium I, POB 5300, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA. Serving four years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.supportjake.org.

•Donald Currie, TN4593, HMP Whitemoor, Longhill Rd, March, Cambridgeshire, PR15 OPR, UK. Serving an "indefinite sentence" of at least six years—with no fixed release date or upper limit—for arson against targets linked with the vivisection industry.

•Lauren Gazzola, #93497-011, FCI Danbury, Rte 37, Danbury, CT 06811, USA. Serving 4.3 years for conspiracy charges stemming from her work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.supportlauren.com.

•Sarah Gisborne, LT5393, HMP Cookham Wood, Rochester, Kent,

ME1 3LU, UK. Serving 5.5 years for conspiracy to damage vehicles owned by people linked to HLS.

•Joshua Harper, #29429-086, FCI Sheridan, POB 5000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA. Serving three years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.joshharper.org.

•Kevin Kjonaas, #93502-011, Unit I, FCI Sandstone, POB 1000, Sandstone, MN 55072, USA. Serving six years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.supportkevin.com.

•Josephine Mayo, PR6508, HMP Drake Hall, Eccleshall, Staffordshire, ST21 6LQ, UK. Serving four years for conspiracy to blackmail a supplier of guinea pigs for vivisection.

•Andrew Stepanian, #26399-050, FCI Butner Medium II, POB 1500, Butner, NC 27509, USA. Serving three years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.andystepanian.com.

•Mark Taylor, TT6636, HMP YOI Onley, Willoughby, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV23 8AP, UK. Serving four years for demonstrating outside the offices of companies linked to HLS.

a variety of direct actions. In May, Alessio Perondi and William Frediani were found guilty of terrorist conspiracy and participating in direct action. They are under house arrest pending their appeal. Ragusa and five others who are free on bail are awaiting trial for allegedly using explosives to damage an electricity pylon.

•Costantino Ragusa, Casa Circondariale, Via Prati Nuovi 7, 27058 Voghera (PV), Italy. Serving more than two years for firebombing a corporate office and organizing an anti-genetic-engineering protest.

Indigenous Resistance

•Byron Shane of Chubbuck© Clan, #07909-051, USP Beaumont, POB 26030, Beaumont, Texas, North America. Serving 80 years for aggravated assault of federal agents, escape and bank robbery. Chubbuck funneled money that he stole from banks to the Zapatista National Liberation Army in 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.

MOVE

The MOVE 9, members of an eco-revolutionary group, were framed for the murder of a cop and sentenced to 30 years to 100 years each. For more information, visit www.onamove.com.

•Debbie Sims Africa, #006307, Janet Holloway Africa, #006308, and Janine Phillips Africa, #006309, SCI Cambridge Springs, 451 Fullerton Ave, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-1238, USA.

•Michael Davis Africa, #AM4973, and Charles Sims Africa, #AM4975, SCI Graterford, POB 244, Graterford, PA 19426-0246, USA.

•Edward Goodman Africa, #AM4974, SCI Mahanoy, 301 Morea Rd, Frackville, PA 17931, USA.

•William Phillips Africa, #AM4984, and Delbert Orr Africa, #AM4985, SCI Dallas, Follies Rd, Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612-0286, USA.

Political Prisoners

•José Pérez González, #21519-069, FCI Yazoo City Medium, POB 5888, Yazoo City, MS 39194, 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.

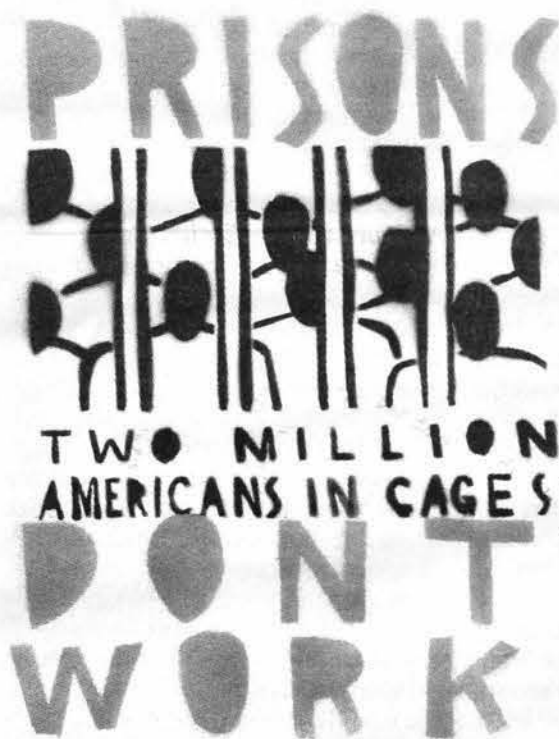
•Fran Thompson, #1090915 HU 1C, WERDCC, POB 300, 1101 E Hwy 54, Vandalia, MO 63382-0300, USA. Before receiving a life sentence in the early 1990s for shooting a stalker in self-defense, Thompson was active in animal rights and environmental campaigns.

Prisoner Support Groups

•Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, elp4321@hotmail.com; www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk.

