



Full citation: Dimebag Donny, Just Lenny, Dr. fophilia Ae the I, ZHONN eM DreamBoat!, eds., *Earth First!* 28, no. 1 (1 November 2007). Digitized in cooperation with the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek.
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Earth First!

Samhain/Yule November-December 2007

\$4.50 US & Canada

Vermont Gardeners Reclaim Site of Proposed Truck Stop

BY SLUG

In the early afternoon of July 23, local Vermont residents broke ground for a new community garden at the proposed site of a Cheshire Oil Truck Stop in Brattleboro, Vermont. That day, guerilla gardeners transformed the predominantly vacant lot into a bountiful garden. We hoped to maintain an autonomous zone, reveal the potential beneficial use of the space and spark conversations about the endless possibilities outside the profit-driven model of development threatening that part of Brattleboro.

Two of us chained ourselves by our arms to an immovable barrel that read "More Gardens, Less Trucks." This action served as a living testament to our commitment to healthy alternatives to the savage and unimaginative culture of oil-dependent industrial development.

A truck stop is a short-sighted scheme for profit that in no way considers the overwhelming negative impacts it would impose on the health of the local community. Public sentiment has been overwhelmingly opposed to this kind of destructive development for many years. We cited concerns such as traffic and congestion, pollution from trucks, the rampant loss of public green space, the lack of direct community involvement and input

in the development proposal process, and the inherent seediness and danger of truck-stop culture.

"We hope to simultaneously address issues of expansion of infrastructure, catastrophic climate change, destructive strip development and community decision-making capabilities," I told the media while locked down. "The southern gateway to Vermont should not invite more industrialization, pavement and destruction. Vermont is an escape from the unchecked commercial plunder of community open space."

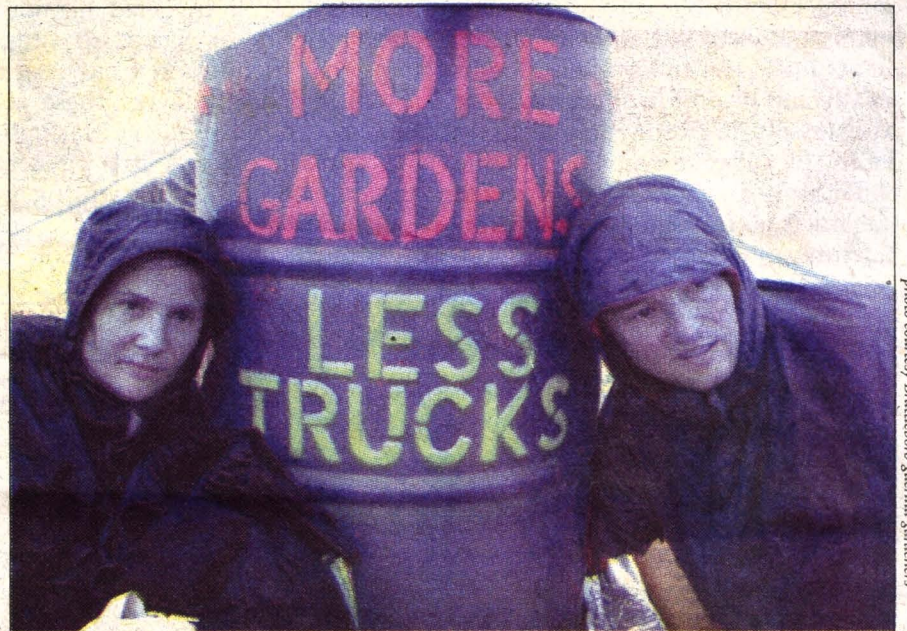
In an era when we need to consider solutions to the current climate change crisis and prepare for the post-oil world, it doesn't make any sense to expand the infrastructure of the oil-dependent system. There are many better ideas for this space that need to be brought to the table that consider the health, wellness and future of our community. We have warned Cheshire Oil, the company responsible for pushing the development of the property, that if it continues to move forward with this truck stop proposal, we will launch a massive boycott of its gas stations and convenience stores on both sides of the Connecticut River.

"There are so many hard-working, concerned, aware and dedicated people in this community committed to seeing a future for Vermont that continues its long tradition of a rural, peaceful landscape and a good quality of life," said Salmon, also locked down at the site. "We are part of a much larger, broader movement working to see that proposals about the future of this land take into account everybody's concerns for the future of our community. A public garden is one

option, a beautiful option, but there are many others—and none of them include a truck stop, a box store, a strip mall or another fast food chain."

This action was inspired by the efforts of Miami citizens reclaiming vacant lots for housing, the Root Force campaign to challenge the expansion of infrastructure, the ongoing struggle against I-69 in Indiana, More Gardens! in NYC and Brad Will's advice to "stay in trouble."

continued on page 10



Guerilla gardeners lock down to an immovable barrel.

Blue Ridge EF! Gets Into Exterior Decorating

BY MINSTREL

We've always known Jeannie Stosser was a scumbag, always. Back in 2004, she was so upset over the widespread support for an anti-development town council candidate that she was caught sneaking around his house, peering through the windows. Apparently, she was preparing to launch a bizarre allegation—yammering something about, "It's supposed to be a duplex, but he lives in the basement," and, "Is there a staircase here?" She argued that he shouldn't even be allowed to register to vote, let alone run for council. She also said that he should be all duct-taped up and shipped to the moon! Yep, she always has been a weird one, always.

So, no one was really surprised when we found out that she was orchestrating recent attempts to pave over one of the last green spaces in the south end of Blacksburg, Virginia, for nothing other than a Wal-Mart superdamncenter. Of course, the good people of Blacksburg love the quaint character and rustic feel of our small community, even though housing and retail developments continue to threaten it as they eat up space. The citizenry—smart, good



BREF!ers protest outside Stosser's house.

people that they are—have been organizing to defend against this attack for some time. Several years ago, a contentious debate over whether or not to build a sewer in the middle of a 169-acre nature park (duh!) began a Blacksburg trend of electing anti-development (maybe they would prefer "smart growth") candidates to local government.

This strategy successfully defeated the proposed sewer and has integrated more public scrutiny and citizen involvement into local governance, especially concerning matters of development.

Now, a new organization, Blacksburg United for Responsible Growth (BURG), is putting pressure on local officials and developers to keep Wal-Mart out of town. While keeping up public opposition through rallies, letters to the editor, yard signs and such, BURG has also put a lot of energy over the last few months into supporting Zoning Ordinance 1450, requiring all developments with a footprint of 80,000 square feet or more to secure a special-use permit. In the end, the ordinance passed! The people had legislated victory! Or had they?

No, they had not. Shortly after the passage of Ordinance 1450, the two development firms hell-bent on big-boxing us in—Llamas, LLC. and Fairmount Properties—challenged the legislation on the grounds that they had already submitted prospective blueprints for what they call a "retail cultural center."

continued on page 8

Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

Samhain/Yule November-December 2007

Mediating Through Nihilism, Love and + - □ + - □ Bigger Dreams! □ - □ + - □

After falling in love with the majestic land of Bloomington in so many ways, sporadic manic thoughts raced through my indecisive mind as I journeyed back west. Leaving the acorns, oak trees and my best friends behind, I was welcomed by the chimerical mountains and towering saguaros of Tucson.

My first day here, I was joined by one of my favorite people in the world from Cali (the persyn who had taught me how to survey a forest and given me my first copy of the *EF! Journal*!) Since then, when not typing away, I have enjoyed getting scantily clad for the weekly "fun" bike rides of more than 200 people, rooftop discussions under the stars with new friends, raw potlucks, hiking through mountains and just plain enjoyin' life!

As I read the emails that flood in daily and hear of people struggling to stay out of prison, people struggling just to get a vegan meal while in prison, people being convicted as onetime friends and paid informants snitch them out, and more

subpoenas for grand juries being served, I wonder, what the hell am I doing in an office? I wonder what I believe in (which, as a closet nihilist and atheist, is hard). The only things I can come up with are love and action! They are the only things that let me know I am alive, and the only things that make my life worth living. As I type this, I am happy to say that I am definitely in love with this *Journal* and this movement and am ready for more action.

My fondest memory from being a short-term editor this issue has nothing to do with the actual *Journal* itself—it has to do with adding anti-oppression resources to the web page. As I typed in each link, it triggered memory after memory of fucked-up situations that friends and I have been in—maybe, just maybe, these resources can make our radical bubbles and safe places a little bit safer and more radical? While writing an article on conflict mediation, I did so with the ghost of an unresolved

situation that a dear friend of mine in another city is left hanging with. Maybe this article will help?

As *EF!* sticks its thumb out and hops the tracks in a new direction, confronting oppression and publishing articles on humyn concern, I ask that you approach it with the tiny, miniscule piece of your heart that hasn't been destroyed by civilization. People need safe places, good mental health, communication and support to be capable of even considering an action! I often get in verbal wars with a friend about the concept of oppression. It has become my understanding that if someone verbalizes the feeling of oppression in any way, it means they are oppressed. We have heard this—and these articles, discussions and resources are our only shots into a dark, scary, fragile world as we confront and smash this oppression!

Each time my eyes lock on to the newest cover of the *Journal* and my fingertips begin to graze over the pages, I fall back in love with this movement all over again. I wish you the same!

—ZHONN EM DREAMBOAT!

Earth First!

Samhain/Yule

November 1, 2007

Vol. 28, No. 1

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

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

Submission deadlines are the tenth 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.

Note that the Canadian cover price has changed to reflect currency fluctuations.

ISSN 1055-8411 *Earth First!* is indexed in the Alternative Press Index. *Earth First!* is recorded on microfilm by ProQuest, Inc.

Please direct all correspondence to:

Earth First!

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

collective@earthfirstjournal.org
www.earthfirstjournal.org

Editorial Collective: Dimebag Donny, Just Lenny, Dr. fophia Ae the I, ZHONN eM DreamBoat!

Poetry Editor: Dennis Fritzinger
Volunteers: Buttercup, Jonathan, Josh, Havoc House, Luce, Magpie, Nell, Read Between the Bars, Rebecca

Front Cover: Jerome Dutton; www.fleahouse.co.uk

Back Cover: Cascadia Rising Tide

Earth First! (ISSN 1055-8411) November-December 2007, Volume 28, Issue 1, is published bimonthly by Daily Planet Publishing, 831 East 47th Street, Tucson, AZ 85713. US Subscriptions are \$25. Outside the US, subscriptions are \$40 to Mexico and Canada and \$50 everywhere else. Send subscriptions to PO Box 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. Periodicals Postage Paid at Tucson, Arizona. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Earth First!*, PO Box 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702-3023.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURES

- 1 VERMONT GARDENERS RECLAIM PROPOSED TRUCK STOP SITE
- 1 BLUE RIDGE EF! TAKES ON WAL-MART
- 3 THE ERIC McDAVID STORY
DECEPTION, LIES AND SPIES FROM THE FBI
- 3 ROD CORONADO ON TRIAL
FREE SPEECH TRIAL ENDS IN A HUNG JURY
- 6 THE I-69 CONSULTA AND BEYOND
- 7 SAVING THE FOREST FOR THE TREES
TREESITS AND POLITICS IN INDIANA'S STATE FORESTS
- 7 FOREST DEFENSE BY THE FRIENDS OF MORGAN-MONROE STATE FOREST
- 8 THE GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST HEAVY INDUSTRY
- 9 MAINE VS. THE MULTI-TENTACLED PLUM CREEK ALIEN
- 10 SIX NATIONS DEFENDERS CHARGED WITH "MIS'CHIEF"
- 12 THERE ARE NO SAFE SPACES ON A DEAD PLANET
OR, "HEY CRUST-PUNK, WHICH SPECIES IS THAT TREE YOU'RE PISSING ON?"
- 15 REMEMBERING WILLIAM RODGERS
- 15 HUMBOLDT FOREST DEFENSE

CLIMATE ACTION:

- 16 UK: EDUCATING AND AGITATING AT HEATHROW AIRPORT
- 17 NORTHWEST US: FIGHTING DAMS AND LIQUID NATURAL GAS
- 18 SOUTHEAST US: SHUTTING DOWN DIRTY COAL AND ITS DIRTY MONEY
- 20 DAYDREAMING OF A WORLD WITHOUT COPS
CONFLICT MEDIATION IN OUR RADICAL COMMUNITIES
- 21 uCERPING THE EVERGLADES
EVERGLADES EF! ON RESTORATION
- 22 AN INTERVIEW WITH DANIEL MCGOWAN
- 24 TWO RESPONSES TO PETER YOUNG
LETTERS ON LIFE IN PRISON AND WHAT INSPIRES US TO ACTION
- 25 ECOREPRESSION IN THE MIDWEST
- 25 CHARGES AGAINST SNITCH JAKE FERGUSON UNSEALED
- 25 SHAC: UNDEAD!
- 29 SONGCRAFT OF LIBERATION
MUSIC FROM LARS DIN SONGRIOT
- 29 THE WORLD OF CHILDREN AND ELVES
WELCOME TO TERJIAN

SECTIONS

- 2 EDITORIAL
- 4 DEAR SFB: LETTERS TO THE EDITORS
- 9 BARE BONES
- 11 BLAST FROM THE PAST
- 13 WOLVES & POODLES
- 14 ARMED WITH VISIONS
- 19 FRONTLINES
- 28 PRISONERS IN THE STRUGGLE
- 29 ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 31 EF! DIRECTORY

FRONT COVER



Exiting the System at the UK Climate Camp

Corrections

In the September-October 2007 issue of the *EF! Journal*, some of the facts and impressions given by the article "AFN Day of Action" were incorrect. To clarify:

•The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) did not support, but rather spoke out against any kind of "illegal" blockades. When Terrance Nelson threatened a blockade of CN Rail, he was stepping out of line with AFN leadership's policy.

•Any blockades that happened were either independent of the AFN or a protest against the AFN itself—many see the AFN as complicit in government repression of indigenous peoples. The editorial collective regrets the errors.

The Eric McDavid Story

or, How a Train-Ridin' Green Anarchist Got Hoodwinked by a Wannabe Fed and Thrown in the Slammer for Stuff He Didn't Even Do

BY SACRAMENTO PRISONER SUPPORT

On January 13, 2006, Eric McDavid, Zachary Jenson and Lauren Weiner were arrested in Auburn, California, and charged with one count of conspiracy to destroy public or private infrastructure by means of explosives or fire. Twenty months later, Eric went to trial alone to fight this charge. In the interim, both Weiner and Jenson had agreed to cooperate with the government in a variety of ways, including testifying against Eric at his trial.

Weiner began talking to the FBI a week after her arrest and was released on \$1.2-million bail. Six months later, having previously been denied bail twice as an alleged public danger and flight risk, Jenson agreed to cooperate and was released on \$40,000 bail. Eric was denied bail twice and remained in jail, struggling for vegan meals. After four months of pressure from supporters and a two-week hunger strike, he was finally able to gain access to vegan food—but a week before trial, the jail cut off his vegan meals once again, in an apparent attempt to weaken him. He has not received vegan food since that time. Eric has been in solitary confinement since his arrest.

After months of delays, Eric's trial finally began on September 10. The trial was fraught with clearly biased and improper rulings, and lies were rampant.

The trial opened with the government's star witness: cooperating witness "Anna," a young woman who was paid \$65,000 by the FBI to befriend and entrap Eric and his codefendants. Anna, who was 17 at the time she began working for the FBI, admitted repeatedly during her testimony that she was a liar. At one point Eric's attorney, Mark Reichel, said to her, "All lies, all the time, 24-7 would be the ad in the phone-book, right?"

"When I was undercover, in my role, correct," she responded.

Despite the government's best attempts to obscure the truth, Anna's testimony proved that she was the driving force behind the "conspiracy" and that without her and her FBI masters, it never could have happened.

The other two key witnesses for the government were Eric's former codefendants, both of whom admitted that they had agreed to cooperate because of the "75-percent-off sale," as Reichel dubbed it—the 75 percent reduction in prison time they were promised in exchange for cooperating. They also both stated

that their sentencing had been delayed until after Eric's trial so that the government could see how they performed first. Weiner seemed visibly shaken throughout her testimony. She also seemed relieved, when Reichel cross-examined her, to finally have the opportunity to speak something more closely resembling the truth. This was not the case with Jenson, who behaved like a trained monkey.

After six full days in court, the jury left the courtroom, and both sides began to argue over the instructions that the jury would receive. These instructions would guide the members of the jury in making their decision about Eric's innocence or guilt, but the judge issued devastatingly incorrect instructions. The first blow came when the judge denied the inclusion of the "lesser included offense" instruction. This instruction would have allowed the jury to find Eric not guilty of the crime he was charged with, but guilty of the charge that Weiner and Jenson had pleaded to. While this clearly would not have been an outstanding victory, if Eric had been

found guilty only of the lesser offense, it would have capped his sentence at five years, instead of 20.

The other huge point of contention in the jury instructions was the definition of "predisposition." For the government to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a defendant was not entrapped (and is therefore guilty), it first must prove that the defendant was inclined to commit a crime prior to contact with a government agent—in this case, Anna. After a series of intense arguments, the judge instructed the jury to examine the question of predisposition beginning in June 2005—the moment at which the government claimed the conspiracy began, and almost a year after Eric and Anna had met and remained in contact. This ruling was in clear defiance of not only logical reasoning, but also of case law, which says: "Quite obviously, by the time a defendant actually commits the crime, he (sic) will have become disposed to do so.... The relevant time frame for assessing a defendant's disposition comes before he has any contact with government agents, which is doubtless why it is called predisposition (*US v. Poehlman*)."

Armed with a set of faulty instructions, the jury returned after two days of deliberation with a guilty verdict.

continued on page 26



Eric McDavid

photo courtesy Sacramento Prisoner Support

Rod Coronado and the Order of the Phoenix

Free Speech Trial Ends in Hung Jury

BY VOICE OF THE EARTH

In *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, our reluctant hero is dragged before the Ministry of Magic's high court for his alleged misuse of magic. With a sentence in the dungeons of Azkaban hanging over his head, Harry is rescued at the last minute by the arrival of Albus Dumbledore, headmaster of Hogwarts School and possibly the most gifted wizard in the world. September's trial of Rod Coronado was little different from this tale, complete with the legal wizardry of legendary civil rights attorney Tony Serra (who, like Dumbledore, sports long white hair and half-moon spectacles).

Let's bring readers up to speed. On August 1, 2003, after four years in prison and three years of restrictive probation for his role in a string of Animal Liberation Front (ALF) arsons of fur research facilities, Rod Coronado gave a speech in San Diego, California. This speech was not unlike many lectures he had given across the US and Europe. What was different was that the night before, the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) had claimed a \$50-million arson of an under-construction condominium complex. Law enforcement agencies both local and federal investigated the fire and Coronado, but after two years there were no arrests. This led investigators to instead launch an investigation into the lecture itself—arguably to determine whether Coronado's lecture might have violated a rarely

used anti-terrorism statute that makes it a federal crime to distribute information related to bomb-making. During a question-and-answer period following the lecture in San Diego, Coronado was asked how he had made an incendiary device during his time in the ALF. This was the question that led to his indictment in February 2006.

In *Order of the Phoenix*, Harry becomes aware of a secret society of wizards who are in league

Steve Christiansen—wielding law books as well as any wizard has ever waved a wand.

The first day of trial, September 10, was jury selection. The defense had recruited a professional jury selection specialist, Anthony Napoleon, who could easily teach Defense Against the Dark Arts at Hogwarts. By the second day, the jury had been selected and opening arguments began. Assistant US Attorney John Parmley described how the government would prove that Coronado's only purpose in answering the fateful question was for others to rush out and commit arson. He talked about the ELF fire, calling it the single largest act of "ecoterror" in US history—even though Coronado is not a suspect in the investigation and has not been indicted for anything other than answering a question. Many of Coronado's most inflammatory quotes were read, most taken off of two laptops seized during the search of his home.

It was eerie and Orwellian to witness a trial for spoken words, with only other words presented as evidence. The majority of evidence in this case came from articles published in the *EF! Journal*, *No Compromise* and *Bite Back*. Also in evidence were Coronado's 2005 interview on "60 Minutes" and a speech he gave at American University in Washington, DC, in 2003.

continued on page 27



"Dumbledore's army"

photo courtesy Karen Pickard

to fight the evil Lord Voldemort and his followers, the Death Eaters. Coronado's all-star legal team was of the same caliber—fighting not Death Eaters, but the FBI and the two Assistant US Attorneys whose job it is to see Coronado returned to prison. Besides Serra, the defense team included Gerald Singleton, Omar Figueroa, Ben Rosenfeld, Troy Pickard, Alexis Bustelo and

Shit
Dear
for
Brains



Dear Shit for Brains

To Whom it May Concern,

After reading the July-August issue of the *Earth First! Journal* and the articles regarding prison, my friend Oso Blanco and I decided to post a little bit about our prison experiences in the federal penitentiary. I read Peter Young's article about his prison experience along with Jeffrey "Free" Luers' article in response to the article Young wrote. Both were, in my opinion, hella good articles. I have been to an FCI (medium security), so I can relate to what views they had. However, we are currently in a USP (level six high security). It is far different than a medium or a camp. In here, one faces all the things that pop up into most people's heads when they hear the word "penitentiary"—bad food, the worst of the worst, rape, extortion, your best friend will smash your head in if you get out of line, there are stabbings and killings, percussion grenades blowing off by your head, guards in towers shooting off AR-15s, just to name some of the everyday bullshit we deal with. They call this place "Bloody Beaumont" for a reason. This is the worst prison in the BOP. This is fact. But....

There is another side to this place. There is a lot of respect here. It's all in how you carry yourself. I am the same in here as I was on the streets. I have just grown more spiritually, mentally and physically. Because of the way I carry myself, along with what little bit people know about me and what I stand for, I get respect. Oso gets respect also—because of his Red Road ways, people see what he's about, what his case involved and because he's been on TV ("FBI Files"), although "FBI Files" made the story into a propaganda wave of crap.

We both realize we aren't social prisoners. We focus on the positive. We use the sweat lodge and all its medicines, and we use the herbs for healing purposes. Since I've been here, I've seen my friend Oso Blanco do a lot of healing. Both people and birds have benefited. Our friend, Junior, caught a staph infection on his leg. After a little naturopathic medicine and Oso's prayers, the staph was gone.

Oso has healed four birds that I know of and currently has two he is helping now—

one of which is currently on intensive care status. On down time, it is the norm to see him kicked back on his bunk, reading a book with the birds perched up on his shoulder. This third bird fell out of its nest, still a fluff. Someone brought her to me, and I gladly took her in. She is already, within just a few days, stronger and eating on her own. Medicine and prayers are very powerful! We must be doing something righteous because these feathers from birds of prey (hawks, owls, etc.) keep coming to us in a good way.

As chaotic as this penitentiary is, a few nights back Oso and I were in my cell talking about how the prisoners need to unite and make changes. The next day, it happened. On July 21, approximately 1,400 prisoners were all on the yard in Beaumont USP, agreeing to change certain things and enforce others. Unity! I saw more handshakes and shook more hands on that day than I think I have throughout my entire life. It was an awesome thing to see people forget about race or what gang you're in and all come together as one voice. I feel if everyone came together and united against the governments and corporations that continue to decimate our Mother, this planet would become a much better place.

Prison is obviously no fun. Unfortunately, it sometimes becomes a reality for people in the Struggle. You just have to keep your head up, stay out of shit as much as possible, do your time and get out so you can continue to do your part in the Struggle. That's part of it!

Warriors, you know who you are. You can't just be a warrior. It's a calling. It's your destiny. When you come into

this life, the Creator already knows what path you will take. We are the chosen ones. If you are ignoring the "Truth" and passing up your calling, you are wrong. It's time to rise up! Modern day society is turning men into softass pansies. You can't be scared of what repercussions your duties bring. It has to be done. Just hope you don't get caught, and be careful and keep your mouth shut. Live the life you were given, and give back to the Creator and Mother Earth by being the warrior you truly are. "Rise up!" Get mad and fight back, before it really is too late.

Oso Blanco and I are very happy to hear that Jeffery "Free" Luers got his sentence overturned. This truly is a blessing in the name of eco-defense. Oso Blanco likes Jeffery "Free" Luers a lot. There were many prayers going out to Luers, just as there are with all warriors caught up in the Struggle.

Much love to all my kidz and Family,
—JAMES ANDERSON (AKA COYOTE)

Dear EF!

It would be nice if your newsletter would give more attention to bikes and cycling. Green transport!

—EUGENE
BROOKLYN

Dear SFB,

Earth First! should say we need to eliminate all automobiles to save the Earth! And build only massive 100-story multi-use tower cities connected to maglev trains! It's the only way to save the Earth! By eliminating the human footprint on the Earth as much as possible.

—SANDY

Dear EF! Journal,

I'm writing in response to the recent review of *Thought to be Extinct in the Wild*, Derrick

Jensen's new book (see *EF!* September-October 2007).

In short, "E-Mag's" review was completely full of shite—written, unfortunately, from a book which is hopelessly, hopelessly out of date. While many of the "facts" quoted (the selling of animals as pets, killing of surplus animals, the killing of animals' families in order to catch infants) may have actually happened in the past, no zoo in current times would be able to operate using those antiquated methods. Zoos now are bound by rules agreed to under the accreditation process of various professional associations operating in most continents around the world. These rules now have in place strict adherence to internationally recognized conservation laws, as well as laws enforcing the humane treatment of animals (almost all of which are of a higher standard than the ones being used by governments currently in most countries). While of course I cannot generalize (as E-Mag does) and speak for every zoo on the planet, the majority of them now have dedicated themselves to these higher objectives. As I've said, they would not be able to stay in business otherwise.

Until all of us in the animal rights movement evolve, and come to prioritize correctly the most urgent needs facing our fellow animals today, there will not be a movement capable of generating the mass support of society that will be necessary in order to cause a lasting and meaningful change in our relationship to the rest of the residents of this planet we inhabit. Until then, I'd just ask for a little less theosophy, and a bit more of openness and common sense. The animals do not care what our "ideas" are, just what concrete things we

do in order to make the world a better place for them to survive along with us.

—YURI
MIAMI

Editors' Note: Among the sources for Derrick Jensen's claims in Thought to Be Extinct in the Wild are Zoo: A History of Zoological Gardens in the West by Eric Baratay and Elisabeth Hardouin-Fugier, published in 2002; The Modern Ark: The Story of Zoos: Past, Present and Future by Vicki Croke, published in 1997; and a 1999 San Jose Mercury News investigation (cited in Baratay and Hardouin-Fugier). Interested readers can check for themselves to decide whether these claims are "hopelessly out of date." Regarding accreditation, the Mercury News concluded that "accredited zoos... purposely breed animals in order to exploit their commercial appeal and then cast them into ignominious conditions." Finally, please note that only 10 percent of zoos in the US are even accredited.

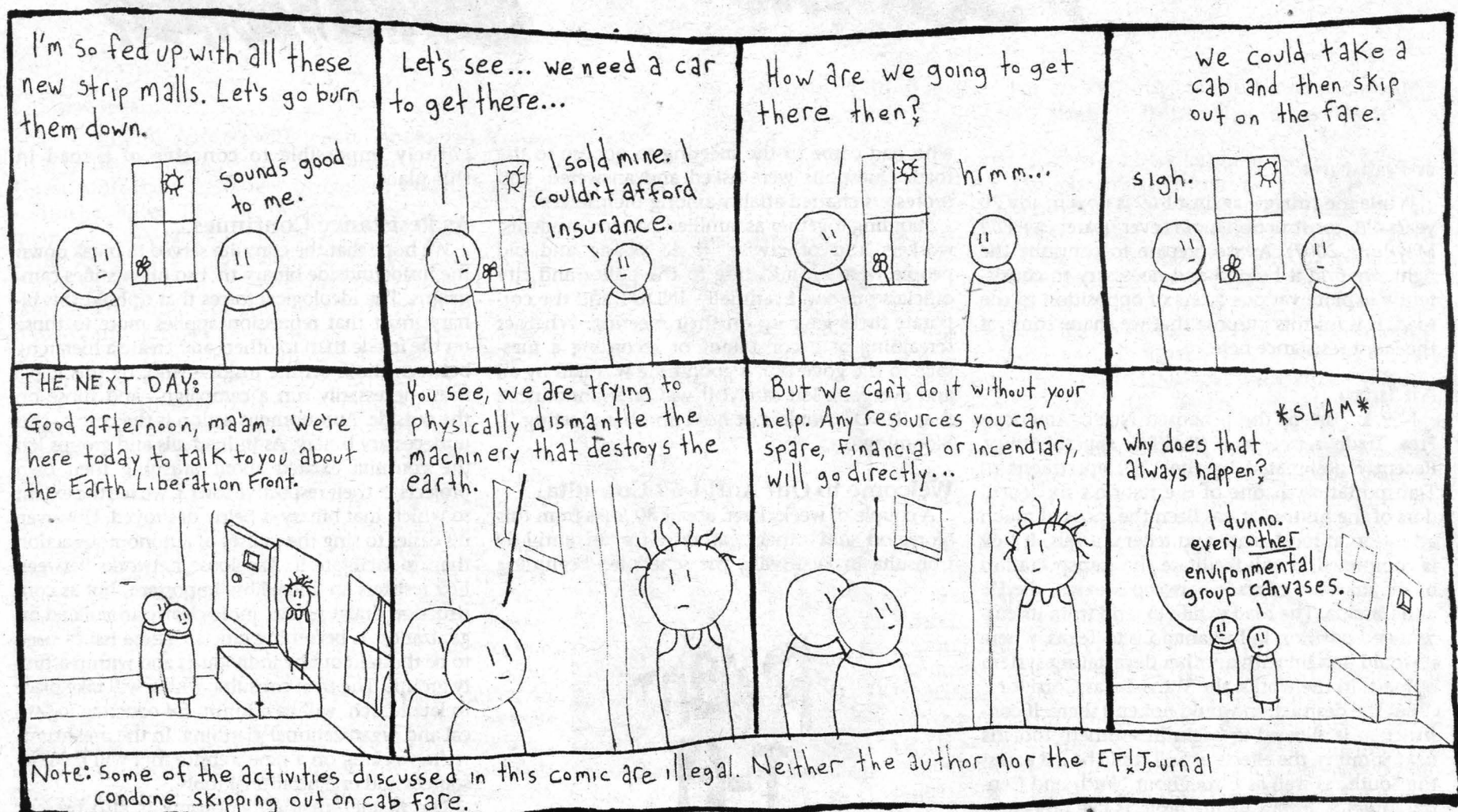
Dear SFB,

In a Sept-Oct 2007 *EF! Journal* letter, Mike Novack draws several conclusions based on an assumption that we humans are omnivores—"like a raccoon or black bear."

