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, guerrilla gardeners transformed the predominantly vacant lot into a beautiful 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 that part of Brattleboro.

Two of us chained ourselves by our arms to an immovable barrel. The barrel contained the majority of the vacant lot into a community garden at the proposed site of a Cheshire Oil Truck Stop in Brattleboro, Vermont.

We’ve always known Jeannie Stosser was sneaking around his house, peering through the windows. Apparently, she was caught snooping around his house, sneaking around...”

She argued that the proposed development had 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.

“Stop in Brattleboro, Vermont. That day, guerrilla gardeners transformed the predominantly vacant lot into a community 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 that part of Brattleboro.

A truck stop is a short-sighted scheme for profit that in no way 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 truck-stop 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.

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.

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 in Blacksburg, L.L.C. and Fairmount Properties—challenged the legislation on the grounds that they had already submitted prospective blueprints for what they call a "retail cultural center."
Mediating Through Nihilism, Love and Bigger Dreams!

After falling in love with the majestic land of Bloomington in so many ways, sporadic manic thoughts through my indescribably 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 person who had taught me how to survey a field) and given my first copy of the EF!journal. Since then, when not typing away, I have enjoyed glaringly the weekly “fun” ride of more than 200 people, rooftop discussions under the stars with new friends and 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 definitely am 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.

So, EF! sticks its thumb out and hops the tracks in a new direction, confronting oppression and publishing articles on human concerns, 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—

ZH0NN m DREAMBOAT!

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提交日期: 2007-11-01 09:02  上传日期: 2007-11-01 09:02

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

Submission deadlines are the tenth of every odd-numbered month in the calendar year. Articles should be typed or clearly printed. We encourage submissions via e-mail. 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.

Earth First! is published monthly by Earth First! Journal, PO Box 3023, Tucson, Arizona 85702-3023.

Earth First! Journal is a registered trade name of Earth First! Journal.

Earth First! Journal is distributed by ProQuest, Inc.

Earth First! members are required to follow the Ten COMMANDMENTS OF LIBERATION.

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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, in a case that involved a madcap count of conspiracy to destroy public or private infrastructure by means of explosives or fire. Twenty months later, their case is still alive and well 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, even though he had not received vegan food since that time. Eric has been in solitary confinement since his arrest.

After a year 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 betray 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 star witness cooperating with 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, finally having 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 an instruction of "predisposition." For the government to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Eric was predisposed to commit the federal offense, the government must prove that Eric intended to commit the crime before he had any contact with any 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 legal reasoning, but also of case law, which says: "Quite obviously, by the time a defendant actually commits the crime, he or she will have become disposed to do so... The relevant time frame for as sessing a defendant's disposition concerns his prior contact with government agents, which is doubtless why it is called predisposition (US v. Poehlman)."

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

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 was 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) acts of fur research facilities, Rod Coronado gave a speech in San Diego, California. This speech was not only 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 assault of an under-construction condominium complex. Law enforcement agencies both local and federal investigated the acts of fur research facilities, but after two years there were no arrests. This led investigators to instead launch an investigation into the activist himself—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 bombmaking. During a question-and-answer period following the lecture in San Diego, Coronado was asked if he had made an incendiary device during his time in the ALF. This was the question that set him on trial in federal court in San Diego, last month.

In Order of the Phoenix, Harry becomes aware of a secret society of wizards who are in league with Voldemort and his followers, the Death Eaters. Coronado's star-legal team was of the same caliber—fighting not point by point, but rather a broad legal war against the US government, which is to say冠onado returned to prison. Besides Serra, the defense team included Gerald Singleton, Omar Figueroa, Ben Rosenfeld, Troy Pickard, Alexis Bustelo and Steve Christiansen—wielding law books as well as any wizard has ever waved a wand.

The first day of trial, September 10, was hung jury selection. The defense had recruited a professional jury selection specialist, Anthony Napoleon, who could easily teach Denver's top attorneys a thing or two. On that day, the jury was taken off at 4 p.m. 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 "eco-terrorism" in US history— even though Coronado is not even a suspect in the investigation and has not been indicted for anything other than responding to a question. Many of Coronado's most inflammatory quotes were read, most taken off of two laptop computers 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.

To Whom it May Concern,

After reading the July-August issue of the Earth First! Journal and the articles regarding pris-
ons, 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 as an "onlooker" and Luers’ article in response to the
article Young wrote. Both were, in my opinion, bella
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 (high security)
and I would like to post a little bit
myself, along with what I know about
and what I stand for, I get respect.

Dear SFB,
The next day,

"Free" Laos got his sentence overturned. This truly is a
blessing in the name of eco-
defense. Oso Blanco likes Jef-
frey "Free" Laos a lot. There
were many prayers going out
to Laos, just as there are with
the others who are in the Struggle.

Dear SFB,
Earth First! should say we
need to eliminate all auto-
mobiles 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 hu-
man footprint on the Earth as
much as possible.

Dear SFB,
We both realize we aren’t
social prisoners. We focus on
the positive. We use the
sweat lodge and all its medi-
cines, 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 for people and
birds have benefited. Our
friend, Junior, caught a staph
infection in 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 feather-
ers from birds of prey (hawks,
owls, etc.) keep coming to us
in a good way.

As chaotic as this peni-
tentiary 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, ap-
proximately 1,400 prison-
ers were all on the yard
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 through-
out 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
everyone came together and
united against the govern-
ments and corporations that
continue to decimate our
Mother, this planet would
become a much better place.

Prison is obviously no fun.
Unfortunately, sometimes
becomes a reality for people
in the Struggle. You just have
to keep your head up, stay
out of shit as much as pos-
sible, do your time and get
out so you can continue to
fight 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 parishers. You
can’t be scared of what repercus-
sions your duties bring. It
has to be done. Just hope you
don’t get caught, and be care-
ful 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” Laos got his sentence
overturned. This truly is a
blessing in the name of eco-
defense. Oso Blanco likes Jef-
frey "Free" Laos a lot. There
were many prayers going out
to Laos, just as there are with
the others who are in the Struggle.

