LAKOTA FREEDOM DELEGATION
Declares Withdrawal From All US Treaties

BY ES
On December 19, the Lakota Freedom Delegation presented a document to the US State Department, announcing Lakota withdrawal from all treaties with the US. The delegation does not speak for Lakota governments, but rather tries to represent what the Lakota people want.

The document also reasserts the Lakota people's right to an area that spreads over much of the states of Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming, as affirmed in the broken treaties.

The declaration preamble reads:
We, as the freedom-loving Lakota People, are the predecessor sovereign of Dakota Territory, as evidenced by the treaties with the United States government, including but not limited to the Treaty of 1851 and the Treaty of 1868 at Fort Laramie.
Lakota formally and unilaterally withdraws from all agreements and treaties imposed by the United States government on the Lakota People.
Lakota, and the population therein, have waited for at least 155 years for the United States of America to adhere to the provisions of the above-referenced treaties. The continuing violations of these treaties' terms have resulted in the near annihilation of our people, physically, spiritually and culturally. Lakota rejects the United States' termination by appropriation policy from 1871 to the present.
In addition, the evidence of gross violations of the above-referenced treaties is listed herein. Lakota encourages the United States of America, through its government, to enter into dialogue with Lakota regarding the boundaries, the land and the resources therein. Should the United States and its subordinate governments choose not to act in good faith concerning the rebirth of our nation, we hereby advise the United States government that Lakota will begin to administer liens against real estate transactions within the five-state area of Lakota.
Lakota, through its government, appointed the following representatives to withdraw from all the treaties with the United States of America, based on the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties entered into force in 1980 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of 2007:
- Tchbaghia Kit Canupa, heretofore known as Gary Rowland
- Canupa Gluha Mani, heretofore known as Duane Martin, Sr.
- Oyate Wacinyapin, heretofore known as Russell Means

Stัต: M Yuhu Najin Win, heretofore known as Phyllis Young

Two members of this delegation agreed to be interviewed by the Earth First! Journal to explain a continued on page 22}

STUMPTOWN EF!
BRINGS CHRISTMAS CHEER TO NW NATURAL

BY STUMPTOWN EF!

Blocking a building is still easy. Certainly, there is plenty of work that goes into it: materials to gather, deployment and escape to be planned. You need to prepare press releases and legal support, and you need to get as many people as possible together without tipping off the authorities.

But blocking a building is still easy.

On January 22, Stumptown Earth First!, in coalition with Cascadia Rising Tide, dropped off more than 60 Christmas trees in front of the doors of NW Natural, a company in Portland, Oregon, that is threatening to clearcut thousands of acres to build new pipelines for liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The trees were in place (stacked nearly to the top of the doors!) and the rental truck was away before the first police arrived on the scene. This was at lunchtime, downtown, a few blocks away from the police station. A bright Winter sun was out, and a curious crowd began to gather. We leafleted and spoke to people about the issue.

A representative from NW Natural eventually came out and talked to our spokesperson, feeding her lie after lie. “You have to get your facts straight,” the ex-cop from the corporation said condescendingly.

“We have our facts straight,” an Earth Firster replied. It is no surprise that corporations lie about their investments to one sector of the public while bragging about them to another.

Two brave souls climbed trees embedded in the sidewalk on the public property across the street to hoist a banner (clearly visible to the NW Nasty employees in their tower) that proclaimed, “There’s Nothing ‘Green’ About Clearcuts; No New Pipelines for Liquefied Natural Gas.” Although they were unpleasantly arrested upon their descent—one of them was thrown against the window of a nearby coffee shop—both were released with minor charges in a matter of hours (and who wouldn’t be proud to have “criminal mischief” on their record?).

continued on page 7
Since I’ve been working at the Earth First! Journal, I’ve found that first issue of the journal that I remember reading. I was surprised to discover that it didn’t include any language encouraging me to find or start an Earth First! group. I’d always assumed that it was the primer that was that first piece of propaganda I had found. Now, I was left wondering where that initial encouragement had come from. It wasn’t until we started reworking the primer that I discovered that was what had gotten it all going for me. Someone must have given me a copy of the 1998 primer. It was essentially a lodestone, showing me the way to what I had quite developed words for.

This is more or less the purpose of the primer in the first place. The primer—possibly more than the journal—is the essential tabling item. It explains to newcomers what Earth First! is, what we do, and why and how we do it. It spells out how to take those confused feelings and urges, and craft them into finely honed tools to defend the Earth (and have fun while doing it).

For this printing of the primer, we’ve assembled what we feel are the most powerful elements of primers that have been printed in the past, and we brought our ideas to other Earth First! Hubs at the Organizers’ Conference. Hopefully, this will allow each of us to get the most out of this crucially important organizing tool.

The primer, clearly, illustrates the urgency of the Earth’s situation and what we can do about it. Forming an Earth First! group, doing direct actions and connecting with others who are doing similar work are all accessible addressed.

For this latest primer, we’ve also put into a section about the responsibility each of us has in challenging oppression in our groups and our movements. So, check out the new primer in the center of this issue. We have thousands more available at the journal. They will also be available in Spanish. We encourage you to take them with you to gatherings or meetings, and spread them far and wide. Let us know how many you want, and we will be super happy to send you lots of bundles. We only ask that you cover the postage costs.

I hope this new Earth First! primer inspires you to get out there and take action in defense of the Earth!

—Donny

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Earth First! is a forum for the non-compromising environmental movement. Responsibility rests with the individual authors and correspondents. The content does not necessarily represent the views of Earth First!, local Earth First! groups or individual Earth Firstiers.

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 destruction, exploitation, sexism, violence, exploitation and oppression.

Earth First! now accepts e-mail, we encourage submissions via email. Art or photographs are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. Send a SASE if you would like submissions returned. If you want confirmation of receipt of a submission, please request it.

All submissions are edited for length and clarity. If an article is significantly edited, we will make a reasonable effort to contact the author prior to publication.

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

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Earth First!
PO Box 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702
(520) 620-6900
collectives@earthfirstjournal.org
www.earthfirstjournal.org

Editorial Collective: Donny, Joanna, Josh, Sophia, Sofi, Cassandra

Poetry Editor: Dennis Frittsinger
Volunteers: Andrew, Burdock, Buttercup, Gabe, Lenny, Magpie, Micah, CD, Char, Two Eyes, Devon, Richelle, Read Between the Lines, Victoria, Trouble, Vida, Vida

Front Cover: Vaughn Barker
Back Cover: Alberto Cesar Araujo

WAR ON THE COAST
Resistance to Development in British Columbia

BY THE THREE BANDITOS

Spartan Mountain is located 12 miles north of Victoria on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada, in traditional Lekwungen (Songhees) Esquimalt territory. Long before Victoria existed, Coast Salish people (of which the Lekwungen are considered a part) regarded Spartan Mountain and other sites in the area as sacred. In 2001, the Bear Mountain Corporation bought title to the land from the Tsartlip Band Council, the "official" government of one of the many Coast Salish bands in the area.

The Bear Mountain region is a part of the current development boom happening all around British Columbia that is associated with a thriving economy and the upcoming Olympics in 2010 (see EFiJ July-August 2007). The whole area seems to be following the typical white setting "developers first, and we will pave the rest later." Bear Mountain Resorts has already begun building its massive complex, which includes a golf course, spa, restaurants, businesses, condos and mansions for the super rich. In 2005, Bear Mountain Resort pre-sold its golf course worth $1 billion in one day and expects to sell $1.8 billion in real estate in the next year. In exchange for the destruction of the sacred cave and filled it with old tires and tree stumps from the now destroyed surroundings.

Cultural Importance

As well as being on Lekwungen territory, the proposed Spencer Road interchange—the current site of a treesit—directly affects the cultural heritage of the Lekwungen Nation. Near the path of the interchange is a large, vibrant Garry oak ecosystem, with a bountiful supply of common and great camas. The highly poisonous death camas has been systematically removed by the Lekwungen to avoid accidental poisoning. On Vancouver Island, camas is limited to the southern tip. It is the symbol for a land that was once strongly but is now a suburban waste-land of yuppie condos—a land that will die if hockey players and developers have their way.

Down the hill from the Garry oaks is a land of cedars, and it is easy enough to spot many culturally modified trees that have either had planks or bark strips removed from them in traditional Coast Salish fashion. With the death of the cedars comes the death of traditional clothing, canoe making, basketry, housing and much more. Another issue that has been brought to the forefront in this struggle is Langford Lake Cave. Several Lekwungen elders have stepped forward to question the stated that they were traditionally used by their families, only to be ignored. But it is not only cultural significance that this two public rallies held in Langford. There were several occasions where campers were forced to leave. Most of the stakes and ribbons that surveyors placed have since been removed from the forest. Fine woods have been destroyed in unfriendly visits and constant harassment by law enforcement, a barricade was constructed at the entrance to the forest and placed at the entrance, and a trench the width of the road was dug. Shortly after the barri- cade was erected, the RCMP came and almost drove into the trench. Campers started heading back into the forest with the police pursuing them. A spotlight was turned on and temporarily blinded the police, who eventually gave up due to the "dangerous" terrain and their inability to see. One ground crew member was detained, but no one was arrested.

On December 15, the Bear Mountain Corporation office in Langford was "festively decorated" by unknown people. It is hinted that the vandalism was in solidarity with the tseewiters, but "even more so, [it was] in solidarity with all those resisting ecological destruction [and] resisting the continued colonization of Coast Salish territories and all indigenous territories across Turtle Island."

In the new year, things have slowed down a bit, but we are expecting them to pick up again relatively soon. We are still in need of support. We especially need people to commit to stay for longer periods of time, and we can always use more rope, cable and climbing equipment. Solidarity actions are encouraged; these kinds of developments are happening everywhere. Those living under the colonial oppression of the Canadian and British Columbia governments are finding more and more that the genocidal, ecocidal tendencies of these entities are leading to golf courses, ski resorts and weekend getaways for the rich. In Sooke, the Songhees are fighting the Sun Peaks Corporation. So, too, are the Sekwepemc in Skeiwke Walt. Warriors of many nations are fighting the 2010 Olympics. In Jordan River, the Comox Valley, the Earth is under attack. There is a war on our coast, and it is only just beginning.