•National Jericho Movement, POB 340084, Jamaica, NY 11434, USA; www.thejerichomovement.com.

•North American Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, naelpsn@mutualaid.org; www.ecoprisoners.org.



Ecodefense

•Marco Camenisch, Postfach 3143, CH-8105 Regensdorf, Switzerland. Serving 18 years for using explosives to target nuclear facility power lines and for the alleged murder of a Swiss border guard. Camenisch reads French, German, Spanish and Italian fluently, as well as some English.

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

•Helen Woodson, #03231-045, FMC Carswell, Admin Max Unit, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127, USA. 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 with bullets inside to officials, and robbing a bank and burning the money.

Il Silvestre

Il Silvestre is an Italian eco-anarchist group whose members have been framed for

announcements

I-69 Resistance Strategy Consulta September 14-16 • Indiana

In 2008, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is planning to begin construction of new terrain on I-69. Despite INDOT's rhetoric—that it's a "done deal" and cannot be stopped—Roadblock EF! (RBEF!) feels that the time is ripe to stop this road for good. After two decades of struggle, people across the region are angrier than ever, especially when confronted with the reality of mass evictions by the state. A victory, though, will demand new perspectives, better tactics and a much wider discussion.

To this end, RBEF! is beginning a consulta process, by which it means to create a space for discussion, strategizing and the initiation of decentralized organizing. Organizers would like to learn from others' experiences and ideas, and give people a taste of the land and communities that will be destroyed in the coming years if we cannot stop this road.

RBEF! is excited to hear your questions—about strategies, local conditions and the road project itself—and to open up the answers to as many people as possible. RBEF! wants to hear some of your ideas and to see the emergence of an informal network of individuals communicating around southwest Indiana, the Midwest and beyond with a shared desire to bring I-69 to a halt.

RBEF! will announce a location and proposed agenda in the upcoming weeks. The consulta will include time to run through the basic issues around I-69 and provide updates, but will place an emphasis on focused discussions, workshops and field trips. Please contact RBEF! if you'd like to contribute proposals for the agenda and remember to RSVP if you're interested in coming. We hope to see you soon.

For more information, contact Roadblock Earth First!, roadblockef@yahoo.com.

World Carfree Day September 22 • Worldwide

Every September 22, people around the world get together in the streets, at intersections and on their neighborhood blocks to remind the

world that we don't have to accept our car-dominated society.

2007 will be no different.

However, we do not want simply one day of celebration followed by a return to "normal" life. When people get out of their cars, they should stay out of their cars. It is up to us to help create permanent change to benefit pedestrians, cyclists and others who do not drive cars.

Let World Carfree Day be a showcase for just how our lives might look, feel and sound without cars... 365 days a year.

As the climate heats up, World Carfree Day is the perfect time to take the heat off the planet and put it on ourselves, city planners and politicians to give priority to cycling, walking and public transport instead of to the automobile.

The World Carfree Network and Carbusters magazine are also cosponsoring a competition to design a carfree street, parking space or intersection. For more information on the contest and the concept of street conversions, visit www.worldcarfree.net/contest.

Mexico Solidarity Network Speaking Tours October-November • Across the US

The Mexico Solidarity Network's annual speaking tours will cover immigrant rights, Zapatista solidarity and more. For specific dates, locations and descriptions of the Fall tour, contact (773) 583-7728; (202) 747-9634; msn@mexicosolidarity.org; www.mexicosolidarity.org/site/speakingtours.

Keep Space for Peace Week October 4-13 • Worldwide

Satellites, giant radomes and radar installations are watching for military targets everywhere. There are cruise missiles, weapons in space and a global strike capability from US bases around the globe. Is this the world we want?

In Britain, US National Missile Defense bases (NMD) operate without any parliamentary accountability, disregarding the security of the British public.

NMDs put Europe in the frontlines and make the entire world unwilling participants in a new Cold War.

We say *no* to new NMD bases in Poland and the Czech Republic, and *no* to space militarization everywhere! Take part in this international week of protest to stop the militarization of space!

For more information, contact (207) 443-9502; www.space4peace.org; www.reachingcriticalwill.org.

IMF and World Bank Protest October 19-21 • Washington, DC

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, controlled by the Group of Eight (G8) countries in corrupt complacency with national elites all over the world, claim to lead the fight against poverty. However, their role as global loan sharks, their cruel imposition of privatization and free-trade policies, their cuts to social services, their funding of environmentally disastrous projects, and their secretive and undemocratic decision-making processes make them the enemies of people worldwide.

Today, these two institutions are on the defensive. Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador are in open revolt against the IMF and World Bank. South African shantytown residents are fighting water privatization; Korean workers are striking against "free trade" agreements; and thousands of people blockaded the G8 meeting in Germany earlier this year.

In the US, in the heart of empire, millions are struggling against the oppressive system of capitalism while fighting for dignity, autonomy and solidarity. Tens of thousands gathered for the first ever US Social Forum; millions of people have marched for immigrant rights; and in Washington, DC, residents are organizing against the policies of gentrification and displacement.