Dear SFB,
It would be nice if your
newsletter would give more
attention to bikes and cy-
cing. Green transport!

-Eugenio Oso

Dear SFB,
Earth First! should say we
need to eliminate all auto-
mobiles 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 hu-
man footprint on the Earth as
much as possible.

-Sandy

Dear SFB Journal,
I’m writing in response to
the recent review of Thought
to be Extinct in the Wild, Derick
Jensen’s new book (see EFF
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
(such as the selling of animals as pets,
the 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 us-
ing those antiquated meth-
ods. Zoos now are bound by
rules agreed to under the ac-
creditation process of vari-
ous professional associations
operating in most continents
around the world. Those rules
now have in place strict ad-
herence to international
ly recognized conservation
laws, as well as laws enforc-
ing the humane treatment of animals (almost all of which
are of a higher standard than
the ones being used by gov-
ernments 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,
this 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 fac-
ing our fellow animals today,
there will be no a movement
capable of generating the
mass support of society that
will be necessary in order
to cause a lasting and meaning-
ful change in our relationship
with 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 openness and com-
mon sense. The animals do
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 sur-
 vive along with us.

-Yuri
Mossa

Editors’ Note: Among the sources for Derrick Jensen’s claims in Thought to Be Ex-
tinct in the Wild are Zoo: A History of Zoological Gardens in the West by Eric Baratay and
Elisabeth Hardouin-Fugier, published in 1999, and
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 accredit-
ation, the Mercury News con-
cluded that “accredited zoos…
are riding a wave of hype in
defense of their regimes.”
Finally, please note that only 10 per-
cent of zoos in the US are even
accredited.

Dear SFB,
In a Sept-Oct 2007 EFF jour-
nal letter, Miller-Novak draws
several conclusions based on
an assumption that we hu-
man beings 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
of the available research and
physical characteristics are
far more like those of chim-
panzes, gorillas, orangutans
and gibbons—our four clos-
est animal relatives, and all
vegan or nearly so—than
do those of raccoons, bears, and
other true omnivores. We are,
in fact, slightly omnivorous
planteaters.

That we can extract nutri-
ents 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 au-
tomatically make us an om-
nivorous species.

Throughout hundreds of
tousands of years of pre-
history, we have eaten ani-
mal in time of need and
supplemented our normal plant-based diets—especially those
easily
catch, 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 bashing things on the assumption that we are omnivores. We aren't.

—LYNN JACOBS TCOCON

Dear Friends,

An addendum to Lauren Gazzola's article on federal women's prisons (see ETF/September-October 2007). In addition to the camps and FCI's, 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 1996, and before that was in an equivalent unit in Florida for over nine years. When the "mission" of that unit switched to WITSEC (highly snitchy) men, we were transferred here. All of us are in single-occupancy cells.

The Carrolls max unit is part of a complex that also includes a camp, ICF 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 ADE Florence, we are not in our cells 24 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 WOODON

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 ETF/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 enviorn 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 this case. I experienced directly the suffering and disappointment that this mistake is particularly grievous because TWAC, as it was, struggled with trans inclusiveness. We are worried that this change in wording may be male-identified and asignificanly grievous because TWAC, as it was, struggled with trans inclusiveness. We are worried that this change in wording may be male-identified and asignifiedly grievous because TWAC, as it was, struggled with trans inclusiveness.

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 Marion (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 or assigned but male-identified and assigned.

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
BY PERSIMMON

While the struggle against I-69 is now nearly 20 years old, construction looms ever nearer (see EARTH FIRST! May-June 2007). As we prepare to continue the fight that is so helpful and necessary to success, it is important to consider 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 point 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. These projects like I-69 are at the top of governments’ agendas. The problem only gets worse as we go south.

In Mexico and Canada, some of these have been articulated in the Plan Puebla Panama (PPP) and Atlantic 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 act of resistance 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 cast 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 ran a presentation from a different perspective.

The rest of the audience had looks of either disgust or genuine pleasure surprised. Smith answered 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 who had come to the meeting to oppose to the road, were interrupted and answered, and protesters chanted affably among themselves.

Standing together as families, parents, students, workers and otherwise, these young and old people were intimidated by the police and city officials present. Eventually, INDOT and the corporate followers 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 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 of the anti-road struggle. Much wider than simply stopping the road, these hopes included a deeper looking, 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 roadblocke f@yahoo.com; 169news.bee-town.com

Persimmon is just another member of the ungov­ernable masses.

of the road’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 we walked for 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 the 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 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 outside 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 resistors 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.

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By Drew Laird

On August 20, activists with Friends of Morgan-Monroe and Earth First! set up a teepee 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 Tinker's Ridge. The lone tree-sitter 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 assault, an officer. The sitter was charged with criminal trespass and released. Two others providing guard support were given written warnings. Activists returned to the site for a press conference the next morning.

The DNR 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 Tinker's 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, erodible slopes of Tinker's 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 manages 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—leaving 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 tree-sits 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 tree-sit 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 bivouac 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 bivouac 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) 532-4878; ifa.director@gmail.com; www.indianaforestalliance.org.

Drew Laird is the director of the Indiana Forest Alliance. He cut his teeth on EFF's campaign to protect the Headwaters Forest in Humbolt in 1997. His affinity group, the Rockskippers Collective, set tree-sits and logged down to log loaders in the Bear Creek watershed.

Thoughts from the Earth First!

Friends of Morgan-Monroe

By (A) Transient Forest Faire

With next year's Rondy being in Ohio and continued resistance developing for Spring and Summer in Indiana, the FEs! 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 bioeconomics 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 West.

Protesting a public logging sales meeting in the week preceding a recent tree-sit in Morgan-Monroe State Forest filled many of us with overwhelmingly disempowering 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 carabiners—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 EFF activist 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 blocking 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 to bring more focus to 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 a beautiful, heartthrob forest helps spark conversation about increased action in the EF movement!