Well most people share this mistaken idea, but that doesn't make it so. An informed, unbiased assessment reveals that *Homo sapiens'* physical characteristics are far more like those of chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans and gibbons—our four closest animal relatives, and all vegan or nearly so—than those of raccoons, bears, and other true omnivores. We are, in fact, slightly omnivorous plant-eaters.

That we can extract nutrients from animal products doesn't mean that our bodies are primarily omnivorous, or that doing so necessarily does more good than harm. That some cultures on the planet have taken up eating a lot of meat and dairy in recent centuries likewise doesn't automatically make us an omnivorous species.

Throughout hundreds of thousands of years of prehistory, we have eaten animals in time of need and supplemented our normal plant-based diet with animals—especially those easily caught, such as insects, shellfish and certain reptiles



and amphibians. Eating meat occasionally is natural to humans.

Eating large amounts routinely is not.

So everyone, please stop basing things on the assumption that we are omnivores. We aren't.

—LYNN JACOBS
TUCSON

Dear Friends,

An addendum to Lauren Gazzola's article on federal women's prisons (see *EF!* September-October 2007). In addition to the camps and FCIs, there is also a small maximum security unit (17 women) which, two years ago, also became the death row (one woman).

I have been here since 1998, and before that was in an equivalent unit in Florida for over nine years. When the "mission" of that unit switched to WITSEC (high-level snitches) men, we were transferred here. All of us are in single-occupancy cells.

The Carswell max unit is part of a complex that also includes a camp, FCI and medical center. We are in a small, self-contained building with attached recreation yard. We never leave this building except for medical treatment that can't be done here. Unlike the men in ADX Florence, we are not in our cells 23 hours daily. For reasons too complicated to explain here, some days we are locked down for much of the time, but other days we can be in the common area, TV room,

exercise room or yard for extended periods.

Thanks for your good work.
—HELEN WOODSON

Dear Shit fer Brains,

Big ups to Jeff Luers for his honest and clear assessment of where he is at after serving more than seven years in prison (see *EF!* September-October 2007). I'm sure, like other dispatches Jeff has authored over the years, this one both surprised and disappointed some people. It certainly made me think of not only the ideas and expectations I have for Jeff, but also my undetermined role as a brand new political prisoner from our movement.

As a defendant in the so-called "Operation Backfire" case, I experienced directly the fact that our movement—let's call it the radical enviro or Anarchist movement—has pretty big expectations and obligations for us. When my lawyers withdrew a motion regarding potential NSA surveillance of the defendants (a condition necessary for our guilty plea), we received undue criticism from people who didn't understand our legal strategy in any way. Some went so far as to say we hurt the movement by not going forward with this motion. Needless to say, none of these critics ever faced life in prison.

As a longtime supporter of political prisoners, I experienced time and time again this movement's expectations foisted onto defendants and prisoners—the Santa Cruz 2 being castigated

for showing remorse, people seriously arguing Rod Coronado was not an Animal Liberation Front prisoner in the mid-1990s, activists creating hoops for us to jump through to prove some aspect of militancy or radical credentials.

Personally, I got burned by this dynamic after contacting an author whose work I respect and find compelling, asking him to consider interviewing me. His response was no—that the interviews are time consuming and well, my sentencing statement wasn't his cup of tea. He said it didn't compare to the Haymarket martyrs or some other recent prisoners who made defiant sentencing statements! This situation points out a horrible dynamic—well-meaning and even generally supportive people who have never dealt with the situations many of us find ourselves in.

So, when Jeff Luers writes that he wants to learn about green building, going to school and healing his relationships, I hope you give him the space to do that. When Rod Coronado says

to ask him about plants, not war stories, give him the space. People grow and change over time—this is a good thing. I myself left Earth Liberation Front in 2001 and had no intention of engaging in sabotage ever again. I also, at this point, need to devote some energy to processing long-repressed emotions and dealing with the trauma of the last two years. Please give us the flexibility to be who we are, to step back when we need to, to be dynamic individuals who don't stay frozen but who change and evolve.

Finally, I want to recommend a book I am only halfway through but that has hit me like a ton of bricks. It's *Aftershock: Confronting Trauma in a Violent World*, by Patrice Jones. I hadn't considered the last two years as trauma *per se* until now, but the threat of life in prison, being flown to various prisons shackled, court dates, legal bills, coping and pressure has had an effect on me that I cannot deny or ignore. Check this book out and see if it resonates with you.

Keep your letters to 300 words or less...

My criticism of dynamics in our movement is in no way a lack of appreciation for the tremendous support I have received. For that, I am eternally grateful.

—DANIEL MCGOWAN

Dear Shit fer Brains,

Having just read our article, "EF! Trans and Wimmin's Action Camp," published in the Mabon (September-October) 2007 issue, we came across an editing mistake that we feel needs to be addressed. In two places in the article, we made reference to people who are both male-identified and assigned, saying that they were not welcome at the space. In the editing process a simple "and" was changed to an "or," which gave the impression that we were making reference to people who are either male-identified or assigned. The issue we had with this error was that it is possible to be male-identified but female-assigned/bodied and therefore identify as trans. We feel that this mistake is particularly grievous because TWAC, as it was, struggled with trans inclusiveness. We are worried that this change in wording is alienating to male-identified trans people and skewed the meaning of the article.

We understand that our wording may have been confusing and possibly unclear, but we would appreciate if this correction could be published to ensure that our intentions are not misinterpreted.

Thanks,

—TRIPLE C

I-69?

PSSH... NOT EVEN GONNA HAPPEN!

BY PERSIMMON

While the struggle against I-69 is now nearly 20 years old, construction looms ever nearer (see *EF!* May-June 2007). As we prepare to continue the fight, we find it helpful and necessary to consistently explore various facets of opposition to the road. It is for this purpose that we share some of the latest resistance here.

An Intro

I-69 is part of the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) superhighway. Recently designated by the US Department of Transportation as one of the nation's six "corridors of the future," it has been the focus of much attention at local, state and federal levels. If I-69 is completed, it will facilitate the transportation of the majority of trade between Mexico, the US and Canada. The road would extend from its current end position in Indianapolis to Texas, where it would link up with another devastating system of roads in the works: the Trans-Texas Corridor.

But the destruction would not end there. If construction is allowed to begin in southern Indiana next Summer, the effects of I-69 could be felt across the South, as well as throughout North and Central America. Infrastructure projects like I-69 are at the top of governments' agendas the world over. In Mexico and Canada, some of these have been articulated in the Plan Puebla Panama (PPP) and Atlantica trade agreements. By supplying access to the resources and deepening the conditions by which capital thrives, these projects are fundamental to capital's further consolidation. I-69 would plow through 400 families' homes and farms, and ravage 1,500 acres of forest and more than 300 acres of wetlands in Indiana alone. But as daunting as the task of cutting off an artery to the heart of neoliberalism's aspirations is, a collective air of excitement here in Indiana has been sustained by various successes and is spreading across this and other bioregions.

Shutting Down Their Meeting!

In response to the insistently monolithic "logic" of neoliberalism, resistance to the road has always been highly varied, ranging from grassroots community efforts to lawsuits to direct action. It has reflected personal interests, anti-capitalist tendencies and environmental concerns. It has been extensive and widespread.

One recent manifestation of this opposition was when protesters shut down a "community planning meeting" in Bloomington on August 21. The meeting, hosted by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and Wilbur Smith (the firm responsible for planning the northernmost section of I-69 and also involved in PPP planning), was ostensibly held to outline a grant process for communities slated to be devastated by the road's construction. These grants represent a profound depth of obfuscation and unabashedly cater to the interests of the owners of capital. A few words at this meeting were enough to trigger the audience's strong emotions. Just moments after INDOT's project overseer, Stephen Smith, opened his mouth to spew the usual trash, he was shut down by a whirlwind of accusation. Instantaneously, the room was transformed. While some shouted down the officials responsible for this blatant buy-off attempt, others unfurled banners reading, "This is bribery" and "You can't mitigate broken lives." Other protesters moved to the front of the room and resumed the presentation from a different perspective.

The rest of the audience had looks of either disgust or of genuinely pleased surprise. Smith announced to the former that they would take a 15-minute break while the dissent was "cleared up"—but 15 minutes later, they still weren't getting much planning done. The group of protesters had grown to include the many different people

who had come to the meeting to oppose to the road. Questions were asked and answered, and protesters chatted affably among themselves.

Standing together as families, parents, students, workers and otherwise, these young and old people were intimidating to the police and city officials present. Eventually, INDOT and the corporate fucks gave up on their meeting. Whether screaming at a consultant or recording a message to the governor, a good time was had by all and everyone left safely! It was later announced that INDOT would not hold another meeting in Bloomington.

Welcome to Our Anti-I-69 Consulta

A couple of weeks later, about 30 folks from this bioregion and others gathered for an anti-I-69 Consulta in Evansville, the scheduled beginning

entirely impossible to conceive of a road in this place.

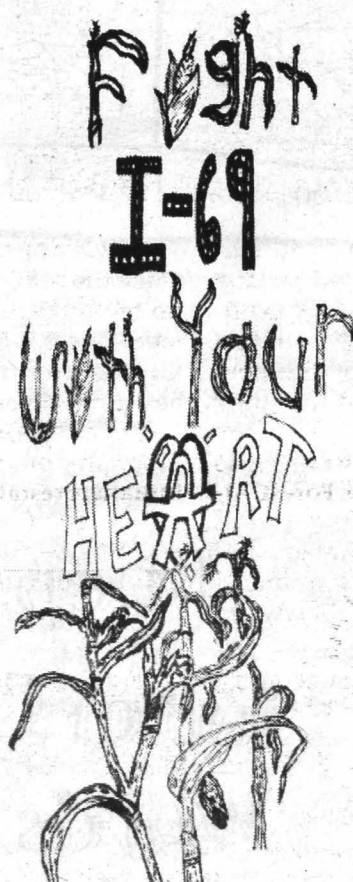
As Resistance Continues....

We hope that the consulta served to break down the inside/outside binary that so often stifles campaigns. The ideological forces that uphold this binary insist that repression applies more to those on the inside than to others and create a hierarchy between those on the inside—who, by this logic, must necessarily run a campaign—and those on the outside. Autonomous action is the cure to this unnecessary binary. As individuals and groups left the consulta excited about pursuing their own projects in their respective towns, we see the extent to which that binary is being destroyed. However, it's easier to sing the praises of autonomous action than to facilitate it. The loose networks between I-69 resisters are incredibly important, but as construction draws nearer, more clearly articulated organization is becoming crucial. These issues need to be thought out by individuals and within affinity groups. The next consulta, which will take place in late March, will be a forum for concrete logistical and organizational planning. In the meantime, we're working on a new website that will have resources and organizational tools.

The inside/outside dichotomy is also present between the anarchist/Earth First!/direct-action crowd and the families living along the route. Folks from both groups, however, have long worked to make connections and are continuing to do so. There are plans for increased communication—in the form of visits, letters and a regular newsletter—which may lead to coordinated actions. While these families and farmers obviously and rightly have their own forms of resistance and organization, the boundaries between these and other types of resistance are permeable. We seek to both show solidarity and work in common struggle with folks around the planned route. The reasons to fight I-69 are as urgent and important as our opposition is wide and varied. As we see this resistance coalescing, we know that they will never build this road.

For more info, contact roadblockef@yahoo.com; i69news.bee-town.com.

Persimmon is just another member of the ungovernable masses.



of the route's construction and the southernmost Indiana town through which the road would pass. Meeting to generate dialogue and communication around opposition to the road, individuals and affinity groups engaged with I-69 issues, the land and each other.

The consulta began with brief discussions on the importance of fighting oppression and on security culture. There was a question-and-answer session, and afterwards, the group discussed what people hoped to see come out of the anti-road struggle. Much wider than simply stopping the road, these hopes included a desire to reinvigorate environmental direct action in the Midwest and to spread knowledge of the neoliberal agenda. While these various points were supported by some more than others, they complemented each other, and the diversity of tactics and actions proposed in the next discussion was encouraging. A majority of the people left invigorated and anxious to continue or start the struggle in their respective communities.

After the day's discussion ended, folks made their way to the beginning of the proposed route, where they walked the first two miles. The sun was setting, giving out a golden light as we walked alongside rows and rows of corn stalks that still seemed vibrantly alive, even in their drought-ridden state. They were golden and gleaming in the sun, and they rolled along for what could have been forever. Where the corn stopped, trees started. The light that filtered through them landed on our faces. It was



artwork by the Beehive Collective

Saving the Forest For the Trees

BY DREW LAIRD

On August 20, activists with Friends of Morgan-Monroe and Earth First! set up a treesit atop a red oak in southern Indiana's Morgan-Monroe State Forest. More than 1,000 trees are currently being logged in this timber sale in Tinch Ridge. The lone treesitter came down when an Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) technical climber arrived at the scene and threatened that if the officer was injured during the climb, the activist would be charged with assaulting an officer. The sitter was charged with criminal trespass and released. Two others providing ground support were given written warnings. Activists returned to the site for a press conference the next morning.

The DNR's Division of Forestry continues to operate in total disregard of public opinion and science-based ecological management principles, as well as in violation of federal and state environmental laws—including the Indiana Environmental Policy Act (IEPA), the federal Endangered Species Act and the Indiana Endangered Species Act.

The Tinch Ridge sale is a very heavy cut on steep slopes, effectively guaranteeing heavy erosion as a result. This particular sale is the third to date along the three-mile-long Rockshelter Trail, one of the most beautiful and popular trails in the Morgan-Monroe. A fourth sale is planned, and its log landing has already been bulldozed.

After DNR staff heavily marked many trees for cutting on the steep, erodeable slopes of Tinch Ridge, they threw their empty spray paint cans in the cavity of a hollow black oak.

The DNR undertakes no biological surveys before cutting a timber sale—insisting only that a forester walk the tract and mark down any wildlife seen running or flying away! Southern Indiana forest provides critical wildlife habitat for the endangered Indiana bat and migratory songbirds like the cerulean warbler, yet the DNR maintains no management plan for any sensitive or endangered species on state lands. The DNR has completed an environmental assessment for its timber sale program only once, and even the department admits that the study was insufficient.

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels has directed the DNR to increase logging on state forests by 400 percent. In August, Indiana Forest Alliance (IFA) members held a protest at the state forest headquarters as five new tracts were sold in the Morgan-Monroe. These timber sales would produce 1.7 million board feet of lumber. Documents produced by the DNR show that revenues from logging in the Yellowwood

and Morgan-Monroe State Forests are projected to increase by 1,000 percent to nearly \$3 million a year, up from previous projections of \$326,000 a year.

Before Daniels was elected Governor of Indiana, he served as budget director for President Bush. Daniels estimated that the Iraq War would cost \$20 billion to \$40 billion; now the cost is up to nearly half a trillion dollars. Daniels has taken Indiana down a similar dark path—leasing off the operation of the northern toll road to an international corporation, privatizing the Indianapolis water system and the Indiana state parks, giving the green light to Duke Energy to build massive new coal plants, and attempting to trade the Glendale Fish and Wildlife Area in southern Indiana to the Black Beauty Coal Company. He has declared southern Indiana the "Saudi Arabia of Coal."

The IFA has been suing the DNR's Division of Forestry over its failure to abide by the IEPA, claiming that Indiana never completed a sufficient environmental assessment of its logging practices on state forests. The litigation will be heard in court this Fall, and the IFA hopes for a decision by mid-Winter.

Forest activists have erected treesits in Indiana state forests before, with varying degrees of success. In 2001, a group called the Friends of Yellowwood State Forest conducted an eight-month treesit in a red oak named Prometheus. The sale was canceled and a 35-acre tract was spared. In July 2006, a group called the Hoosier Forest Defense Network set up a bipod on a logging road in the Morgan-Monroe State Forest. DNR Conservation officers, claiming they had received a tip that there was

a meth lab operating at the location, charged in with M-16 assault rifles. Once the officers saw the activists' banner, it was obvious that there was no meth lab, but they still threatened the 16-year-old bipod sitter with lethal force if he did not descend.

Please consider coming to Indiana and taking action to protect our beautiful, diverse forests—actions will continue in Spring 2008.

For more information, contact Indiana Forest Alliance, POB 1074, Bloomington, IN 47402; (812) 332-4878; ifa.director@gmail.com; www.indianaforestalliance.org.

Drew Laird is the director of the Indiana Forest Alliance. He cut his teeth on EF!'s campaign to protect the Headwaters Forest in Humboldt in 1997. His affinity group, the Rockskippers Collective, set treesits and locked down to log loaders in the Bear Creek watershed.

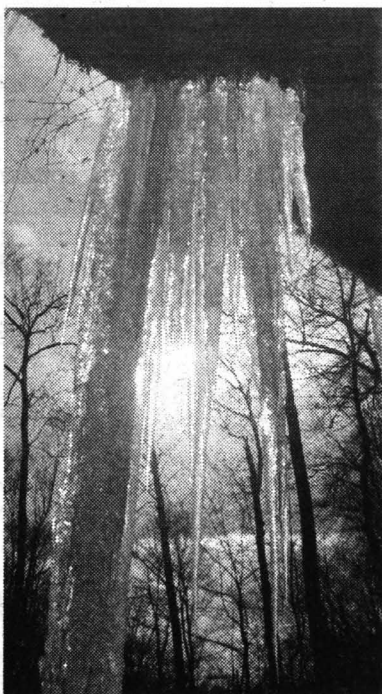


Photo courtesy Drew Laird

THOUGHTS FROM THE EARTH FIRST! FRIENDS OF MORGAN-MONROE

BY (A) TRANSIENT FOREST FAIRIE

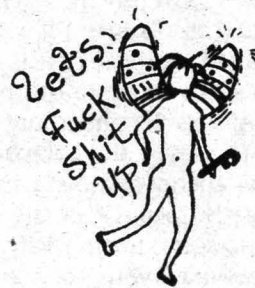
With next year's Ronly being in Ohio and continued resistance developing for Spring and Summer in Indiana, the EFers! involved have a few things to share with the masses of traveling activists, affinity groups and organizers doing planning! Too often will activists leave their own bioregions to take part in distant forest or other ecodefense actions, when along the roads that lead them there, many other pristine wildlife

areas are falling victim to capitalist scumbags, infrastructure projects, mining and logging. Please consider upping the ante in the Midwest where as much, if not more, help is needed as in places like the Northwest.

Protesting a public logging sales meeting in the week preceding a recent treesit in Morgan-Monroe State Forest filled many of us with overwhelmingly disenfranchised feelings. We left with our minds swimming, attempting to create a situation that would empower us and allow us to feel that we were adequately addressing the annihilation of the "state-owned," not-so-public lands of our bioregion. After many meetings and careful scouting adventures, urgent direct action seemed the only appropriate measure to take in the face of destruction!

A few simple things made it possible for our plan to unfold: Having all the necessary gear together and ready—including harnesses, ropes, a platform, a pulley and carabineers—was one necessity. Having a team of sassy, ready-to-act climbers with the know-how to literally get our plan off the ground was another tool in the box. I mention all this because, while basic to some, these few things can mean the difference between drowning in the system as we grow helplessly overwhelmed by the ravaging carnage that surrounds us, and keeping our heads above water as we take action. Basically, we are proposing that every EF! collective aspiring to start campaigns begin by "learning the ropes" now, before that next sale is announced and it's too late!

Our sit was evicted within 24 hours of its creation. Obviously, tactics and planning need to be discussed. Timing is a big thing.



Perhaps, if the sit had been established longer before the cutting, it could have led to a more effective awareness campaign. Maybe it would have encouraged others to do multiple sits in solidarity with the first. Another tactic that was unrealistic due to time constraints was creating more elaborate webbing and hanging techniques. There was also the option of blockading all the roads leading to the sit, which could have cost the loggers a fair amount of time.

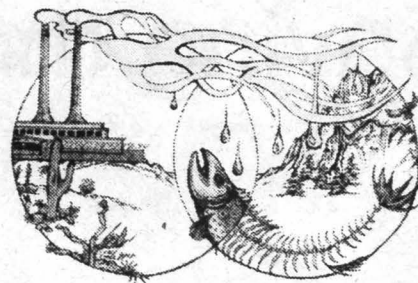
As many people express dissatisfaction with the lack of action taking place in the EF! movement, we hope that this can act as a catalyst for actions that see no end! As we approach the planned Springtime resistance to I-69 and then slide into the Summer Rendezvous and defense of the Buckeye Forest, let's start communicating and plotting safely amongst our affinity groups ways to navigate through this mess of catastrophic destruction. We hope our first attempt at defending this beautiful heartthrob forest helps spark conversation about increased action in the EF! movement!

These thoughts, plots and dreams were communicated by a transient forest fairie friend that has no home except for the hearts of many! They anxiously await getting their wings dirty in B-town again.

ZEN PEN Professor Shenandoah



Global Actions Against Heavy Industry



BY SAVING ICELAND

On September 12, people in South Africa, Iceland, Trinidad, Denmark, the US, Holland and the UK took action for the Global Day of Action Against Heavy Industry. This marked the first coordinated event of a new and growing global movement that began at the 2007 Saving Iceland protest camp in Ölfus, Iceland. The common target of these protests was the aluminum industry, in particular the corporations Rio Tinto Alcan and Alcoa.

September 12 was chosen because it marks the first anniversary of a historic action in Trinidad against Alcoa that forced Prime Minister Patrick Manning to drop his aluminum mining plans. In 2006, more than 80 locals threw themselves in front of the machinery of engineering company Trintoplan and its heavily armed police escorts. This year, there was a gathering near Trinidad and Tobago's San Fernando High Court in remembrance of that action.

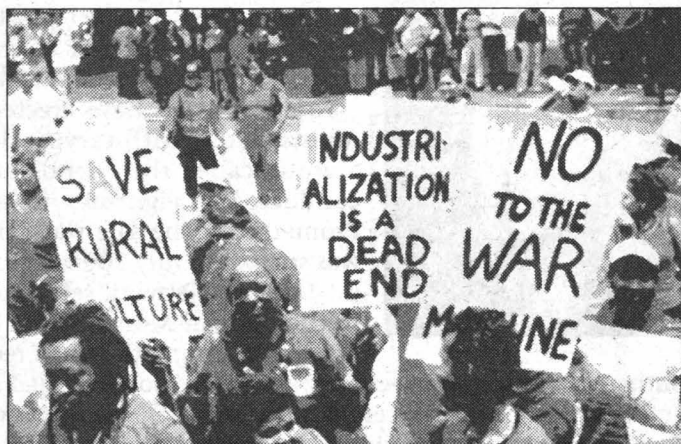
"September 12, 2006, was the day that activists confronted tractors and police on Foodcrop Road, and this day will forever live in the hearts and minds of activists in Trinidad and Tobago as a crucial moment of our fight for environmental and social justice," said Atillah Springer of the Rights Action Group.

Meanwhile, Trinidadian lawyers were regrouping for a legal battle against the Environmental Management Authority (EMA)—representing heavy industry—that will be pivotal in the island's path of development. On July 31, a federal judge refused to dismiss a lawsuit against the EMA, and the case is ongoing.

In South Africa, 250 people marched on Alcan's Johannesburg headquarters to protest the company's preferential energy treatment in a country where 30 percent of the population has no access to electricity. Alcan is to be provided with coal- and nuclear-powered energy for a new smelter in

the Eastern Cape—a smelter that will consume as much electricity as half of the city of Cape Town—at some of the lowest prices in the world. Protesters blocked the entrance of the Alcan headquarters for 90 minutes, allowing no one to come or go.

In Iceland—despite terrible winds and rain—people visited the Minister for Environment, Thórunn Sveinbjarnardóttir, at her home for breakfast. Activists had a friendly chat with her and gave her a letter asking her to clear up her seemingly contradictory green opinions. Sveinbjarnardóttir keeps saying



Trinidadians protesting Alcoa in 2006

that she opposes new smelters, but in fact is pushing through plans for five new smelters in Iceland!

The Icelandic government is trying to rush through the construction of numerous new and expanded aluminum smelters. These hydro- and geothermal-powered heavy industry projects have been condemned by environmental scientists and activists. Three dam reservoirs are planned along the Thjorsa River to power a new Alcoa smelter or an expansion of the Alcan plant in Hafnarfjörður (which was rejected by a local referendum).

On the day of action, protesters also gathered along the Thjorsa River and at government offices in Reykjavik.

"This destruction is only based on the greed of Landsvirkjun [the national power company] and has no economic logic," said Saving Iceland activist Síggi Hardarson. "We are here to show support for the local farmers who are fighting against Landsvirkjun to defend their land and our land."

In Denmark, 50 people marched along the roads of Copenhagen with a banner that read, "Global Struggle Against Heavy Industry," pausing for a surprise en-route confetti and banner drop that proudly read, "Queers Against Heavy Industry." There, they heard a talk about the aluminum industry globally, before proceeding to the Icelandic embassy and Greenland's Representation Office, where they heard talks by an Icelander about the situation in that country. A talk was also given about the situation in Greenland—where Alcoa is in the planning stages of a smelter project.

A protest was also held in northeastern England, at Alcan's Pharmaceutical Packaging Facility in Cramlington. Additional protests took place at the coal-fired power station at Lynemouth.

"The population of Iceland is roughly the same as that of Newcastle—we felt we had to come and show some solidarity with this little country that is trying its best to fight in its corner against the

newly ferocious aluminum corporations," said Mark, a protester. "Northeastern England is slowly becoming a showcase of new, clean energies—we are well placed to spot it when the language of 'greenwash' is used to present terribly destructive and stupid developments as 'clean' energy. It has to be stopped, for all our sakes."

In Holland, a solidarity message appeared along the train tracks near Arnhem. The phrases "Save the last wilderness of Europe" and "savingiceland.org" were spray-painted on a part of the concrete palisade of the "Betuwelijn," a controversial mega-infrastructure project that connects the Netherlands with Germany and has seen heavy opposition from Groen- Front! (Netherlands EF!).

In New York, a lively and loud bunch gathered outside of Alcoa's New York headquarters, making a nuisance of themselves and giving the aluminum industry's most greenwashing member a much-needed image tarnishing.

Ecowarriors attempted to storm the Alcoa offices and do an office occupation and banner drop from the third story terrace roof.

In India, a small victory was achieved when the Supreme Court allowed its Central Empowered Committee (CEC) on forestry issues to provide input on a study of bauxite mining's impacts on tribal peoples and ecology in the Nyamgiri Hills. Three years ago, the CEC condemned British mining company Vedanta for its plans to mine the hills and for violating numerous forest protection laws in constructing its Lanjigarh smelter. The smelter, while nearly finished, is still completely illegal—much like Alcoa's Reydarfjörður smelter in Iceland, which had its failed Environmental Assessment Report and court condemnation brushed aside by the government.

In western Australia, residents have acquired the support of US Attorney Erin Brockovitch in a legal battle against Alcoa. The corporation intends to double the output of its operations in the region, whilst residents of the nearby town of Yarloop are demanding that Alcoa relocate them. Residents claim that they are "living in a toxic bubble" and that their health has dramatically suffered due to Alcoa's work.