For more information, visit www.firstnations.de; www.treeists.blogspot.com

The Three Banditos are locals who have been involved with the treesit since its early days.

March-April 2008 Earth First! Page 3
Dear Shit for Brains,

People, are you tired of hearing about the environment? I sure am! It's a subject that has been beaten to death by the media and the environmental movement. I'm not saying that we shouldn't care about the environment, but it's time for a change. We need to focus on something new.

That's why I'm writing to you today to introduce a new topic: the issue of personal freedom. As human beings, we are entitled to live our lives as we see fit. We have the right to pursue our own happiness and to make our own choices. This is a fundamental principle of democracy, and it's one that we need to remember at all times.

I know that some people might argue that the environment is a more pressing issue. They might say that if we don't take care of the environment, we won't have anything left to inherit. But I think that this is a false choice. We can have both a healthy environment and personal freedom.

So please, let's stop focusing on the environment and start focusing on what truly matters: our right to live our lives as we choose. It's time to take back our freedom and stop being pushed around by the establishment.

Sincerely,

Dear Shit for Brains,

In the article, I suggest a political tactic—a necessary one, if we're to progress to any large-scale effectiveness. If you come up on a bulldozer, look down on an old-growth forest, would not the most effective tactic be to take over on stand-alone? To turn the machine around and drive it over the cliff? A few multinational corporations have done with the people's government. We can promote ecological sanity. I urge Effors to jump onto your local political system and monkeywrench in it with green ideas and fresh, wild activists! Again from Daniel: "In this way, we can move the conversation forward on how to resist ecological destruction in a serious way without losing our friends to prison."
It's deeply disappointing to see my co-defendants speaking from a position of weakness, now that they are living in a cage. I find it just as pathetic to see my co-defendant disavowing whining and apologizing, as it was to see

"letters to the editors:

[ keep them to 300 words or less]

Dear SFB,

No Josh, it does not "sound good" at all (see EJF January-February 2008). Earth First! is an environmental group, not a support group. We come together to focus on threats to wilderness, biodiversity, roadless areas, forests, deserts, oceans, global climate change, etc., not gender issues. Yes, gender issues are important, and I'm glad people fight gender discrimination. However, that is not why we are involved with Earth First! We are here to put the Earth first, not our genders, not ourselves, but the Earth... first.

The planet needs our help now, however we choose to identify ourselves. So, welcome to EJF, gender benders! Now, let's get to work!

—Josh Flynn

Dear SFB,

Yes, thank you, Josh; well-written editorial last issue. I was enraged when I read Michael Donnelly's assessment of EJF. Why do people think that an effort to deepen and widen our understanding of liberation must reduce us to nothing more than a transparent enemy. The enemy of our life and freedom at risk is not the government, not the prison, but that is somewhat ironical. (Look more closely at the prison system that is somewhat ironical. It bears paid for their resistance, and the worst of them, in terms of treatment that is somewhat ironical. But my spirit and resolve to keep fighting against oppression works the stronger we'll be. Our movement will not be revolutionary if we refuse to look at ourselves and root out the internalized racism, sexism and homophobia that we have all been exposed to. Not looking at how people-on-people oppression affects our behavior and organizing keeps us from broadening our movement, our impact, our sustainability and our credibility.

Fighting against oppression against people is biocentrism; it's just looking at another piece of the interconnected and beautiful whole that is our Earth. As Judi Bari said, "It's about time for the ecology movement (and I'm not just talking about Earth First! here) to stop considering itself as separate from the social justice movement. The same power that manifests itself as resource extraction in the countryside manifests itself as racism, classism and human exploitation in the city. The ecology movement must recognize that we are just one facet of that oppression, not a separate and independent issue. Let's continue the work that Judi Bari started, and keep fighting to save the planet... another (Earth oppression). To me, the more we understand the idea of Earth oppression, the better equipped we are at liberating our Earth. It's a false division that the needs of the Earth are different and more important than the needs of people. Biocentrism actually means that our view of how the Earth should be treated parallels how humans should be treated, that all humans are not separate from nature.

Keeping us safe and maintaining the status quo is more important as the "natural world" or eco-defense, as Donnelly calls it. He's embraced the depth of biocentrism or understood that we're fighting for a balanced ecosystem, not one that is dominated by humans—or particular kinds of humans (in this case, gender-conforming). There is an important connection between the way society treats marginalized people and the way it treats the Earth.

The more Earth First! explores that and understands how oppression works the stronger we'll be. Our movement will not be revolutionary if we refuse to look at ourselves and root out the internalized racism, sexism and homophobia that we have all been exposed to. Not looking at how people-on-people oppression affects our behavior and organizing keeps us from broadening our movement, our impact, our sustainability and our credibility.

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Southern Arizona is a land of transitions—just past the westernmost edge of the great American prairie, the southern edge of the Rocky Mountains and the northeastern corner of the Sonoran and Sierra Madre. Here in the sub-tropics, species from both temperate and tropical regions mingle. South and east of Tucson, the desert peter out into the wetter Sonoran-Chihuahuan grasslands. Above it all rise the Sky Islands, oases of water and forest amid a sea of desert and grass.

Transportation insanity and ongoing construction of a border wall along the San Pedro River runs: the last wild, undammed river in the desert Southwest. From its headwaters in the Mexican state of Sonora, it flows north across an artificial, partially-contentious 140 miles to the Gila River, then west to the Colorado.

This combination of climate and habitat region has produced a unique, biologically diverse land with the second-highest density of land mammals on the planet. Clearly, what this area needs is another interstate highway.

But that's exactly what ADOT, the Arizona Department of Transportation, is planning. ADOT is proposing to build a bypass highway around the San Pedro River valley. Our mission is to protect the biological and cultural diversity of the San Pedro Valley and its surroundings.

The bypass plan has been in the works for years, and ADOT claims that it hasn't yet decided whether to build the road or not. The proposal entails building hundreds of miles of new highway in an area that misses not only the cities of Tucson and Phoenix, but everything in between—making it useless to anyone living in or wanting to visit the two largest population clusters in southern Arizona. This bypass would serve only to devastate the sensitive ecologies of the region and destroy the rural communities along its route.

Protests against the plan have been fierce from the start, spearheaded primarily by rural residents and environmental nonprofits. But grassroots opposition, particularly of the protest varieties, had been lacking. So when we learned that ADOT might be presenting the findings of its “preliminary feasibility study” to the State Transportation Board on December 21, we decided not to get too ambitious with our inaugural protest. A few people with signs, if we were lucky, would be enough to get back the message that a new element of opposition had entered the fight. Since media coverage would be great, too—especially if we could get some more radical sound bites out to the general public—we issued a press release and made follow-up calls to reporters. To make sure that our physical presence would be impressive, even if only a couple of people showed up, we secured several large puppets.

When 13 of us arrived at the meeting early on a Friday morning, we were thrilled to see more than 100 other anti-road folks waiting outside. Amazingly enough, because the mainstream newspaper story about the meeting’s events didn’t bother to clearly distinguish between the protesters holding signs and everyone else who had come to oppose the road, it made it sound like there were 130 protestors gathered outside! When was the last time the corporate media informed the people who had actually attended the meeting?

The moment our puppets arrived, the cops rode over on their motorcycles and insisted on searching them for bombs. This absurd situation became even more comical when it turned out that their bomb-sniffing dog had already been sent home for the day, and the cops had to pat down the puppets by hand. After this token repression was completed—doubtless just to remind us who was in charge—we were allowed to get on with our protest. As the doors to the meeting opened, people filled up by us and cheered our signs, including “1-10 Bypass = Death” (in the arms of a giant Death figure) and a banner reading “Roads and Walls Not Over Here You Go.”

But the real drama of the day took place inside the meeting, not out in the welcome but frustrating Winter drizzle. The meeting opened with ADOT’s presentation of the study’s findings. Even the agency’s own officials and consulting firm acknowledged that a bypass wouldn’t offer much traffic relief and would traverse sensitive lands, and that even the fourth “opposition” or “strong opposition” had been expressed to all four proposed routes. While the three routes through the San Pedro Valley have garnered the most controversy, ADOT noted that even the route that would have to pass through either the Tohono O’odham Nation reservation or land earmarked for conservation.

After the presentation, Board Chairman Joe Lane opened the meeting for public comment, stating that only one person from each group would be allowed to speak. This contradicted a promise he had made earlier to members of the Cascabel Working Group, who had been given nearly two hours from their homes in the San Pedro Valley to attend the meeting. After hearing fewer than 10 comments, Lane announced that the I-10 bypass agenda item was finished, even though he still had more than 50 public comment request cards in his hand.

Just as the voices from the back of the room began shouting their disapproval, saying that Lane had promised to hear one representative from each group and pointing out that this was not the first promise he had broken, the morning’s protest voices soon joined them, with the outraged public demanding that everyone, not just those affiliated with organizations, have a chance to get their say.

“But you’re all saying the same thing.” Lane responded petulantly.

And you need to hear it!”

Lane said that his decision was final, pointing back to the message that had been sent out in the back of the room.

“Why don’t you go out it then, and leave us to have our own meeting?”

The yelling escalated, and 100 people joined in with a chant starting “Globalization.” For minutes, we kept the meeting in a state of disorder, then shouted a few last warnings as we filed out the door.

“See you next time!” we said, and, “You’re not going to build this road!”

The story where an I-10 bypass is placed, the harm it causes would go far beyond its immediate damage to local communities and ecologies.

One of ADOT’s stated motivations for the bypass is to “serve the expected rapid... land development” in southeastern Arizona, but it’s far more likely that the road is intended to enable development and globalized economy! Up north across the Sonoran Desert stretches more and more areas like the San Pedro Valley, where the federal government is gunning for increased trade, and the death toll continues to mount.