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

September 12 was chosen because it marks the first anniversary of a historic action in Trinidad against Alcoa that forced Prime Min­

September 12. On September 12, 2006, more than 80 locals threw themselves in front of the machinery of engineering company Trinoplan and its security escorts. This year, there was a gathering near Trinidad and Tobago's Sri Chinmoy Centre to protest 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 day of victory that will be pivotal in the island's path of development. On July 31, a federal judge refused to dismiss a lawsuit against the Environ­

In South Africa, 250 people marched on Alcan's Johannesburg headquar­

Meanwhile, Icelandic lawyers were regrouping for a legal battle against the Environmental Management Authority (EMA)—represent­

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While the corporation said, they should be provided with coal and nuclear­

In the Eastern Cape—a smelter that will consume 2.5 times the electricity as half of the city of Cape Town—at some of the lowest prices in the world. Protest­

It is trying to build its aluminum smelters in Greenland—where Alcoa is in the planning stages of a smelter project. A protest was also held in northeastern England, at Alcan's Pharmaceu­

Minister of the Eastern Cape—a smelter that will consume 2.5 times the electricity as half of the city of Cape Town. In the midst of this activity, Alcan is to apply to the local council to make a decision on a project before making a decision on a project before making a decision. However, just because Alcan may not be a coal plant doesn't mean we are going to sit back and let it ruin Blue Ridge.

On the afternoon of the Autumn Equinox, September 23, about 20 Earth Firsters arrived at our craziest local developer's house just to make sure she was getting the message that we don't want a Wal-Mart in our town. In a mat­

Blue Ridge EF! Fights Off Wal-Mart

As such, the corporations said, they should not be subjected to the regulations of Ordi­

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 support the developers. BURG and the town of Blacksburg have a very good case, mostly because Llamas and Faudree were sitting on the fence. 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 if nothing has changed. Significant new work would be 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

If she doesn't understand it's her house, that's her right. And if she wants to park her house, cat, garage and yard with an angry army of yellow frowny faces—resem­

BREF formed this past Summer to add a direct­

In western Alcan residents have required the support of US Attorney Erin Brockovich in a legal battle against Alcoa. The corporation has already pulled the plug on the operations in the region, whilst residents of the nearby town of Tarlopp 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 Atti1lah Springer from "Trinidad, retiring 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 justice 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 doing the work. We 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, expansion, large dams and heavy industry in general. The artwork above is by Love Wolf/Circles.

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Maine vs. the Multi-Tentaclcd Plum Creek Alien

BY STORM

Many people are not aware that a region of the Northeast Atlantic estu-ey system struggles for survival in northern Maine. The Maine North Woods comprises part of the Great North Woods, which stretch in an arc across the North American continent (mostly in Canada), and extends south to the Sea-board to the Great Plains. The Maine North Woods encompass most of the northern half of the state and provide a habitat for wolves, snowshoe hares and Canada lynx. It is the largest wild, undeveloped area east of the Mississippi River.

Subsidiaries of Plum Creek Timber Co. is one of the largest private landowners. Many people in the forest defense movement are de-pressingly familiar with Plum Creek’s dismal forest management practices, as well as its propensity toward “devel-oping” forested wilderness. Its rapacious, exclusive playgrounds for those humans rich, white and callous (or clueless) enough to afford them. Many residents in the region fighting for the national forest status on northern Maine’s Moosehead Lake Region for another such resort complex. Fortunately for this area, it’s a long way from stupid and have been tracking these plans carefully. Plum Creek’s first proposal, submitted its latest proposal, claiming, “You spoke, we listened.” Plum Creek Plans to subsidize nearly 1,000 house lots (including 236 shore front lots) in the area, and develop two massive resorts: one on Moosehead Lake and the other along Lily Bay on Moosehead Lake. Together, the two resorts would include 5,000 acres and include 1,050 “accommodation units,” which can take any form including more houses, condomini-ums, timeshare units, golf courses, cell-phone towers and clubhouses up to 5,000 square feet in size. Making matters worse, competing the Moosehead Legacy Conservation Easement as part of the plan’s conservation component, even though this easement protects 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 $32 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 de-pends upon LURC’s approval of the Concept Plan. But in the Mooseh-ead Legacy Conservation Easement, Plum Creek reserves the right to build wind turbines and to remove water for commercial water bottling (curiously, Philip 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 popula-tion of Canada lynx—a federalely 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 north-ern Maine—about one-third of the entire state—be designated as crit­i-cal habitat for this elusive wildcat species. America’s forests are full of endangered species to industry sources. MacDonald resigned in May. In July, the FWS announced that it would review and possibly change the final rule on lynx habitat, as well as that of seven other endangered spe-cies decisions, because of MacDonald’s political interference.

Resistence to Plum Creek’s Mooseh-ead Lake scan is adamant and vocal. Since the first proposal was announced in 2005, Plum Creek has sustained vandalism to its offices as well as to the homes of its officials. One office was broken into, and along with logging and other equipment has been sabotaged. When LURC conducted “scoping ses-sions” to solicit public input regard-ing 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 seen what was inside at one of those meetings.

As of this Autumn, resistors are gear-ing up for the public hearing process, in which LURC will consider the proposal. The group has hired a “intervener,” in order to participate in these hearings.

What the people of Maine can make to the degradation of the environment and the ineptitude of the people of the North Delta as well as against the degradation of the environment have been one of the most powerful tools that the people of the Gulf of Maine have been using to protect the region.

For more information, contact Maine EJ, maineef@yahooc om; nmaine@yahoo.com; www.mcej.net; nmaine@verizon.net; www.mcej.org; www.dontbuysfi.com.