We leave you with the words of Atillah Springer from Trinidad, writing one year ago after the Battle of Foodcrop Road: "This is only the beginning of the struggle. We stand firm with the communities as they continue to agitate for change in Trinidad and Tobago—change in how the government treats the people, change in how we treat our natural resources, change in how we relate to the environment."

It's an uphill struggle, but we are committed to it and continue to believe that we are not putting our asses on the line in vain.

For more information, visit www.savingiceland.org.

Saving Iceland is a no-compromise, grassroots direct-action campaign network out to stop the industrialization of Iceland, large dams and heavy industry in general.

The artwork above is by Lone Wolf Circles.

Blue Ridge EF! Fights Off Wal-Mart

continued from page 1

As such, the corporations said, they should not be subjected to the regulations of Ordinance 1450. The Board of Zoning Appeals agreed, ruling that the council's application of the new rule did indeed amount to retroactive legislation unfair to the real-estate barons. So now, BURG is suing the developers, the town of Blacksburg is suing the developers and Blue Ridge Earth First! (BREF!) has hit the scene to spice things up a bit.

BURG and the town of Blacksburg have a very good case, mostly because Llamas and Fairmount's case is so poorly founded. A certain degree of actual physical work must be done on a project before it's legally granted "vested rights" to ignore new legislation and continue as planned—at least, a good deal more work is required than the pseudo-submission of possible floor-plans. Of course, even if the court does rule that that crazy nut Stosser and her crew somehow

have the right to tear up Mother Earth and poison our community with a "cultural center" of desperate consumerism, we know better! That's why, at the end of the first ever gathering of BREF!, we paid a visit to Miss Jeannie's home.

BREF! formed this past Summer to add a direct-action element to the fight against Dominion Resources' proposed coal-fired power plant in Wise County, Virginia. However, just because Wal-Mart may not be a coal plant doesn't mean we are going to sit back and let it ruin Blacksburg!

On the afternoon of the Autumn Equinox, September 23, about 20 Earth First!ers arrived at our craziest local developer's house just to



Site of the home demo

make sure she was getting the message that we don't want a Wal-Mart in our town. In a matter of 15 minutes, our merry band decorated her house, car, garage, roof and yard with an angry army of yellow frowny faces—resembling the well-known Wal-Mart logo—and a few choice signs that read, "Hey Jeannie, the people don't want it!" "Your profit hurts our community," and "No Wal-Mart." The action added a nice "oomph" to the recent waves of Jeannie Stosser "Wanted" posters appearing around town.

Currently, lawyers for BURG and the town are preparing to face off against Stosser and company in court. In the meantime, BREF! is enjoying the onset of Autumn in Appalachia, and an angry army of yellow frowny faces are preparing for Halloween festivities. Jeannie Stosser always has been an asshole, always.

Minstrel is gathering Chestnuts in southwest Virginia and humming the theme to "I dream of Jeannie."

Maine vs. the Multi-Tentacled Plum Creek Alien

BY STORM

Many people are not aware that a respectably sized chunk of wild forest ecosystem struggles for survival in northern Maine. The Maine North Woods comprise part of the southeastern edge of the Great North Woods, which stretch in an arc across the North American continent (mostly in Canada) from the Atlantic Seaboard to the Great Plains. The Maine North Woods encompass most of the northern half of the state and provide a home for rare species—including wolves and Canada lynx. It is the largest wild, undeveloped area east of the Mississippi River.

Seattle-based Plum Creek Timber Co. is one of the nation's largest private landowners. Many people in the forest defense movement are depressingly familiar with Plum Creek's dismal forest management practices, as well as its propensity toward "developing" forested wildlands into extravagant, exclusive playgrounds for those humans rich, white and callous (or clueless) enough to afford them.

Now Plum Creek has set its sights on northern Maine's Moosehead Lake Region for another such resort complex. Fortunately for this area, Mainers are far from stupid and have been tracking these plans carefully. Plum Creek's first proposal, submitted in 2005 to the Land Use Regulatory Commission (LURC), was rejected after a vociferous outcry from concerned citizens. Its second, revised proposal was rescinded, because Plum Creek knew that the public wouldn't accept it. Finally, in April, Plum Creek submitted its latest proposal, claiming, "You spoke, we listened."

The land that Plum Creek purchased in the Maine North Woods constitutes more than 400,000 acres of forestland. At the time of purchase in 1998, the land was zoned for timber harvesting and cost Plum Creek only \$200 per acre.

Now that the logging industry is declining, Plum Creek seeks to rezone the land in order to exponentially increase its value. Plum Creek's aspirations for the Moosehead Lake Region include converting 20,500 acres of currently forested or otherwise undeveloped land into housing subdivisions and commercial developments. Plum Creek plans to subsidize nearly 1,000 house lots (including 236 shore-front lots) in the area, and develop two massive resorts: one at Moose Mountain and the other along Lily Bay on Moosehead Lake. Together, the two resorts would cover more than 5,000 acres and include 1,050 "accommodation units," which can take any form including more houses, condominiums, gated communities, hotels or motel rooms. Both resorts would include a sprawl of atrocious commercial developments—such as golf courses, fuel stations, beauty shops, restaurants, cell-phone towers and clubhouses up to 5,000 square feet in size.

Plum Creek is trumpeting the Moosehead Legacy Conservation Easement as part of the plan's conservation component, even though this easement is not part of the LURC application. The easement would

sell 266,000 acres in the Moosehead Region to the Nature Conservancy and Appalachian Mountain Club for \$35 million. Plum Creek would also donate the development rights of 90,000 more acres to the Forest Society of Maine. Plum Creek does not hide the fact that this deal depends upon LURC's approval of the Concept Plan. But in the Moosehead Legacy Conservation Easement, Plum Creek reserves the right to build wind turbines and to remove water for commercial water bottling (curiously, Phillip Ahrens, board member and attorney for the Nature Conservancy, is also the attorney for Nestle, a major water privatizer).

Plum Creek's actions reek of cronyism and corruption. Maine boasts the only breeding population of Canada lynx—a federally listed threatened species—in the eastern US, and most of the North Woods contain prime lynx habitat. In November 2005, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) proposed that 10,633 square miles of northern Maine—about one third of the entire state—be designated as critical habitat for this elusive wildcat



A Canadian lynx at night

(about 8,000 more square miles in the western US are also included in that proposal). Plum Creek's holdings in Maine include about 851 square miles of the proposed habitat area, including all of the company's lands around Moosehead Lake.

Between April and October 2006, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior Julie MacDonald met three times with Plum Creek executives. One of these meetings was arranged by and included both of Maine's senators, after Governor John Baldacci petitioned to them for help. Baldacci's administration is opposed to lynx habitat protection—perhaps because Plum Creek's lead council, one Severin Beliveau, is a major donor to Maine's Democratic Party and meets with Baldacci weekly. The two men have been known to go golfing together at a camp owned by Beliveau (one can only imagine the topics of conversation between those holes, so to speak).

In November 2006, the FWS announced a final critical habitat map that completely excludes all the land in Maine. Wildlife officials stated flatly that Maine was excluded because of the desire to cooperate with landowners rather than impose another layer of regulation.

But there is some good news in all of this: In March, an investigation by the Office of Inspector General concluded that MacDonald had been bullying scientists into reshaping scientific conclusions to suit industry, and that she violated federal rules by disclosing confidential information

about endangered species to industry sources. MacDonald resigned in May. In July, the FWS announced that it will review and possibly change the final rule on lynx habitat, as well as that of seven other endangered species decisions, because of MacDonald's political interference.

Resistance to Plum Creek's Moosehead Lake scam is adamant and vocal. Since the first proposal was announced in 2005, Plum Creek has sustained vandalisms to its offices as well as to the homes of its officials. One office was broken into, and logging and other equipment has been sabotaged. When LURC conducted "scoping sessions" to solicit public input regarding the first proposal, Maine residents turned out en masse to register their outrage, including one individual who threw mud and dirty water to symbolize the impact on watersheds. According to the local paper, Plum Creek's regional general manager had his tires slashed while he was inside at one of these meetings.

As of this Autumn, resisters are gearing up for the public hearing process, in which LURC will either reject or accept Plum Creek's zoning request.

If LURC approves the rezoning, one can expect that resistance will only escalate, and there are many angry rural folks who Plum Creek will have to maneuver past. Maine Earth First! and Native Forest Network (NFN)-Gulf of Maine have been organizing many people to participate in these hearings. NFN-Gulf of Maine is participating in the hearing process as an "intervener," which allows it to bring in expert witnesses and to cross-examine other witnesses.

About 30 other groups are intervening as well.

Rising Tide North America is allying itself with local resisters against Plum Creek, bringing into the debate the (largely overlooked) fact that ecosystem destruction and so-called "development" imparts direct, immediate and decidedly detrimental impacts to regional and global climate stability. Such arguments have yet to be tested in court but are (and should be) a critical issue in land-use debates the world over. Plum Creek's response to climate change references has been to relegate them to the status of "irrelevance"—claiming that such inferences are an opportunistic maneuver on the part of environmentalists to capitalize on the "global warming fervor" that seems to be gripping the public.

One of the greatest contributions that the people of Maine can make to the global fight to mitigate and survive anthropogenic climate change is to keep intact—and then work to restore—the Maine North Woods complex.

Issues such as climate change, water quality and testimonies from people outside Maine regarding Plum Creek's equally egregious land-use policies in other states—along with the possible precedents set when rulings are handed down—make this an issue that extends far beyond the borders of the state of Maine.

For more information, contact Maine EFi, maineef@yahoo.com; nfnmaine@yahoo.com; www.mooseheadfutures.com; www.nrcm.org; www.dontbuysfi.com.

BARE BONES

MEND Declares War

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) recently declared "full-scale war" against oil companies and the Nigerian government. MEND is a militant indigenous people's movement dedicated to armed struggle against the exploitation and oppression of the people of the Niger Delta as well as against the degradation of the environment by foreign multinational oil corporations and the government of Nigeria.

Already, MEND has destroyed nearly 25 percent of Nigeria's oil extraction capacity, pushing up gas prices worldwide.

On September 3, Henry Okah, a quiet player in the struggle who is aligned with the indigenous people of the Niger Delta, was arrested in Angola in a frame-up charging him with sponsoring a failed coup attempt in Equatorial Guinea. Later that month, MEND commander Jomo Gbomo's arrest was falsely reported by the Nigerian Government.

In response, MEND stated that it is "committed to the fight for justice and, ultimately, the emancipation of the people of the Niger Delta. We will not sit back and allow our birthright to be exchanged for a bowl of porridge.... From midnight today, September 23, we will commence attacks on installations and abductions of expatriates."

Nuclear Cooling Tower Collapses

Part of a 35-year-old cooling tower at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant collapsed on August 21. The plant, located in Burlington, Vermont, was inspected this past Spring and deemed to be in good condition. After the incident, the plant's operator, Entergy Nuclear, refused to shut down the affected reactor, preferring to cut its power by 50 percent.

A 20-year license extension has been requested for the plant, without which it must cease operations by 2012.

Study: Crash to Happen in 2012

Based on more accurate data on the levels of petroleum reserves remaining in various nations, it appears that oil production will be able to meet only about three-quarters of consumer demand within just five years.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia recently revealed that their largest oil fields contain only about half as much oil as previously estimated.

The International Energy Agency released a report in September claiming that "the world's industrial civilization will soon be facing unprecedented shortages and massive price rises." Oil companies are blaming production problems, political strife and a lack of investment for the projection.

Six Nations Defenders Charged With "Mis'chief"

BY KAHENTINETHA HORN

In the early afternoon of September 19, 20 Six Nations defenders were attacked by the combined forces of more than 200 Ontario Provincial Police, Hamilton City Police and Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The defenders were objecting to a non-native housing development known as "Stirling Street" on their land in the colonial town of Caledonia (see *EF!* November-December 2006). They were attacked by the "Riot Squad," which was bound and determined to create a riot.

The riot squad was armed with M-16s, Tasers, shields, batons and twisty-tie handcuffs. To get the riot going, this combined force of confused wannabe heroes marched in 13 rows in front of fully loaded armored trucks, ambulances and vans ready for new arrestees. Frankly, the attackers looked scared. They had to know that what they were doing was wrong.

The defenders were standing 10 feet behind the boundary line, where a log had been placed as a marker at the side of a deep railroad ravine. They were on a public road, outside the perimeter created by Venture Homes to keep the "In-juns" out of the construction area.

"They're coming in! They're coming in!" yelled a few of the defenders as the invading forces clacked their batons on their shields. This old psychological ploy was meant to incite fear. Instead, it created such a weird sight that people started to laugh. The defenders tried to make the police get real by yelling, "We're here peacefully. We're not on the property the developer wants. We're the Iroquois, the Haudenosaunee. This is our land. You're breaking the law."

The defenders said this over and over, hoping that someone with intelligence would hear. But the cops had all left their intelligence behind in return for a paycheck and the right to use weapons against others. They had agreed to become mindless robots. They were on autopilot, wearing earphones, waiting for their orders from someone who wasn't there. On and on they

marched, relentlessly, like mechanical dolls, until they crossed the boundary line. They Tasered the defenders and started arresting everyone they could lay a hand on. They dragged one young man into the bush so that no one could see them Taser him over and over and over again. The defenders' self-control was amazing. Truly amazing! They knew that if one of the cops got hurt, they would be blamed.

The defenders had replicas of a corn stalk and a child on top of their mound. For full theatrical effect, there were real black chop- pers overhead with no strings attached. Somehow, these must have been spared from the "liberation" that Canada is imposing on the Afghan people.

Most of the people arrested were women in their 20s and 30s, with some younger people and one elder. Most were beaten and emerged with ugly black-and-blue bruises under their arms, all down the sides of their bodies and back and down their legs. Some had bumps on their heads. These were the scars of what the cops call "gentle arrests." Remember, the ratio was 10 to one.

Video footage of one arrest showed a woman standing between a female and male cop who tried to talk her into walking voluntarily into their waiting police van. The defender laughed at them and sang a traditional Mohawk song, refusing to move. In the end, she was dragged onto the "prohibited area," then later charged with biting the female cop's Kevlar-covered hand and "drawing blood." The video showed that this cop was not wearing any glove and that there was no bite. What kind of unreality do these jackbooted, Indian-hating, racist control freaks come from?

Asked later what they had been charged with, the defenders said, "Missing the chiefs" (mis- chief). As we all know, even though Canada pre- tends to be a democracy, its operatives have a problem understanding how there can be social order without a "big chief," head "boss" or some kind of "honcho" to tell everyone else what to



do, backing their commands with threats of violence.

There was an audience of white people nearby, peering through their binoculars from the safety of their "whiteness." "Whew," they must have been saying.

Both the federal and the provincial colonial governments want to keep this land issue out of court because they know they will lose. No doubt about it, we never surrendered our land in the first place. We are sovereign and independent.

They won't talk to us. Wah! Wah! And boo-hoo! Should they want to talk to us again, shouldn't they go through the legal protocol by getting in touch with their Governor General who represents the Queen? We're not sure when we'll be available to meet with her. We're busy these days.

This article was shortened from the original. For the full story, visit www.mohawknationnews.com.

Kahentinetha Horn is a long-time indigenous activist, author of *Mohawk Warriors Three: the Trial of Lasagna, Noriega and 20-20*, and the editor of *Mohawk Nation News*, a news service providing independent indigenous commentary on Kanien'ke: Haka/Mohawk land, culture, history and legal and current issues.

Vermonters Lock Down to Save Green Space

continued from page 1

Unfortunately, the story of em- powered people standing up against development was overshadowed that day by the use of Tasers against nonviolent protesters.

Two nonviolent protesters were subjected to a series of three-to-five second bursts of 50,000 volts at the hands of the Brattleboro police department. Electrocuting nonviolent people is simply not appropriate. The protesters were camped out on a vacant lot and obviously not a physical threat to anyone. The protesters suggested several alternative methods by which they could be removed. They were never asked if they had any heart conditions or if they were pregnant. There were no medical or emergency response professionals on the scene. The police did not utilize any mediators or negotiators, yet they claim that they only use Tasers as a last resort. The police had more than 18 hours to consider their options—and this is what they came up with.

Police claim that Tasers are nonlethal, yet a Taser killed a



The garden, before the cops came in

young man from Georgia just a few weeks ago. They claim that Tasers are noninjurious, yet this does not consider the mental and emotional trauma to the victims, the witnesses, or the police who administer the electric shock.

Tasers were initially marketed as an alternative to lethal force. Rather than killing a subject, the police could incapacitate them with an

electronic weapon. Now, they are using Tasers for scenarios in which they would not have used violence in the past. The use of Tasers for pain compliance against nonviolent protesters is a dangerous precedent and creates a chilling effect on free speech.

The cops maliciously threw our personal belongings in a dumpster, stole and damaged items, lied to us, threatened us and tortured us

with electrocution. Given the context, they clearly aimed to punish us, humiliate us and intimidate others in the community. Currently, a civil suit is in the works, and we hope to prevent the use of Tasers against nonviolent protesters in Vermont.

For more information on "less lethal weapons," read the Amnesty International report "Excessive and Lethal Force," available at www.amnesty.org.

Please call Jim and Joji Robertson, the owners of Cheshire Oil, and demand that they consider the community's overwhelming sentiment to maintain green and open space on the Putney Road property. Tell them that "medium density" development, truck stops, fast food restaurants and gas stations are an inappropriate use of the community space. They can be contacted at (603) 352-0001 and (603) 357-3115.

Otherwise, come to the Green Mountains to defend this hopeful oasis amid the industrial nightmare of the Northeast!

Slug believes there is a great disturbance in the Force.

EARTH FIRST!



BY THE BIG WOODS EARTH FIRST!
MEDIA COLLECTIVE

On September 25, more than 400 people gathered for a march and rally sponsored by the North-South 55 Alliance to protest the destruction of Minnehaha Park and sacred land on the south side and the destruction of affordable housing on the north side of Minneapolis.

At City Hall more than 800 people listened to speakers, singers and poets, and watched street theater protesting the behavior of city officials who turn deaf ears and blind eyes to the needs and demands of our vibrant communities. During the rally, Earth First! activists scaled a parking garage and hung a huge banner that said, "Homes Not Roads: Stop the 55 Reroute" with a big anarchy symbol on it. After dangling from ropes for about an hour, all the activists escaped without arrest.

We then marched the remainder of the nine miles to the site of the Four Oaks Spiritual Encampment for a Dakota pipe ceremony and a community potluck feast. It was a beautiful day, and the event laid the groundwork for the events of the coming week.

During the early morning hours of September 27, several activists protesting the reroute of Highway 55 in south Minneapolis set up a tripod and locked down over the Minnehaha Creek bridge. Two people U-locked to the tripod, one at the top and one at the base. A treesit in a 300-year-old cottonwood tree located next to

BLAST FROM THE PAST

FROM EFJ! SAMHAN 1999

BLOCKADERS UP THE ANTE

AT HIGHWAY 55

the bridge along the banks of the creek has been ongoing for the past two months.

For the next 14 hours, the bridge was closed—forcing the police to reroute all traffic around the site. A 15-block section was closed to through traffic during the afternoon rush. Construction activity continued and dump trucks drove in and out of the site until one truck was blocked by activists who locked onto its front bumper. Newspaper journalists and television crews were at the scene throughout the day.

At approximately 4:30 p.m., state and city police began to set up a line with yellow tape and parked squad cars. As news helicopters circled overhead, 400 people from the neighborhood and community watched while police attempted to move the crowd back away from the tripod and the cottonwood. A few people flattened squad tires and a couple of nuns from a nearby church placed bumper stickers on the squad cars and began to sing "We Shall Overcome."

At 6:30, after the evening newscast was finished, police officers and fire department personnel set up a blue curtain around the tripod. Thirty minutes later, activists were removed by using the jaws of life. Once broken free and checked, both were immediately handcuffed and taken into custody. At 7:00, while seven people were occupying the cottonwood—one clinging to a traverse line—a tree-cutting crew in a raised cherry-picker bucket began to cut whole limbs and branches over the roadway to scare the treesitters down. Outraged, the entire crowd began to storm the police lines only to be pushed back, causing nine arrests, including one for throwing eggs.

The traverse line was cut, leaving the cottonwood sitters in a life-threatening situation. The police claimed that cutting was necessary in order to make it easier to bring a bucket or ladder truck up to the height of the protesters. While the police were doing this, one of the protesters jumped down on the raised arm of the cherry picker, causing it to fall. He then locked to it. Another swung down from the tree, but fell 15 feet and was immediately taken to the hospital. Luckily, no serious injuries occurred.

By 10 p.m., only four people were left up in the tree. Seven state patrol cars parked right below it for the night. In all, 17 people were arrested that day. A candlelight vigil was set up, and many people stayed, holding signs and candles. The crowd on the bridge ranged from 10 to 50 people throughout the following days. On September 30, two of the four treesitters decided to come down to save food and water for the remaining two. A large crowd showed

up to witness this. On October 2, one more treesitter came down because of extremely cold nights and only enough blankets for one in the tree.

As things stand, one person is still occupying the tree and folks are still holding signs and chanting, while state troopers sit right across the road waging their war of attrition, denying the sitter the vital support, visits and love she needs. There is enough food and water in the tree for six weeks, but not enough blankets or warm clothes to withstand the cold Minnesota nights.

At a different site on September 28, 13 students involved with the Student Coalition Against the Reroute (SCAR) entered the front lobby of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) and, using lockboxes and U-locks, occupied the building for several hours. This action, coming right on the heels of the tripod/road blockade and carried out by people who did not live at the encampment, surprised the MNDOT.

For the rest of this article, see EFJ November-December 1999. Back issues of the EFJ Journal are available for \$5 each. Order our near-complete, 27-year set for \$500.

ELF STRIKES AT HIGHWAY 55

BY THE EARTH LIBERATION FRONT

We are claiming responsibility for the second attack upon CS McCrossan's machinery. In the early morning hours of October 3, [1999,] the Earth Liberation Front entered the construction site on Highway 55 in Minneapolis. Machines that were found with accessible holes had sand poured into the oil or were drained. Three machines had hoses and wires cut before the elves escaped into the night. This follows an attack earlier in the week on September 27, when a visit was paid to CS McCrossan's offices in Maple Grove, where we slashed conveyor belts and damaged machinery.

We see Highway 55 as symbolic of the larger system that is strangling us of air and water. The NAFTA superhighway and the roads into the forests are all a symptom of the sick capitalist system that puts profits before people or ecosystems. As long as the trees continue to fall, so will the profits made off this project. This is just the beginning of a new level of battling against Highway 55 and car culture. We urge the elves of the world to unite against the profit-hauling infrastructures around the globe. Target machines, offices and equipment used to build roads. We are everywhere, and we are watching. We will be back.



BARE BONES

Northwestern Forests to Face a Spike in Logging

Federal logging in Oregon and Washington national forests is planned to increase to levels not seen since the late 1980s, due to a surge in funding from the Bush Administration. As a result of a lawsuit filed by the timber industry, the administration is committed to nearly doubling the timber budget in the Northwest.

Federal timber sales require lengthy environmental reviews before they can be auctioned. With elections looming and no guarantee that more sales will be approved, timber companies are rushing to cut forests that have undergone this process, while the US Forest Service is hurrying to schedule the sale of more units.

The cash influx cannot be used to maintain deteriorating roads, which are currently polluting streams and preventing people from accessing trailheads and campgrounds.

Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Reevaluated

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) announced on August 7 that the Mexican gray wolf recovery program is, thus far, a failure. The program's goal was to have at least 102 wolves roaming the Southwest by 2006. Instead, there are fewer than 56.

The failure of this program is largely blamed on federal agents, who have killed or permanently removed 53 wolves from the program since 1998. To date, three wolves have been killed by agents in 2007.

The FWS is proposing new rules that would allow wolves to roam outside the designated recovery area, directly reintroduce wolves into New Mexico and change the current definitions of "problem" and "nuisance" wolves to exclude those who scavenge on dead cattle.

Oil Wells Prevented in Peruvian Amazon

Achuar indigenous communities in northern Peru have successfully blocked 39 new oil wells from being drilled on their land, according to a statement released on August 29. The Achuar have been concerned about pollution and other impacts of oil drilling in the area.

Occidental Petroleum held the oil rights to this region until 2000, drilling for nearly 30 years and dumping almost one million barrels of toxic wastewater each day—poisoning the tropical rainforest and Achuar communities. Pluspetrol purchased the oil rights to the area seven years ago.

During their history of resistance to oil, the Achuar have held many protests to defend their land. At one point, nearly 800 Achuar women and men shut down one of Peru's largest oil facilities for two weeks.

On August 20, an agreement was made between an Achuar organization and the Peruvian government making it illegal to drill in the area without Achuar consent.

There Are No **SAFE SPACES** on a **DEAD PLANET**

OR, "HEY CRUST-PUNK, WHICH SPECIES IS THAT TREE YOU'RE PISSING ON?"

BY THE RADIKAL WEATHERMAN

So there we were in southern Indiana—at the 27th Annual Round River Rendezvous (RRR) and the first ever on private land (thanks again, John!)—swimming, canoeing, fishing, sunning (and burning) in an envelope of heat and humidity that could have been considerably worse than it was for this bioregion in early July. The RRR was preceded by an EF! Trans and Wimmin's Action Camp (TWAC), which I hear went quite well and helped set the stage for many of the ensuing discussions at workshops such as Challenging Oppression Within EF! (COW), indigenous solidarity, a People of Color caucus, ecofeminism, the Warrior Poets' Society meeting, the history and philosophy of EF! and the future of EF!. Throughout all of this, some stark and legitimate concerns that had been simmering for some time finally, and fortunately, came to the surface to be collectively addressed by those who attended the TWAC and the RRR. Hopefully, the debates that arose will continue to be addressed by all in the worldwide movement. We learned a lot at this RRR.

We learned the difference between "leaders" and "bosses." Leaders are doers and shakers who inspire and motivate others to do and shake, leading by example and not rhetoric or attitude. "Bosses" appropriate control and hoard it, expecting others around them to do their bidding because of some over-inflated and ill-conceived sense of personal entitlement that they themselves are usually too ignorant and self-absorbed to recognize. Bosses take power through manipulation, coercion and violence. This movement has seen its share of "bosses" over the years—illustrating the need for each and every one of us to check our own behaviors while growing into the role of vampire slayers (some vampires directly work for the Man; others just do the Man's work for him).

Leaders do not appropriate status, but rather are granted such by the tribe—a truly anarchistic (and ancient) process exquisitely exemplified by most of the world's indigenous cultures. EF! is in danger of becoming leaderless, which could lead to our dissolution as quickly as anything else. Anybody and everybody can (and should) be a leader. Down with bosses!

We also learned, and not for the first time, that everyone has a right to be safe in our circles. Everyone's

boundaries and feelings are sacred and should be treated thus. There is no place in our circles for coercion, intimidation, threats, force or violence. These approaches are the way of our enemies. They are intrinsically counterrevolutionary and therefore have no place in our community. It is a tragic fact that there are those who, when finally confronted with the knowledge that this movement will no longer tolerate such interpersonal fascism, chose to leave our circles rather than to evolve beyond the protracted and abusive adolescence (born of extreme privilege) they indulge in. Tragic not because they left, but because they did not want to change.

We also reaffirmed the need to create safe spaces for *all* beings who work for the Earth, Life, Freedom and Justice, regardless of their backgrounds, orientations, persuasions and identities. To many privileged, white heterosexual males (and the patriarchy-identified females who hover around them), the idea of identity politics makes little sense and is viewed as distractive to the work at hand. Well, that's too damned convenient an attitude. EF!—and many an EF!er—has made mistakes in the past that have seriously defamed our reputation. This effect has been a delight for—and of considerable use to—our many and varied enemies. We can no longer afford such short-sightedness.

As for those privileged ones who care not for the Earth or life or anything or anybody outside their own personal pleasures, to hell with them: I have no sympathy or compassion for them, and may the coming Apocalypse roast them.

We learned, maybe for the first time, that we cannot necessarily expect those revolutionaries who are distinctly underprivileged and significantly more disenfranchised to "join" our campaigns and gatherings. A number of them have told us before: Fight capitalism, work on issues near and dear to you, and work actively to confront and root out racism, sexism, homophobia, ablism, transphobia and xenophobia from your communities. In other words, "Keep doing what you're doing!" If we are lucky they come for brief times, providing a priceless opportunity for skill-sharing, cross-cultural exchange and alliance-building (this has already happened on a number of occasions).

So instead of asking them to join us, we make the effort to join them, however briefly, in active shows of support and solidarity for their struggles, which are often desperate

and survival-based. There are some longer-term EF!ers who deem these efforts a "distraction" to the "real" work of defending ecosystems and animals—as if the struggle for wilderness and biodiversity ought to be (or even can be) separated from other liberation struggles. Remember that our enemies and theirs are generally one and the same and

events or gatherings where one's visibility makes one more "real" in the eyes of the movement. The movement is much larger, more diverse and more sophisticated than any of us can comprehend. I only hope that learning these lessons isn't a case of too little, too late.