Last but not least, we know that strengthening the globalized economy won’t benefit the people of Arizona, who would be better served by a greater reliance on local and sustainable resources—especially as oil and water continue to dry up. Down with the globalized economy! Up with bioregionalism!

For all of these reasons and more, we are not going to sit around and wait for ADOT to “officially” decide. By “building this road we keep upping the pressure. A handful of signs and 100 angry people is simply a prelude. The battle for the San Pedro Valley has just begun.

Elegant Trigone is a refugee from the tropics now living in the North American West. Or is it the other way around?
Jaguars are currently being photographed by motion-activated cameras in southern Arizona. Individuals can be identified by the distinctive markings on their coats, proving that the Jaguars are in the US establishment residents rather than occasional transients. The USFWS decision states that "regular or intermittent use of the borderlands area by wide-ranging males" is not reason enough to enact a recovery plan. Given the secretive habits of the cats and the limited area, it seems impossible to know whether the Arizona Jaguars are limited to males or if there is a healthy breeding population. The decision also states, "Actions taken within the US and likely to benefit a small number of individual jaguars peripheral to the species, with little potential to effect recovery of the species as a whole." This goes against the experience of other species with ranges that cross international borders, including grizzly bears and Mexican gray wolves, which have benefited from recovery plans within the US.

The claim that the Jaguar would not benefit from a recovery plan comes at a time when the Jaguar's habitat is threatened as never before. Conservation efforts south of the US border have not been enough to stop the species' decline. In addition, the forces of climate change are sending many species into the northern parts of their ranges and beyond—a survival route that could become unavailable if the Jaguar's habitat is lost. Construction of a militarized wall along the entire border is in the process of disturbing Jaguar habitat and dividing the population that now travels from one side to the other. The 2005 Real ID Act allows Homeland Security to suspend any US law, including the ESA, in order to construct the border wall (see EPJ January-February 2007). The Real ID Act has already been invoked to justify building the wall through the San Pedro and Tijuana riparian areas. The same policy would apply to Jaguar habitat des­ ignated in a recovery plan, but not without a major showdown over the beautiful and much-admired predators.

By abandoning the Jaguar recovery plan, the USFWS is attempting to avoid a public relations nightmare that could threaten the Real ID Act itself. Until the agency is held accountable, fragmentation of Jaguar habitat by the border wall, housing developments and other threats is likely to continue, while conservation planning will be crippled.

Kevin has lived in the Sonoran Desert for over a quarter century and loves all its plants and animals, except buffel grass and that one plant whose seedpods stick to your socks and crumble into your eyes like itch bits. Laurel's hom e range is the Siskiyous, where the rivers flow year-round.

Photo courtesy Emil McCain, Borderlands Jaguar Detection Project/Jaguar Conservation Team.

Earth First! Anti-Coal Carolers Disrupt Charlottesville Bank of America

BY BLUE RIDGE EFF! - On December 18, activists with Blue Ridge Earth First! (BREF!) gathered at the Bank of America branch in downtown Charlottesville, Virginia, to tell bank managers to "Dream of Coal, Invest in Clean Energy." As carolers sang coal-themed versions of Christmas carols, such as "I'm Having Nightmares of a Coal Christmas" and "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas," Santa delivered a sack of coal to the bank, checking off the naughty-est corporation on his list.

Santa's lair was disclosed: "It's Bank of America's bad habit of funding climate change and destructive coal mining that earned it this lump of coal. BREF! encouraged citizens to close their accounts in protest until Bank of America stops investing billions of dollars in companies such as Massey Energy. Arch Coal, Alpha Natural Resources, which practice mountaintop removal. This form of coal mining demolishes mountains for their coal and then dumps the refuse in streambeds, polluting the water. Additionally, coal-fired electric plants— despite claims of "clean" coal—emit greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Bank of America has made headlines for hollow pledges to support "sustainably" powered companies and address global climate change.

After the bank management asked them to leave, BREF! volunteers assembled in front of the main entrance to continue caroling while other Earth First! volunteers distributed fliers to passersby. About 30 minutes later, "Global Warming Crime Scene" tape was wrapped around the entrance, and the protesters dispersed.

BREF!'s Charlottesville street theater came on the heels of international climate talks in Ball, Bonn, where the US government was accused of attempting to sink productive negotiations. Meanwhile, after a threatened Republican filibuster, the US Senate recently stripped a congressional bill of clean energy investments funded by the elimination of tax breaks for fossil fuels. Here in Virginia, criticism mounts regarding Dominon's proposed coal-fired plant, which received a hearing before the State Corporation Commission on January 8. BREF! distributed information at the protest, asking the public to attend this hearing and support regulations opposing the plant in the Virginia General Assembly. One such local solution is currently before the Charlottesville City Council, with Blackburg having already passed its own resolution on December 11, and others pending in Arlington County and Alexandria.

Earth First! 's holiday festivities are part of a campaign organized nationally by Rainforest Action Network, Mountain Justice Summer and a coalition of grassroots organizations. This caroling followed a similar event at another Bank of America on December 15, a November 30 University of Virginia student die-in at the bank's University Avenue location and an August 31 banner drop at Virginia Tech, in conjunction with BREF!'s demonstrations in Blackburg and Harrisonburg.

For more info, contact Blue Ridge Earth First!, blueeridge@yahoo.com.
The System Is Still a House of Cards
A Revised Strategy From

by The Root Force Collective

"[Traffic] congestion is one of the most serious threats to Amer­ica's economic prosperity and way of life."

-U.S. Department of Transpor­tation, "Corridors of the Future Program"

"Rather than acting piecemeal in defense of the last remaining wild places or spending time and energy on random symbolic actions, we should identify and assess strategic campaigns that are capable of blocking the expansion of global­ized infrastructure."

-Allapattah, "Evolving EF II" (EFII January-February 2008)

If you've seen a presentation or read an article by Root Force or Roadblock EFII, you've heard the ar­gument: The US economy depends upon imports from Latin America to keep functioning, and those im­ports simply can't happen without infrastructure. Without electricity, transportation and telecommunica­tions, there is no globalized trade. Even more exciting is the fact that existing infrastructure is simply in­sufficient to maintain the US econ­omy at its current rate of increasing consumption.

"We're going to run out of [high­way] capacity pretty quick, and that is going to put a grinding halt on productivity, profitability and our way of life," said Elv­en­koy, director of transportation in­frastructure at the US Chamber of Commerce, in August.

Unless the infrastructure of trade can be expanded, the US will very soon find itself hit by a resource shortage. And, if we can be so bold as to quote ourselves, "without a con­stant influx of cheap labor and raw materials from across the world, the lights would go out, the facto­ries would shut down and the sys­tem would collapse." That's always been the goal of Root Force. Sounds great, right?

But the devil is in the details. So, after a year and a half of targeting two specific Latin American infra­structure projects and a long pro­cess of discussion, reflection and consultation, we have decided to shift the focus of the Root Force campaign. Part of this change en­tails creating a broader place within Root Force for autonomous anti­infrastructure organizing in the US, while maintaining the empha­sism on Latin America solidarity. This meshes well with the call put out by Alapattah in "Evolving EF II," and we invite EFIIers to become a part of a wider anti-infrastructure movement that Root Force, along with many others, is in the process of creating.

A Strategic Reassessment
For those who aren't familiar with Root Force, our initial strategy in­volved encouraging people to take direct action against the companies involved in two specific infrastruc­ture projects—La Parota Dam in Mexico, and the Anillo Periférico Highway in El Salvador—with the goal of driving companies away from those projects and forcing their cancellation.

In October, after a year of road shows, presentations and other ef­forts at encouraging this strategy, we decided to conduct an in-depth analysis of the campaign. What had we accomplished in one year? What were the successes and weaknesses of our campaign strategy to date?

The New Root Force
The core of Root Force is an em­phasis on strategic direct action against the expansion of global­ trade infrastructure. For a variety of logistical reasons, we have found it difficult to focus direct action against projects not happening in the US. Therefore, we are broaden­ing our emphasis from La Parota and the Anillo Periférico to global trade infrastructure in general. We will now longer disseminate contact information about the companies involved in these two projects, based on the ineffectiveness of this strategy to date.

We are not giving up on the struggle against La Parota and the Anillo Periférico, and information about these projects will remain on our website, along with contact information for the government agencies involved in spearheading them. We are still in communica­tion with the communities resisting these projects, and we will continue to pass on any specific requests they may have for active solidarity from people in the US.

Root Force will now focus on four main areas:
1. Promote anti-infrastructure anal­ysis and action, based on the recog­nition that infrastructure expansion is a weak point of the system.
2. Provide resources to anyone fighting infrastructure. We aim to make our literature more accessible and useful to anyone opposing in­frastructure expansion. In addition, we will make our presentation easy to adapt and will provide the re­sources so that anyone can feel em­powered to use it.
3. Make it easy for people to plug into anti-infrastructure organizing, even if there is no current anti­infrastructure campaign near where they live. We hope to provide an ex­tensive directory of anti-infrastructure groups and campaigns on our website. We will provide resources and suggestions for incorporating an anti-infrastructure analysis into any campaign or struggle.
4. Facilitate connections and in­formation-sharing between groups and campaigns that are working against infrastructure. Toward this goal, we will have a regularly up­dated section on the front page of our website that people can read for action reports, news stories, analy­sis and campaign updates related to the struggle against infrastructure expansion.

To keep the concept of "infra­structure" from becoming too ab­stract, we will continue to use La Parota and the Anillo Periférico as examples of infrastructure projects in Latin America. Within the US, we will focus on the six interstate high­ways that the Department of Trans­portation (DOT) has designated as "Corridors of the Future." One of them is I-69, and the others are I-5, I-10, I-15, I-70 and I-95. The DOT has identified congestion on these roads as a major threat to trade and "American way of life," so it's pouring tons of federal resources into expanding them. This includes not only widening existing roads, but also building entirely new roads and bridges.

Get Involved
Of course, the best way to get in­volved is still to take direct action! If you don't already know of an evil highway or power plant planned for your back yard, contact us, and we'll see if we can hook you up with a campaign near you. If you are already working on such a cam­paign, contact us to be placed in our directory.