Nuclear Cooling Tower Collapses

Part of a 35-year-old cool­ing tower at the Vermont Yan-kee nuclear plant collapsed on August 21. The plant, located in Burlington, Vermont, was inspected this past Spring and deemed to be in good condi-tion. After the incident, the plant’s operator, Entergy Nuclear, stated that the tower’s design was flawed. One of 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 Hangen 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 years of consumer demand within just five years. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia re-cently announced 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 have to face the fact of decre-a-nted shortages and massive price rises.” Oil companies are currently facing 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 defend-
ers were attempting to go to a new-native housing de-
velopment known as "Stirling Street" on the
land in the colonial town of Caledonia (see EJ
November-December 2006). They were at-
tacked 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 arrests. Frankly, the attack-
ers 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 perm-
eter 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 of Venture's battalions 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
cops 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. We know who represents the Queen? We know
we'll be available to meet with her. We're busy
days."

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

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 sug-
gested 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 pretended to be mediadia-
tors or negotiators, yet they claim
that they only use Tasers as a last
resort. The police held more than
18 hours to consider their op-
tions—and this is what they came
up with.

They claim that Tasers are nonlethal, yet a Taser killed a
young man from Georgia just a
few weeks ago. They claim that
Tasers do not have marked pain
levels, yet they do 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 us-
ing Tasers for scenarios in which
they would not have used painful
in the past. The use of Tasers for pain com-
pliance 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 con-
text, they clearly aimed to punish
us, humiliate us and intimidate
others in the community. Cur-
rently, a civil suit is in the works,
and we hope to prevent the use of
Tasers against nonviolent protest-
ers in Vermont.

For more information on "less
lethal weapons," read the Amnesty
International report "Excessive and
amnesty.org.

Please call Jim and Joji Robert-
on, 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 sta-
tions 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 amidst the industrial nightmare of the
Northeast. Shay believes there is a great distur-
bance in the Force.
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 Boreoute" 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 coming week.

Five in south Minneapolis set up a community potluck feast and organized a Dakota pipe ceremony and a community potluck feast. It was a coming week.

Four that said, "Homes Not Roads: Stop the 55 Boreoute" with a big anarchy symbol on it. After dangling from ropes for about an hour, all the activists escaped without arrest.

The four treesitters decided to come down to save food 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 chants 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 used lockboxes and U-locks, occupied the building for several hours. This action, coming right on the heels of two large city forests blockades and carried out by people who did not live at the encampment, surprised the MNDOT.

During the early morning hours of September 27, seven 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 treest the height of the protest, swinging this, one of the protesters broke free and checked.

We see Highway 55 as symbolic of a larger system that is strangling us of air and water. The NAFTA superhighway and the roads into the forests are all a staging area for 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 many people's misfortune. This is just the beginning of a new level of battling against Highway 55 and car culture. We urge the people of the world to support action 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.
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! personal fascism, chosen to leave our collective identity politics makes little room for the many privileged, whose attitudes are either 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 fights, 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 honest around them), the idea of identity politics makes little sense and is viewed as distracting to the work at hand. Well, that’s too bad and many an EF!—and many an EF!—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 it. Come 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. If they're underprivileged and emplifed by most of the world’s indigenous cultures. EF! is in danger of becoming leaderless, which could lead to our dissolution as quickly as 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 long-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 ours 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. It is hoped that learning these lessons isn’t a case of too little, too late.

Some EF!ers don’t come back because they are pregant, 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 own. We are 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 the movement these days 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 ecofeminism (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 environmentalists are EF! in places like the Democratic National Conventions in Chicago in 1992 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 were on the front line as bioptic 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 leaf the forests, mountains, deserts, canyons and prairies to join in solidarity with many (often poorer) peoples on the battlegrounds...
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 Nemecnek unsuccessfully tried to capture him.

"He wasn't ready to give up," Nemecnek 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.

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

Local resident Dora Christensen recounted that she saw the bird peck at the tires of a car after it had knotted at "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 pecking at his car."

The same group claimed responsibility for bombing the Chilean National Intelligence Agency in 2002.

After closing in 1981, the Midnite uranium mine was now a Superfund site—left behind more than 1.4 million gallons of radioactive-metal contaminated water.

A 37-years-of-homelessness-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 systems were announced, 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 or- dered to throw away huge quantities of irreparable materials that had not been backed up.

In 2005, the EPA library systems were freed from more than 13,000 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 3,000 leopards in Uganda, CITES decided to allow 28 to be killed each year for the exclusive purpose of sport hunting for trophies and skins for personal use.

"Sport hunting will... generate tangible economic benefits that will motivate local people to protect them rather than using them as vermin," he said.
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

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

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 twist 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
Tracey Aviary
Salt Lake City

—Susan McCampbell Ring
remembering william rodgers

by daniel mcgowan

This is a eulogy, two years too late, for my friend William Rodgie-
ren—known to friends, family and the movement as Avalon. Avalon
took his life on December 21, 2005. This week, just 100 days after his
rest 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, impression-
able activists to do his bidding. This is not only false, but also insulting
to the many other young people, who did get involved on their own.
Snitches in the case have used his inability to respond to dramatically
lessen the consequences of their own actions. One person went so far as submitting
to focus on Avalon's flaws by
battle in late
Others leading up to the World Trade
inability to respond to dramatically
and legal
workshops on knowing your rights, legal
catchers ·
In Freshwater, the Fern Gully Tree Village is still go-
ning strong after about four years. Treesitters there are
further defaced with red paint. Gypsy
who was killed on September 17, 1998, when a
was reported ly
was among the trainings offered. Trainers from the
Climbing and backwoods survival
was Spooner, a huge, 2,000-
feet tall and
Forest defenders began
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major concern, and cutting
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 "Horizon 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 EPI 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 protesters.

There were good reasons for targeting this particular airport. Already the busiest in Europe, it has caused flying to rise in the ranks of climate change-responsible for 3 percent of climate change impact globally and up to one million flights per week. The airport itself is the busiest in Europe, already the target for activists: people formed autonomous working groups to block the airport via an injunction against four key airport owners of Heathrow Ltd. The airport is protected by seeking much about education and lifestyle change as it is about action. One of the biggest successes of the camp was the way that it invigorated a whole new generation of climate activists. Climate chaos has always been daunting for campaigners: Where do you start? What can you actually do? 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 arrived in force, the campers would send in a group of 30 officers, a spontaneous crowd from the camp confronted them and physically pushed them off site. The camp was 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 pre-tester super-gluing her hands to the access gate of the officers' compound, leaving them trapped inside. It was a great start to the campaign.