Some EF!ers don't come back because they are pregnant, raising children, aging, sick, in legal trouble of some sort or so burned out that they have no strength or enthusiasm left. This is a testimony to the fact that we, thus far, have failed as a tribe. We are as yet unable to take care of our elders, children (including young adults who have children), sick, fatigued, discouraged, incarcerated and fugitives. This worries me, and not just because I can feel myself teetering into a few of these categories.

Many of the people coming into EF! nowadays do so with their feet planted firmly in urban street battles for social justice, while living fully

in squat, train, and bicycle culture—but with relatively little foreknowledge of ecological issues, biocentrism and ecocentrism (except for perhaps community gardens, nukes and pollution). This is not a problem in and of itself. We all started from scratch somewhere along the line and grew into this over time. But they need to learn, just as we did. Revolutionary activism amongst the middle class gained considerable momentum in Europe, Australia and North America during the course of the 1990s—and Earth First! was a significant factor behind that resurgence. Many urban anarchists and others found out about EF! in places like the Democratic National Conventions in Chicago in 1996 and Los Angeles in 2000, and the World Trade Organization (WTO) meetings in Seattle in 1999. These interactions led them to our gatherings and encampments—where many of them went on to do great work as biocentric or ecocentric direct action activists. Others went back to more humanistic social justice work, but with a heightened sense of ecological awareness.

When EF! took the time to periodically leave the forests, mountains, deserts, canyons and prairies to join in solidarity with many (often poorer) peoples on the battlegrounds of

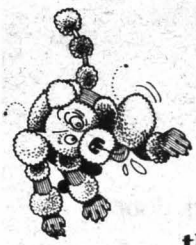
I WANT YOU



TO JOIN THE REVOLUTION

that as long as our efforts are kept distant and disparate from those of our underprivileged allies, we are all that much easier to destroy.

We also learned, perhaps for the first time (or perhaps not), that many people in EF! circles are either continuing to struggle for the Earth in ways that are not what they "used" to do, or even in ways similar to what they used to do except that they just don't make it to our gatherings anymore. They're still fighting: farming and/or restoring land, conducting field research, teaching, working in the so-called "Third World." Earth First! has grown considerably more sophisticated since its inception at the end of the 1970s. What began as a few enclaves of raucous, wilderness-loving, beer-drinking, weed-smoking monkey-wrenchers and treespikers scattered across the western US has since spread around the globe to include many people working both within and outside the "system," utilizing diverse tactics and approaches that have continually stymied those who would profit from the pillage and plunder of the Earth and all life. In short, we learned that "Earth First!" is a way of thinking, believing, living and doing—not a particular group of people, activities, tactics or a series of



Wolves and Poodles



A liberation now, do-it-yourself wolf to Oliver the capuchin monkey, who

escaped from his cage at a zoo in Tupelo, Mississippi, twice in only two weeks. The nine-year-old monkey first escaped on July 31, after picking the simple lock on his prison, and managed to evade capture for six days. On August 10, the zoo bought a new lock. Three days later, it was found lying on the ground and Oliver was gone.

When Oliver was spotted 4.5 miles away the next day, zoo manager Kirk Nemechek unsuccessfully tried to coax him in with treats.

"He wasn't ready to give up," Nemechek said. "Seven or eight police officers and five or six of our staff surrounded him, and we nabbed him."

The zoo has placed titanium locks on Oliver's cage and is now capitalizing on his untamed spirit by selling T-shirts about his escape.

A **"US out of North America" wolf** to the **wild turkey** in Blaine, Minnesota, who refuses to take any shit from humans.

Local resident Dorala Christensen recounted that she saw the bird peck at the tires of a car after it honked at him. "They yelled at him out the window. That made him mad."

The turkey also charged a school bus and trapped a police officer in his squad car, leading the distressed cop to call for backup. "The turkey was coming after him," Police Chief Dave Johnson said. "He turned the siren on and said the bird wouldn't scare away. Before he could get out, the turkey was pecking at his car." All attempts by animal control to capture the bird have failed.

Wild turkeys are native to North America. They were extirpated from Minnesota in the 1800s and reintroduced in the 1970s.

A **"putting the 'solid' back in solidarity" wolf** to the **Leon Czolgosz Autonomous and**

Destructive Forces, which claimed responsibility for the July 15 bombing of the British Embassy in Santiago, Chile. The explosion damaged the building's front windows.

The action came in response to the UK's continued involvement in the occupation of Iraq, Afghanistan and other sovereign territories. "[This action] represents our armed solidarity with the anti-imperialist resistance that fights the cowardly occupying armies... where capital seeks to bury its claws," the communiqué read.

The statement referred to occupying British troops as "criminals that assassinate and torture, sent and supported by the rotten monarchy led by the Elizabethan corpse, which still breathes for now."

The same group claimed responsibility for bombing the Chilean National Intelligence Agency in 2006.

A **poodle peeing down its own leg** to the **helicopter firefighter** who used 440 gallons of radioactive water to douse a wildfire on the Spokane Indian Reservation in eastern Washington on July 2. The pilot scooped up the water from a uranium mine tailings pond, reportedly because he could not see the warning signs from the air. Although firefighting regulations prohibit taking water from fenced pools, there was no fence around the tailing pond.

"You wouldn't anticipate an aerial breach of security," said Donn Moyer, a Washington Department of Health spokesperson.

After closing in 1981, the Midnite uranium mine—now a Superfund site—left behind more than 600 million gallons of radioactive-metal-contaminated water.

A **37-years-of-homework-chomping poodle** to the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** for its ongoing plans to shut down its

nationwide library network. After possible budget cuts to the library system were announced in 2006, the EPA immediately began closing libraries and destroying hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of scientific journals and other documents. The materials destroyed include studies on the health effects of pollutants, environmental change over time and the impact of human activities on the natural world.

The agency claims to have put the closures on hold and insists that materials are being digitized, not discarded. But EPA employees report being ordered to throw away huge quantities of irreplaceable materials that had not been backed up.

In 2005, the EPA library system responded to more than 134,000 reference requests and distributed more than 53,000 informational materials.

A **toothless, belly-up poodle** to the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES)** for approving

a Ugandan proposal to allow the sport hunting of leopards. While there were an estimated 4,300 leopards in the country in 1987 and only 2,700 today, CITES decided to allow 28 to be killed each year "for the exclusive purpose of sport hunting for trophies and skins for personal use." Rich foreigners will pay \$50,000 each for the right to kill one of the endangered cats.

According to Sam Mwandha, executive director of the Uganda Wildlife Authority, killing leopards is a good way to conserve them.

"Sport hunting will... generate tangible economic benefits that will motivate local people to protect them instead of regarding them as vermin," he said.



the cities, many new alliances were forged—partly because it allowed us to clear up some ugly misconceptions many people held about EF! Again, our enemies (coupled with our own foolishness) had no small role in spreading and perpetuating those misconceptions. These solidarity actions also allowed us to bring the battle for the Earth and biodiversity to the streets—right in the faces of the corporate fucks responsible for the destruction of the Earth and the oppression of so many peoples. It allowed us to introduce (in cases where it wasn't already present) the cruciality of ecodefense and Earth-centered thinking and living into the worldviews of poorer, urban peoples. And as we drifted into the cities and caught the eye of other revolutionaries, the Man was watching intently.

A young womyn who frequented EF! circles in the '90s said that she learned from her cousin—who worked for the FBI—that enemy intelligence was watching very carefully to see if we left the backcountry and headed into the cities. It is this solidarity-building across race, class and culture lines that the Beast fears most. Anyone active during the '60s and '70s will tell you that COINTELPRO's focus on white radicals was strongest just where such alliance-building work transpired. This EF!er's cousin stated that "as long as they stay in the woods, we're not too worried about them." So yes, we need to be in the cities—but that by no means says that we should leave the wilderness behind. No way, no how, not now, not ever... *never!*

Have you noticed, too, how increasingly difficult and expensive long-distance travel is becoming? Until we all are linked with some sort of reliable, sustainable, alternative-fuel transport, it may be that anarcho-hobos will be some of the only people capable of crossing the continent for an OC, RRR or distant campaign.

But there are also some long-time EF!ers who *won't* show up anymore because of some very legitimate concerns with the way things are going—and we need to address this. They claim that after the Seattle WTO protests, EF! "lost its focus," and that many of these young urban kidz coming into EF! aren't really staying around very long—just sort of drifting in and out. They also say that articles in the *EF!* like "Trannies Are Taking Over" indicate a shift in focus away from the very essence of what EF! is (see *EF!* January-February 2007). Personally, I thought that article was excellent, and I was able to feel the tongue-in-cheek facetiousness in the title. But I can see how such a title might give somebody the wrong impression. It is quite significant that when one listens to conversations around our fires at the Rendezvous, one doesn't hear as much anymore about wolves, grizzlies, whales, Siberian tigers, spotted owls, Indiana bats or harp seals.

Another concern raised is that many in this current wave of transient urban anarcho-punks are merely looking for a "party in the woods that includes free food." After the debacle that transpired at the Wyoming RRR in 2001 (and the black-clad kidz themselves are not to blame for that mess), it's easy to see why veteran

EF!ers would feel this way; there are (and always will be) some who fit this stereotype with disgusting congruity. But I keep hoping that regardless of why they come (whether to bring in "anarcho-humanist issues" or feed off the free food and beer that comes around), they will become infected with "that old-time Earth First! religion." I believe it is up to both us and them to make that happen. We need to be there for them and they need to be willing to look, listen and learn. They need to be ready and willing to evolve, and we need to be ready and willing to help them—even as we continue evolving by learning the significance and relevance of social-justice struggles. It may take a little time—especially for some of them (and some of us).

One young womyn came to the RRR in Indiana, not as an EF!er, but as an activist who wanted to build alliance and solidarity with EF!. Her aspiration is a laudable one! Whether in the forest or in the streets, amid the plethora of ecological and social injustices that abound and that we all seek to address, the ultimate stand is for what we stand on. The source of *all* injustice begins with ecological disharmony and exploitation. This is no secret to the Zapatistas, the Diné of Black Mesa, MOVE or the tribespeoples of what is now called Papua New Guinea. Without the Earth, we're *all* finished. So, let's bring new warriors in and old warriors back. Let's see more TWACs and more Old Guard Gatherings, and let us also remember that what is not ecocentric is not Revolution—and is ultimately doomed.

In all of our endeavors, we must strive to put the Earth first. This must

include stopping oppression whenever, wherever and however it occurs. Working for the Earth and life means ending *all* oppression everywhere, securing the liberation of *all* beings. At the same time, let us remember the core of Earth First!'s very being: the uncompromising defense of wilderness and biodiversity—the very source of all that is sacred, real and irreplaceable. Knowing that biodiversity includes humyn diversity and that ultimately, the wilderness will consume all the cities and pavement, our task—while complex—is quite clear. The discussions that began in earnest in the shadow of the proposed I-69 super-fuckjob must continue, and they must include everyone who cares.

All power to the people—all power to *all* of the people: female, male, both, neither, trans, queer, het, bi, red, black, yellow, brown, white, younger, elder, farmer, worker, teacher, student, steward, healer, wanderer, Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Pagan, Buddhist, animist, agnostic, atheist, 2-legged, 4-legged, 6-legged, 8-legged, winged, finned, shelled, furred, feathered, scaled and other.

Earth First! No Compromise! Now more than ever. We'll defend the other planets later. See you in South Florida....

The Radikal Weatherman is a grinning green mutant active with a number of critically important projects within Earth First!, including COW. S/he/it/ze hopes the acronym COW changes soon because, while "the good old daze" may be over and gender-specific pronouns ain't no more hip, cows still suck.

ARMED With VISIONS

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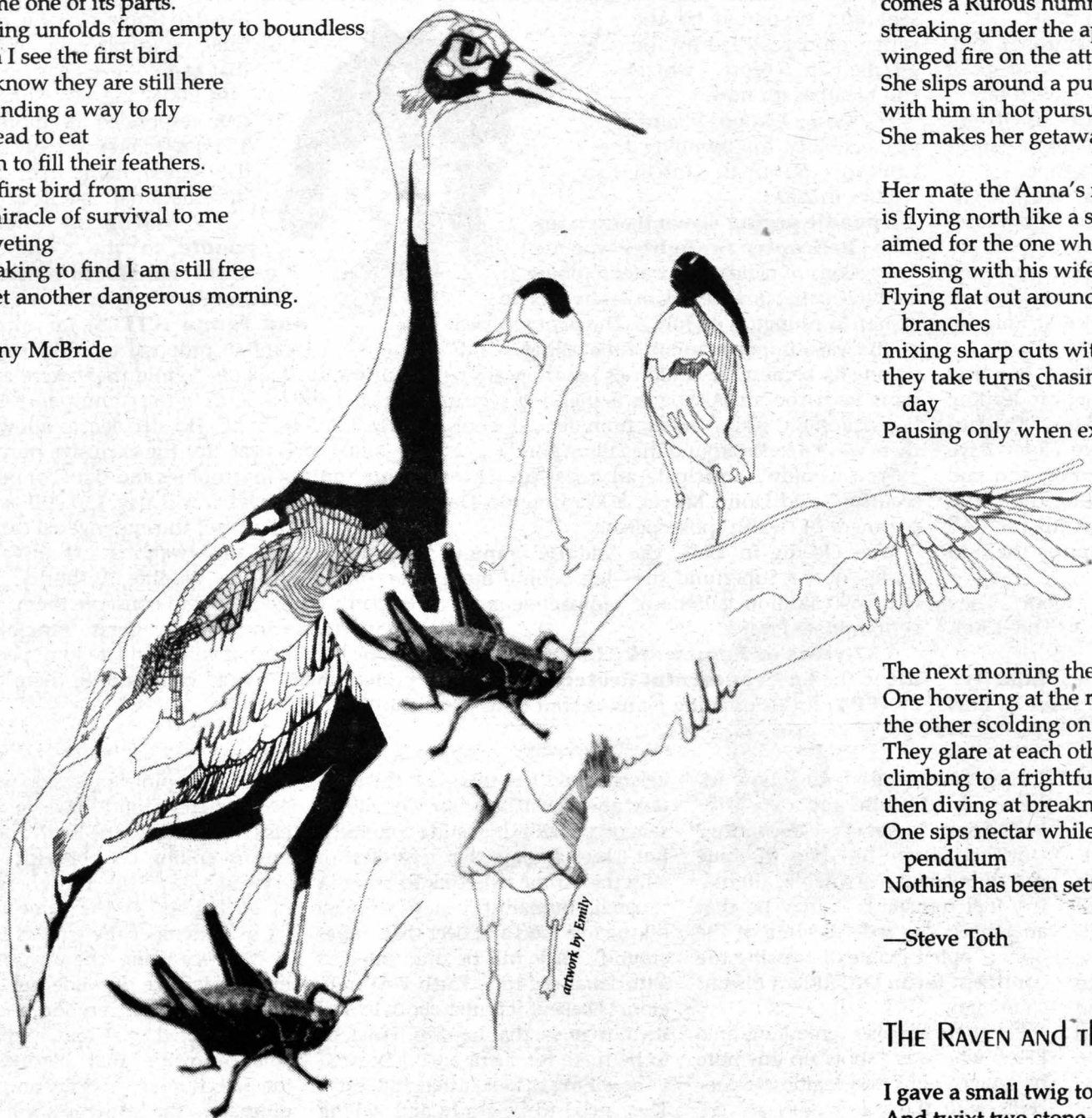
(SEND POEMS TO:
WARRIOR POETS SOCIETY
PO Box 14501
Berkeley CA 94712)

MORNING BIRD

Through the door I go
To greet the day
Become one of its parts.
Morning unfolds from empty to boundless
When I see the first bird
And know they are still here
Still finding a way to fly
A thread to eat
Breath to fill their feathers.
Each first bird from sunrise
Is a miracle of survival to me
As riveting
As waking to find I am still free
On yet another dangerous morning.

—Jenny McBride

...clear as cut glass
& just as dangerous:::



AERIAL Display

Eating our oatmeal breakfast by the back door
through the glass we see first
the motion in the air at the autumn sage
whoosh! stop! whoosh! stop!
Then we see what's making it
A female Anna's hummingbird
is taking her breakfast sip by sip
from the most available blossoms

Suddenly with a chittering charge
& bill like a lowered lance
comes a Rufous hummingbird male
streaking under the apple tree
winged fire on the attack
She slips around a purple coneflower
with him in hot pursuit
She makes her getaway bee-lining south

Her mate the Anna's male
is flying north like a shot
aimed for the one who's been
messing with his wife & mother of his chicks
Flying flat out around & between the apple
branches
mixing sharp cuts with bursts of acceleration
they take turns chasing each other for the rest of the
day
Pausing only when exhausted in the trees panting

The next morning the females are at it
One hovering at the red penstemon
the other scolding on the tomato cage
They glare at each other in midair
climbing to a frightful height
then diving at breakneck speed
One sips nectar while the other swings like an angry
pendulum
Nothing has been settled

—Steve Toth

THE RAVEN AND THE CRANE

I gave a small twig to Raven
And twixt two stone-sharp halves
Of his long black bill
He gingerly took the twig
Then with a tug it was his—
But he gave it back to me.

Then I placed the twig horizontally
In front of the vertical slit in the fence
And the sleek black beak
Pushed through the gap,
Took hold the twig,
Turned it vertically,
Brought it through the fence—
And then he gave it back to me.

Sandhill Crane trotted over,
Curious about the commotion
In the corner of the enclosure
And nipped at Raven who hopped away.
I gave the Crane the twig—
He kept it for himself.

I looked at Raven who was looking at me
And we decided that the game was over.

15 V 90
Tracy Aviary
Salt Lake City

—Susan McCampbell Ring

WESTERN Tanager

The body a yellow brilliance and a head
Some orange color from a Chinese painting
dipped in sunset by the summer gods
who are also producing that twitchy shiver
in the cottonwoods, less wind than river,
where the bird you thought you saw
was, whether you believe what you thought
you saw or not, and then was not, had
absconded, leaving behind the emptiness
that hums a little in you now, and is not bad
or sad, and only just resembles awe or fear.
The bird is elsewhere now, and you are here.

—Robert Hass

remembering william rodgers

BY DANIEL MCGOWAN

This is a eulogy, two years too late, for my friend William Rodgers—known to friends, family and the movement as Avalon. Avalon took his life on December 21, 2005. This was just two weeks after our arrests in the Operation Backfire case and, by no coincidence, the Winter Solstice. In his absence, much has been made of his role in our Earth Liberation Front (ELF) group. Not surprisingly, the prosecutors in the case have painted him as a leader who recruited young, impressionable activists to do his bidding. This is not only false, but also insulting to the younger people in the case, who did get involved on their own. Snitches in the case have used his inability to respond to dramatically maximize his role in certain actions in an attempt to lesson the consequences of their own actions. One person went so far as submitting to the judge video evidence and testimony that has not been made public because it was deemed too personal for public consumption. Others on the margins have chosen to focus on Avalon's flaws by spreading rumors or even by talking to the private investigators hired by the snitches.

I first met Avalon in the months leading up to the World Trade Organization (WTO) protests in Seattle in late 1999 and developed a friendship with him instantly. His sly grin, easygoing and warm personality and humility impressed me, and I was happy to see that this

quiet, older enviro was up to more than attending the ELF gatherings at which I first saw him. His rationality and quick thinking prevented disaster for our affinity group during the Seattle protests (I'm proud to say we took part in the Black Bloc). I distinctly remember getting ready to leave Seattle, and hearing his suggestion to "keep in touch." Well, we did keep in touch. Much has been said of what we did in the years after that, but that will be told elsewhere.

Like so many of us, Avalon suffered from depression and despair, fueled by the realization of what our species is doing to the planet. Living underground, juggling details of planned actions and double lives, and eschewing many of the things that our movement allies had access to is stressful. I know because I did it, and yet Avalon's experience in that underground life dwarfed mine. I can't help but think that this isolation and despair were major factors in his suicide. We moved on, and yet the cruel hand of the past—in the form of old friends and a Joint Terrorism Task Force—pulled us all back into our secret histories. Maybe for Avalon, it was the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. We will never know for sure. I remember seeing his name in a list of arrestees in a New York Times article while sitting in a New York City jail. It gave me some hope—I thought we could all fight these charges together, as a group of people who had lifelong solidarity with each other, as people who honored the

oaths we made to each other. Sometimes, I lie there at night asking the questions I try to avoid: Could Avalon have stemmed the tide of



Avalon

informing? Would he have been the person who, having known some of the snitches for much longer than I, could really reach them—beyond their fears and to their core? I'll never know these answers, but I do know this: Avalon would rather die and make a jailbreak than cooperate in any way with this immoral and unjust process.

The prosecution, knowing only hierarchy and bureaucracy, cannot conceive of a group without a leader, a pecking order and strict rules. Without Bill around to protest and because he was older than all of us, they found their puppet master. Suddenly, the so-called "book club" was his invention and was deemed a "training school for arson." Meyerhoff and Gerlach, grand quislings that they are, had the audacity to say with a straight face that Avalon pretty much did the Vail arson all by himself. Just reading about the ski resort's geography, the large amount of fuel that was used and

Bill's slight stature made me laugh bitterly to myself about these lies. On some level, it's the way the game is played for snitches. The government tells them what it wants to hear, and the cooperating witnesses jump through hoops like the well-trained pets that they are. To be clear, everyone involved with these actions and the "book club" are people like you and me. We have skills—some of us excel at one thing, others of us at another. However, there was no formalized hierarchy as suggested by the prosecution, and William Rodgers was no kingpin or leader of the ELF.

Avalon, like all of us, had his flaws and made mistakes, both personally and politically, in the way he lived his life and how he resisted environmental destruction. Our group attempted to deal with one of these areas—an accusation of sexual misconduct—and I'm sorry to say that we failed, due to not being equipped with the right ideas and strategies. It is all too easy to assuage our guilt about our own shortcomings by attacking others. I think it's a better idea to focus on what we are doing in this world, rather than criticizing people who are not here to defend themselves. I thought of this often in court when I looked at my family, seeing the pained looks on their faces as they listened to attacks on me. Bill's family and partner have had to endure a lot of grief in the last two years.

So when I think of Avalon, I don't believe the hype spewed by aggressive and narrow prosecutors. No, I think of a soft-spoken, caring person who would give you the shirt off his back or carry a snake off the road; an avid, even obsessive recycler; someone who supported indigenous struggles and really got the connection between Earth-based cultures and ecological action. I knew Avalon was involved in the struggle against the Mount Graham telescope, but only after his death did I find out that he and his infoshop, the Catalyst, supported the campaign to protect the San Francisco Peaks (see *EF!* May-June 2005).

When snitch Jacob Ferguson recorded a conversation with me through a wiretap in 2005, I asked him how Avalon was. He lied to me (big shock!) and told me that Avalon was happy and lived in an intentional community in Canada. I remember being really happy for him and hoping to run into him again one day, but for different reasons than why we last saw each other.

Avalon has been gone two years now, and yet it still isn't real to me. Since I haven't seen him for years, I can't really take it all in without getting upset. Yes, one of our own betrayed us, and that action caused the death of my friend. How do I reconcile the truth? I don't have a good answer except to say that we need to talk about these things and confront death in our movement. We need to grieve for our friends. Most of all, we cannot forget. We must never forget. This is my contribution to never forgetting William Rodgers: radical environmentalist, ELF activist, cave lover and sweet, kind man. I miss you, buddy.

Daniel McGowan is serving seven years in prison for a series of ELF actions. For more information, see page 28.

Humboldt Forest Defense Action Camp

BY RECONRICK

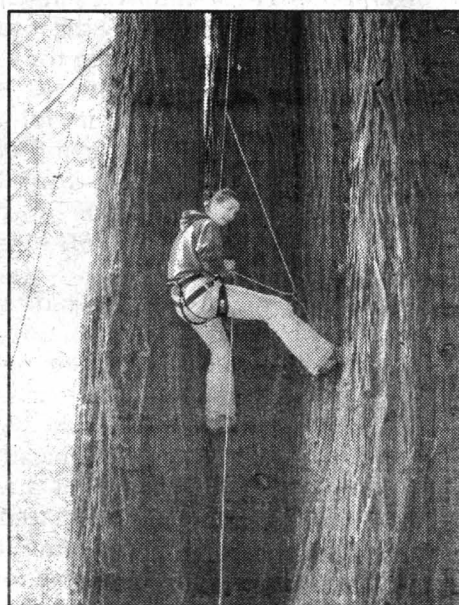
Humboldt forest defenders gathered in September for an action camp under giant redwood trees at Grizzly Creek State Park. Climbing and backwoods survival were among the trainings offered. Trainers from the Midnight Special Law Collective traveled from Oakland to facilitate workshops on knowing your rights, legal support and nonviolent direct action. Other workshops taught attendees how to tie traverses and create dreamcatchers in the canopy.

The main purpose of the camp was to bolster and support the ongoing tree canopy occupations in Fern Gully and Nanning Creek. Activists are especially concerned about the Nanning Creek Tree Village, as loggers have been raiding the village and taking gear. Eric Shatz, a Maxxam climber who has extracted many treesitters in the past, was reportedly seen in Nanning recently. Also, September 15 was the end of the endangered marbled murrelet nesting season, which means that the Maxxam/Pacific Lumber Corporation (PALCO) can resume cutting trees in the area. One of the trees is Spooner, a huge, ancient redwood that is almost 300 feet tall and is estimated to be as much as 2,000 years old. Forest defenders began sitting in Spooner two years ago and have set traverse lines to protect the surrounding grove of trees.

Some of the trainings took place at the David "Gypsy" Chain Memorial. Activists were shocked and horrified to see that Gypsy's memorial plaque had been vandalized. A hole was drilled in Gypsy's forehead, and it was further defaced with red paint. Gypsy was a treesitter who was killed on September 17, 1998, when a PALCO logger deliberately felled a tree on him in a logging plan near Grizzly Creek. The plaque was placed as part of the settlement in the wrongful death lawsuit that Gypsy's family filed against PALCO.

In Freshwater, the Fern Gully Tree Village is still going strong after about four years. Treesitters there are defending some of the largest remaining trees in a watershed that has been heavily logged.

The Mattole Forest—where activists have fought many battles to save ancient, old-growth



Climbing practice

Douglas fir—has been relatively quiet recently, and PALCO has not yet filed new logging plans. But its use of herbicides there is a major concern, and cutting may resume as market and regulatory conditions change. Activists continue to monitor this threatened wilderness area.

Both loggers and forest defenders are watching to see what happens with PALCO's bankruptcy proceedings as that process unfolds in Texas. Environmentalists have warned for years that Maxxam head Charles Hurwitz's greed and bad management practices would lead to the situation the company is in now. PALCO has laid off most of its employees and admits that morale is a major problem for those that remain.

Since only a tiny percentage of the original old-growth forest in California is left, it is tragic that PALCO continues to cut down what little is left.

ReconRick has been working to defend the forests of Humboldt County, California, since 1998.

CLIMATE CAMP, CONVERGENCE. . . ACTION

UK { EDUCATING AND AGITATING AT HEATHROW AIRPORT }

BY CONOR O'BRIEN

The UK's Camp for Climate Action is an annual, weeklong camping event tackling the root causes of climate change. It is a grassroots initiative organized along non-hierarchical lines and seeking to empower people to change their lifestyles and take direct action. Although the camp has no specific political position on solutions to climate change, it maintains that radical actions and solutions are required to defend the planet and people against the ravages of climate change.

The first Camp for Climate Action was inspired by the "Horizone Eco-Village" in Stirling, Scotland, during the 2005 Group of Eight protests. It took place during Summer 2006 at northern England's Drax power station, with the avowed intention of shutting it down—and it came close (see *EF!* November-December 2006)! The first camp helped revitalize parts of the radical environmental movement, especially those concerned with aviation.

Drax was chosen in 2006 because it was the single largest carbon dioxide emitter in Western Europe; we always knew it would be a tough act to follow. Nevertheless, when London's Heathrow Airport was selected as the target for the 2007 camp, there was a collective gasp from both activists and the establishment. Heathrow Airport is on a permanent state of terrorist alert. It is also in the jurisdiction of the London Metropolitan Constabulary, the world's pre-eminent police force for dealing with public disorder, and one well known for using violence against protestors.

There were good reasons for targeting this particular airport. Already the busiest in Europe, it is seeking to expand by adding a third runway—thereby destroying five villages. Its impact on the region is already huge, turning fertile fields into barren expanses of warehouses and ruining the lives of local residents with horrendous noise pollution. Aviation growth, fueled by cheap flights, has caused flying to rise in the ranks of contributors to climate change—responsible for 3 percent of climate change impact globally and up to 20 percent in the UK. This impact is predicted to get much worse as government and industry continue to encourage aviation expansion.

Ignoring everyone else's shock at this location choice, the camp organizers simply got on with it. Monthly organizing meetings were normally attended by 50-60 people. Decisions were made via consensus. There was no hierarchy and no leaders; people formed autonomous working groups that prepared for various aspects of the camp, including site practicalities, workshops and well-being. There were several closed groups

focusing on various action practicalities and the actual bit of squatted land where the camp was to take place.