Are you interested in getting more resources to help you orga­nize your own anti-infrastructure campaign? Are you interested in giving a presentation about how infrastructure is a weak point of the system? Want to combine the two by forming a Root Force associ­ate group? Get in touch!

We are always looking for music­ians and artists who want to put together an awesome anti-infrastructure propa­ganda into the public domain (and on our website); researchers; trans­lation-minded, of course, monetary donars. You can make checks out to "Root Force" or donate on our website via Paypal.

Everything we have said about the system is still true. It is destroying everything that we love and killing the planet. We depend upon us for life. Defending ourselves against itself is not enough—we must identify the weak points and attack. It is still a house of cards. A strong enough push in the right places can bring the whole thing crashing down.

For more information, contact Root Force, POB 1302, Tucson, AZ 85702; rootforce@riseup.net; www.rootforce.org.

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The Place Is Called

BY MIKE ROB K

Karl Marx once said, "History repeats itself, first as tragedy, then as farce." There is little farce and a numberless repetition of tragedies in the history of this relationship between Euro-American colonizers and the indigenous people of Turtle Island. The dramatis persona of these tragedies vary from government and corporations bent on the expansion of territory, technological culture and profit; indigenous people subject to the policy of "divide and conquer;" and relatively poor powerhouses operating on the border of Indian land with all manner of motives, interests and sympathies.

The latest and nearest performance of this tragedy here in California's Great Central Valley is at Jesse Morrow Mountain, a beautiful and powerful foothill mountain about 15 miles east of Fresno. Nearly a decade ago, Readymix Corporation (RMC) Pacific, a subsidiary of the UK's RMC Group, purchased a part of Jesse Morrow Mountain and proposed to mine it. Three years ago, Cemex Corporation, headquartered in Mexico City, completed its $5.8-billion acquisition of RMC. Thus, Cemex became the world's largest provider of cement, ready-mix concrete and of most motives, operating in more than 50 countries and producing 97 million tons of cement annually. Cemex is now petitioning Fresno County to grant it a 100-year conditional-use permit to mine the hillside at the rate of over 1 million tons of aggregate per year and reduce the height of the mountain by 400 feet. The project, which would include blasting and aggregate processing, would operate 24 hours, 315 days a year and would require approximately 900 daily truck trips. It would also consume 150,000 gallons of water daily...a day site, Cemex wants to construct 70-foot-high storage silos and storage capacity for 61,000 gallons of oil, gasoline and diesel fuel.

Jesse Morrow Mountain stands at the heart of the traditional lands of the Choinumni, a band of the foothill Yokuts people, who have lived in the area for millennia. The real name of Jesse Morrow Mountain is Wahallich, which translates from the Choinumni language as "Crying Mountain." Traditional Choinumni elder Angie Osborne explains that this name refers to a spring on the mountain. Another name sounds like the name of the mountain--"Morrow Mountain"--which, if that passes, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors would begin the project, and the entire cultural studies portion of the EIR would be removed as the consultant for the project. At each stage, we must aggressively resist the machinations of Cemex. Please join in a decisive last stand against the destruction of Wahallich. The history of European-indigenous relations has been tragic, and the future remains unwritten.

Many groups and individuals are working to stop this project. If you live in the area and if you can help us, please do! For more information, contact Friends of Jesse Morrow Mountain, (519) 270-1713, or www.jessemorrowmountain.org. We are in regular contact with the Choinumni and they ask everyone to join together to stop this project. Contact Sierra Nevada Earth First! at www.sierranevadaearthfirst.org. Collective for Arts, Freedom, and Ecology at www.artsfreedomecology.org. The Place Is Called.
Radically Safe

Sexual Safety Within Our Movement

BY JOANNA

As I roll out my sleeping bag in yet another unfamiliar place, I'm happy and excited to start working on the campaign. Aside from my commitment to putting the Earth first, I don't know much about the campaign I'll be working on yet. But I look forward to immersing myself in the issue, learning from my new bunk/tent/platform mates, and sharing home and work responsibilities.

So much of Earth First! work is done in this kind of community space, where activists create a shared unity of committed volunteers, some old and some new to both the specific issue and the movement. Getting involved in a campaign where you live and work together is one of the most radicalizing experiences for many, myself included. It brings my vague sense that something is going horribly wrong with the world into a constructive and supportive home of like-minded role models and friends. I want to live and breathe my understanding of the Earth, and that's hard to do when you're all alone. So, to all the campaigns out there that leave some beds open and have a revolving set of volunteers, I thank you. You have inspired many lifelong activists to defend the Earth.

Yet these spaces are not exempt from societal problems, and so many of them tend to develop a nasty history of periodic instances of sexual violence. In every shared campaign space I've worked in, a fellow activist has related to me an incident of sexual violence. This is not just a few campaigns where a rapist decided to volunteer for a week to take advantage of our open hearts and minds. Sexual violence can't easily be checked at the door. It is a powerful societal reality that needs to be accounted for in any self-defined space. This isn't a warning or a call to suspect all volunteers who come to do good work—this is true. Sexual violence happens just like physical violence, and a prepared campaign space has the right first-aid kit to deal with the shit our society poisons us with. For many, a campaign space is a safe haven from the toxic world outside—from the food we eat, to the songs we sing, to the fact that we don't have to look at a television. We can't waste the potential for it to be a safe haven from sexual violence as well, just because we don't think it happens, don't want to admit it or think we've all washed ourselves of the violent, racist patriarchy.

Why are we so prone to creating a sexually unsafe space, if the campaign issues we are working on are about a safer Earth? It is because our current model of sexual interaction is vague, sexist and overall unsafe. To start out, let's think about gender stereotypes. People may be committing sexual assault by doing exactly what they think they are "supposed" to be doing. For men, this can mean being a slick, silent, strong seducer; for women, it can mean acting affirming and flexible. While many of us have rejected gender roles, we shouldn't need to do this in order to feel safe.

It is very possible to read body language in such a way that it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy that invites us to hear and see only what we want. I can think of social interactions where I read the situation differently than other participants. So, when it comes to sexual interaction, misunderstandings are bound to occur unless we use clear, respectful language, and unless there are ongoing teach-ins and discussions about how to communicate effectively.

Another dangerous and widely held belief is that we learn growing up in this society is that it is a person's responsibility to set someone else's limits, that rape occurs when someone does not succeed in saying "No." This is because "rape" is defined as sex without consent, although we don't define murder as "assisted suicide without consent," or stealing as "gift-giving without consent." It is everyone's personal and collective responsibility to practice good and active consent and to make sure everything is OK for everyone involved at every point in the process. The claim of "mixed messages" is an excuse, an after-the-fact justification for one's failure to step up and be responsible for clarifying the situation.

Making such a big and important change in the way we communicate is not simple. Even when asked, actually saying "no" when you want to is very difficult. Good consent practices require us to actively pay attention to whether or not good communication is happening and keep learning about the subtle ways that we may unconsciously be doing things that make others feel uncomfortable. Campaigns have people from all kinds of backgrounds wanting to live and work with them, so clear communication is vital. Good consent practices are an excellent tool for everyone who wants to be sure to never sexually assault someone, and they help us take control of our choices as individuals.

The idea of verbal consent is a pretty radical idea for fixing our broken model of sexual interaction, and a lot of folks are not familiar with it. Since we are not taught good consent practices
already, it wouldn’t be difficult to include a section about sexual violence. If you are going to say “consent,” make sure to really talk about what this means, what it is, and learn more about it. You could also have a section on your website with definitions and information about sexual violence prevention links and a copy of your contract.

Practice

Sadly, a document is a just a document and won’t work when it’s too late and a survivor is looking for that one line on the campaign’s website that says, “We don’t tolerate sexual assault or pets.” The most powerful part of consent is when the community decides that they will hold one another accountable and make sure that everyone is feeling safe and receiving space to say “yes” and space to say “no.” “Deciding together” is an ongoing process, because every time a new volunteer comes in, the community needs to be brought up collectively, or that it’s rampant, and still had the presence of weighing whether I’ll libraries and make sure that everyone is feeling safe and receiving space to say “yes” and space to say “no.” “Deciding together” is an ongoing process, because every time a new volunteer comes in, the community needs to be reavaluated.

Policy

Here is one activist’s description of their space’s sexual violence awareness advocate program and how her bottom-line policy was zero tolerance for any kind of sexual assault, meaning if you have been assaulted, you have been—no questions asked. No one else can Interventionist comes in, the community members might forget that they can take to their other for a period of our ‘lives, and that means we might approach this topic differently. Since this is stereotyped as a “women’s issue,” it is extra meaningful for all the male-bodied people there to verbally bring up good consent policies.

If you are a leader or a senior position in your organization, you have an even greater responsibility to bring these issues up, voice that they are important to you and practice good consent language with others. It can be comforting for a new volunteer to see how much consensus there is as there is physical contact, and to hear good questions like, “How do you feel?” or “Would you like a hug/piggyback ride now?”

So, what is consent, exactly? Consent is affirmative verbal re- cognition of the absense of intimi- dation, pressure, coercion and threats. It is an ongoing discussion where all parties are autonomous and can change their minds at any time. This means that each new level of sexual activity requires consent. Consent is the pres- ence of “yes,” not the absence of “no.” Someone who is mentally incapacitated, physically helpless, drunk or drugged cannot give consent. Consent is not implied merely because you are already in a relationship.

Consent means that you are fully prepared to hear “no,” and the thing about rejection might make us a little queasy, hear- ing “no” is very good news. It means that you made enough space for the other person to say what they really felt. They were able to express themselves, which is empowering. Let that person feel proud, as you should, too. Congratulations.

We can’t protect ourselves 100 percent of the time from the destructive messages and practices of our society. We shouldn’t live in fear. I have good faith in the spaces knowing that an incident of sexual violence has occurred or that it’s rampant, and still had the presence of weighing whether I’ll libraries and make sure that everyone is feeling safe and receiving space to say “yes” and space to say “no.” “Deciding together” is an ongoing process, because every time a new volunteer comes in, the community needs to be reavaluated.