On August 15, 150 people went to support a local demonstration against Heathrow
airport. The sheer weight of police numbers in response to the protest actually caused the main road to be blocked, something the protestors had anticipated. It later turned out that there never was a local demonstration—it was misinformation, and not the last time that heartening stories of foreign media about protestors wanting to plant hoax bombs inside the airport.

The next day, two private airports (dealing in exclusively cargo) outside of Heathrow were blockaded 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, aircraft were locked 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 UK 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 run day was more of the same. Forty people shut down Carmel Agreco—an Israeli-owned company air-freighting in food from illegally occupied Palestinian lands—for three hours. At the same time, Bicycology worked to get-outreach in the local area while other activists supported a strike over the working conditions the Heathrow's baggage handlers. Children at Aotearoa (New Zealand) climate camp next year, inspired to take risks and learn about the working conditions in Australia have begun organizing a Climate Camp...
More Climate Action...  

Southeast US: Shutting Down Dirty Coal and Its Dirty Money

By Skyeler 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 record-breaking 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 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-coal and anti-nuke movements told us 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 EFF September-October 2006), maybe our call for a national day of action against fossil fuel infrastructure tipped them off. The lessoned 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 your 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 group. The first person to leave that morning reported four undercover cops watching 15 or so fully geared riot cops—presumably the Asheville cops in their backyard for the day. There were also two 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 on the main road through downtown Asheville. Fortunately, our attempts to lure them lower to the ground in order to cool them off from the unbearable heat were a failure.

In addition, the police set up 24-hour checkpoints around 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 to believe their silly story. Later that Saturday, we were woken up by the sound of boots on the road. It was the Asheville cops in their backyard for the day. They were there to keep us from the unbearable heat.

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 bankers. Others handed out flyers 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 gagle 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 on the main road through downtown Asheville.

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 mining. It has also lent several billion dollars to Peabody Coal, which has the dubious distinction of being 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 orders, a couple of weeks' worth of media out of the action, rather than 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.

Based on conversations like it when police scare off bank customers with snarling German shepherds and large cans of pepper spray.

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Mink Liberation Always In, No Matter the Season

The ALF released 8,000 mink 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 communique 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 endangered the fur farming industry, 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 beings, wild creatures, 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 Scienclink [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. All were 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 Sink's 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 wildlife like canoers to plow 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 Willersen Senior and opened the saltwater intake valve, flooding the vessel. "The turns of our wrenches are a national 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.

Spontaneous Combustion Across Appalachia

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

In Wyominog County, West Virginia, a fire destroyed $5 million worth of strip-mining equipment in West Asheville, North Carolina, a home small cages. But according to a communique, 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 plight 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 Torata de Tajuna.

The Willersen 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 Capadoce farm in Rome on August 4. The co-op claims to help the handicapped by teaching them to farm animals in

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

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

This Summer, the Earth First! conflict mediation team worked diligently—sometimes all night and all day—on resolving conflicts that unfurled within our week-and-a-half ron dy community.

Our team of committed mediators took it a step further than just having a space to chill or needing a space to chill. The space was intended and prepared to handle situations including (but not limited to) abuse, rape, intimate violence, radical disagreements. People having mental health emergencies or even just needing a space to chill or talk were also welcomed.

Mediators are available in 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 ron dy 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 what you are really about? Is it difficult to do? Do you know 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 determined a situation, be sure to follow in the pre-established direction. What follows is one model of conflict stages so that perpetrators can better identify their degree of support and direction.

• 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, forceful arguing and anger may also occur.

• Hurting/Plateauing: After escalating for a while, a conflict usually reaches a h•, 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 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 disturbing and traumatic memories, which can be very overwhelming. This is why it is important to give ourselves time to process and ground before moving on to the next step.

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 striking 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 handling 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, would you knowingly drop a member of your community into? The system’s current model of conflict mediation is 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 future and a world without cops.

The degree of your support for people can determine how safe or unsafe they feel. If you can provide this support, you may begin to see other sides opening up or leaving the group. It is our hope that the individuals engulfed in conflict will also take the initiative to 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 Future of Conflict Mediation

The ron dy’s mediation group has developed a new listserve to share resources and discuss conflict mediation issues online. It is our hope that this listserve 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 this is a new project and the peaceful outcome of each 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 and developing resistance work, visit www.earthfirstjournal.org.
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-north of massive drainage 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 pursued for a more radical, direct-action-oriented restoration campaign.

**CERP Components**

CERP was born out of a political consensus that gave top priority to projects that fulfill 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 halt the destruction of the Everglades—not 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**
- **Seven projects for controlled water delivery to natural areas**
- **Seven projects with general restoration potential, such as recreation and invasive species control**
- **Three projects with semi-restoration goals, such as reducing excessive nutrients from various areas.**
- **Eight projects with significant components to restore sheet flow and return parts of the Everglades to its natural 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 240,000 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 inadequately addresses the exotic plant and animal problems that affect approximately 1.5 million acres. Melee of invasive trees were brought in about 100 years ago to suck water out of the wetlands, but they continue to do so. Brazilian pepper is taking over both aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

**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 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 important, reestablishing sheet flow in various key areas south of Lake Okeechobee and just north of the Everglades National Park. This sheet flow proposal is almost identical to “Plan Six,” a restoration option in the Army Corps of Engineers’ “Review study” 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 Water River Slough, the main “River of Grass,” leaving the land unnaturally waterlogged north of the road and dangerously parched to the south. CERP promises 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, smacked 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 understand, thinking of much larger than that. You can’t just come down and “do restoration.”

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 that is as far as Earth First! would want to go.

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, sapping the vegetation from our rivers and canals. Hell, it’s even time to start plugging up those canals. Maybe next time EF! Okeechobee would send it down to Florida, paint some kind of “EF! Restoration Specialists” logo on the side and use that puppy Undomesticated dog to 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. The River of Grass is the fourth-largest fossil fuel plant in the nation.