Choosing a target such as Heathrow was controversial, and the press was guaranteed to come running. However, there were many dangers in the choice, and the camp specifically asked people not to go airside when doing actions—that is, to stay away from the runways. This was as much to prevent activists from being shot as to prevent accidents involving airplanes. Likewise, there was a general agreement to avoid targeting passengers. The dates selected for the camp (August 14-21) happened to be the busiest week of the UK tourist season!

Nerves were pretty tense, though pro-active police and town-council liaisons were doing a good job of keeping the state apparatus fairly calm. Although officials begged for the camp not to go ahead, in case it played into the hands of terrorists, word from the ground suggested strong local support for the camp. Then the owners of Heathrow, BAA Limited, upped the stakes by seeking to block the camp via an injunction against four non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

As London Mayor Ken Livingstone said, "Somebody at BAA must be out of their skull!" Five million people from some of the most respectable organizations in Britain were suddenly caught up in the injunction, including the royal family and the High Court judge hearing the case, who is a board member of one of the NGOs! There was a civil-liberties uproar over lawful protest being criminalized, and the injunction failed—which is hopefully a good sign for the right to protest in general. The camp attracted media attention as never before, and BAA and Heathrow were left looking stupid.

Then on August 11, three days before the camp was scheduled to begin, 150 people took part in a large-scale covert action right under the noses of watching police. They tramped through the night to occupy a field only 2,600 feet from Heathrow itself and erected massive tripods. A standoff with police ensued for the next several days, during which organizers raced to assemble numerous marquees, composting toilets, kitchens and other structures in time for the official camp opening. The police went out of their way

to be obstructive, making up stupid rules and so on, but the activists were resourceful enough to find ways around them all. The stress was incredible, but by the time the main body of people started to arrive, the site was mostly finished.

The camp was shaped like a horseshoe, with meeting marquees, a medical unit, communications, a welcome group and more in the central part. Around the sides, people were split into different groups, each organized around a kitchen. Each kitchen was properly plumbed with gray-water systems and was fully vegan. As a bonus, the standard of food was fantastic, since people's skills in mass catering had improved since last year. The camp aimed to have as small an eco-footprint as possible; there were no diesel generators on site, and all power was wind or solar generated.

The schedule was packed with talks on everything relating to climate change, including numerous campaigns, sustainable living and permaculture. This ensured that the camp was as much about education and lifestyle change as it was about action.

One of the biggest successes of the camp was the way that it invigorated a whole new generation of activists. Climate chaos has always been daunting for campaigners: Where do you start? Where can you really have an effect? The camp broke down this fear and inspired people who had never acted before to go out and engage in a very direct way.

Locals were overjoyed to see the camp, saying that they were being listened to at last. Some joined the camp, while many others came to visit and donated time, food and more. In their eyes, the camp could do no wrong, and they did not hesitate to tell journalists of their support. They even banned police from local pubs so that campers could drink in peace.

Rather than being disempowering, the over-the-top policing only offended and enraged the campers, encouraging creative tactics. One group, FITWatch, actively engaged the police intelligence-gathering units (Forward Intelligence Teams) that were harassing visitors. When the police responded by sending in a group of 30 officers, a spontaneous crowd from the camp confronted them and physically pushed them

off site. The police left looking shaken by the show of force. After a lot of provocation, the campers showed that they could only be bullied so far. This was followed up by a protester super-gluing her hands to the access gate of the officers' compound, leaving them trapped inside. It was a great start to the week of action.

On August 15, 150 people went to support a local demonstration against Heathrow



Left to right: tripods that secured the camp site overnight during setup; a protester super-gluing herself to the Department of Transportation in London; a banner drop at Heathrow



The climate camp, only 2,600 feet from Heathrow airport

airport. The sheer weight of police numbers in response to the protest actually caused the main road to be blocked, something the protestors had actually been trying to avoid. Curiously, it turned out that there never was a local demonstration—it was misinformation, and not the last time that happened. There were also smear stories in the media about protestors wanting to plant hoax bombs inside the airport.

The next day, two private airports (dealing in executive and charter flights) were blocked for several hours by groups using arm tubes. One group got away without being arrested at all. The others were arrested, pleaded guilty and were freed without any punishment. The camp was buzzing.

August 17 saw more inspiring actions, with XL Airways at Gatwick Airport (the UK's next biggest airport) occupied over its role in forced repatriation flights, including sending child refugees back to the war-torn Congo. In London, numerous travel agencies were locked shut with heavy chains, and 10 people barricaded the UK's Department for Transport, which encourages airport expansion. One of these 10 was a Latvian tourist—not connected with the Climate Camp—who was so inspired by the action that he locked onto another door of his own accord. In another part of the country, in the small fishing village of Sizewell, a nuclear power station was blockaded by a group using barrels of cement.

The next day was more of the same. Forty people shut down Carmel Agrexco—an Israeli-owned company air-freighting in food from illegally occupied Palestinian lands—for three hours. At the same time, Bicycology worked on outreach in the local area while other activists supported a strike over the working conditions of Heathrow's baggage handlers. Children at the camp got together and did their own blockade at the World Freight Center to the south of the airport.

The great thing about many of these actions was that they included lots of new people who had never been involved before, but who were inspired to take risks and stand up against the state and corporations. It was as if some blockage had been cleared, and now they were pouring through. In all of this, the police were mostly caught on the hop—they were so focused on defending Heathrow and harassing the camp that they missed the people leaving to have fun away from the busy police cameras and helicopters.

August 17 was the main day of the camp, with a call for 24 hours of blockades and actions. After several long meetings, it was decided that the outline of Heathrow's proposed third runway would be lined by bodies in the morning, with the afternoon focusing on a blockade of BAA, whose offices were within walking distance of the camp. In the end, this did not quite go according to plan, with the former action never really taking off and the latter encountering the Metropolitan Police at their worst. There were a number of injuries, and it looked like the BAA



"Capitalism Causes Climate Chaos"

blockade would be driven back to the camp by late evening.

Rescue came in the form of another blockade at the south side of the airport, on the access road leading to the warehouse that handles all the perishables flown in from across the world. The police thought this was a "secret" mass action and diverted their resources and top officers away from the several hundred people at the BAA office to the 15 activists at the perishables site.

Activists held the perishables access road for three hours, creating a serious freight backlog. They had hit the one place that Heathrow was so worried about that the airport had spread a false rumor that the warehouse would be closed for the weekend. The economic damage from the shutdown must have been considerable, but amazingly, charges were dropped against those locked down. Meanwhile, those at BAA headquarters used the respite to settle in for the night, and BAA had to close its offices as a result. At the same time, other groups were busy with more office occupations in London, including one at the office of the new owners of Leeds Bradford airport, which is also seeking to expand.

The arrest total at the end of the camp was 71. Support from the locals affected by the airport was unwavering, and their voice was heard nationally as well.

Overall, the camp was a huge success in the face of some frightening obstacles. During the camp, the radical environmental movement did a large amount of outreach to new campaigners and to the public in general. It is too early to draw conclusions, but it appears that large parts of the UK have been revitalized in terms of taking action. Airport expansion received a proper challenge, and Heathrow is still reeling.

Plans are moving ahead internationally in the aftermath of this year's UK and US Climate Camps. In the UK, local groups are debriefing from the Heathrow camp and starting to talk about next year's plan. In Germany, organizing is underway for a climate camp in 2008. Activists in Australia have begun organizing a Climate Camp for the middle of July 2008 to shut down the world's biggest coal port in Newcastle, New South Wales, and a group of Kiwis who attended the UK climate camp are starting plans for an Aotearoa (New Zealand) climate camp next year, or possibly getting a ship together to head over to the Newcastle camp. After successful camps on both coasts of North America this August, discussions there are underway for next year as well. Smaller local camps inspired by the Climate Camp have also been springing up.

For more information, visit www.climatecamp.org.uk (UK), www.climateconvergence.org (North America), www.climatecamp.org.au (Australia); www.klimacamp.org (Germany); www.planestupid.com.

Conor O'Brien has been involved in various aspects of Climate Camp infrastructure for the last two years.

NORTHWEST US {FIGHTING DAMS AND LIQUID NATURAL GAS}

BY GRIFFIN

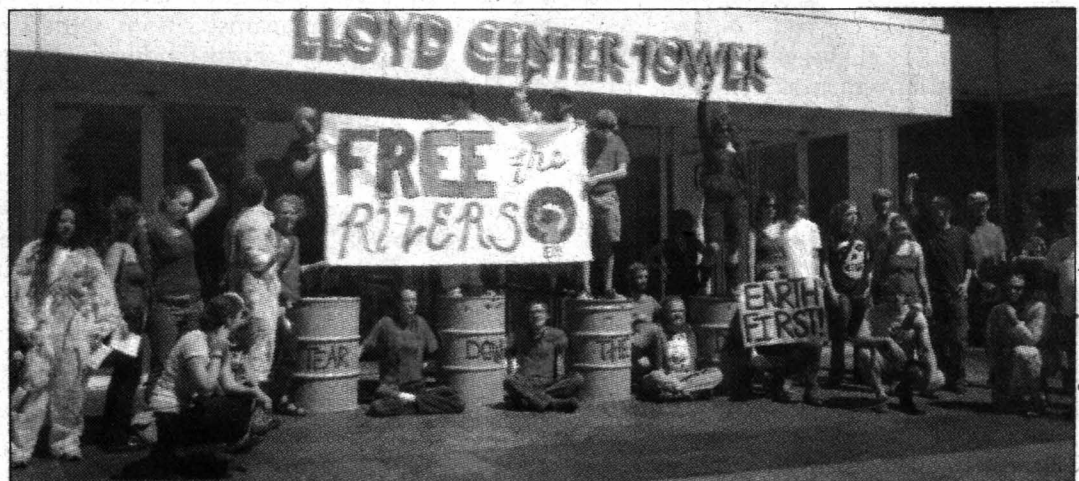
The Northwest Convergence for Climate Action concluded on August 13, after a week of low-impact, intensely informative living. The camp—hosted at the Skamokawa, Washington, fairgrounds and organized by the regional branch of Rising Tide North America—was part of a larger mobilization that included similar convergences in the US Southeast and UK. All of these events organized around the urgent issue of climate change in the spirit of sharing information and planning direct action. In Skamokawa, there was an overwhelming sense that an international movement is building. Through the skillshares provided at the camp, participants learned how to support and continue that movement.

Among the many workshops and services offered, some notable examples were accessible explanations of environmental policy and science, direct-action trainings, and introductions to appropriate technologies and sustainable living. None of these workshops would have happened without the volunteer services that kept the camp running. Seeds for Peace provided three vegan meals a day to more than 400

participants, and childcare providers offered nature walks and art projects (permitting parents to attend workshops). Through the efforts of the organizers to include convergence participants in planning and maintaining the event, a spirit of true cooperation and communal agency was created.

The camp culminated in a direct action in Bradwood, Oregon, where community members are fighting to prevent the installation of a liquid natural gas (LNG) terminal. This terminal is just one of 40 such proposed sites in Oregon that would bring environmental destruction, governmental appropriation of people's homes and the potential for massive explosions in areas just a stone's throw away from residences. On the last day of the convergence, participants joined with local citizens to create a presence at the proposed site at the mouth of the Columbia River.

The following day, convergence participants joined with Stumptown



Stumptown EFlers, Cascadia Rising Tiders and convergence participants locked into barrels and protested in front of PacifiCorp's Portland offices, demanding that it remove dams on the Klamath River.

Earth First! and Cascadia Rising Tide to blockade the Portland offices of PacifiCorp, a major Northwest power provider that derives 88 percent of its energy from coal- and gas-burning power plants. Protesters demanded that the company remove four dams on the Klamath River that threaten wild habitat and produce toxic greenhouse gases. These dams are currently in the process of having their permits for operation renewed and would be required to install contemporary technologies, such as fish ladders—at roughly twice the cost of removing the dams completely! Yet for all the talk of helping salmon, if the dams remain in place they will

continue to produce toxic algae, methane gas and the other conditions that led to the death of 70,000 salmon in 2002.

In contrast to the Southeast and UK convergences, the lack of police intimidation at the Northwest actions was striking. In Bradwood, this may have been due to the organizers' concerted efforts to collaborate with the local community, while at the Portland action it was probably due to PacifiCorp's desire to limit negative publicity. The direct actions performed in the Northwest, in conjunction with those carried out in the Southeast and the UK, exemplify the vivacity of this movement. The people are rising up!

MORE **CLIMATE** ACTION...

SOUTHEAST US {SHUTTING DOWN DIRTY COAL AND ITS DIRTY MONEY}

BY SKYLER SIMMONS

The weather couldn't have been more appropriate. The whole Southeast was in the grips of one of the worst heat waves in history. Most major cities in the South were experiencing 100-plus-degree temperatures, extreme drought and heat-related deaths. Headlines in the local papers screamed about the region's coal and nuke plants operating at record capacity to meet the spike in energy demand. And here we were, sweating away under tarps and trees, the mountains of western North Carolina giving us little reprieve, plotting the demise of the fossil-fuel empire.

For a week, more than 100 people from the Southeast and beyond came together for the first ever Southeast Convergence for Climate Action. The convergence was focused on bringing together the anti-coal and anti-nuke movements to network and strategize to fight climate change in the Southeast through direct action. Our region is still getting hammered by the coal industry—from the destruction of our mountains by mountaintop removal mining to the poisoning of our air by an enormous fleet of coal plants. Meanwhile, the energy industry is trying to push through a new wave of nuke plants as a "solution" to climate change.

Workshops offered included Direct Action 101, climbing, community organizing, resisting the coal rush, nukes and climate change, targeting banks invested in coal, and deep ecology.

One of the highlights of the convergence was the evening panel discussions. On the first night, elders from the anti-nukes movement shared their battle stories of fighting nukes for the past three decades. One woman gave her props to EF! for blockading and sabotaging the Watts Bar nuke plant

One of the best things about the convergence was that there was a much wider array of people attending than has been seen at recent EF! gatherings. While honky was still the predominant color, the event was truly intergenerational and by no means politically homogenous. It was great to hear young folks discussing the finer points of insurrectional eco-anarchism with seasoned vets of the nonviolent anti-nukes movement. And it was wonderful to see folks from the nonprofit scene leave the convergence questioning the effectiveness of large, top-down organizations or trying to work within the system.

Then there were the helicopters. The first day that our aeronautical amigos showed up, half of us wrote them off as cops looking for pot. But then they came back—again and again; day and night. What they were looking for beats us, but it seems like they probably found a lot of middle fingers and bare butt cheeks pointing up at them. Unfortunately, our attempts to lure them lower to the ground in order to cool us off from the unbearable heat were a failure.

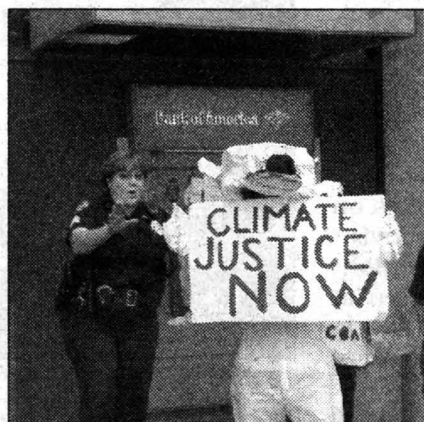
In addition, the police set up 24-hour checkpoints at a nearby coal power plant due to our presence. It turns out that the local cops and FBI somehow got it in their silly heads that we were going to shut down the nearby coal power plant! We're not really sure how they got this crazy idea—maybe it was the picture on our web page of a successful blockade of the Carbo, Virginia, power plant in 2006 (see *EF!* September-October 2006). Or maybe our call for a national day of action against fossil fuel infrastructure tipped them off. The lesson learned is: If you are going to blockade a power plant—not that we would ever dream of such a silly notion—don't put a picture of said action on your web page or call for a day of action against fossil fuel infrastructure when there is only one such piece of infrastructure within a hundred miles of your direct-action training camp.

Needless to say, when we woke up Monday morning for the day of action, there was a fair amount of attention on our humble camp. The first person to leave that morning reported four undercover cops covering both exits, and 15-20 sheriff's deputies lined up along the main road out of the area. Then our friend in the chopper showed up bright and early to hover over the camp for more than two hours. Fortunately, our resilient crew—who had never even thought of protesting a dirty power plant—had a plan that the cops were not privy to.



photos by Asheville IndyMedia

Humans, polar bears and canaries blockade Bank of America's regional headquarters in Asheville.



With the now-familiar rhythmic thump of the police chopper overhead, we hectically broke down camp and headed out for our action. First, we sent the giant solar truck, emblazoned with the logo of a well known environmental group, to test the waters. Sure enough, it attracted unmarked cop cars like flies to shit. Most vehicles leaving camp were immediately pulled over and searched, and some were issued citations for petty safety violations. Others were followed to their homes, where state troopers waited until the occupants left, even following people on bikes.

Nevertheless, the action continued as planned. The high-arrest-risk ("red") group met up in a parking lot in downtown Asheville, a few blocks away from Bank of America (BoA). Meanwhile, the low-risk ("green") crew milled about in a nearby park waiting for the call to deploy. When the time was right, the red crew hit the streets and entered BoA's regional headquarters. Folks dressed as polar bears delivered lumps of coal to customers and employees, while others handed out fliers explaining BoA's role as a major funder of coal, and thus climate change. In the meantime, two people attempted to lock themselves to the main entrance and when that failed, proceeded to lock themselves to each other on one of the plush couches in the lobby. On the outside, a gaggle of polar bears and canaries blocked the front entrance by locking arms.

Just in the nick of time, the green crew showed up, carrying banners reading, "BoA, Stop Banking on Climate Change" and "Climate Justice Now!" while chanting (to the tune of a familiar pop song), "It's getting hot in here, so let's stop burning coal!" Meanwhile, the Asheville Police Department (APD) was putting

on a show of its own. With no fewer than 15 cop cars, the APD managed to completely shut down not only BoA but also the main road through downtown Asheville for more than two hours. To add to the spectacle, the cops brought out three snarling German shepherds, fire-extinguisher-sized cans of pepper spray and rubber-bullet guns to guard the bank entrance. The icing on the cake was the 15 or so fully geared riot cops deployed at the last minute. Apparently they had been hanging out in a bus at the power plant since about 5 a.m.—suckers! It later came out in the press that we had the honor of being the first social disturbance to bring out the Asheville cops in their brand new riot gear!

We targeted BoA because of its heavy investments in the coal industry. In the past couple of years, the bank has lent billions of dollars to companies such as Arch Coal and Massey Energy, two of the leading companies involved in mountaintop removal coal mining. It has also lent several billion dollars to Peabody Coal, which has the dubious distinction of perpetuating one of the worst acts of genocide against native peoples in the past century—not to mention operating the largest strip mine in the US. Not only was BoA the perfect way to tie together the fight against coal extraction and climate change, targeting it allowed us to show that the energy industry is not the only sector responsible for our climate crisis.

In the end, five people were arrested for trespassing and disorderly conduct. Thanks to the police's over-reaction, we got a couple of weeks' worth of media out of the action, rather than it just being forgotten the next day. Bank of America responded to our action with a weak statement about how much it invests in sustainable development, and totally avoided addressing the issue of its coal investments.

The action was followed a couple of weeks later by coordinated protests against BoA in nearly 20 cities, as called for by Mountain Justice Summer. The campaign against BoA and other banks that fuel climate chaos will continue until they withdraw all financing of coal.

Skyler Simmons likes it when police scare off bank customers with snarling German shepherds and large cans of pepper spray.



Protesters lock down inside Bank of America.

at the post-rendezvous action in 1994, even going so far as to refer to Katúah Earth First! as "my little angels." Later in the week, we were blessed to have an amazing lineup of speakers for the "Resisting the Coal Rush, from Cradle to Grave" talk. This talk brought together coalfield residents fighting coal extraction from Black Mesa to Appalachia and folks fighting dirty power plants in their backyards from Latino neighborhoods in Chicago to the swamps of South Florida.

Frontlines

Mink Liberation Always In, No Matter the Season

Early on the morning of September 12, 800 mink were liberated from a farm in Hinsdale, Massachusetts. It was the third time that the farm had been hit in the past decade. "Whoever did it had a plan," a local police officer said. "They knew what they were doing and knew what they wanted to do. They went in and cut the fence."

A member of the family that operated the farm described the raid as "devastating." Losses were estimated at \$100,000.

"It is indefensible that these animals are born into captivity, only to be killed to produce a luxury item no one needs and only the rich can afford," a communiqué from the liberators read. "As repression to direct action increases, it must be remembered that resistance is still not only possible, but it is, in fact, our responsibility. For Avalon, and all those who dedicate their lives to liberation."

Another 6,000 mink were liberated from a farm in Harcourt, a town in eastern Canada, on September 15. Finally, in Sweden, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) liberated 1,000 mink on September 16, and 800 more on October 9. The Swedish ALF left painted messages at the site of both actions.

Responding to fur farmers' allegations that such liberations do more harm than good, Jerry Vlasak of the North American Animal Liberation Press Office said, "Contrary to the rhetoric of those who profit from the imprisonment and killing of these beautiful, wild creatures, scientific studies have proven captive mink have the innate ability to survive in the wild, do not decimate other animal populations or the environment, and do not carry away small children or pets."

ALF Making it Hot in Holland

A person responsible for the construction of a new Harlan animal laboratory in Venray, Netherlands, received a visit from the ALF on August 11, and at least one of his three luxury vehicles was burned to ashes. "Stop building the Venray animal lab; this is just the beginning," the communiqué read. "If you abuse animals, you have to deal with the ALF. This should be a warning for all animal abusers and all people who are involved in the new Sciencelink [lab] in Venray."

Basque High-Speed Train Site Sabotaged

Ten construction vehicles belonging to the company Dragados y Fonorte were sabotaged in September along the bank of the Oria River, near the town of Tolosa, in Basque Country. This marked the second such action in Tolosa against the company, which is involved in the construction of Spain's high-speed train line. The damaged machines included diggers, electric generators, jumpers, road rollers and a truck.



Photo courtesy Fur Commission USA

Spontaneous Combustion Across Appalachia

Two apparent cases of "spontaneous combustion" aided the eco-defense cause in Appalachia in August and September.

In Wyoming County, West Virginia, a fire destroyed \$5 million worth of strip-mining equipment. In West Asheville, North Carolina, a home

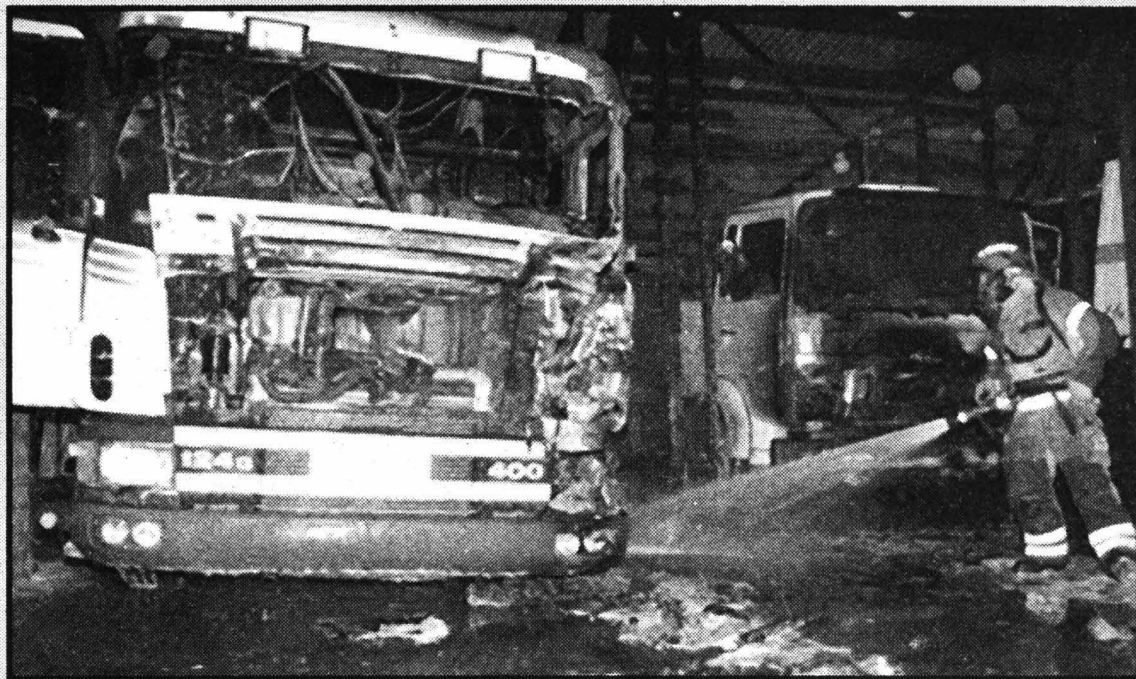


Photo courtesy Bite Back

October 7: Firefighters in Trondheim, Norway, put out trucks that were used to deliver feed to local fur farms. Police reported finding three undetonated incendiary devices under other vehicles.

under construction on the side of a hill burst into flames on August 9. The homes and driveways being built by BATT Associates in West Asheville are all suspended by steel frames above a steep slope that was once filled with beautiful, tall trees.

Local residents did not seem upset by the fire; in fact, signs reading "Hills need trees, not cookie-cutter developments" had previously been placed around the construction site. "The owner has had a loss, but so have we," one resident said.

Imagine what would happen if spontaneous combustion began occurring steadily all around the world!

ALF Sinks Trophy Fishing Boats

On August 5, the ALF began Operation White Marlin in Ocean City, Maryland, targeting fishing boats that were participating in the Marlin Open—the largest international fishing tournament in the world. ALF members took the battle under the water, utilizing welders like can openers to pierce the hulls of eight ships, flooding and sinking them.

Norwegian Whaler Sunk

Late on the night of August 30, a group calling itself Agenda 21 boarded the whaling ship *Willassen Senior* and opened the saltwater intake valve, flooding the vessel. "The turns of our wrenches are a rational response to a world where tens of thousands of species disappear every year," Agenda 21 said. "The sinking of the whaler and the silencing of the harpoon is dedicated to the memory of the Yangtze river dolphin who, because of humankind's greed, will never again grace the waters of our blue planet." The action was also taken in celebration of the end of commercial whaling in Iceland.

The *Willassen Senior* is the fifth Norwegian whaler to be sunk or sabotaged since 1992.

Rome Co-op Farm Raided

The ALF released eight rabbits, two guinea pigs and one partridge from the Co-op Capodarco farm in Rome on August 4. The co-op claims to help the handicapped by teaching them to farm animals in

small cages. But according to a communiqué, the ALF was not daunted by this "good face."

While many hens could not be freed, the liberators smashed dozens of eggs.

Happier Days for Chickens!

It's been a Chicken Freedom Summer, with a series of hen liberations across Europe.

In the Czech Republic, 16 hens were released from their battery cages in July. They all found new, safe homes where their lives will be full of green grass.

In memory of the recently deceased animal rights activist Neil Lea, and also to expose the blights of factory farming, 150 young hens were freed from a Petersfield, UK, farm on July 23, and taken to new homes where they would see sunlight for the first time in their lives. The chickens were being raised for shipment to an egg farm.

"There are other ways this can be stopped without directly taking animals from abusive farming establishments. The only reason this has to take place is because people still choose to eat eggs. Without demand, there is no supply—the best way to help animals stay away from this abuse is to not eat them or their products!" said the liberators.

An anonymous communiqué reported 117 chicks rescued in the southwestern UK in early August. Then the ALF liberated 50 young hens from their southern England breeding factory on September 9. The liberators prevented the hens from ever being exposed to the ugly process of battery cages and other types of factory farming. Their communiqué was signed, "Until every cage is empty!"

In eastern England, a raid on a "free range" farm resulted in the liberation of 120 hens. "While 'free range' is a step in the right direction compared to battery or barn egg farming, it is far from ethical and humane," the liberators' communiqué read. "After a short 18 months, these beautiful hens would've been thrown into a truck to be made into 'food.' Animals don't want bigger cages, a longer chain or more artificial 'enrichment.' They want freedom, and until then... we will not be giving up."

Finally, in Spain, 100 hens were released on September 18 from the cages of a farm in the town of Morata de Tajuña.

CONFLICT MEDIATION... DAYDREAMING OF A WORLD WITHOUT COPS

BY ZHONN

Are we capable of abolishing the hierarchical police state that controls our communities, without having the police in our minds take over just as rampantly? Is it realistic to develop a radical solution to the system of domination that we face when attempting to reach peaceful resolution to conflict in our radical communities? If so, what model would we use? Would it ensure safety within our communities? Is it possible to spark fruitful dialogue in the midst of high-stress, potentially community-dividing situations?