Groups have also hosted men’s, women’s and trans’ working group spaces, where they can talk and discuss the nuances of sexual violence and how it affects us all differ- ently and seriously. Having separate working groups is not to say that men don’t experience sexual violence or that this is a “women’s issue.” Gender caucusing is just recognizing that there are different things that women and men are out there for us all to respond to. We were probably socialized into one or the other for a period of our lives, and that means we might approach this topic differently. Since this is stereotyped as a “women’s issue,” it is extra meaningful for all the male-bodied people there to verbally bring up good consent policies.

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from society—just like we’re not taught how to eat vegan, harvest herbs, and respect and fight for the Earth—this is an exciting opportu- nity to think of creative, innovative solutions and dump the old sexual-harassment-law- based paradigms that aren’t affiliated with an institution (like a college or business) that can hold someone accountable. These fac- tors are not an excuse to not have a sexual violence prevention pol- icy! If anything, it’s more impor- tant for us to address these issues because we have the oppor- tunity to think of creative, innovative solutions and dump the old sexual-harassment-law-based paradigms that aren’t affiliated with an institution (like a college or business) that can hold someone accountable. These fac- tors are not an excuse to not have a sexual violence prevention pol- icy! 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April 1 is Fossil Fools Day! Rising Tide North America has called this day of action to make the fools who are causing climate change realize the impact that they are having on the planet, and that we aren't going to stand for it!

Anywhere you live, fossil fools are going to be engaging in destruction, the poisoning of communities and other filthy, climate-changing business. Most of us live (sometimes ignorantly) in the shadow of toxic combustion or extraction activity. Even if you don’t live near these points of destruction, unless you’re living off the grid, you utilize oil, natural gas, or coal in your day-to-day life. There are great places to highlight the connection between culture, climate change and environmental justice. Aside from oil being one of the largest sources of greenhouse gases, there is not an oil company on this planet that hasn’t been complicit in human rights atrocities. Whether it is Shell killing environmental activists in Nigeria or Chevron dumping toxic waste on indigenous lands in the Amazon, there are plenty of examples of the connection between the destruction of the Earth and these companies’ assaults on human rights.

Consider such tactics as blocking the entrance to a gas station, locking down to gas pumps or having a die-in in front of a gas station. It is quite easy to gain access to a roof for a banner drop with the use of an extension ladder. It should also be noted that all gas stations have safety shut-off buttons that will disable their gas pumps in case of an emergency. They are generally located on the outside of the station. If a global climate meltdown isn’t an emergency, we don’t know what is!

Three months later, No War, No Warming is planning round two of what must be a sustained, ongoing, developing campaign to end the Iraq War and save our deeply wounded ecosystems. We are taking action again on March 19, 2008 in Washington, DC, as well as in other parts of the country. This time, the major DC actions will be at locations like the American Petroleum Institute and the Department of Energy. Other groups—primarily peace groups—will be engaging in nonviolent civil disobedience at other locations.

I believe deeply that now, right now, this year and next, is a time when nonviolent civil disobedience and direct action have to be central tactics used by our movements—not the only tactics, but the central ones. Such tactics, done well, motivate others to speak up, get involved or take action. They let the powers-that-be know that we are a factor, that we have to be taken into account. They build a fighting spirit into our movement and counter the “compromising” mentality that infects too many of us too often.

With the beginnings of an economic downturn/recession/depression, right now is the perfect time for dramatic actions that link peace, justice and clean energy. Our action and the messaging for it must make central the needed shift to a deindustrializing, green, clean energy economy. This is the way that, in the short-term and longer-term, we can turn around the economy.

I want to see Day of Action to make the fools who are causing climate change realize the impact that they are having on the planet, and that we aren't going to stand for it!

April 1 is Fossil Foools Day! Rising Tide North America has called this day of action to make the fools who are causing climate change realize the impact that they are having on the planet, and that we aren't going to stand for it!

Anywhere you live, fossil fools are going to be engaging in destruction, the poisoning of communities and other filthy, climate-changing business. Most of us live (sometimes ignorantly) in the shadow of toxic combustion or extraction activity. Even if you don’t live near these points of destruction, unless you’re living off the grid, you utilize oil, natural gas, or coal in your day-to-day life. There are great places to highlight the connection between culture, climate change and environmental justice. Aside from oil being one of the largest sources of greenhouse gases, there is not an oil company on this planet that hasn’t been complicit in human rights atrocities. Whether it is Shell killing environmental activists in Nigeria or Chevron dumping toxic waste on indigenous lands in the Amazon, there are plenty of examples of the connection between the destruction of the Earth and these companies’ assaults on human rights.

Consider such tactics as blocking the entrance to a gas station, locking down to gas pumps or having a die-in in front of a gas station. It is quite easy to gain access to a roof for a banner drop with the use of an extension ladder. It should also be noted that all gas stations have safety shut-off buttons that will disable their gas pumps in case of an emergency. They are generally located on the outside of the station. If a global climate meltdown isn’t an emergency, we don’t know what is!

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Bare Bones
Compromise With Timber Interests May Collapse

The Northwest Forest Plan—which protects 41 million acres of forest in the Pacific Northwest, including old-growth forest—is in danger of collapsing because the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has now put the agreement out of the agreement. The plan was agreed to in the 1990s, in an effort to end the struggle between environmentalists and the timber industry. Although it leaves many ecologically critical areas still open to roads and logging, the BLM's revision is essential to the survival of the threatened northern spotted owl.

The BLM is currently protecting a chunk of land in the central Oregon that represents 10 percent of the Northwest Forest Plan. It wishes to pull out and allow logging on up to 2.2 million acres of the land, increasing the amount of logging in the area threefold. According to University of Washington Professor Jerry Franklin, without this 10 percent, the minimum old-growth necessary for the well-being of the species will not be met. The BLM's plan of protecting them will be rendered obsolete.

Mapuche Land Occupation

Ends in Police Violence

On January 3, university student Matias Catrileo Quezada was shot in the head by a Chilean police officer during a protest at a site of Mapuche Indians, children and elderly people. This incident was part of a land occupation to reclaim stolen Mapuche land in southern Chile.

On that same day, protesters re-occupied by blocking roads and setting about 30 fires at Chilean forestry giant Mininco's tree plantations. Mininco dominates large tracts of land that warn neighbors of a dangerous climate criminal who lives nearby can help get the word out as well.

Need information on how to pull off any of these actions? Want us to help you to a certain fossil fuel bigwig's house is action against him or her? We can provide help and trainings for any and all nonviolent direct actions described above that target the fossil fuels in your community. For more information, contact fossilfools@hushmail.com! For more ideas, visit www.ningtidenorthamerica.org.

Seven: Home Is Where the Heart of the Fossil Fool Is

If you're more of an evening person (or just want to make your encounter with your chosen fossil fool a little more personal), a home visit may be in order. It can be tricky finding out where they live, but if you're lucky, a "reverse name search" might work. (Try www.anywho.com.) A surprisingly useful place for researching people is the Federal Election Commission search (www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/notindesai.shtml). Often, when people make major donations to candidates (which by law must be reported), they include their home address on their filings. You can use county tax records to find out where a person lives, too. Many counties have an online search database, and all of them have the information on file at the courthouse.

Often, organizing a big rally at a fossil fuel bigwig's house is action enough to get a lot of media attention (not to mention their neighbors' attention), especially if you bring a great party, songs and games. A banner hang on someone's roof makes things a bit more interesting, though we caution against doing anything that could be construed as destroying property. Wished posters in the neighborhood that warn neighbors of a dangerous climate criminal who lives nearby can help get the word out as well.

Need information on how to pull off any of these actions? Want us to help you to a certain fossil fuel bigwig's house is action against him or her? We can provide help and trainings for any and all nonviolent direct actions described above that target the fossil fuels in your community. For more information, contact fossilfools@hushmail.com! For more ideas, visit www.ningtidenorthamerica.org.

Four: Resist Road Expansion

While this is largely uncharted territory in the US, activists in Europe have been at it for years. Let's bring that trend over here!

FIVE: Resist Road Expansion

Two Kick Corporate Research Off Your (or Anybody's) Campus

Universities, in collaboration with corporations, are developing new technologies using fossil fuel extraction and burning. Many schools in coal state have research facilities dedicated to the perpetuation of this dirty fuel, while schools in oil states like Texas focus on petro¬​leum. Chances are that any major university will be involved in some aspect of perpetuating our addiction to fossil fuels. Capitalizing on the need for alternative energy sources, many universities are block¬​ing in big bucks setting up agrofuels research centers. Not only will agrofuels not create meaningful re¬​sources, the government focuses on on the need for alternative ene¬‘rgy. Five: Resist Road Expansion

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Four: Fry the Friendly Skies

Air travel is one of the fastest growing sectors of greenhouse gas emissions—and one of the most extravagant uses of fossil fuels. We need to combat air travel. Protests can be organized at airline offices, as well as airports. Many of the US's largest airports are considering ma¬​jor expansions, which would lead to even more airplanes polluting the air. While tight security at air¬​ports creates a number of logistical problems, it also contains some advantages—air is a tendency to overreact to any situation out of the norm, with a resulting disruption of airport business. Private jets catering to the extremely wealthy, are also outstand¬​ing targets for ac¬​tion and send clear message.

I pity the fool that turns fossil fuels.
Oaxacans Blockade
Major Highway in Mexico

Upset by attempts to reopen a long-vacated gold mine near Capulalpam, in the Mexican state of Oaxaca, residents blockaded the main highway out of Oaxaca City with 50 pickup trucks for five hours on October 16.

Demanding permanent closure of the Natividad mine, the community—even the mayor and ex-miners—collectively took action against Vancouver, Canada-based Continental Resources. The mine was closed in 1993, and locals intend to make sure it stays that way.

"For 230 years, gold- and silver-mining companies have been exploiting tunnels in the mountains," said Francisco García López, a member of Capulalpam’s Commission of Communal Goods. "The quantity and quality of our water supplies have been negatively affected by mining activity." According to him, 13 streams have disappeared completely in the past few years because of Continental’s exploration activities.