For more information on the Heart of Everglades campaign or for our newest publication, “Everything Everglades,” contact Everglades Earth First! at (561) 588-4205 or evergladesearthfirst@gmail.com. xoxa chahim is a fun-loving, man-hating, queer feminist member of Everglades Earth First!

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By the EFJ Collective

Daniel McGowan was recently sentenced to seven years in prison for actions committed in defense of the Earth, specifically the arson of the Superior Coal Mine in Oregon. He was sentenced as part of the FBI’s “Operation Backfire,” which sought to prosecute people for unso- lved 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?

DM: I’m doing fine, all things considered, and happy to be here at my school program, as I was determined to have acceptance of prison on my mind. I had no illusions that the shock of it all is tremendous, but I’m adjusting bit by bit, day by day. Unlike representa- tions of prison on TV and in popular culture, things are chill here. It’s a low-security prison with lots of amenities—nights, dormitories with bunk beds and a lot of free movement. That said, it’s prison—prison runs the way government runs every aspect of my life. I am 1,200 miles from home and unable to take part in activism outside the realm of writing.

EFJ: 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 ac- tions. Once it became likely that I was going to prison, my preparation consisted of reading about prison, interviewing and meeting with former political pris- oners, 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. Addi- tionally, I did a bit of research on potential gradu- ate 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! But by anxiety and stress, I found myself delving into the rational and computer-based side of prison prepa- ration 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.

EFJ: 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 correspon- dence with Jeff informed my deci- sions greatly—knowing how he was treated by the prison, the reality 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 involvement in activism floured until a late- night drunken stumble into Blackout Books (B&B) and a free-copy pile of the Earth First! Journal (the one with the “Super Freddy” with the automatic weapon guarding the Cove-Mal- lar wood timber sale). I checked out the directory, saw the NYC contact—the Wetlands Pre- serve—had open meetings and a few days later attended one. There, I heard about the Verdes 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 Bound 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 EFJ?

EFJ: What role did EFJ and the EFJ play in your growth as an activist? What role, if any, do they play in your life today?

DM: The Journal has always been a major part of my activism, from the times I would lounge at the pile we used to get at Wetlands to sub- mitting my first article (Mitsubishi lockdown, October 1998) to seeing analysis of the ELF ac- tions 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 EFJ was a major reason for my move to Eugene and subsequent involvement with the ELF and was a base for many of the activists in Eugene who always came out for the (then) every-sixth-week mailing parties. People who read the Journal, enjoy most of the writings and dur- ing my time in prison, intend to submit articles and stories.

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 past few years—too focused to read about new developments. The new (old) format and the scrapping of horrible relationship- ships 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 mean- ingfully participate.

EFJ: What’s your sense of the state of the radical environmental movement? Where do you see it, and specifically EFJ, 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 taken a lot of attention to issues long ignored by the press and our accommodating mainstream (huge environmental nonprofits): old-growth forests, mining, develop- ment, mountaintop removal, bioengineering. We have been the group of calling attention to these issues, but we need to do more than just be the messenger—we need to ac- tually work toward having an im- pact 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. 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 enviro doing something. At this point, we have a chance to stop the Rising Tide will to the occasion and whether or not our opposition to this new batch of coal plants will result in some actual victories.

EFJ: Many within EFJ have observed that the number and intensity of radical environmental direct-action campaigns seem to have dropped sig- nificantly 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 list the radical environmen- tal direct actions,” it’s hard for me to say. What we always have to keep in mind is that for ev- ery action claimed through the media, there are tons of other unclaimed actions by people who may not iden- tify as activist in any way. It’s well known that “ecology warriors” label multiple groups, complete with names, guidelines and statements to the media. Our history supports this point: The Tucson eco-raiders, the Fox, the “Harley Davidson” bi- cycle boardshop—tree sitters, road riders—have always existed before the rise of groups like the ELF. So, I can’t say that any evidence points to fewer actions overall; 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
these. When I lived in Oregon, there were, at times, four active tree-sits, as well as quieter campaigns by people like myself that focused on disrupting timber sales, and many more lawsuits attempting to take large amounts of forest off the chopping block. Nowadays, there seems to be a different situation, with no active tree-sits in Oregon or Washington and disbanded groups in these once very active communities. However, it is not always about quantity, and the threat of lawsuits and other legal efforts to protect forests, such as by the Cascadia Wildlands Project (CWP) and lawyers like Lauren Regan who tenaciously (and with no help from the nonprofits) work hard to get timber sales in southern Oregon. One good thing I just heard is that the Clark timber sale (known better as Fall Creek or the Clackamas Round) is now disband. The decade of organized protests that worked on this, from the mainstream Oregon Natural Resources Council (now Oregon Wild) to the CWP, tree-sitters and surveys should be proud of themselves for working together on issues at different levels. We need more of these combined efforts.

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

DM: I suppose now is the best time to address the truth about the cooperation. If anyone has been asked about their thoughts, which resulted in a long list of arrests, death threats and a seemingly never-ending investigation. Let me be clear, I was not, and am not, a fixated, right-wing, talk-show addict. Nor did I ever engage in activities that would constitute a domestic or otherwise. We should never accept the overarching tactics that the government uses to get people to break.

EFL: 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 it a difficult decision? How much pressure was there 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 a year 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 seemed like nonsense. I made a decision that I was not going to say anything or cooperate with the government 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 reassured 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 credibility 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 her 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.supportdanield.org.

EFL: 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 understand, in some way, a situation in which a friend is disavowed 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 money to encourage informers to continue their work and supporting someone who is a full-time occupation in the movement. Much of the work is done with 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 20 years that I'm surprised it can still be spoken without meeting universal derision. The assertion made by 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. So most people that the FBI deem "fugitives" are caught (e.g. Peter Young, Tara 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, Ter Arrow, John Graham or Jeremy Hintzman (US conscientious objectors). 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.
BY J.J. HICKS

If my humble opinion is designed
growth to the pages of the
to address Peter. To
to see EJF (September-October 2007).