This Summer, the Earth First! conflict mediation team worked diligently—sometimes all night and all day—to reach consensus on these pressing questions and to mediate situations that unfurled within our week-and-a-half rondo community.

Our team of committed mediators took it a step further than just having a team, and set up a common safe space within the camp. The goal of this space was to provide a non-threatening environment in which rondo-goers could talk with conflict mediators who had sober, open ears. The space was intended and prepared to handle situations including (but not limited to) abuse, rape, intimate violence and just general disagreements. People having mental health emergencies or even just needing a space to chill or talk were also welcomed.

Mediators checked in with each other daily, or sometimes even multiple times a day. At all times, a handful of mediators were equipped with walkie-talkies and ready to dive into action! The team, with the greatly-appreciated help of other rondo goers, mediated its way through a few bewildering, high-stress situations. After a long time of processing the trauma that the team encountered and discussing how to handle situations in the future, we came up with some of the following ideas.

A Brief Glance Into the World of Conflict Resolution and Mediating

Before you decide to mediate a conflict, you must evaluate whether you are honestly capable of doing so. Are you mentally capable of mediating well at that particular moment? Can you identify anything about yourself that might compromise a safe place for this discussion—such as your age, perceived gender or race—or do you have a biased view toward one of the subjects of the conflict? Something else to consider is whether you have been using drugs or alcohol recently. Although it may not bother you, the use of drugs and alcohol may definitely deter some from gaining your trust.

Once you have determined that you are the appropriate person to mediate a conflict, it is important to analyze the situation before jumping in. There may be other individuals already mediating, in which case it is extremely important to respect this and simply listen.

There are also many different stages to conflict. By familiarizing yourself with these stages, you can better identify how and where you can help. If someone has already de-escalated a situation, be sure to follow in the pre-established direction. What follows is one model of conflict stages so that you can really get to meet and love conflict mediation! Yahoo!

- Invisible Conflict: At this stage, the separate parties may not yet know that they are tiptoeing on the verge of conflict. This could be as clear as when an actual abuse happens or as cloudy and unforeseeable as when a person gets offended but can't quite put their finger on why. It also includes the "point of silence," when a person isn't comfortable confronting their abuser or oppressor.

- Conflict Explosion: Here, a triggering event leads to calling someone out on an action or to confronting an oppressor or abuser.

- Conflict Escalation: This is when things could get really ugly. Each side may begin making threats; violence may become involved. If there is already violence, it could get worse. Intense, hurtful arguing and anger may also occur.

- Hurting/Plateauing: After escalating for a while, a conflict usually reaches a lull, during which neither side is getting closer to their needs. They may just decide not to talk about it anymore; they may also be so hurt that it is out of their capacity to confront the situation any longer. This stage can be very brief or last a very long time.

- De-escalation/Transformation: Here, we begin to see the sides come to terms with each other in some way. Maybe parties realize that their



demands were unreasonable, or maybe an apology is made. Many things can happen here! The basic concept is that both sides begin to move toward more positive communication and brainstorm ways to reconcile.

- Reconciliation/Agreement: Finally, there is true resolution! The sides agree on certain terms for moving out of the conflict. They may discuss options, accountability groups, safe places for each party and long-term support groups. This is basically where the magic happens.

- Post-Conflict/Healing: This marks the time when people actually step back into their lives again, but with a different point of view. If there were perpetrators, it is time for them to begin the process toward change and becoming a healthy person—under their own motivation and with the help of their community. This is also the time when survivors gain a little more control in their lives and can attempt to move in a safe, healthy direction, also with the help of the community! In non-oppressive conflicts, each side can move in different directions with the decisions that have evolved out of the mediation process.

Things We Learned From Last Summer's Rendezvous

It is imperative that the individuals engulfed in a conflict feel safe with their mediators—especially when the situation is one-on-one—because of all the ingrained imbalances that society has tarnished our minds with. It is nearly impossible for an outside mediator to have a true understanding of who they are listening to, because out-groups can only develop sympathy, as opposed to the shared empathy experienced in in-groups. But no situation should go unmediated, and it is up to the mediation group to safely approach conflicts and adjust as quickly as possible to each situation's unique needs.

Battling burnout within our group was another concern. When dealing with exasperating

situations, it is necessary to take time for ourselves and rotate on-call duties. Taking time to debrief and listen to each other after stressful encounters is a must. When mediating, it is possible to be exposed to events triggering of past memories, shock at what we are witnessing, physical fatigue from long hours of mediating and post-traumatic stress disorder from all of the intensive moments. Taking steps to prevent burnout could mean the difference between people taking off or leaving the group altogether, and a healthy, happy, stable group.

An Alternative to the Current Authoritarian Models

When a fight breaks out, an abuse occurs or someone neglects their child, do we call the cops? Hopefully, the answer is *hell no!* Yet, there is a strong and distinct difference between merely opposing capitalist scumbag authoritarians and training and equipping our communities with well-defined plans of action for addressing conflicts when they come up. It is every community's responsibility to be capable of helping and supporting individuals through conflicts and to be available for necessary follow-up support.

For those who have been to jail or struggled through the dank, eerie corridors of the "legal" system: Is this anything you would knowingly drop a member of your community into? The system's current model of fake rehabilitation is one of the most ineffective and destructive pitfalls of the capitalist system. It is time that we take a serious look at our commitment to working toward a better future and develop solid, working accountability models and support groups for perpetrators. We live in a sick and tragic society of many dangerous spectacles. It is nearly impossible to expect that unhealthy, ingrained living patterns will never rear their heads in radical communities.

That's why it is imperative for us to develop these models—so that perpetrators who wish to change can feel comfortable coming out, knowing that they will get the support and help they need to become healthier members of our radical communities!

The degree of your support for people can determine how safe or unsafe they feel. If you can provide strong, non-threatening mediation at the outset, this could eliminate their feelings of needing to have authority figures involved. Until radical communities can prove that we are there for people, there will always be the chance that people deflect to their learned patterns (including calling the cops). The degree of support and safety that we provide after a conflict can also avert the need to rely on mainstream shelters, which may hold patriarchal tendencies, be queer/transphobic or just not be capable of offering an unbiased eye when it comes to seeing that people get the support they need.

Please note that while calling the cops isn't fun, if people choose to get the cops involved you should respect their decision.

The Future of Conflict Mediation

The rondo's mediation group has developed a new listserv to share resources and discuss conflict mediation issues online. It is our hope that this listserv can be a tool to help facilitate discussions as we head into future gatherings. It will especially point out specific people to set up the safe space and volunteer to mediate. Because of this pre-gathering planning, no future event should go without a space for mediation. Advance planning will also take some responsibility off the backs of individual bioregional organizers.

So you're ready to take on the world now, huh?

For more info on conflict mediation, establishing support groups, consent and anti-oppression work, visit www.earthfirstjournal.org.

uCERPing Everglades Restoration



BY XOXA CHAHIM

There's something about a swamp... that makes some people want to destroy it. The Everglades are unique in the world: a huge, low-nutrient sheet-flow marsh that feeds lively estuaries and coral reefs. But for a long time, they were considered malarial wastelands that stood in the way of the white man's conquest. Only after the swamps were vanquished by decades-worth of massive draining and engineering projects did people begin to see what they were forever altering.

In 2001, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) was authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, with 50-50 state-federal funding. CERP's budget has already grown to more than \$12 billion, making it the world's largest and most expensive restoration project. But will this massive, top-down plan really "save the Everglades"?

As the Everglades' destruction continues unabated and rock mining, sugar farming, urban sprawl and relentless drainage continue to suck the life out of this world treasure, CERP may turn out to be little more than developers' largest, most successful spin campaign. It may be past time for a more radical, direct-action-oriented restoration campaign.

CERP Components

CERP was born out of a political consensus that gave top priority to complete agricultural drainage while leaving ecosystem restoration a secondary priority. The Everglades National Park's own scientists have said that the plan "does not represent a restoration scenario for southern, central and northern Everglades." It does not even promise to undo harm to the Everglades—only that no one's water supply or flood control will be reduced.

A cursory analysis of the components of CERP reveals the plan's true priorities:

- Thirty-one projects entirely or primarily for human water supply needs, such as reservoirs and wastewater recycling
- Five projects primarily for treating water polluted by industrial, agricultural and residential practices
- Eleven projects for controlled water delivery to natural areas
- Seven projects with general restoration goals, such as habitat restoration and invasive species control
- Three projects with semi-restoration goals, such as reducing excessive water delivery to natural areas
- Eight projects with significant components to restore sheet flow and return parts of the Everglades to its natural state through road, levee and canal removal

The only type of project that can be seen as true restoration is the plan to remove sheet flow barriers,

returning the system to its natural state. This plan would include removing 240 miles of canals and levees that drain the Everglades, while building bridges for parts of certain highways so that they no longer cut through sheet flow areas.

Glaring Deficiencies

One of the major omissions in the overall plan is water quality control. The Everglades is a low-nutrient system, and even minor changes in phosphorous and nitrogen levels can completely alter the ecology. Cattails, which thrive on phosphorous, are replacing historic sawgrass marshes at the rate of two acres per day—with more than 60,000 acres overtaken by 2003. Without assuring pristine water quality, removing barriers to sheet flow may actually be detrimental!

The plan also does not adequately address the exotic plant and animal problems that affect approximately 1.5 million acres. Melaleuca trees were brought in about 100 years ago to suck water out of the wetlands, and they continue to do so. Brazilian pepper is taking over both aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Old World climbing fern is literally blanketing our forests, creating fire ladders that carry flames to the tops of trees, converting natural, beneficial ground fires into canopy conflagrations.

Meanwhile, Lake Okeechobee—the heart of the Everglades system and the largest freshwater lake wholly within the borders of the US—is dying because of extreme nutrient concentrations and its management as a water supply reservoir instead of a living ecosystem. CERP utterly fails to address this situation.

CERP relies on fossil-fuel-powered pumps and gates to move water, forever keeping the Everglades on artificial life support. It flagrantly sidesteps real estate over-development and urban sprawl as issues. It ignores water conservation practices as a necessary component. It promises restoration, but its own construction activities would destroy an additional 34,000 acres of wetlands. It is, in the end, just a cosmetic change to the artificial life-support system keeping the Everglades on the map.

Miccosukee Speak Out

The Miccosukee Seminole Nation of Florida, consisting of about 500 members, conducts a

twice-annual study of changes on its land, strictly regulates nutrient concentrations and does prescribed burns. In 1999, it published a paper called "Facing Up to Problems in Everglades Restoration." Its chief critiques of current restoration plans are as follows:

- The restoration efforts focus primarily on Everglades National Park, to the detriment of tribal and state-owned lands.
- The Summary Report, approved by Congress, significantly differed from the full CERP, which was created with public and scientific input.
- Water quality is not assured for the Everglades, and CERP merely creates a system for more efficient pollution delivery.
- The Natural Systems Model being used to measure data is inaccurate



artwork by Peter Skowronski

because it relies on sea level standards, but the elevation of the land has changed.

- The plan raises concern for flood control and property rights in the tribal areas.

Alternative Plans

In 1972, long before technocrats drew up CERP, ecologist Arthur R. Marshall proposed a holistic restoration blueprint that became known as the Marshall Plan. This plan emphasized the importance of guaranteeing clean water, dechannelizing several rivers, plugging up key canals and most importantly, reestablishing sheet flow in various key areas south of Lake Okeechobee and just north of Everglades National Park. This sheet flow proposal is almost identical to "Plan Six," a restoration option in the Army Corps of Engineers' "Restudy" that was eliminated from the final CERP document.

Other environmentalists are also pushing the idea of raising

Tamiami Trail (US 41)—a two-lane road that stops the flow of the Shark River Slough, the main "River of Grass," leaving the land unnaturally waterlogged north of the road and dangerously parched to the south. CERP offers to build a two-mile bridge, but activists have been calling for 11 miles to be made into a "skyway" in order to allow sufficient flow for the shallow, broad slough.

DIY Restoration?

It is clear that the Everglades will not be saved by the same officials (the Army Corps) who, in this case, *unmucked* it up. Developers have uCERPed the official restoration effort, and I say let's usurp it back! But what would radical, do-it-yourself (DIY) restoration look like? Lots of people have asked me if they can come down to Florida and "do restoration." I kind of silently laugh, thinking, "It's much larger than that. You can't just come down and 'do restoration.'" Or can you?

Certainly, individuals can be out there removing exotic species and replanting native flora. Perhaps, we could conduct water testing to back up campaigns against water polluters—but is that as far as Earth First! would want to take it?

It's time to turn off those pumps, which send contaminated water into Lake Okeechobee and the canal system. It's time to figure out how to jam those floodgates, which create flash floods on a regular basis, scouring the wildlife and vegetation from our rivers and canals. Hell, it's even time to start plugging up those canals. Maybe next time EF! disables a dump truck, we should send it down to Florida, paint some kind of "EF! Restoration Specialists" logo on the side and use that puppy to backfill the canals that continuously drain our swamps.

We need the guidance of local native people, holistic scientists and even some old-time Florida crackers to do this right. Then, maybe then, Everglades restoration can happen at night.

Everglades Earth First! is seeking ways to create radical DIY restoration. We are also working to stop the onslaught of development that prevents true restoration from being an option. Currently, in the northeastern Everglades, we are fighting Florida Power and Light's West County Energy Center, a 3,300-megawatt natural gas power plant, which would become the fourth-largest fossil fuel plant in the nation.

For more information on the Everglades and its restoration or for our newest publication, "Everything Everglades," contact Everglades Earth First! at (561) 588-9666; evergladesearthfirst@gmail.com.

xoxa chahim is a fun-loving, man-hating, queer feminist member of Everglades Earth First!.

"And the Rest is History...."

An Interview with Daniel McGowan

BY THE EF!J COLLECTIVE

Daniel McGowan was recently sentenced to seven years in prison for actions committed in defense of the Earth, specifically the arsons of the Superior Lumber Company and Jefferson Poplar Farm in Oregon. He was rounded up as part of the FBI's "Operation Backfire," which sought to prosecute people for unresolved Earth Liberation Front (ELF) actions. For his address, see page 28.

This is the first segment of a two-part interview conducted by the Earth First! Journal. Look for the second half in the January-February 2008 issue.

Earth First! Journal: How are you? How have you been adjusting to prison so far?

Daniel McGowan: I'm doing fine, all things considered, and happy to be here at my designated facility after two months in a Brooklyn jail and three weeks on the road. They definitely throw you in the deep end of the pool here, and the shock of it all is tremendous, but I'm adjusting bit by bit, day by day. Unlike representations of prison on TV and in popular culture, things are chill here. It's a low-security prison with lots of recreational opportunities, dormitories with bunk beds and a lot of free movement. That said, it's prison—the prison governs every aspect of my life. I am 1,200 miles from home and unable to take part in activism outside the realm of writing.

EF!J: Did you do anything special to prepare for prison?

DM: My preparation and acceptance of prison began a long time ago—before I even took part in direct actions. Once it became likely that I was going to prison, my preparation consisted of reading about prison, interviewing and meeting with former political prisoners, seeing a therapist to deal with anxiety and doing tons of legal research about where I might end up and how to conduct myself while in prison. Additionally, I did a lot of research on potential graduate school programs, as I was determined to have a very busy time while imprisoned and wanted to make the most of this "time out," so to say. One thing I did not do enough was have fun! Beset by anxiety and stress, I found myself delving into the rational and computer-based side of prison preparation at the expense of spending time with those I love. It's my number-one regret about my time from February 2006, when I was released on bail, to July 2007, when I self-reported.

EF!J: Has your experience doing prisoner support for Jeffrey "Free" Luers been useful during this ordeal?

DM: Yes, I do think my experience of doing prison support for Free and others was useful. It may not be as linear as this, but I think working with people in New York City (NYC) and Oregon on prisoner support over the years helped us hone our tactics and strategies in support work. So, after doing it for eight years, I was able to be the recipient of these tactics and strategies, which resulted in fairly intense and vigorous prisoner support. For me, my friendship and correspondence with Jeff informed my decisions greatly—knowing how he was treated by the government, I had no illusions that the state would be fair with my case. My experience with Jeff's case left me with no hope for justice from the courts, the US legal system or any judge—no matter how liberal they are perceived to be. Jeff's

appellate decision in February was easily the shining point of the year for me.

EF!J: What brought you to activism, or specifically, the radical environmental movement?

DM: I grew up in a neighborhood that was heavily polluted by jet fuel released from planes landing and taking off from La Guardia airport in Queens, New York. Cancer rates are high there, and my childhood memories are full of times that we were not allowed to swim in the ocean due to algae blooms or toxic waste washing up on the shores. I grew up with images of the then-radical Greenpeace putting themselves between whalers and whales (so much has changed!) and learned about the greenhouse effect and the impacts of greenhouse gasses on the environment as an elementary school student. It wasn't, however, until I took a life-changing trip to Thailand after graduating from college that I sought to be involved. While there, I hiked rainforest trails, met environmental refugees from Burma and experienced serious pollution. My attempts to get

with the ELF and was a base for many of the activists in Eugene who always came out for the (then) every-six-week mailing parties. I still get the *Journal*, enjoy most of the writings and during my time in prison, intend to submit articles and letters every issue.

For a while, I thought the *Journal* would not recover from its growing pains and would join the huge list of magazines that failed or ceased publication in the last two years, but I'm happy to read about new developments. The new (old) format and the scrapping of horrible relationships with vampiric distributors is promising. I am also happy to see the *Journal's* commitment to not only listing prisoner addresses but also seeking input and articles from them. We are still people who have opinions and want to meaningfully participate.

EF!J: What's your sense of the state of the radical environmental movement? Where do you see it, and specifically EF!, heading?

DM: The radical environmental movement has been the canary in the coal mine for the last 30 years, but the future, I am not sure about. We have called attention to issues long ignored by the press and our accommodating mainstream "Group of 10" (the huge environmental nonprofits): old-growth forests, mining, development, mountaintop removal, biotechnology. We should be proud of calling attention to these issues, but we need to do more than just be the messenger—we need to actually work toward having an impact on these issues. The decline of groups using the name "Earth First!" is one thing people point to as a bad thing, but if our issues are being covered or worked on by a growing number of people and organizations, perhaps that isn't so bad. Ultimately, climate change needs to be combated as a survival issue, not just limited to an enviro issue. If we allow climate change to be just another one of our issues, we are letting people off the hook. To really deal with it—and trust me, I have my doubts about our ability

and desire to deal with it—we will need more than just radical enviros doing something. At this point, within EF!, I am curious about whether Rising Tide will rise to the occasion and whether or not our opposition to this new batch of coal plants will result in some actual victories.

EF!J: Many within EF! have observed that the number and intensity of radical environmental direct-action campaigns seem to have dropped significantly during the past 10 to 15 years. Do you agree with this assessment or have any thoughts on why this might be?

DM: Not having a comprehensive diary or list of actions that qualify as "radical environmental direct actions," it's hard for me to say. What we always have to keep in mind is that for every action claimed through a communiqué by a group with a name, there are tons of other unclaimed actions by people who may not identify as activist in any way. It's well known that "ecotage" did not originate with identifiable groups, complete with names, guidelines and statements to the media. Our history supports this point: The Tucson eco-raiders, the Fox, billboard toppers, tree spikers, road rippers—all existed before the rise of groups like the ELF. So, I can't say that any evidence points to fewer actions overall, although I agree that there are fewer actions claimed by groups with public statements, etc.

As for radical environmental campaigns, it sure seems to be true that there are fewer of



Daniel McGowan

photo courtesy Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan

involved in activism floundered until a late-night drunken stumble into Blackout Books (RIP) and a free-pile copy of the *Earth First! Journal* (the one with the "Super Freddy" with the automatic weapon guarding the Cove-Mallard timber sale!). I checked out the directory, saw that the NYC contact—the Wetlands Preserve—had open meetings and a few days later attended one. There, I heard about the Yerkes protest against primate research firsthand, as well as letter-writing attempts to keep Captain Paul Watson from being extradited to Norway. One month later, I took off cross-country for the 1997 Round River Rendezvous in Crandon, Wisconsin, got arrested for standing in front of a mining company, and the rest is history. How's that for a plug for the organizing effect of the EF!J?

EF!J: What role did EF! and the EF!J play in your growth as an activist? What role, if any, do they play in your life now?

DM: The *Journal* has always been a major part of my activism, from the times I would lunge at the pile we used to get at Wetlands to submitting my first article (Mitsubishi lockdown, October 1998) to seeing analysis of the ELF actions I was involved with. I short-termed for the *Journal* in 2000 and volunteered for the two years I lived in Eugene, helping with editing, filling sample issue orders and soliciting articles and artwork. The EF!J was a major reason for my move to Eugene and subsequent involvement

these. When I lived in Oregon, there were, at times, four active treesits, as well as quieter campaigns by people like myself that focused on disrupting timber sales, and many lawsuits attempting to take large amounts of forest off the chopping block. Nowadays, there seems to be a much-changed situation, with no active treesits in Oregon or Washington and disbanded groups in these once very active communities. However, it isn't always about quantity, and there are still efforts to protect forests, such as by the Cascadia Wildlands Project (CWP) and lawyers like Lauren Regan who thanklessly (and with no help from the nonprofits) work hard to protect burned Biscuit sales in southern Oregon. One good thing I just heard is that the Clark timber sale (known better as Fall Creek or, in its early days, Red Cloud Thunder) is now canceled. Years of occupying trees and, in later years, red tree vole surveys that shrunk the size of the sale down to 29 acres resulted in the sale no longer being profitable. The groups that worked on this, from the mainstream Oregon Natural Resources Council (now Oregon Wild) to the CWP, treesitters and surveyors should be proud of themselves for working together on different levels. We need more of these combined efforts.

EF!J: Now that your sentence has started, is there anything you've wanted to say but couldn't until this moment?

DM: I suppose now is the best time to address the issue of my cooperating codefendants. Much has been said about their choices, which resulted in a long list of arrests, death threats and a seemingly never-ending investigation. Let me be really clear: There was a spoken and crystal-clear agreement made between all who were involved in these actions that we would never, ever turn each other in to save ourselves. I took that oath seriously, as did a few of my old friends. Sadly though, not everyone did, and instead threw us to the wolves. In one month, I went from having three people pointing their fingers at me—a sociopathic heroin addict (Ferguson), an intellectually diminished domestic violence abuser turned conservative (Meyerhoff) and a meek porn store manager and pothead (Tubbs)—to having almost all of my codefendants selling me out. It was shocking and tremendously hurtful, and I will never forgive them for the betrayal. The straw that broke the camel's back was probably when I found out that Suzanne Savoie, an ex-lover and once close friend, told the government of my entire illegal history from 1998-2001—including some 10 or so actions that we did together—with incredible details. She got 51 months; I got 84—the price of treachery is apparently 33 months.

That said, I am not willing to give these people any more of my time and my life. I have no desire to ever hear from them again with fake apologies or regret. Their actions are their cross to bear—not mine. I can wake up in the morning knowing that not only did I try to stop the destruction I saw, but that I acted honorably when facing life in prison.

Finally, I want to say that it was very difficult to stand silently in court while the prosecutor said that our actions were analogous to the actions of the Ku Klux Klan. I pride myself on speaking out when I hear racist garbage like that, and I regret that I was cowed by my surroundings and half-expected the judge to rebuke prosecutor Stephen Peiffer for his racist and horribly inaccurate remark.

EF!J: How do you feel about the sentence you received? Were you surprised? Disappointed? Relieved?

DM: My sentence of seven years for two arsons is double the federal median sentence. I received six months less than what the government asked for, due to my involvement in aboveground and non-destructive activism from 2001 to 2005. Honestly, I felt that my activism, the fact that I left the ELF without pressure from anyone and my complete lack of criminal history would have led to a lesser sentence. But I'm not surprised, really—there is no justice from the courts. If there were, the judge would never have tolerated our being charged with the 924(c) counts (use of a destructive device), which could have given me a 30-year mandatory minimum if found guilty of one and mandatory life in prison if found guilty of both. We called 924 (c) "the snitch maker," because



photo courtesy Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan

the count caused great fear and hopelessness amongst those who were charged with it. Relief was certainly something I felt after I went from facing life in prison plus 335 years to "only" eight years. I am surrounded by people whose sentences of 20 years and more remind me that I could have gotten a lot more time.

That said, I think it's imperative that we *not* accept these charges and characterization of ourselves as "terrorists" (eco, domestic or otherwise). We should never accept the overarching tactics that the government uses to get people to break.

EF!J: Most of your codefendants decided to cooperate with the government by informing on you, the other non-cooperating defendants and each other. From early on, you were very clear about your refusal to do this. When and how did you decide to make this commitment? Was this a difficult decision? How much pressure was on you to inform on others, and how did you withstand this pressure?

DM: I decided a long time ago that I would never cooperate with a situation I might find myself in years later. Before I took part in serious actions, I thought long and hard about it. Frankly, it was not a hard decision to make and I think it plays to my personality—which is very stubborn at times! Once I was arrested, I clammed up and tried my best to ignore what was going on—I was cold, hungry and in a cell that was freezing with the lights on, but I knew that this was temporary and that I would soon have a lawyer. Legal trainings that I had been to a dozen times suddenly made sense as I saw the silly attempts that were made to get me to talk. Specifically, Eugene cop Greg Harvey told me that the 924 (c) count was the same count that Chris McIntosh pleaded to, that he knew I had a niece and that I shouldn't bankrupt my family, and that I should be smart and talk with the prosecution as "the door is open now but it's closing soon." I saw this attempt for what it was and reasserted my right to silence over and over to them.

I can't say there was much pressure put on me by others—all my friends and family understood my decision to not cooperate. My codefendant Gerlach did wage a "choose life" campaign, seeking to meet with every defendant and lawyer and tell them that we should "choose life" and not be martyrs! This was a very obvious attempt to gain credence with the prosecution and at her sentencing, she and her lawyer attempted to cash in on this, stating that she got many people to cooperate. Of course, this is true in the case of her private meeting with Darren Thurston, who left a joint agreement with me and Jonathan Paul shortly after this meeting with Gerlach (and started cooperating with the government after that point). Her meeting with my lawyer and private investigator provided me with a lot of insight into the mind of someone who cooperates and the lengths that they will go to in their quest to lessen their time in jail. A document of notes regarding Gerlach's attempts to get me to inform will be made public soon on www.supportdaniel.org.

EF!J: How do you feel about the support that some of the informants continue to receive from some folks in the radical environmental movement?

DM: I think it's sad that some people in the radical enviro movement still support informants from this case. I can understand, in some way, a situation in which a friend is dismayed by the actions taken by another friend who is an informant and thus, I do not begrudge them that. However, there is a huge difference between supporting a friend privately without using movement money (making sure they have commissary and letters) and publicly supporting these people, soliciting money from the movement, asking magazines to send them free subscriptions and obscuring the truth about the depth of their cooperation. I won't delve too deeply into the situation with Darren Thurston, but I will say this: Thurston is a cooperating witness against the people in the Litchfield Bureau of Land Management ELF action. Some of these people are informants themselves, but a few people are not. Thurston told the government the timeline of the action—what he did and what other people did, specifically. It does not matter that he and his support person both say the government already knew this. That is their assertion, not a fact—and either way, that idea of "they already knew it" has been so thoroughly discredited over the last 30 years that I'm surprised it can still be spoken without meeting universal derision. The assertion made is that Thurston will not have to testify against the three people he told the government about either because a) they won't be caught, or b) he will be in Canada by that point and won't have to testify. Sadly, most people that the FBI deems "fugitives" are caught (e.g. Peter Young, Sara Olson, James Kilgore) so that really isn't too much consolation. Secondly, if Darren thinks Canada is a refuge, maybe he should read a little about the cases of Leonard Peltier, Tre Arrow, John Graham or Jeremy Hintzman (US conscientious objector). Of course, maybe the US government told him that they wouldn't need him, but that's just conjecture. His plea agreement is available to the public, except for the paragraphs dealing with the cooperation he offered, which are still sealed. So we are left in the dark, really, because his support people and Thurston himself keep his plea agreement and FBI debrief forms sealed. I think that anyone who reads the court reports can see that not only did the prosecution call him a remarkable cooperating witness but his lawyers also lauded his cooperation. Ask yourself how a former Animal Liberation Front (ALF) prisoner banned from the US and caught with a fake green card, more than 20 fake IDs, guns and drugs, and a participant in an ELF arson at a government facility gets not only a 37-month sentence but no terrorism enhancement? How much proof do people need?

The second part of this interview will be printed in the January-February issue of the *Earth First! Journal*. Keep your eyes peeled.

((Two Responses to Peter Young))

BY J.J. HICKS

If my humble opinion is deemed worthy to grace the pages of the *EF! Journal*, I'd like to address Peter Young's latest letter (see *EF! Journal* September-October 2007).

I'm a 15-year Earth First! veteran currently in a medium security federal prison—also known as a Federal Correctional Institute (FCI)—and I've done a little time in a state prison. I've been in and out of a couple dozen different jails coast to coast, and I've spent more than seven years of my life locked up in one form or another. I guess that should qualify me as knowledgeable on the subject of "doing time" in the federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and state prison systems.