Primate Visitor Targeted by ALF

December 6 is customarily St. Nicholas Day in many parts of the world. St. Nicholas travels to people’s homes, leaving a gift in their shoe if they are good—and a lump of coal if they are bad. Oregon Health and Science University researcher Miles Novy awoke that morning to a different present altogether.

In the dark morning fog, members of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) paid him a visit. In response to the research, Novy conducts on primates, they covered his car in graffiti and paint stripper.

"This blatant disregard for the Earth, [its] animals and its resources shall not go unseen by the ever-watching eyes of the ALF," a communiqué declared. "The only reason why people like Miles Novy sleep at night is because we let them."

One can imagine Novy will be keeping an eye out for more than St. Nicholas next December 6.

Faucet Butt for the Fur Industry

A fur-selling boutique in Brooklyn, New York, got a nosy punch in the nose on Christmas Eve. Just in time for the peak shopping hours, the ALF sprayed "liberal" amounts of Liquid Ass, a product that has the overpowering stench of rotting shit.

The carpets, clothing and, especially, the fur and fur-trimmed items in the store were doused. Accused of a communiqué, within minutes, the store "smelled like the inside of an ass-hole." Before the ALF activist left the store, potential customers were witnessed visibly gagging and leaving quickly.

The communiqué also contained a warning for anyone who sells fur in Brooklyn: "Next time, you might find your locks glued, your windows broken or worse... Happy holidays!"

Pro-Whaling Consulate Gets Bloody

William Shakespeare once wrote, "Will all great Neptune’s ocean wash this blood clean from my hands?" In the case of the Japanese government’s whaling practices, Australian activists have shouted an emphatic, "No!"

On December 27, ten protesters rushed into the Japanese consulate in Melbourne, Australia, to call attention to Japan’s hunting of endangered whales. The members of Animal Liberation Victoria splashed fake blood across the consulate, as the Japanese whaling fleet headed to feeding grounds where it planned to murder up to 935 minke whales and 50 fin whales. Security eventually removed the protesters from the building but decided to not press charges.

Once again, the Japanese government repeated the lies that this hunt is for scientific purposes, ignoring the fact that the whale meat inevitably ends up under the butcher’s knife back in Japan.

Genetically Modified Trees
Not Tolerated in New Zealand

A patch of genetically engineered pine trees was hacked down outside of Rotorua, New Zealand, on January 14. Saboteurs burned under an electric perimeter fence to reach the experimental Norway spruces, before chopping them down in an apparent protest. As a warning, they left behind a space bearing a "GE Free New Zealand" sticker.

The Soil and Health Association, a lobbying group, had been calling for the trees to be cut down. "Considering overwhelming opposition to genetic engineering in New Zealand, field trials should be treated as a privilege," said Steffen Browning, a Soil and Health Association spokesperson.

Los Angeles Mayor’s Chief of Staff Visited by ALF

The ALF visited the home of Robin Kramer, the mayor of Los Angeles’ chief of staff, according to a communiqué released on January 17. Two luxury cars in Kramer’s driveway were doused with paint stripper in an attempt to awaken him to the situation at Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS).

Since 2003, activists in LA have been exposing mismanagement and corruption at LAAS. Among other concerns, the mayor’s office refuses to implement policies that would save the lives of the thousands of healthy animals who are killed each year in LA area shelters.

Ed Boks, the current head of LAAS, was previously asked to resign as director of Arizona’s shelter system and was fired from the New York City shelter system. LA animal activists want to see the same thing happen to him in their city.

"It’s too bad it takes illegal direct action... to get the media to take notice of the senseless killing going on inside the six animal death camps in LA," said Pamela Fernif of the Animal Defense League-LA.

"Robin Kramer, your job as chief to the mayor affords you the ability to push for LAAS to catch up with the times and transition to ‘no kill,’" part of the ALF communiqué reads. "Why are you not pushing?"

Mexican KFC Rendered Extra Crispy

On January 20, the Animal Liberation Front Mexico (FLAM) targeted a KFC fast food restaurant, placing an incendiary device in the chain store. According to the communiqué, the action was taken because KFC "continues the killing of our animal brothers and sisters on its farms of terror for filthy money at the cost of the suffering of others."

Since late December, FLAM has conducted a flurry of attacks on animal exploiters in Mexico. Among other actions, it has vandalized or raided circuses, pet stores, other KFC locations, furriers, at least one farm and a restaurant. The January 20 KFC visit, however, seems to be FLAM’s first foray into the use of a firestorm to purify thebane that society drowns in.

Canadian Bank Attacked to Protest 2010 Olympics

Resistance has been strong against the 2010 Winter Olympics, which are scheduled to be held in Vancouver and Whistler, Canada (see EPFJ July-August 2007). The struggle continued on January 27.

"Bricks found their way through the windows of the Elgin Street Royal Bank of Kladana in Ottawa," a communiqué wryly noted. The attack was committed in protest of the evils scheduled to occur in Canada in 2010: the ratification of the Security and Prosperity Partnership, the 2010 Group of Eight (G8) summit and the Winter Olympics. The Royal Bank of Canada is one of the primary sponsors of the 2010 Olympics. According to the communiqué, the bank’s attackers also declared war on all that 2010 represents and all who sponsor the event of that year. "These actions are in solidarity with indigenous peoples, the poor and all those who are made to suffer in the name of ‘Security and Prosperity’ the G8 and the Olympics on stolen land." The group concluded by encouraging people to "Riot 2010!"
Today is the most critical moment in the three-and-a-half-billion-year history of life on Earth. Never before—since the end of the Cretaceous period, 65 million years ago—has there been a period of extinction as intense as the one we are now witnessing.

Over the last several hundred years, industrial civilization has declared war on nature, leading to a drastic reduction in the biological diversity of this planet. Some respected ecologists assert that the only large mammals to survive the near future will be those we humans choose to allow to live.

Others—aghast at the wholesale devastation of tropical rainforests and temperate old-growth forests, rapidly accelerating desertification, and the eradication of countless life forms due to contamination throughout the biosphere—warned that this onslaught against the natural world destroying ecosystems and their associated species, but our activities are now beginning to have fundamental, systemic effects upon the entire life-support system of the planet—upsetting the world’s climate, poisoning the oceans, destroying the ozone layer and spreading acid rain, radioactive fallout, pesticides and industrial contamination throughout the biosphere.

Indeed, some biologists have warned that vertebrate evolution may be at an end due to the activities of industrialization. Clearly, the conservation battle is not one of merely protecting outdoor recreation opportunities; nor is it a matter of elitist aesthetics, nor "wise management and use" of natural resources. It is a battle for life itself, for the continuous flow of evolution.

We—the generation that is humanity’s most important juncture since we came out of the trees six million years ago. It is our decision, ours today, whether to hold renegade corporations and lawless governments accountable for the destruction of the natural world or turn our backs on Mother Earth and her defenseless life forms. Will we allow the Earth to continue to be a mar­velously living, diverse oasis in the blackness of space, or will the charismatic megafauna of the future consist of Norway rats and cockroaches?

Earth First! exists to defend the Earth in a world of compromising, mealy-mouthed environmental groups. Earth First! is effective. Our frontline, direct action approach to protecting wildlands gets results. We have succeeded in cases where other environmental groups had given up, and we have drawn public attention to the crises facing the natural world.

It’s not enough to ask politicians and corporations to destroy less wilderness. We need to stop and reverse the poisoning of our air, water and soil, as well as the modification of life’s genetic code. It is not enough to oppose the construction of new dams and developments. It is time to free our shackled rivers and restore the land.

Earth First! was founded in 1979, in response to a lethargy, compromising and increasingly corporate environmental community. Earth First! takes a decidedly different tack toward environmental issues. We believe in using all the tools in the toolbox, ranging from grassroots organizing and involvement in the legal process to civil disobedience and monkeywrenching.

Earth First! is different from other environmental groups. We do not adopt a human-centered worldview. Instead, we believe that industrial civilization and its philosophy are anti-Earth, anti-woman and anti-liberty.

While there is broad diversity within Earth First—from animal rights vegans to wilderness hunting guides, from stealthy monkey­wrenchers to civil-disobedience acrobats, from whiskey-drinking backwoods riffraff to thoughtful philosophers, from bitter misanthropes to true humanitarians—there is agreement on one thing: the need for action.

No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth!
Earth First! is dynamic. In order to be an environmental movement, you’ve got to move! Direct action means personal, spiritual and strategic efforts to defend the Earth. Earth First! is defined by action, the purpose of which is to: **Halt the Destruction: Force governments and corporations to stop their exploitive extraction of natural resources.** Even the most “symbolic” action can help to stop the machine.

**Raise the Stakes:** Send a clear message to the despoilers: “No more business as usual.”

**Attract Media:** You can’t hope to change people’s minds or put pressure on politicians without calling attention to the damage. Demonstrations “demonstrate” to the world that when all of our letters are ignored, our arguments mitigated and our legal appeals denied, we still refuse to accept the accelerating destruction of the Earth. Civil disobedience can expose an issue through print, television, radio and the Internet.

**Strengthen Resolve:** Direct action is the most empowering event imaginable, a rite of passage that fills the participant with a feeling of effectiveness. We learn to work in concert with others who put the Earth first.

Civil disobedience is a deliberate, thought-out act of conscience, even when you show up to a demonstration, you risk arrest and physical attack by the police or opponents. Be prepared with creative tactics, media spokespersons and jail support.

**Demonstrations**

Demonstrations include marches, costumes and street theater that present our position to reporters and make demands of corporate raiders and government pawns. Some Earth First! actions have included 200-pound stumps deposited on rangers’ desks, manure from cattle grazed on public lands stacked against air conditioning vents, protests held outside the homes of timber executives, helium balloons hoisting placards strung above highways, down smokestacks and not in, when the building is sealed off, when the cops are out in force or when the meeting has moved to another location.