I'm a 15-year Earth First! veteran currently in a medium security fed-
eral prison — also known as a Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) — and
I've done a little time in a state pris-
on. I've been in and out of a couple
dozens 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 feder-
al 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 EJF May-
June 2007), while your latest SFR letter shot down like the rats of an
egomaniac. Being an egomaniac
myself at times, I should know.

Anyway, you were locked up for
how many of your recent arrests?
And at least half of that was probably
spent in county jails, right? I'm just
speculating. I'm also guessing that
five-year bid to do... doing time unless
it was your first time
mine used to tell me you ain't even
experienced and knowledge of prison,
with your fellow prisoners, who
as well. I'm certain that if you had
ence has been different than yours. However,
for activism, as well as state medium.
I've
that

BY JEFFREY "FREE" Luters

First, allow me to apologize for using
this as a forum to address a per-
sonal issue. However, having read
Peter Long's letter, I feel I must (see EJF 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 experi-
ence 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 sex-
ually victimized during their sentence. If you
want to pretend that is a movie statistic, that's
your business. But it is that kind of dismissive at-
titude about the personal consequences of strug-
gles that I find most disturbing.

What about the threat of long prison sentences
in maximum security, which was used to break
someone to submission? What if people
don't take deals? What about the Black Bloc kid
who gets nicked for smashing a riot cop's face
with a rock? What if the government stops play-
ing 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 might end up
like Stanislav Meyershoff or Kevin Tubbs, telling
on everyone to avoid getting locked away in a
maximum security facility.

I argue that activists should only worry about
the likelihood of easy time rather than the
possibility of severe and damaging consequences.
I'm the brazenly irresponsible and ignorant
thing I've ever read.

Your words are dangerous, Peter. To paint a picture
that the majority of prisoners have no
legal or administrative recourse is to
make a claim that is false and
patently ridiculous.

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 to
consider your actions to be those with less severe
consequences. Otherwise you might end up
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on everyone to avoid getting locked away in a
maximum security facility.
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 EP! 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 form of intimidation, while saying we are ask­Ing, is too much to ask for someone 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 Stannislas Meyerhoff (snitches in other 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.

A few lessons have already been learned by the FBI in the way of intimidation, while saying that it does not need to lead to more subnetting and information smuggling. 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 ecodentends 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 community 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.

SHAC UNDEAD!

BY ZHONN

After a nine-year campaign against his company that has included his being battered with a pickax 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 treat animals the same way as other firms," Cass pleaded with the Telegraph. "The most important thing is to give 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 anti­HLS 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 they 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 Phe­nomeox owner Farajollah Mah­­joo 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 5JJ, 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 26, Derrick Jensen conducted in­
formal 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 de­
spicable, and they didn’t believe a word she said unless it was on tape.

• They were appalled at the behav­
or 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. Unfortu­
nately, this process will take at least a year, and Eric will remain impris­
oned in the meantime.

Likewise, 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 was 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 no evidence to support either of these claims, other than the word of an admitted professional liar. Dur­
ing the trial, it was alleged that the second incident was alleged to have happened, Eric and Anna were in a cabin completely wired with video and audio surveil­
lance. 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 fallen asleep. Anna (who was right back to sleep af­
ter the alleged incident, and she said yes. If you wake up with someone waving a knife over your head, do you fall right back asleep? Both of these out­
rageously slanderous statements were clearly meant to smear Eric in front of the jury.

After the trial, US Attorney Mc­
Gregor 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 bre­
akfast.” When asked about Eric, Jenson testified that Nimbus Dam was not a target at the time of the group’s arrest in January.

There were a number of other hyperbole and fear-mongering statements made by the government over the last two years. It is too late to give any de­
tail here. The bottom line is that the government has no qualms about spouting off the most mali­
cious things in its desperate pursuit to con­
vince innocent people.

A Bit of Context

Eric was arrested amidst the whirl­
good war movement 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 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 sup­
plies—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 be­
cause the government said that he train-hopped, hitchhiked and “lived on the land.” The most the govern­
ment had to say about Eric’s predis­
position 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 continu­
ing his fight against these charges through the ap­
peals process. Due to the many legal errors made by the judge during Eric’s trial and to the way proceedings took place 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 prepa­
ration, 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 pris­
on and actualize his free­
dom. First of all, appeals are not cheap. Unfortu­
nately, 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.

In the meantime, Eric is still without
evangelical meals. Please call the jail and
request that they resume feeding him meals he can eat.

Third, Eric’s sentencing is sched­
uled 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 govern­
ment has indicated that it will be pushing for the maximum time.
The government also contin­
ues to dangle the threat of a terror­
ism 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 cour­
age 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 fighting, despite substantial obstacles, and to infuse every moment with joy and love. After the jury deliv­
ered 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 sa­
prisoner support@riseup.net; www.

supporter.org.

Send letters of support to Eric Mc­
David, X-5972521 42E3A1, Sac­
ramento 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.
Coronado again demonstrated how he had assembled incendiary devices—was played. The government showed photos of Coronado’s home and business, and the jury saw an unpublished article rationalizing the use of direct action to defend the rain forest. If the trial had not been subjudice, 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 ELF 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 action that is likely to produce imminent lawless action and is likely to incite or produce imminent action.”

So much of this case centered on what the jury believed about when a speech or activity crossed into criminal action. The prosecutor argued 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.”

The last witness for the prosecution was Todd Lowery, a former EPA agent. Lowery had been introduced into evidence, but he testified that he was not going to declare a mistrial. Outside the courtroom, two jurors remained to explain that the defense had not taken 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, the actual trial was not a direct probition as a result of his role in sabotaging an Arizona mountain lion hunt, the government appears intent on going forward with his non-political life with his newly wed wife and two children. A list of federal agents were in Michigan to question his son’s mother. He still faces a trial in November for possessing a bomb. The court was moved to San Diego and to the thin blue line to a thick blue pencil.