Peter, I applaud your actions and I usually love your writings. But your "Federal Prison 101" article contains misleading assertions and many generalizations (see *EF! Journal* May-June 2007), while your latest SFB letter sounds like the ravings of an egomaniac. Being an egomaniac myself at times, I should know.

Anyway, you were locked up for how long? About two years? And at least half of that was probably spent in county jails, right? I'm just speculating. I'm also guessing that it was your first time "doing time." And actually, an American Indian Movement friend and mentor of mine used to tell me you ain't even doing time unless you got at least a five-year bid to do. So, all your experience and knowledge of prison, federal or otherwise, is really quite limited, isn't it?

By your own admission, you only spent 15 minutes a day socializing with your fellow prisoners, who you claim "exhibited the maturity of 15-year-olds." It doesn't sound like you interacted much, and your interactions were prejudiced as well. I'm certain that if you had



BY JEFFREY "FREE" LUERS

First, allow me to apologize for using this as a forum to address a personal issue. However, having read Peter Young's letter, I feel I must (see *EF! Journal* September-October 2007).

Peter, as an activist, I have the utmost respect for you, but I had no idea you could be such a jackass. Yes, the majority of my prison experience has been different than yours. However, I've done some time in federal medium custody for activism, as well as state medium. In fact, my first fight was in medium custody.

I'm not disputing your statement that camp and low custody life is much easier. However, your trivialization of prison is, frankly, repulsive and arrogant.

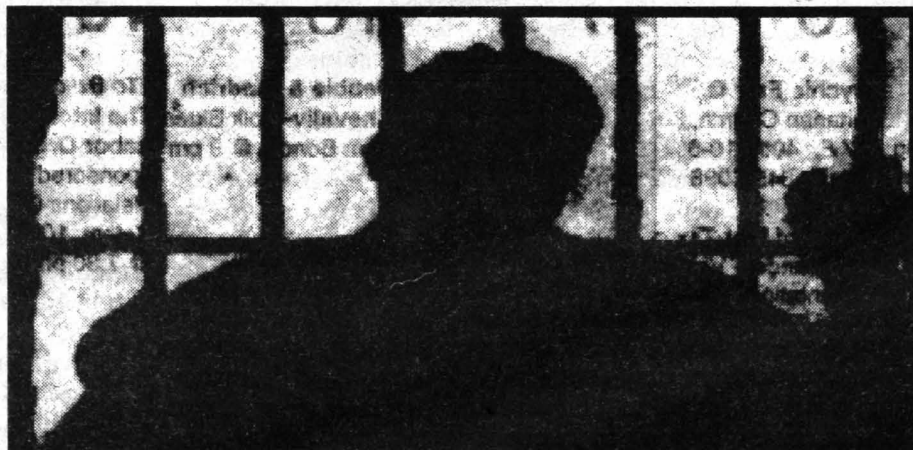
I don't care where you do time. The fact remains that in the US, one in five male prisoners will be sexually assaulted during their sentence. If you want to pretend that is a movie statistic, that is your business. But it is that kind of dismissive attitude about the personal consequences of struggle that has created so much trouble.

What about the threat of long prison sentences in maximum security, which was used to break so many of the Backfire defendants? What if people don't take deals? What about the Black Bloc kid who gets nicked for smashing a riot cop's face

spent more time in prison actually getting to know more about your fellow prisoners and the BOP, you'd not have made such sweeping generalizations.

For starters, every federal prison is different—even among FCIs. This is mostly because of geographic differences, which tend to reflect cultural differences that are more often than not based on different racial and ethnic backgrounds. A Northeast federal prison (where I am) has a lot of prisoners from New York City and the upper Midwest who are mostly black. This is vastly different than a Texas federal prison, which is usually 80 percent or more *Mexicano* or Mexican-American. Most prisoners belong to a gang or are beholden to some clique of men from their region, city or neighborhood. There are federal prisons where everybody mostly gets along, and there are federal prisons where wars regularly break out between factions. And the conditions are always subject to change. Sometimes during battles, a man may be attacked just because he's white, or Muslim, or from Ohio. That's just the way it is.

While the daily threat of violence does drop off dramatically from a maximum to a medium security facility, FCIs have different classifications as well. There are medium-lows, straight mediums and medium-highs. I'm at a medium-high, one step below a maximum security US Penitentiary, and in my four years here, I've seen some serious shit go down. There have been gang fights—one involving literally hundreds of men and resulting in about 50 hospitalizations. I've seen stabbings, bludgeonings



with a rock? What if the government stops playing by the rules you have set?

People *should* be scared to act. Direct action isn't the absence of fear; it is the courage to overcome it. If someone is too intimidated by the threat of maximum security, they should limit their actions to those with less severe consequences. Otherwise they risk ending up like Stanislas Meyerhoff or Kevin Tubbs, telling on everyone to avoid getting locked away in a max forever.

For you to say that activists should only worry about the likelihood of easy time rather than the possibility of severe and damaging consequences is the most brazenly irresponsible and ignorant thing I've ever read.

Your words are dangerous, Peter. To paint a picture that radical struggle doesn't have real and traumatic consequences is to mislead activists and create warriors ill-prepared to face the consequences of their actions.

It is no wonder so many of our fellow activists have broken, when their very role models

and people beaten nearly to death with bare hands. I've heard of a couple of rapes. Statistically speaking, though, it's probably more dangerous driving your car to the grocery store.

I've personally been in a few scraps that could've easily turned deadly. I didn't stop being a revolutionary when I came to prison. I've committed several "violations" of convict rules by standing up for wildlife and liberating animals and insects that other prisoners meant to keep as pets and/or torture to death. I've been attacked for calling out snitches, and I've attacked pedophiles. I've gotten into fights for my well-known anti-fascist and anti-racist beliefs, as well. One Aryan Brotherhood convict fucked me up so bad when I first got here that I still suffer chronic, debilitating back pain that the prison medical staff refuses to diagnose or treat.

Medical malpractice in the BOP is a real fear. It's likely that more prisoners have been killed here by the medical staff than by other prisoners. You can pretty much expect your medical concerns to be neglected. The prevailing attitude is basically, "They're prisoners, who gives a fuck?" For the last couple of years, there's also been a BOP-wide deadly staph infection epidemic.

Prison staff at *this* FCI psychologically and physically abuse prisoners all the time—especially in "the hole." The prison industrial complex is designed to abuse and demean in order to subdue and pacify the inmate population. To move anywhere on this compound, you have to pass through metal detectors, and you're subjected to regular "pat-downs"

and searches of your person and belongings. Strip searches are commonplace. So are both "random" and "suspect" urine and breath tests. It's all part of the system of control. To resist is to invite the use of excessive force by overzealous guards. Prisoners' rights are violated daily with little or no recourse. The very nature of prison makes guards sadistic control freaks.

Peter, you're concerned that "a thousand who might otherwise act" will not because of horror stories from prison. I think that's as far-fetched as folks being "paralyzed by fear" after being made aware of the realities of federal prison life. Fear doesn't inspire or deter us; *love and anger move us to action*. And once we've reached the level of love and anger that makes us act, *nothing can deter us*. That's our true strength, not our numbers. There probably aren't even 200 radical, underground animal/Earth liberation activists in the US, and not you nor Free nor I are gonna inspire or deter an upstart army to the front lines. Which is all the more reason to value the few soldiers we have and educate them about the realities of prison if they've never been here before.

I think it's more "ignorant, irresponsible and dangerous" for folks to be unaware of the potential consequences of their actions. There would probably be fewer snitches if everybody took this shit more seriously and knew what they were getting themselves into. This ain't a fuckin' game. This ain't just some cool shit to do with your friends on a lark. Please allow me to quote you one last time, Peter: "This is about saving lives."

J.J. Hicks got in a fix up in the sticks of North Cackalacky, growing that wacky tobacky. Feds told him to snitch on the ELF and put his friends on the shelf, but he went and did the time his damn-self!



dismiss consequences as nothing to be afraid of.

Perhaps you care so much about the "struggle" that you have lost sight of looking out for those who fight it. Personally, I'd rather shock some sense into a thousand people

who have some romanticized notion of resistance in order to prepare the one who has the heart and dedication to act and face whatever may come with integrity and honor.

Then again, maybe you are right. Perhaps, in the name of resistance, it is best to just encourage everyone to act with a reassuring pat on the back, saying, "Don't worry, what could possibly go wrong?"

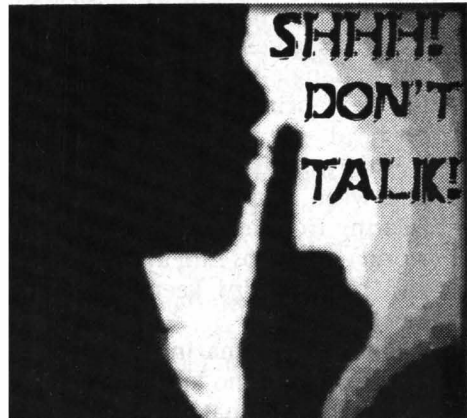
Seriously, for everyone thinking about getting involved in hardcore illegal actions, please think hard about what could happen and the consequences you might have to face. I'm tired of seeing well-intentioned people become a liability to our struggle. We must prepare people to be warriors who will not break under pressure, and not just lead lambs to the slaughter.

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.

Midwest Eco Repression

BY ZHONN

A new chapter in the ongoing book of repression against US eco-activists was written on August 20. In Seattle, Washington, during the early morning, and in Chicago at around 11 a.m., FBI agents woke two people in their homes to issue them subpoenas to appear before a Minneapolis grand jury.



Anthony Wong and Brandon Elder, the two served with subpoenas, both refused to comment or to cooperate with the agents. Apparently, an "Ian Wallace" had already been cooperating with agents for several months prior to these events. Agents showed Wong several unclear photos of vehicles or machines as a form of intimidation, while saying that Wong knew what he was being shown and that if he cooperated it would be better for him. Wong was also told that Kevin Tubbs and Stanislas Meyerhoff (snitches in the Operation Backfire cases) had been cooperating with the agents. Elder was asked about his alleged involvement with acts of arson and vandalism that happened several years ago at the Twin Cities campus of Minnesota State University. According to www.midwestgreenscare.org, a third person has also

been subpoenaed but is remaining anonymous.

The September 6 grand jury hearing was cancelled, reportedly because the district attorney knew that those summoned would refuse to cooperate and planned to plead the Fifth.

There has been a solid flow of community organizing and awareness in Minnesota since the announcement of the subpoenas. A public meeting was held in the Twin Cities and an informational meeting has planned for the future.

A few lessons can already be drawn from this unfolding story. By not cooperating, the two escaped their grand jury summonses. In no way does not cooperating automatically lead to a cancelled grand jury summons, but it is nice to see a clear line drawn—coercion from the state does not need to lead to more snitching and information

divulgence. We see what led up to this—numerous people cooperating. We need only look into the other cases in the current wave of repression and see what happens when information falls into the wrong hands.

The other important thing to recognize is the organizing around this! Through constant education and awareness on the current wave of repression that eco-defenders face, we see more community support for prisoners from our movement. When we educate people about resisting grand juries and knowing their rights, we prevent accidental information trading. Also, when people see that communities support them, it helps them make the right decision. This incident is a good model to follow in case of future repression.

For more information, visit www.midwestgreenscare.org.

Charges Unsealed Against Snitch Jake Ferguson

The charges against Jacob Ferguson, the snitch whose cooperation with the police led directly to the widespread arrests of Operation Backfire, have finally been unsealed (see *EFJ* March-April 2006). Until Ferguson's cooperation, the FBI had essentially no leads in 17 different Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and Animal Liberation Front actions—primarily arsons—that had taken place in California, Colorado, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming between 1996 and 2001.

"If you don't get a break, arson is a really tough case to make," retired Eugene, Oregon, policeman Thad Buchanan said of the case in May 2006. "Most of your evidence burns up."

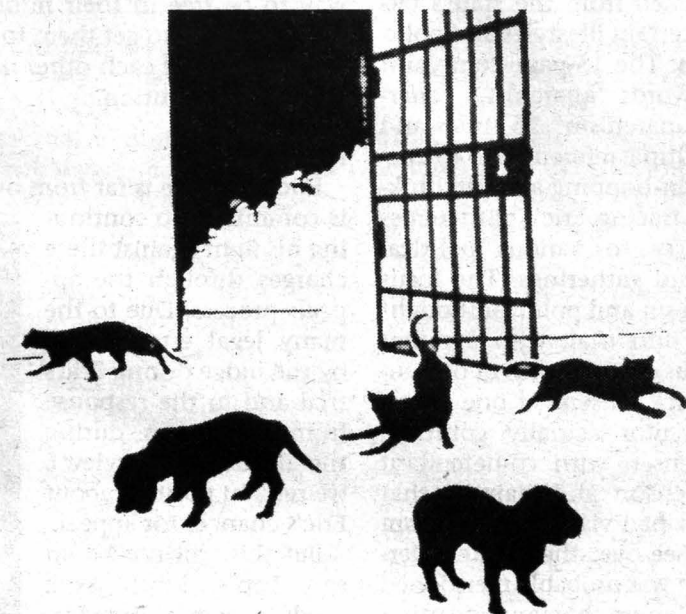
To date, Operation Backfire has led to the imprisonment of 10 people and the suicide of Bill Rodgers. Briana Waters is awaiting trial, and four suspects have not been captured.

According to government documents, Ferguson's relationship with the feds began when he became a suspect in the 2001 arson of the Joe Romania Chevrolet dealership in Eugene, Oregon. By September 2004, Ferguson was actively cooperating with the FBI. He traveled around the country to initiate and secretly tape conversations with others about prior actions they had taken together, and he accompanied investigators to the sites of various actions.

After being sealed for three years under court order, the charges against Ferguson have been revealed as one count of arson and one of attempted arson. The charges stem from the torching of a pickup truck and the attempted torching of a building at the US Forest Service's Detroit Ranger Station in the Willamette National Forest in 1996—the ELF's first major US action.

Under the terms of his agreement with the feds, Ferguson is expected to receive a probationary sentence with no jail time. He will still receive his monetary compensation from the FBI, an undisclosed amount that is believed to total approximately \$150,000.

SHAC UNDEAD!



BY ZHONN

After a nine-year campaign against his company that has included his being battered with a pickaxe handle outside his home and having his company lose banking, insurance and auditing options, go \$100 million into debt and have only two percent of its shares dealable on the market, Brian Cass—managing director of Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS)—claims that the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) campaign is now 99 percent "under control."

This was Cass's point in a September interview with the UK's *Telegraph* newspaper. But even in the face of the SHAC 7 repression in the US and

Operation Achilles in Europe, all one has to do is take a quick glance on the web to see otherwise. "All we are asking is to be treated the same way as other firms," Cass pleaded with the *Telegraph*. "The most important thing is to be given a normal bank account, because that will open other doors."

Apparently, SHAC thinks this is a bit too much to ask for a company that kills 500 animals a day. Since the publication of Cass's comments, SHAC has been 100 percent outta control—with anti-HLS actions taking place in the US, the UK, the Netherlands, Italy and Poland. And wait, did Cass forget about the tampering with HLS client Novartis' products in England

and France in August? No, this was his response to the action: "It's very easy for someone to make the sort of claims they have with nothing behind them." Well Cass, it's claims like those that get 200,000 bottles off the shelves and in the trash along with the dirty, bloody profit they would have made.

Oh yeah, Cass, what about all the SHAC-related Animal Liberation Front (ALF) actions in the US? In October, Moravek Biochemicals terminated its business with HLS after the ALF paid a visit to one of its executives and vandalized his luxury vehicle and home. In September, the ALF and others vandalized an Abbott Laboratories executive's

home in Washington, DC, and an office building owned by Phenomenex owner Farajollah Mahjoor in southern California. This was the second such visit to the Abbott exec's house.

One must also wonder if Cass has heard about SHAC's plans to pay the town of Huntingdon and HLS a visit for a November 10 day of action. Does Cass consider all the active anti-HLS campaigns in 22 different countries to be "under control"? Hmm?

For more information, contact Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty, c/o FRIEND, 89 Bush Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 5LJ, UK; info@shac.net; www.shac.net.

This makes ZHONN laugh and smile!

The Eric McDavid Story...

continued from page 3

The Aftermath

After the delivery of the verdict on September 27, Reichel conducted informal interviews with members of the jury. Here is a rundown of what they had to say:

- They wanted to acquit Eric, but felt that they could not because of the instruction the judge had given them about "first contact" and "predisposition."

- They thought that Anna was despicable, and they didn't believe a word she said unless it was on tape.

- They were appalled at the behavior of the FBI and told the agents so to their faces.

While much of this information is validating for Eric and his case, it's also maddening to know that Eric would be free today if not for one jury instruction. However, this bodes well for Eric's chances of appeal, which will be the next step in his struggle for freedom. Unfortunately, this process will take at least a year, and Eric will remain imprisoned in the meantime.

Lies, Lies, Lies

Not surprisingly, the media and the government have made a number of inaccurate and misleading statements about Eric and his case. Perhaps the two most egregious lies made during the trial were that Eric threatened to kill Anna if she was a cop and that she awoke one night with him waving a knife over her. There was absolutely no evidence to support either of these claims, other than the word of an admitted professional liar. During the time that the second incident was alleged to have happened, Eric and Anna were in a cabin completely wired with video and audio surveillance. Yet despite repeated requests from Reichel, the government never produced any documentary evidence. When Anna told this story during her testimony (after a lunch break, after it was clear that the government was grasping at straws), Reichel asked her if she had gone right back to sleep after the alleged incident, and she said yes. If you wake up with someone waving a knife over you, do you fall right back asleep? Both of these outrageously slanderous statements were clearly meant to smear Eric in front of the jury.

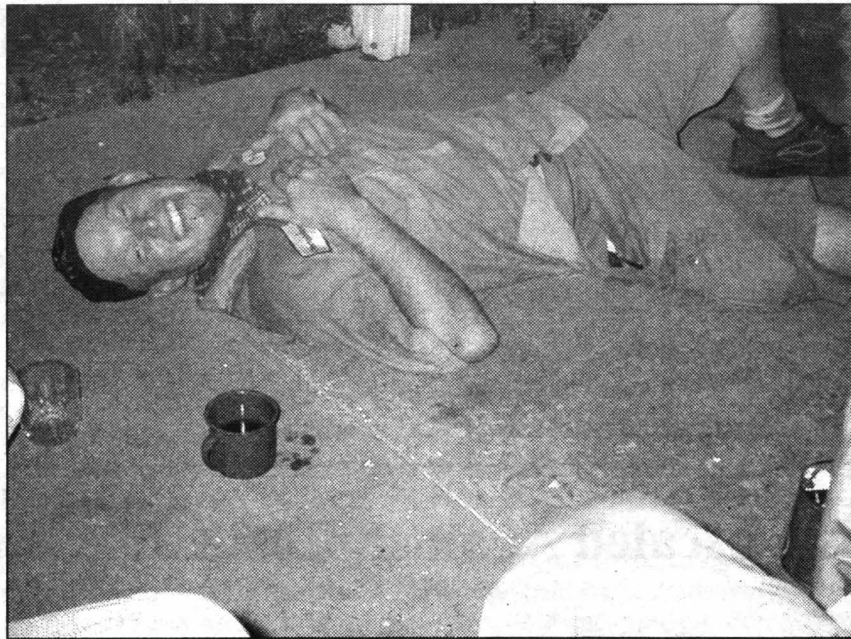
After the trial, US Attorney McGregor Scott was quoted as saying, "Can you imagine what would happen if they succeeded in blowing up Nimbus Dam? It would make New Orleans look like a Sunday pancake breakfast." But both Weiner and Jensen testified that Nimbus Dam was not a target at the time of the group's arrest in January.

The list of falsehoods, hyperbole and fear-mongering statements made by the government over the last two years is far too extensive to detail here. The bottom line is that the government has no qualms about spouting off the most malicious of lies in its desperate pursuit to convict innocent people.

A Bit of Context

Eric was arrested amidst the whirlwind government crackdown on

radical environmentalists known as the "Green Scare." What sets Eric's case apart from the majority of these others, however, is that Eric was not actually charged with carrying out a crime—rather, he was charged with "conspiracy" to commit one. In essence, Eric was pursued and



Eric, during happier times

arrested for "thought crime." Nothing makes this more clear than the prosecution's non-ironic invocation of association with CrimethInc. as proof of in itself of criminality. It is unclear whether the prosecutors are aware that the word they constantly uttered has the same Orwellian roots as the case itself.

A quick glance at the criminal complaint against Eric and his former co-defendants (which can be viewed on his web site) reveals the extent to which the charges against him stemmed from the state's targeting of certain lifestyles and political beliefs. The 15-page complaint uses the words "anarchist," "anarchy" or "anarchism" 26 times and makes multiple references to CrimethInc., train-hopping and hitchhiking while tracing Eric's path across the country to various political protests and gatherings. The focus on anarchism and political thought extended into trial, with a rather heavy focus on the works of one author, Derrick Jensen. At one point, the prosecutor actually confused Derrick Jensen with co-defendant Zachary Jensen and claimed that the author had visited Zach's mom in Tennessee over the Winter! Derrick Jensen was probably mentioned in the trial more than anyone other than Eric and his co-defendants.

This case makes it clear how far the government is willing to go to spy on and repress people based on their politics and lifestyle. Eric met Anna in August 2004 and the two remained in contact after that time. It was made clear during trial that Eric had fallen in love with Anna and that she used his feelings to keep him hooked and, eventually, to entrap him. Anna manufactured this "crime" by providing the means for it to occur and by manipulating the three into doing things that would allow her employers to arrest and prosecute them. She constantly pushed and cajoled Eric, Weiner and Jensen when they showed resistance to her plans. She paid for

their entire existence—the cabin they lived in, their travel across the country, the car they used, the computers they used (which the FBI later confiscated), groceries and supplies. Weiner testified that Anna pulled \$100 bills out of her pocket and gave them to Eric so that he

could purchase groceries and supplies—leading to Anna's outlandish statements during trial that the money the group used came from Eric and Lauren's pockets!

Eric was not released on bail because the government said that he train-hopped, hitchhiked and "lived off the land." The most the government had to say about Eric's predisposition is that he read an interview of Derrick Jensen and shared it with others. This case is clearly meant to terrify people who are seeking a way to be free in their minds and in their lives—to get them to police themselves and each other in order to avoid persecution.

And Then....

Eric's struggle is far from over. He is committed to continuing his fight against these charges through the appeals process. Due to the many legal errors made by the judge during Eric's trial and to the response from the jurors during the informal interviews, we remain positive about Eric's chances for appeal.

But this will not be an easy battle. Much work needs to be done in preparation, and Eric needs support now more than ever. There are a number of things that you can do to help Eric make it through his coming months in prison and actualize his freedom. First of all, appeals are not cheap. Unfortunately, we will need to raise many thousands of dollars to cover Eric's legal fees. We need everyone's help with this—please start working on fundraisers now and visit Eric's web site to make a donation online.

Second, Eric is still without vegan meals. Please call the jail and

request that they resume feeding him meals he can eat.

Third, Eric's sentencing is scheduled for December 6. We would love to see the courtroom full of supporters for Eric on that day. Eric is facing 20 years in prison, and the government has indicated that it will be pushing for the maximum time. The government also continues to dangle the threat of a terrorism sentencing enhancement over his head.

Finally, please take a few minutes and write Eric a letter of support. Hearing from everyone around the world who keeps him in their hearts and minds helps keep Eric going day to day.

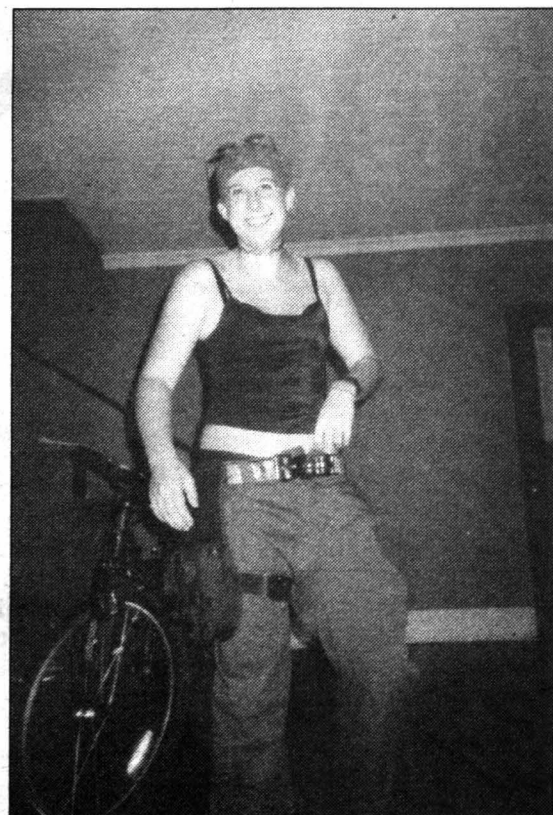
Eric is an amazing individual. Those of you who know him know how compassionate and caring he is—how full of integrity and courage he is, and how he embodies these qualities in his day-to-day life. Eric has taught us all so much, especially in these last two years. Most of all, he's taught us what it means to choose life—to keep pushing forward and doing what's right, despite substantial obstacles, and to infuse every moment with joy and love. After the jury delivered its verdict, Eric turned to all of us sitting behind him as he was leaving the courtroom, a look of concern on his face, and reminded us all: "Breathe...."

Let's all keep breathing... and keep fighting.

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

Send letters of support to Eric McDavid, X-2972521 4E231A, Sacramento County Main Jail, 651 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Sacramento Prisoner Support is based in Sacramento, California, and has been doing support work for Eric McDavid since his arrest in January 2006.



This picture of Anna (the fed) is a couple of years old. As of Eric's trial (according to reports), "her hair was brown—almost auburn—and short, cut to just below her chin. She had it pulled up in barrettes most of the time." It is rumored that she is now living in Iowa. Activists are urged to keep in mind that Anna is still "out there," and as far as we know, still working for the FBI.

ROD CORONADO AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX

continued from page 3

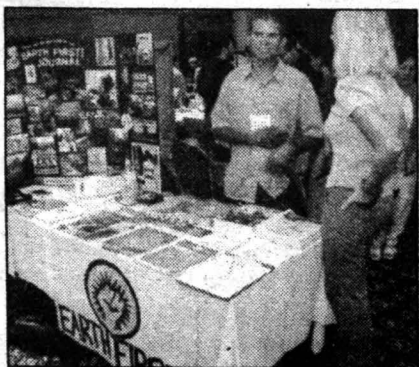
Singleton began his opening statement with the tale of how Coronado had delivered a blow to illegal whaling by sinking two whaling ships in 1986 and how none of Coronado's actions have ever harmed, let alone killed, anybody. He also contextualized Coronado's San Diego lecture as part of an organized event, "Revolution Summer," that brought guest speakers from many movements to speak to people of all ages and backgrounds. This lecture was not a covert gathering, but an exercise in free speech open to all members of the public.

The prosecution's first witness was San Diego's Assistant Fire Chief, who testified about the ELF fire. The judge allowed the government to show video footage of the fire, even though this was probably just an attempt to bias the jury with evidence that had no connection to the speech itself.

Next up was an undercover San Diego police detective, Joe Lehr, who mostly investigates left-wing groups and attended the lecture in question. The courtroom lights were dimmed, and the prosecution played the one-hour video of the speech itself. The jury watched as Coronado explained his evolution into a direct-action activist, detailed his experience sinking whaling ships and infiltrating fur farms, and explained his rationale for abandoning aboveground organizing. The courtroom heard of FBI atrocities against the Black Panthers, the American Indian Movement and the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, and of the 120 people murdered by federal agents in the Branch Davidian siege in Waco, Texas. Coronado explained how during his time in the ALF, arson was a necessary tool to destroy "weapons of mass destruction" like fur farms and animal research labs. When the lights were raised, one attorney whispered, "That's the most truth this courtroom has ever heard."

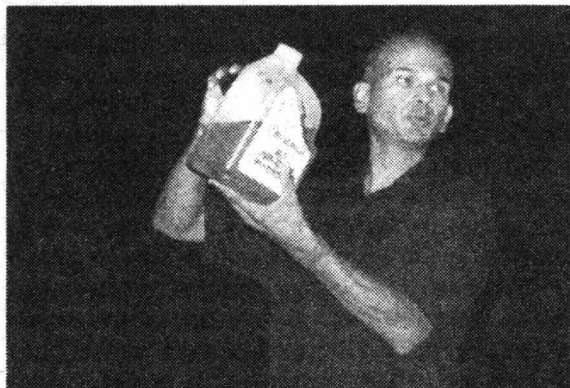
Because the video ended before the question-and-answer portion, Lehr had to testify about what had been asked and how Coronado had answered. According to Lehr, a woman shouted, "How do I make a bomb for an action?" This was a crucial portion of the trial—without the element of intent to commit further federal crimes of arson, the case would never have gone to trial.