**Occasions and Sit-Ins**

Take over the boardrooms, offices and even the homes of unresponsive decision-makers and bureaucrats. Among other things, EFers have put up tents in land managers’ offices, locked ourselves to their furniture, invaded the homes of industry CEOs and put cardboard on the air conditioning intakes of a district ranger’s office, forcing them to shut down their computers in the more-than-100-degree heat.

**Blockades**

The proper place for an Earth Firster is often directly in the path of the machinery that is destroying the wilderness or your community. This may be a symbolic gesture of defiance; it may also stop them in their tracks. Either way, it is a sure-fire way to take the focus out of the boardrooms and hearing chambers and to put it back where it belongs—in the wilderness at the scene of the crime.

Targets can include logging equipment, radioactive waste shipments, livestock trucks, dam intakes of a district ranger’s office, forcing them to shut down their computers in the more-than-100-degree heat.

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**Tressitting**

Tressitting has been used successfully to shut down logging of ancient forests for months, even years, at a time. Earth Firsters have rigged cables to surrounding trees to prevent them from being cut and to cross over to different parts of the canopy. And then you will need experienced help and safety precautions, which various Earth First! groups can provide. Trainings are often held at EF! gatherings.

**Responsible Direct Action**

Direct action requires a code of integrity. Everyone involved must agree to a common set of principles or the media and police may focus on the conduct of a few participants rather than the original intent of the action. Be careful who you work with and get everyone to agree to a set of guidelines, whatever your tactics. At no time should anyone contribute to escalating violence from the police, work- ers, management or general public at an Earth First! action.

If you are committed not to move—even if it means your arrest—stand your ground. To break and run might defeat the purpose of your action and endanger others. Don’t put yourself in a dangerous position unless you are willing to face danger without moving. Otherwise, choose a less risky method of protest.

No drugs, alcohol or weapons should be carried at the site of any Earth First! action.

Identify potential arrests ahead of time and have a list of their names and addresses. Pair each of them up with a support person who can be responsible for their keys and identification. Monitor and record their arrest using a camera or video if possible, and follow them through the legal process until they are released.

Plan your actions well. Prepare street theater, songs, chants, costumes, signs and handouts in advance. Issue a press release to all of the radio, television and newspaper outlets in your area. Stick to a few short paragraphs describing the destruction you plan to stop or the wilderness you propose for protection, making clear the desired result of your actions. It is a good idea to put in a few quotes attributed to one or more of your spokespersons. A good press release should be no more than two pages, although one page is preferred. It is better for the media to call for more information than it is to issue a long, rambling press release.

Send out press releases a few days before your event. Withhold sensitive information until the action occurs. Follow up with phone calls to the media the day before the action. Never assume they’ve read your release. Get the name of the reporter and ask them if they plan to come. You might hint at the more radical (photo opportunity!) aspects of your action, but don’t tip them off to anything that the cops shouldn’t know ahead of time. Don’t promise a more radical scenario than you can really come up with or the press may not cover your future events.

Seek for the reporters who promised to show up and make sure that they have someone in your group to talk to who is knowledgeable, well-spoken and presentable.

Meet before the action to circle up and focus on the emotional, spiritual and cultural motivations for your urgent work. Circle up again afterward to make sure that everyone is accounted for, discuss what did or didn’t work, and plan a time to meet to do it again!
MONKEYWRENCHING

Monkeywrenching: Sabotage, ecodefense, billboard banditry, desurveying, road reclamation, tree spiking, property destruction...

All of these terms describe the unlawful sabotage of industrial extraction and development equipment as a means of striking at the Earth's destroyers where they commit their crimes and hitting them where they feel it most—in their profit margins.

Monkeywrenching is a step beyond civil disobedience. It is nonviolent, aimed only at inanimate objects. It is one of the last steps in defense of the wild, a deliberate action taken by an Earth defender when almost all other measures have failed.

Although Earth First! is often associated with the practice and mystique of monkeywrenching, the organized elements of the Earth First! movement do not engage in monkeywrenching. Any person openly spouting off about sabotage should be avoided, as they may either be a wingnut or an agent provocateur.

Monkeywrenching is not mindless; targets are carefully picked for their strategic value. There is a time and a place for everything. Knowing when not to engage in sabotage is equally of value. For instance, monkeywrenching during public civil disobedience jeopardizes all who are present.

Although some individual Earth Firsters may be active monkeywrenchers, the Earth First! movement officially neither condones nor condemns monkeywrenching.

Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching (available from the Earth First! Journal) contains detailed information on monkeywrenching techniques as well as discussions of security, safety, strategy and justification. Any potential monkeywrencher would do well to study it carefully before embarking on the clearly illegal and potentially dangerous path of ecotage.

DEEP ECOLOGY

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." —Aldo Leopold

The central insight of John Muir and of the science of ecology helped us remember that all things are connected and related; that human beings are merely one of the millions of species that have been shaped by the process of evolution for 3.5 billion years. With that understanding, we can better answer the question, "Why wilderness?"

Is it because wilderness makes pretty picture postcards? Because it protects watersheds for the downstream uses of agriculture, industry and homes? Because it cleans the cobwebs out of our heads after a long week at work or in front of a computer monitor? Because it preserves resource extraction opportunities for future generations of humans? Because some unknown plant in the wilds may hold a cure for cancer? No. It is because wilderness is. Because it is the real world, the flow of life, the process of evolution, the repository of that 3.5 billion years of shared travel.

All natural things have intrinsic value, inherent worth. Their value is not determined by what they will ring up on the cash register, nor by whether or not they are good. They are. They exist. For their own sake. Without consideration for any real or imagined value to human civilization. Even more important than the individual wild creature is the wild interconnected community— the wilderness, the stream of life unimpeded by industrial interference or human manipulation. These twin themes of interconnectedness and intrinsic value form the core of ideas of such ecological thinkers as Edward Abbey, Judi Bari, Bill Devall, Aldo Leopold, Arne Naess, George Sessions and Vandana Shiva, and are the basis for action by Earth Firsters. This biocentric world view, as opposed to the anthropocentric paradigm of civilization (and the reformist position of mainstream environmental groups), has been developed into the philosophy of deep ecology.

Earth First!, in short, does not operate from a basis of political pragmatism or what is perceived to be "possible." Wilderness is not something that can be compromised in the political arena. We are unapologetic advocates for the natural world, for the Earth.

CHALLENGING ALL FORMS OF OPPRESSION

"You cannot seriously address the destruction of wilderness without addressing the society that is destroying it." —Judi Bari

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

Challenging these forms of oppression is implicit in our desire to stop the domination and exploitation of the Earth. Failing to address oppressive behavior not only weakens our movement by alienating and further victimizing our friends and allies, it also calls into question our commitment to a better world and our qualification as a radical movement.

Some things we can do to challenge this oppression include participating with your EF! group in an anti-oppression training and having an accessible anti-oppression policy for your group. Strengthening our communities and our movement through acknowledging and challenging oppression is critical.

Basically, while we’re locking down or harnessing up, let’s make sure we’re all in this together and that none of us are getting pushed aside by otherwise well-intentioned eco-warriors.
Earth First! is a global movement composed of small, bioregionally based groups. Earth Firsters become intimately familiar with the ecology of the area they inhabit and defend. They apply "direct pressure" to stop the killing, with a potent combination of education, organizing and creative action. Nothing is more empowering than standing defiant against the destruction of our Mother Earth with other like-hearted people.

Earth First! is a priority, not an organization. There are no "members" of Earth First! only Earth Firsters. There is no highly-paid "professional staff." The only "leaders" are those temporarily working the hardest in defense of our last wilderness. Earth First! is, by nature, non-hierarchical. Each Earth Firster's voice should be weighed equally. Earth Firsters are bound together by a belief in biocentrism—a belief that the Earth comes first and a practice of putting our beliefs into action.

To start an Earth First! group in your area, consider the following:

Campaigns: Earth First! campaigns target human actions that adversely impact biological diversity. This can include ancient forest defense, extractive industries, opposition to urban sprawl, resistance to borders and their impacts, and the preservation of sustainable indigenous cultures. To protect a bioregion, Earth Firsters connect with it through our hearts and souls. To become acquainted what we fight for, we spend time exploring our watersheds, mountains and canyons, just feeling the wildness of these places.

Contact: Your group needs a contact person with a mailing address, phone number and email who will respond to inquiries and share them with the group. This information is also listed in the EF! Journal. It's also helpful to develop a mailing list and phone tree for announcing meetings and events to prospective activists in your area. In addition, it may be useful to create a website to keep people updated about what's going on with your group.

Security: The importance of responsible security with personal information and associations must not be underestimated. Be smart, be aware and get to know the people in your group. Read Agents of Repression by Ward Churchill and J.J. Vanderwall, which chronicles the effects of state repression on other resistance struggles. Other articles on security culture are easily searchable on the Internet.

Money: Some of the most common funding needs are for printing, postage, logistics of actions and demonstrations, and legal fees and court fines. You may want to set up a special bank account for your group, with at least two people allowed to sign checks.

Fundraising: Some ideas include benefit concerts; slideshows and tabling; public requests for funding support via radio shows; newsletter and the Internet; auctions of donated goods and services; bicycle pledge rides; foundation grants; school money from campus clubs for EF! presentations; EF! work parties; sale of EF! merchandise and EF! Journal sales.

Meetings: Gather for potlucks, hikes, music, swims, etc. Meet to strategize, plan and carry out your actions! Camping and hiking trips to wild places in your area can do a lot for group bonding, as well.

Tactics: Awareness can be spread through handouts, news releases, articles, public presentations, participating in public meetings, etc. Grassroots organizing helps by building coalitions with like-minded groups and generating public participation and input. It's also worthwhile to look into utilizing the laws that exist to protect that which is threatened.

Demonstrations and Civil Disobedience: These are what won women the vote, emancipated slaves and retracted the US military-industrial machine from Vietnam. The quickest and surest way to get a new EF! group going is to do a fun, nerveracking, bold, creative, confrontational action that generates media coverage and announce your presence to friends and foes.