This year, social movements from all over the world gathered at the World Social Forum in Nairobi, Kenya, to devise the next stage in the assault against the World Bank and IMF. In solidarity with our allies in the Global South and recognizing the toll that corporate capitalism takes on our own lives, Washington, DC-based activists are calling for actions at the IMF and World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC, during the upcoming annual meetings in October.



It's time to strike another blow against global capitalism.

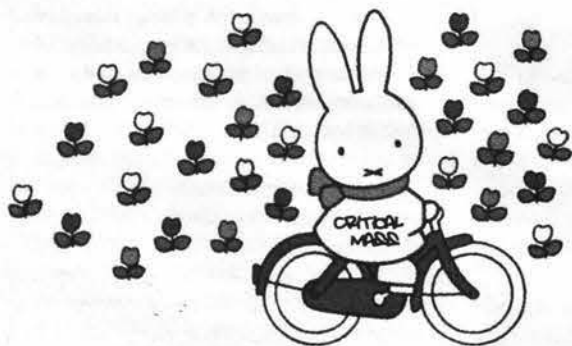
For more information, visit www.octoberrebellion.org.

No Borders Camp November 5-11 • Calexico/Mexicali

As long as the US-Mexico border has existed, people have been struggling against it. The border itself is a colonial war monument, and it continues to be the site of a not-so-low intensity war. It is a boundary marking an internal space of fear, control and domination over people, while simultaneously allowing for the unrestricted movement of capital and wealth. This border regime—like the border regimes in Mexico, Israel, Spain and more—is a system of apartheid.

For years around the world, people have been tearing down fences, freeing detainees and fighting for autonomy. A global movement against borders and migration controls is rising. One of many tactics in this movement is the No Borders Camp—a space for direct action and community building. Join us for a transnational No Borders Camp on the Mexico-US border. Celebrate global days of action for freedom of movement on the 18th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

For more information, please visit www.noborderscamp.org.



Miffed by Miffy

BY EARTH FIRST! UK

I don't know how it came about, but for a long time, the Miffy Rabbit character has been associated with the Earth First! movement and radical ecological direct action. But do the creators and copyright owners of the character know or approve of Miffy's political activities?

Dick Bruna created Miffy as a picture book character in 1955, after telling his one-year-old son, Sierk, stories about a rabbit they had seen on holiday. Miffy is now featured in about 30 books, which have been translated into 40 different languages, selling more than 80 million copies all over the world.

Drawn in a very minimalist style, Miffy requires only a few lines drawn in two dimensions and one or two primary colors to be recognizable. Perhaps this, and her air of innocence about

mischief, explains why she became involved in ecological direct action.

It's unclear exactly when it began, but you can trace her political activities—in the UK, at least—back to the early '90s anti-roads movement. Seen coyly holding a spanner behind her back, one could only imagine the trail of monkeywrenching she left behind in her efforts to defend the fields, woodland and hedgerows she loved.

By the late '90s, with the roads-building program in retreat, Miffy joined the growing anti-genetic engineering movement, taking up a spade to join the resistance. More recently, Miffy joined her fellow protesters for a game of golf in Scotland, during the 2005 Group of Eight summit. Perhaps she also took part in the blockades in Heiligendamm, Germany, this year (see page 16).

At over 50 years old, you'd think that Miffy would be her own person, free to express her political beliefs as she sees fit—but sadly, this appears not to be the case. The copyright owner of Dick Bruna's character constantly hunts down unlicensed users of her image in order to defend its profitable merchandising business.

While Miffy was created for a children's book, the design has been capitalized on to sell numerous

other products such as clothes, stationery, toys, glasses and household items. A search for Miffy products on Google produces more than 100,000 pages, and no doubt many of the products sold are unlicensed copies made in sweatshops.

Yet Mercis, the Dutch company that owns the copyright, is not content to simply take action on those producing "fake" merchandise. Not surprisingly, it appears to have stumbled on Miffy's secret radical life and is not amused. It is deeply offended by Miffy's involvement in the campaign against patents on life, as depicted in stickers produced many years ago promoting the (long-dead) resistanceisfertile.com website.

Mercis has unleashed its legal team to make threats against the inactive Totnes Genetics Group (ToGG), whose long-unmaintained website still contains a picture of that Miffy sticker.

While former ToGG volunteers try to get long-forgotten passwords and website access from the Internet service provider that hosts the website in order to remove the offending image, more important questions have been raised. Will Miffy tolerate this attack on her freedom of expression? And will her friends in the movement stand idly by and watch as her freedom to protest is taken away?



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"I became alive to many other things—became alive to the Circle, I became alive to the native lifeway. I became alive to the connectedness of all things. I became alive to trusting, being and the now.

"My heart is full. I have much to share, more than words can say."

—Coyote Three Feathers a.k.a. John Herron (Wilderness Guide Program 2004-2005)

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

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

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

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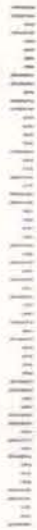


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