During cross examination, Lehr spoke of how he and his five-person surveillance team had carried out their investigation. He said that after writing his report, he destroyed his notes. Lehr admitted to paraphrasing in his report, but held strong to his recollection of having heard, "How do I make a bomb for an action?"



Coronado tabling for the EFJ in 2003

The next witness for the prosecutors was Brian Grove with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Grove spoke on his tests of incendiary devices based on the model Coronado had described, complete with a video presentation. If anyone in the courtroom did not know how to build an incendiary device before this trial, they most certainly did after Grove's testimony! Then the videotape of the American University speech—where



Rod Coronado, holding a bottle of his favorite apple juice

Coronado again demonstrated how he had assembled incendiary devices—was played. The government showed photos of Coronado's home and the text from published and unpublished articles rationalizing the use of direct action to defend the Earth and animals—arguing that this constitutionally protected speech was evidence of Coronado's intent to encourage others to commit arson. One of the articles was an editorial in which he extolled the virtues of arson as a tactic (see *EFJ* September-October 2003).

After this, the judge heard oral arguments on which instructions to give the jury. The defense had a simple argument: As this offense involved speech, a narrow definition of what kind of speech is illegal was required. The judge decided to include a jury instruction stating, "The Constitution guarantees freedom of speech. The Constitution, however, does not protect speech or advocacy that is directed to solicit or produce imminent lawless action and is likely to incite or produce such action" (emphasis added).

The prosecutors were furious; they knew that with such an instruction, a conviction was an uphill battle. Not only would they have to prove that Coronado demonstrated how to build a destructive device and intended that it be used for a crime of violence, they would now have to prove that his words were likely to incite "imminent action."

So much of this case centered on what must be interpreted as a thought crime: Did Coronado intend for others to commit arson? Only by entering his mind at the time could one know for sure. But what is clear, according to the Supreme Court, is that it is not illegal to encourage others to commit illegal acts unless one is inciting them to do so immediately. The prosecutors desperately argued that this should not apply, because the case was about Coronado instructing others to commit "domestic terrorism"—apparently, the Department of Justice wishes that the First Amendment did not protect speech the government finds unfavorable.

On the third day of trial, the defense played an audiotape that had surfaced of the question-and-answer

portion of the San Diego speech. This single piece of evidence severely cast Lehr's testimony into doubt, as it clearly proved that Coronado had only answered a question about his own prior actions.

The defense's next witness was Cari Shaw, the woman who had asked the question. Shaw testified that the question had been spontaneous and that she never intended to use an incendiary device for any federal crime. The last witnesses for the defense were two other women who had attended the speech in San Diego. Both women testified that the crowd was subdued, not primed for action as the government argued, and that no one ever asked Coronado to demonstrate how to build a bomb for an action.

After the weekend break, on September 17, the courtroom was packed for the closing arguments. The prosecution began with lots of choreographed rhetoric, accusing Coronado of being a recruiter for the ALF and ELF and a "mentor of arson." The video screen was lowered and the images of the ELF fire were played again and again. If the government couldn't win this case based on the law, it would appeal to the jury's fears in a military town where the "War on Terror" is many people's occupation. The prosecutor shouted, gesticulated and insisted that "imminent" could mean weeks or months, arguing that before the US invaded Iraq, the public knew that war was imminent months before.

Now it was Dumbledore's turn. Serra moved to the podium just a few feet from the jurors—explaining in his grandfatherly style that, with his failing vision, he wanted to be able to see them clearly. Serra spoke first of the privilege of living in a society where people, not law enforcement agencies, give the final judgment in such important cases. Then he began to describe historic incidents where speech had crossed the line into crime: the Boston Tea Party, the Great Depression (when evicted families burned their repossessed houses), lynch mobs storming jail cells, the longshoreman strikes of the 1930s (where freight on the docks was dumped into the sea) and lastly, the gay community's riots in San Francisco after the murder of Harvey Milk. All of these incidents, said Serra in a college professor's manner, began with speeches that eventually evolved into calls for imminent action. Coronado's speech in San Diego clearly did not. Serra spoke of how, since September 11, 2001, the presence of law enforcement in our lives has transformed from "a thin blue line to a thick blue wall." He reminded jurors that Coronado's rights were also their rights. He read some of the most inflammatory of Coronado's quotes that had been introduced into evidence, pronouncing after each one, "Not a crime!" After nearly three hours, Serra closed with the admonishment that in this society, we should not punish ideology, only crime.

By the end of the day, the jury was given its instructions and began deliberations. Just before 4:30

p.m. on September 18, the judge received a note from the jury that it was hopelessly deadlocked, and no further deliberation would break the impasse. The judge met with attorneys from both sides, then returned to declare a mistrial. Outside the courtroom, two jurors remained to explain to the defense that the majority of jurors were in favor of acquittal. In front of the courthouse, media cameras captured smiles all around; Coronado, like Harry Potter, would not be imprisoned—at least not on this day.

In most normal cases, a hung jury with the majority in favor of acquittal would mean a dismissal of the case. But as readers of the *EFJ* Journal know, the US government does not take Coronado's words—let alone his past actions—lightly. The government is now offering a plea agreement whereby Coronado would serve a year in prison in exchange for not being indicted on the same charge for the American University speech.

Despite Coronado's recent conviction, imprisonment and strict probation as a result of his role in sabotaging an Arizona mountain lion hunt, the government appears intent on not letting Coronado get on with his non-political life with his newly wed wife and two children. Over this past Summer, FBI agents were in Michigan to question his son's mother. He still faces a trial in November for possessing eagle and hawk feathers that were a part of his religious and cultural regalia and were either gifted to him or were found in his wanderings in the desert.

At the conclusion of *Order of the Phoenix*, what helps Harry survive yet another meeting with Lord Voldemort is not his physical strength or that of his allies, but love, friendship and the memory of the sacrifices his loved ones had made for him. Similarly, through this trial we remembered that although the forces of darkness may threaten our very freedom, if we work together and hold true to our love for the Earth and each other, magic can and will happen.

In his San Diego speech, Coronado said, "The US government has [made] us fearful of it, [made] us afraid to stand up against animal research, against development in San Diego County.... That is a fear that is given to us, as I said before, out of intimidation, threats, violence, imprisonment, all those things that they might do to us. [But] in falling for that, I was taking away from my power, our power. Our power as children of the Earth comes from the Earth. Our power is the streams, the winds, the thunderstorms, the oceans...."

That is where the videotape stops, but it's not where this story comes to an end. Voldemort is gathering his followers for yet another battle, and we all must face our fate and challenge him once again. But united with our friends and family—and the courageous wizardry of the Order of the Phoenix—we hope that good will triumph over evil.

For more information, contact Support for Rod Coronado, POB 732, Tucson, AZ 85702; info@supportrod.org; www.supportrod.org.

Until they master the Patronus Charm, the authors of this article choose to remain anonymous, lest these words be one day used against them.

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 some 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

•Janice Angellilo and Nick Cooney were indicted for acts of sabotage against Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) in September. Cooney faces a mandatory minimum of three years if convicted. Both of them are currently free on bail.

•Gregg Avery, TA7450, HMP Birmingham, Winson Green Rd, Birmingham, B18 4AS, UK. Awaiting trial for alleged conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. He has been moved to the above address.

•Dr. Martin Balluch, an Austrian activist charged with intrusion and spying for filming at a Finnish fur farm, was found not guilty on August 30.

•Grant Barnes, #137563, San Carlos Correctional Facility, POB 3, Pueblo, CO 81002, USA. Serving 12 years for the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arson of SUVs. He has been moved to the above address.

•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 went on a hunger strike from September 16-29, in solidarity with revolutionary anarchist prisoners José Fernández Delgado and Gabriel Pombo da Silva (who are confined under harsh conditions in Germany) and in solidarity with all prisoners in struggle. Camenisch reads French, German, Spanish and Italian fluently, as well as some English.

•Darius Fullmer was released on September 29, after serving one year on conspiracy charges stemming from his work with Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC).

•Sarah Gisborne, LT5393, HMP Downview, Sutton Lane, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5PD, UK. Serving 5.5 years for conspiracy to damage vehicles owned by people linked to HLS. She has been moved to the above address.

•Betty Krawczyk was released in September after serving 10 months for contempt of court for protesting logging and Olympic development on First Nations territory in Canada.

•Jeffrey "Free" Luers has been moved while awaiting resentencing for an arson at a car dealership and the attempted arson of an oil truck. For more information, visit www.freefreedomnow.org.

•Eric McDavid, X-2972521 4E231A, Sacramento County Main Jail, 651 "I" Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, USA. Awaiting sentencing for conspiracy to destroy the US Forest Service's Institute of Forest Genetics, a cell-phone tower and power plants (see page 3). For more information, visit www.supporter.org.

•José Pérez González has been released after serving 4.5 years for conspiracy to destroy federal property during a May 2003 celebration of the end of the US military occupation of Vieques.

•Suzanne Taylor, TM7154, HMP Drake Hall, Eccleshall, Staffs, ST21 6LQ, UK. Serving 2.5 years for demonstrating outside the offices of companies linked to HLS. She has been moved to the above address.

•Julio Villanueva, 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 in 1996. Villanueva had been living underground until his apprehension in August.

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.

•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 HLS.

•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.

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

•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 at the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture 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, Long 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 to the vivisection industry.

•Lauren Gazzola, #93497-011, FCI Danbury, Rte 37, Danbury, CT 06811, USA. Serving 4.5 years for conspiracy charges stemming from her work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.supportlauren.com.

•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 Kjonas, #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 YO1 Onley, Willoughby, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV23 8AP, UK. Serving four years for demonstrating outside the offices of companies linked to HLS.

Ecodefense

•Nathan "Exile" Block, #36359-086, FCI Lompoc, 3600 Guard Rd, Lompoc, CA 93436, USA. Serving seven years and eight months for ELF arsons at an SUV dealership and a hybrid poplar farm.

•Ibai Eder, 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.

•Daniel McGowan, #63794-053, Unit 1, FCI Sandstone, POB 1000, Sandstone, MN 55072, USA. Serving seven years for ELF arsons at a lumber company and a hybrid poplar farm. For more information, visit www.supportdaniel.org.

•Jonathan Paul, c/o Friends of Jonathan Paul, PMB 267, 2305 Ashland St, Ste C, Ashland, OR 97520, USA. Sentenced in August to 4.25 years for the ELF/Animal Liberation Front arson of a horse slaughterhouse and meat-packing plant.

•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.

•Joyanna "Sadie" Zacher, #36360-086, FCI Dublin, 5701 8th St, Camp Parks, Dublin, CA 94568, USA. Serving seven years and eight months for ELF arsons at an SUV dealership and a hybrid poplar farm.

Il Silvestre

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

•Costantino Ragusa, Casa Circondariale, Via Prati Nuovi 7, 27058 Voghera (PV), Italy. Serving more than two years for an arson at 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

•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 1272, New York, NY 10013, USA; www.thejerichomovement.com.

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

The Songcraft of Liberation

BY PANAGIOTI

Freedom's Nightmare, by the Lars Din SongRiot, 2007.

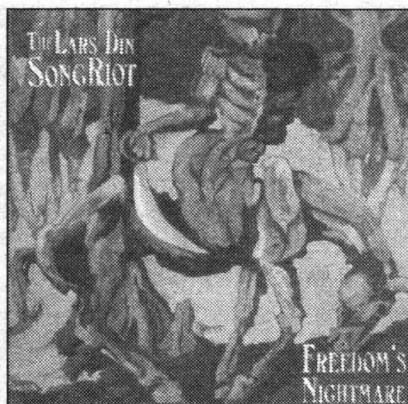
I won't feign neutrality or non-bias. Lars is one of my best friends and in my close circle of affinity. From the roadblocked streets of Seattle, DC and Miami, to Zapatista celebrations in the mountains of Chiapas, and through roadshows all the hell over Florida, I have eagerly stalked Lars and studied his every song and story.

In his own words, Lars Din is a "singer-songwriter, traveling journalist, bum and junkyard anarchist folk musician." The Lars Din SongRiot hit the streets this past May Day with a beautifully produced, rabble-rousing CD entitled *Freedom's Nightmare* (accompanied by a Spring and Summer tour). Hailing from Alachua County, Florida, Lars has been humbly playing songs in the streets and around campfires for more than 20 years, energizing grassroots activists all along his path.

For too long, the radical community in Florida has hoarded Lars all to ourselves, but no longer

will this be the case as his music is finally becoming more accessible to y'all out there. Lars' unique songwriting and storytelling on *Freedom's Nightmare* is accompanied by a dozen other musicians wielding a range of instruments including trumpets, an accordion, a mandolin, a tuba, a washboard and crowbars.

Highlights of this 19-song CD include "Floodplain Florida," which is a walk through Lars' dream of a potential global warming scenario in his hometown; "Smoke," a reflection on mass protests and the personal struggles that we all bring to the movements we are building; and my personal fave, "That Fire in Your Heart," a song about navigating through life with the dangerous gifts that manifest as depression for many of us. Other songs address issues of war, elections, Florida history and bike riding. While Lars is loaded to the teeth with catchy activist anthems, this CD is equally devoted to his



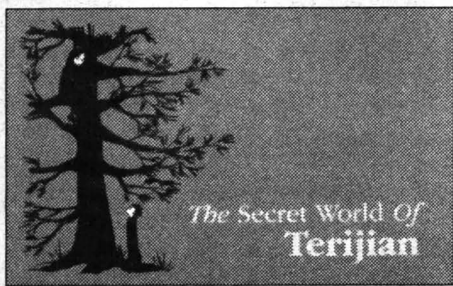
amazing art of telling abstract stories infused with wild-ass word play.

On a personal level, Lars Din is an incredibly inspiring individual who is confronting a history of addictions and substance abuse. In his knapsack of personal baggage, Lars also carries the history of a sexual assault perpetrator, and he addresses this issue openly—setting a standard of self-accountability from which other perpetrators can learn and grow.

This Lars Din SongRiot CD is an asset to all who consider themselves part of a creative, anti-authoritarian, radically honest movement for liberation. So, damn, listen to it already!

To hear songs online, check out older recordings and discover upcoming tour dates, visit www.songriot.com.

panagioti has been trying to drag Lars out to EF! gatherings for years and hopes this review will do the trick.



BY STAR

The Secret World of Terijian, *CrimethInc.*, 2007.

Size doesn't matter—it's what you do with what you have that is important. This is the message of *The Secret World of Terijian*, an inspiring story of two children's fight to save the woods behind their houses.

Moriko and Connor are two suburban children who become aghast when they find out that the woods they love to play in are being cut down for new development. Armed with concern and determination,

The Secret World of Children and Elves Welcome to Terijian

the two become incredibly powerful defenders of the forest who make a huge difference (with a little help from some elves).

Through their efforts—which involve slaying the big, yellow machine that they call "the dragon"—they realize the beauty inherent in such destruction and their inherent power to make a difference.

The Secret World of Terijian may be a picture story with beautiful illustrations—perfect for children—but this book transcends age. As I moved through the book, I found myself buoyed by the enthusiasm and spirit of the main characters. In this Green Scare world, it can be easy to become weighed down and forget our own power. I remember,

when I started out as an activist, how much hope I had. Everywhere I looked, there were awesome things happening. We've become a little subdued by the repression, I think, which is why *Terijian* is perfect. It reinvigorates us and reminds us that we can make a difference.

Recently, I came across a youth edition of Howard Zinn's *People's History of the US*, which brought me great joy. Zinn's work and *Terijian* are exactly what this world needs—books that promote critical thinking and action (praxis, for those Marxist and neo-Marxist readers), especially for younger audiences. *Terijian* is easily better than almost anything I encountered when I was growing up—certainly there was the

environmental attitude of Dr. Seuss, but his work didn't inspire individuals to act on behalf of nature in the same way, putting everything they had on the line.

Whether one is a child or a grown-up, everyone deserves to encounter more work that is inspiring and entertaining. It's too easy to get bogged down by books of theory and lose touch with what we can do. *Terijian* forces the reader to return to the concrete—to consider what actions they can take on behalf of what they believe in.

This book is a benefit for Green Scare defendants. For more information, visit www.crimethinc.be.

Star loved reading The Secret World of Terijian.

• announcements •

Day of Action Against Coal Finance November 16-17

Join Rainforest Action Network, Coal River Mountain Watch, Appalachian Voices and a cast of thousands as people mobilize to stop Bank of America's and Citi's investments in climate change and the dirty coal industry!

On November 16 and 17, anyone and everyone concerned with stopping the US coal rush is asked to take the message to Wall Street. From fliering and leafletting at your local bank branch or ATM to creative street theater or nonviolent direct action at bank offices—help our climate and communities by demanding clean energy!

It's time to take to the streets and send Bank of America and Citi a strong message that grassroots movements against coal extraction, processing and combustion demand an end to coal financing.

For more information, including action resources and support, contact dirtymoney@ran.org, www.dirtymoney.org.

Winter Earth First! Circus No Snow Bus Tour

Just after the New Year, a troupe of trouble-making Earth First!ers will set forth on a roadshow of epic proportions. This volcanic eruption of ecodefenders will travel from the San Francisco Bay Area to South Florida for the Organizers' Conference. Monumental theater, historical reenactments, and hell-raising music in a circus-like atmosphere will be shared to create a mutiny against civilization. Attendees can expect to reminisce about past EF! campaigns, dive into discussions on tactics, sow seeds for future campaigns, swim through the mysterious lava of

anti-oppression and navigate the constellations of conflict mediation. To top it off, the show will involve tricks—such as spitting fire at the bloody lips of progress.

The roadshow is in need of some rabble-rousing Earth First!ers to come along or to set up dates along the way. For more information, contact nosnowbus@yahoo.com.

Caucus of the Future January • Des Moines, Iowa

The Caucus of the Future will be a one-day, anti-authoritarian event running concurrently with (and counter to) the Iowa Caucuses.

With major media attention surrounding the Iowa Caucuses, organizers hope to redirect the focus to radically different ways of living and interacting with each other and our planet. The Caucus of the Future will feature an interactive collection of workshops, speeches and performances from anarchists and other anti-authoritarians from around the country, as well as voices from the local community. Some workshops and discussions you can expect to see might include: alternative energy/fuel, sustainable agriculture/permaculture, direct action, self defense, folk history, bicycle repair, community gardening, consent, gift economics, urban exploration, community organizing and more. This event will be all-inclusive and will provide folks with the tools and resources to make the difference in their own lives, rather than simply voting for a candidate and hoping for the best.

The Caucus of the Future will be a festive event with bands, artists and free vegetarian and vegan food.

Organizers currently need help raising money for speakers' and performers' travel expenses. For more information or to help out, contact info@caucusofthefuture.com; www.caucusofthefuture.com. Because the date of the Iowa Caucuses may still change, please check the web site for details.

Back to the Swamps... 2008 Organizers' Conference & Winter Rendezvous February 14-18 • Southeast Florida

The 2008 Winter EF! gathering will be held in the Northeast Everglades, somewhere between the Atlantic Ocean and Lake Okeechobee; in close enough proximity to proposed and existing rock mining, urban sprawl, gentrification, power plants, pipelines and road expansions to make all the crooked, greedy bastards start sweating (well, perhaps it will be hot enough for 'em to be sweating anyway!).

Don't miss another rowdy, rambunctious, get-shit-done Earth First! gathering, down where the continental US Empire comes closest to the Tropic of Cancer.

Thursday through Saturday will be dedicated to the Organizers' Conference (OC) and specific topics oriented around building and sustaining the EF! movement. Saturday through Monday will be the rendezvous: an open-scheduled gathering for networking, socializing and action planning.

The next issue of the *Journal* will have details on the site, local issues and proposed content for OC. If you want any of that info sooner, or if you wanna make extra donations to help transport activists across borders (needed ASAP!), contact Everglades EF!, POB 961, Lake Worth, FL 33460; evergladesearthfirst@gmail.com.

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

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1. Publication Title: Earth First!. 2. Publication Number: 1055-8411. 3. Filing Date: October 17, 2007. 4. Issue Frequency: Bimonthly. 5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 6. 6. Annual Subscription Price: \$25. 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (not printer): 831 E 47th St, Tucson, AZ 85713 (Pima County). Contact Person: Sophia. Telephone: (520) 620-6900. 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (not printer): PO Box 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor: a. Publisher: Daily Planet Publishing, PO Box 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. b. Editors: Donny, Josh, Sophia, PO Box 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. c. Managing Editors: Donny, Josh, Sophia, PO Box 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. 10. Owner (If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address): Daily Planet Publishing [501(c)4], PO Box 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities: None. 12. Tax Status: Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months. 13. Publication Title: Earth First!. 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: September-October 2007. 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation. Column 1: Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: a. Total Number of Copies (net press run): 5,667. b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation: (1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies): 1,016. (2) Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies): 25. (3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution: 3,022. (4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS: 74. c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 4,137. d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, complimentary and other free): (1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541: 492. (2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541: 4. (3) Other Classes Mailed Through USPS: 116. e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means): 52. f. Total Free Distribution: 664. g. Total Distribution: 4,801. h. Copies Not Distributed: 866. i. Total: 5,667. j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 86.17%. Column 2: No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: a. Total Number of Copies (net press run): 5,500. b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation: (1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies): 1,048. (2) Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies): 0. (3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution: 2,920. (4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS: 84. c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 4,052. d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, complimentary and other free): (1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541: 452. (2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541: 0. (3) Other Classes Mailed Through USPS: 122. e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means): 21. f. Total Free Distribution: 595. g. Total Distribution: 4,647. h. Copies Not Distributed: 853. i. Total: 5,500. j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 87.20%. 16. Publication of Statement of Ownership: Publication required. Will be printed in the November-December 2007 issue of this publication. 17. Signature and title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager or Owner: Sophia, Editor. Date: October 17, 2007. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).



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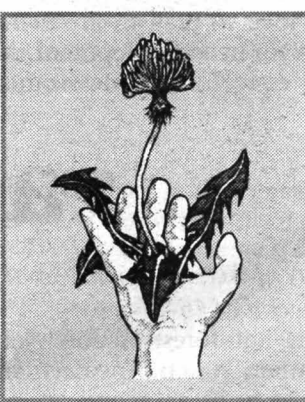


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The *Earth First! Journal* currently has an opening for a new member of our editorial staff. It could be you! Being a part of the *Journal* is full of rewards—working on a consensus basis with a tight collective to create a publication essential to 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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(928) 213-9507; info@flagstaffactivist.org

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az_earth_first@hotmail.com

CALIFORNIA

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Free Mind Media

546 Pacific Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95404
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Long Haul Infoshop

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

North Coast EF!

POB 28, Arcata, CA 95518

(707) 822-1513

Santa Cruz EF!

cruzef@cruzio.com

Sierra Nevada EF!

935 F St, Fresno, CA 93706
collective@sierranevadaearthfirst.org
smartMeme Strategy & Training Project
2940 16th St #216, San Francisco, CA 94103
info@smartmeme.com

COLORADO

Wilderness Study Group

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

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

MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Direct Action

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

Rising Tide Boston

boston@risingtidenorthamerica.org

MINNESOTA

Church of Deep Ecology

POB 16075, St Paul, MN 55116
(800) 862-7031;
contact@churchofdeepecology.org
Forest Ecosystems Action Group
2441 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55405
paarise@mttn.org

MISSOURI

Confluence/Community Arts & Media Project

3022 Cherokee St, Saint Louis, MO 63118
mberry@riseup.net

MONTANA

Buffalo Field Campaign

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

Wild Rockies EF!

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

NEBRASKA

Environmental Resource Center

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

NEW YORK

Central New York EF!

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

Wetlands Activism Collective

POB 344, New York, NY 10108
(201) 928-2831; activism@wetlands-preserve.org

NORTH CAROLINA

Croatian EF!

2419 Mayview St., Raliegh, NC 27607
croataneearthfirst@gmail.com

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POB 1485, Asheville, NC 28802

Rising Tide Asheville

risingtide@mountainrebel.net

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Hock-Hocking EF!

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

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OREGON

Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project

27803 Williams Ln, Fossil, OR 97830

Cascadia EF!

POB 10384, Eugene, OR 97440

ef@cascadiarising.org

Green Anarchy

POB 11331, Eugene, OR 97440

collective@greenanarchy.org

Rising Tide Cascadia

cascadia@risingtidenorthamerica.org

Stumptown EF!

(503) 704-9513; stumptownef@riseup.net

PENNSYLVANIA

EF! Philly

earthfirstphilly@riseup.net

Species Traitor/Black and Green

POB 835, Greensburg, PA 15601

primalwar@hotmail.com

RHODE ISLAND

Ocean State EF!

oceanstate_ef@riseup.net

TENNESSEE

Three Rivers EF!

POB 16309, Knoxville, TN 37996
(865) 633-8483; annebonnylives@yahoo.com

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Blue Ridge Earth First!

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Environmental Resource Center
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Olympia, WA 98505

(360) 867-6784; erc@riseup.net

The Last Wizards

james@lastwizards.com

WISCONSIN

Madison EF!/Infoshop

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POB 1329, Jackson, WY 83001
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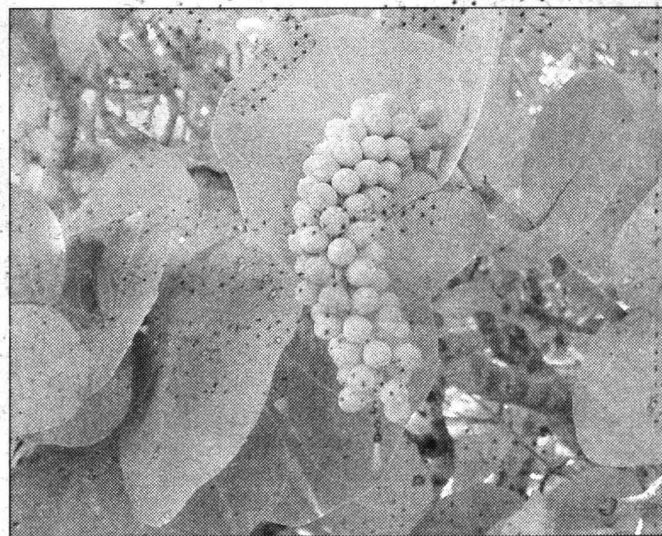
Root Force

POB 1302, Tucson, AZ 85702

info@rootforce.org

Warrior Poets Society

POB 14501, Berkeley, CA 94712



A seagrape tree in Miami

INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS

AUSTRALIA

EF! Australia

POB 161, Norseman, WA, 6443, Australia
efoz@earthfirst.org.au

EF! OZ-Jervis Bay

POB 295, Nowra, NSW, 2541, Australia

BELGIUM

EF! Belgium Support Group

belgium2005@groenfront.be

GroenFront! Belgium

2007@groenfront.be; www.groenfront.be

CANADA

Elaho EF!

earth_first@resist.ca

Ottawa EF!

ottawaeearthfirst@resist.ca; ottawaeearthfirst.
blogspot.com

CZECH REPUBLIC

Car Busters

Kratka 26, 100 00 Prague 10, Czech Republic
420-274-810-849; info@carbusters.org

EIRE

An Talamh Glas (Green Earth)

atgblue@yahoo.com

ENGLAND

EF! Action Update

12 London Rd, Brighton, BN1 4JA, UK
mail@actionupdate.org.uk

Leeds EF! c/o CRC

16 Sholebroke Ave, Leeds, LS7 3HB, UK
0113-262-9365; leedsef@ukf.net

London EF!

84B Whitechapel High St, London, E1 0, UK
eflondon@zipclip.com

London Rising Tide

62 Fieldgate St, London, E1 1ES, UK
0770-879-4665; london@risingtide.org.uk

Manchester EF!

22A Beswick St, Manchester, M4 7HS, UK
mancef@nematode.freemove.co.uk

Road Block

POB 164, Totnes, TQ9 5WX, UK
020-7729-6973; office@roadblock.org.uk

GERMANY

EF! Germany

green.rage@web.de

ICELAND

Saving Iceland

savingiceland@riseup.net, www.savingiceland.org

NETHERLANDS

ASEED Europe

Plantage Doklaan 12A, 1018 CM,
Amsterdam, Netherlands

31-20-668-2236; aseedeu@antenna.nl

GroenFront! Netherlands

POB 85069, 3508 AB Utrecht, Netherlands
2007@groenfront.nl; www.groenfront.nl

NIGERIA

Environmental Rescue International

20 Dawson Rd, by Forestry Junction,
Benin City, Nigeria

environmentalrescue@yahoo.co.uk

RUSSIA

Ecodefense!

POB 1477, Kaliningrad, 236000, Russia
0112-44-84-43.

SOUTH KOREA

Green Korea United

110-740 #605 Korean Ecumenical Bldg 136-56
Younji-Dong, Jongro-Gu, Seoul, South Korea

82-2-747-8500; greenkorea@greenkorea.org

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