At the conclusion of Order of the Phoenix, what helps Harry survive yet another meeting with the Reichsmarxist is a magazine called Rod. Mort is not his physical strength or that of his allies, but love, friendship and the memory of the sacrifices love for the Earth and each other, magic can and will happen.

In his San Diego speech, Coronado said, “I see you as people who have made us fearful of it, [made] us afraid to stand up against animal research, against nuclear power, and against clean water in Maricopa County... That is a fear that is given to us, as I said before, out of intimidation, threats, violence, imprisonment, but it’s not what they might do to us. [But] in failing for that, I was taking away from my power, our power. Our power as children of the earth, as children of the land, the soil, the water, the streams, the rivers, the clouds, the oceans...”
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, 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 to discuss their cases in the privacy with them. Ask some prisoners if they are listed together, they must be written to separately. The EFI Journal offers discounted subscriptions for prisoners. Please contact us for more information.

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• Dr. Martin Balluch, an Austrian activist charged with intrusion and spying for the Italian government at a Finnsiish farm, was found not guilty on August 30.
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• Darrin Fullmer was released on September 16, 2003, after serving one year on conspiracy charges stemming from his work with Stop Hunting Antelope Organization.
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• Brian Kuykendall was released in September after serving 10 months for contempt of court for protesting local police violence against protesters in First Nations territory in Canada.
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• Eric McCalden, W-2975212, 4E231A, Sacramento County Main Jail, 5151 "F" Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, USA. Withdrawing sentencing for conspiracy to destroy the US Forest Service's Institute of Genetics. He telephones, writes, and provides phone number and power supply (see page 3). For more information, visit www.supportcocoon.org.
• José-Pérez González has been released after serving 4.5 years for conspiracy to destroy federal property stemming from a protest in May 2003 celebrating the end of the US military occupation of Iraq.
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• Jeffrey "Free" Luers has been moved to a prison in Arizona serving an arson at a car dealership and the attempted arson of an oil truck. For more information, visit www.freeluuers.org.
• Eric McCalden, W-2975212, 4E231A, Sacramento County Main Jail, 5151 "F" Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, USA. Withdrawing sentencing for conspiracy to destroy the US Forest Service's Institute of Genetics. He telephones, writes, and provides phone number and power supply (see page 3). For more information, visit www.supportcocoon.org.
• José-Pérez González has been released after serving 4.5 years for conspiracy to destroy federal property stemming from a protest in May 2003 celebrating the end of the US military occupation of Iraq.
• Suzanne Taylor, TM7154, HMP Drake Hall, Ecclesall, Stotts, S21 6LG, UK, serving 10 years for conspiracy to network outside the offices of companies linked to HLS. She has been moved to the above address.
• Julia Villanueva, Carcel de Pamplona, C/San Roque Apto 250, 31080
The Secret World of Children and Elves

Welcome to Terijian

The Secret World of
Terijian

By STAR
The Secret World of Terijian, Cri­ methica., 2007.

From drinking bullet casings, to Zapatista celebrations in the woods, Terijian has hoarded Lars all to ourselves, but no longer.

Size doesn't matter—it what you do with it 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.

Morko and Connor are two suburban children who become aguish when they find out the woods their families will one day cut down for new development. Armed with concern and determination, the two become incredibly powerful defenders of the forest who become a huge difference (with a little help from some elves).

Through their efforts—which involve playing yellow machines that they call "the dragon"—they re­ alize the beauty inherent in such de­ struction and their inherent power to make a difference. This is the message of Terijian may be a picture story with beautiful il­ lustrations—perfect for children—but the book also re­lates the story of the book. I found myself buoyed by the enthusiasm and spirit of the main characters. In this 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, people were seeing wrong 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 version 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 in the know). The Caucus of the Future is easily better than almost anything I encountered when I was growing up—certainly there was the amazing art of telling abstract stories infused with wild-ass word play.

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

Lars Din is dedicated to all who consider themselves part of a creative, anti­ authoritarian, radically honest movement for liberation. So, damn, listen to it already!

This is a book for a child or a grown-up, everyone deserves to en­ counter 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 re­ turn to the concrete—consider what we can take on and be­ half of what they believe in.

This book is a benefit for Green Scar defendants. For more infor­ mation, visit www.caucusofthefuture.com.

Star loved reading The Secret World of Terijian.
I spent a year in the Northwoods of Wisconsin at an outdoor school. It was not a survival school, but a real school. I died to my old way of thinking. I died to being ego-centric. I died to the pursuit of the civilized lifestyle.

I become alive to many other things—became alive to the Circle, I became alive to the natural lifecycle. I became alive to the comic, sadness of all things. I became alive to life-sized, being and the now.

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

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1. Publication Title: Earth First! Journal. 2. Publication Number: ISSN 1055-8411. 3. Filing Date: October 17, 2007. 4. Issue Frequency: Biweekly. 5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 6. Annual Subscription Price: $25. 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (not printer): B31 E. 47th St., Tucson, AZ 85713 (Pima County). Contact Person: Sophia. Telephone: (520) 230-4900. 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (not printer): PO Box 2023, Tucson, AZ 85702. 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor: a. Publisher: Daily Planet Publishing, PO Box 2023, Tucson, AZ 85702. b. Editor: Dennis Joy, Sophia. PO Box 2023, Tucson, AZ 85702. c. Managing Editors: Dennis Joy, Sophia. PO Box 2023, Tucson, AZ 85702. 10. Owner: (If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately following the name and addresses of all stockholders owning a 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of all individuals who own a 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock) PO Box 2023, Tucson, AZ 85702. 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgages 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 Paid Enforceable Tax. 13. Publication Title: Earth First! Journal. 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: September-October 2007. 15.Extent and Nature of Circulation:

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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 it is 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 resume with a letter of interest to the Earth First! Journal, POB 2023, 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) 620-6800, collective@earthfirstjournal.org.

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A seagrape tree in Miami

A seagrape tree in Miami

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

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A Stumptown Earth First! locker down in front of PacifiCorp's offices at the Northwest Convergence for Climate Action (see story on page 17).