The Earth First! Journal: The Earth First! Journal is the voice of the many diverse opinions of our movement. All are encouraged to submit articles and art on campaigns, philosophy, biological diversity, resistance, investigative reports, humor, art, etc. We encourage controversy and provoke controversy and tactics based on uncompromising wilderness defense and love for the inherent balance of the natural world. Use the EF! Journal to update the movement on your campaigns. Announce opportunities to attend your gatherings. If you do an action, write about it and send it in. Feel free to get in touch with the EF! Journal for tips on writing articles.

Free copies of the EF! Journal are traditionally mailed out to contacts to be sold at full cover price as a fundraiser for local groups (the EF! Journal only requests postage reimbursements). Contact the EF! Journal office to arrange to have a bundle mailed to your group each issue. Individual EFers are expected to subscribe, since the EF! Journal depends on subscriptions to survive.

A regional newsletter can augment the EF! Journal and can focus in greater detail on local issues, lists of local events and demonstrations, and provide more leeway to include other items. These newsletters can be state-wide, bioregional or specific to your community. Production, writing and mailing should be done as a group to get the maximum number of voices represented and to keep all of the work from falling on just a few people.
There are times and places, many
times and places where cruelty
exists. There are times and places
where lives are disrupted, where
babies are taken. Times and places
where the unparalleled beauty of the
natural world stands in stark contrast
to the human activity in the same
area. But I do not need to tell you
this. You have seen it in the
newspapers, heard it in stories and
read it in history. Political corruption,
government ineptitude, malignant
alliances and plundering of
the natural world are all rampant.

Families who are driven from
their homes and rendered into
vulnerable refugees are subject to
harassment and a deplorable lifestyle
that will be ignored by most. They
become homeless refugees forced
to wander across their homeland.
“Management” is used as a guise
for power, control and the unfet-
terred ability to accumulate.

This could be the beginning of
an article about a whole myriad
of issues: worker’s rights in China,
the Zimbabwean economy, our
founding of the Amazon, the polar ice
capsthe list could go on. But this
time, it is about the plight of the
American buffalo. This issue em-
bodies and exemplifies many broader
themes of injustice. The deeper one
delves into the politics of the buf-
falo, the more elucidated its con-
nections to other global social,
political, environmental and eco-
nomic issues become.

Millions of buffalo were slaugh-
tered throughout the 19th century
as part of the US government’s calcu-
lated plan to “manage” the western
US and its indigenous peoples. This
systematic killing continued until
only 23 of the original tens of
millions of buffalo remained, and the
people who depended on them were
no longer able to live freely. Only af-
after the population had dipped to 23
were plans instated to save the only
genetically pure herd of wild buf-
falo—much to the ire of the livestock
industry. Still, buffalo harassment
and slaughter has continued.

After the particularly bloody Win-
ter of 1996-1997, when more than a
thousand buffalo were killed by the
Montana Department of Livestock,
Buffalo Nations—now the Buffalo
Field Campaign (BFC)—was formed.
BFC is run by Mike Mease and
Lakota activist Rosalie Little Thunder,
has, with the help of more than 3,000
volunteers, spent the past 11 years
fighting for greater tolerance and ex-
panded habitat for the buffalo.

As usual, this year’s forecast for
the Yellowstone buffalo is grim. In
order to find food in the Winter,
buffalo migrate outside of the in-
tact wildlife boundaries of Yellowstone
National Park and into lower ele-
vations—mainly West Yellowstone
and Gardiner, Montana. Once out-
side of the park, buffalo are no lon-
ger considered “wildlife” and are
instead classified as a “species in
need of disease control,” because
politics trumps science. Cattle
herders fear the transmission of
brucellosis and the loss of Mon-
tana’s brucellosis-free meat status.
Brucellosis is a bacterial disease that
affects wildlife and livestock, often
cau~ng a miscarriage in an animal’s
first pregnancy. It was first tran-
smitted to American wildlife by Eu-
ropean livestock in the early 20th
century. Though there has never
been a documented case of a wild
buffalo transmitting the disease to
livestock, this inflated potential
“threat” furthers the buffalo’s status.

The buffalo’s status as a threat, as
well as the protocol for handling
them as such, is detailed in the In-
teragency Brucellosis Management
Plan (IBMP). The plan was drafted in
1999, by the Montana Department
of Livestock, the National Park Ser-
vice, the United States Fish and
Wildlife Service, the Animal and Plant
Health Inspection Service, and Montana
Fish, Wildlife and Parks for the long-term
“management” of Yellowstone buf-
falo. This piece of legislature helps
the livestock industry at the expense
of buffalo and all people and crea-
tures that coexisted and depended
on these amazing animals.

There is, however, a brief win-
dow of time when buffalo are con-
sidered wildlife. For the past three
years, from November 15 through
February 15, state and tribal hunt-
ing tags have been issued. In the
2006-2007 hunt, 67 buffalo were
killed, and as of early February
2008, more than 100 have been
killed this season. Conveniently,
when the hunt is over, buffalo are
no longer wildlife in the eyes and
policies of the Montana govern-
ment—and more severe forms of
management resume.

Winter is rough on buffalo, but
Spring usually proves to be worse.
They are hazed, harassed, captured,
and sometimes even sent to slaugh-
ter to prevent their presence on their
traditional calving lands and historic
range. Hazing is when federal and
state agents play modern cowboys,
using horses, motorized vehicles and
even helicopters to force the buffalo
back into the park. At times, hazes
starkly resemble news footage from
other government-sponsored wars
and genocidal campaigns across the
world. The IBMP allows for repeated
and continuous hazing, even at times
of the year when there are no cattle
in the vicinity. Brucellosis can only
live outside of the body for 24 hours
in direct sunlight, a fact that further
illuminates how ridiculous it is to
haze buffalo months before cattle re-
turn to the area. Hazing operations
exhaust buffalo—forcing them to
run for hours without breaks—and
have killed newborn calves. Hazing
is a barbarous and inhumane—not
to mention wasteful, largely un suc-
cessful and inept—way to “manage”
the last free-roaming and wild Amer-
ican buffalo.

In this issue, like in so many oth-
ers, taxpayer dollars are funding an
asinine policy and aiding in the
destruction of the natural world,
reservations have been delineated
and assimilation policies legislated
for people. A historic connection
was severed so that money could
be made across a tamed and man-
gaged country. Today, many native
people are trying to re-establish
their ancient relationship with the
buffalo and introduce them onto
their reservations. In this light, the
National Park Service’s announced
plans to capture and slaughter up-
wards of 1,700 buffalo this Spring
is even further enraging.

The National Park Service, dur-
ing its Summer fly-over, counted
about 4,700 buffalo—a population
size the IBMP deems too large for
reasons that are entirely political.
Buffalo advocates view this number
as a step forward in buffalo resto-
ratio, noting that pressure from the
livestock industry, not science,
is behind the IBMP. Almost 5,000
buffalo should easily be able to
survive in this area—as this ecosys-
tem once provided for many, many
more. Buffalo could roam, feed and
live in peace in the Yellowstone
wilds—ideally, all the way to Appala-
chia. But that will not be the case
this year, according to the US
Park Service’s announced plan for a
Spring slaughter.

BFC is not just a small wildlife ad-
vocacy group. It is a group fighting
against injustice on the global level.
It is, at its heart, the same battle that
Dar-
fur activists fight, and it affects its
victims the same way global negli-
gence and other acts of violence
do. The campaign’s actions foment
the previously mentioned plan for a
Spring slaughter.

I am often asked, “Why buffalo?”
“Why the Buffalo Field Campaign?”
These are questions to which I
might respond with a discussion of
how incredible the buffalo are, or
how management of them disgusts
me. It seems to me that, truthfully,
I am fighting the same battle against
global injustice as any other activ-
ist. This is the same battle against
corporate or government greed, the
same battle against environmental
destruction and the same battle for
the rights of the less powerful. This
is the same fight for what so many
of us believe is right and good.

BFC will certainly be busy this
season, and the campaign will need
all of the help it can get. If you have
ever wanted to volunteer for BFC,
now is the time!

For more information, visit www.
buffalofieldcampaign.org.

By Miriam Wasser

March-April 2008 Earth First! Page 19
I have climbed hundreds of trees. As a kid, it was a game: Who could carve their initials the highest in the old maple outside the library? Of­
tentimes, it was me; other times, I would climb up to check on my mark only to see someone else had beaten me by an inch. Creeping out on
ever diminishing branches, I'd stretch my arm as far as I could to try to set the new height. That old
maple, as large as it seems in my memories, still could not prepare me for the awe inspired by a truly ancient forest. These trees had sprang from a seed placed not by a landscaper a mere
hundred years ago, but by a gust of wind some 500 years previously, guided to its final location at the site now occupied by the tree I am
staring at in silent disbelief. The forests are following a cycle that was ancient when the first humans were still grunting over the mystery of fire.

I remember the first time I ever went up into the canopy of an ancient Douglas fir tree. It was about 140 feet up a rope to a treesit named
"Guardian." By the time I got to the top, my hands were covered in blisters, but I didn't care. The blisters were soon forgotten as I sat down
on the old pieces of plywood that hung in silent disbelief. The forests are following a cycle that was ancient when the first humans were still grunting over the mystery of fire. The forests are following
a cycle that was ancient when the first humans were still grunting over the mystery of fire.

One had to yell as loudly as possible just to be heard by those land-locked mortals still stuck inside. If the wind blew, sending ripples of movement through the canopy, I could forget about communicating with the ground, as my words were swallowed by the gentle swish­
ing of the branches. Standing among the moss­
covered ancients of a Cascadian forest, I knew that a stage of my life was over. I fell in love.

Not with that one tree or that one grove or even with that one forest. I fell in love with the very essence of forests and wild spaces everywhere. Not surprisingly, I didn't even think about carv­
ing my initials into that ancient Douglas fir. I have spent a lot of time thinking about how I can try to protect those places. No longer would the concept of deforestation be a mere slogan devised to inspire people to recycle. I had made a con­
nection with a place. Walking the aisles of a gro­
cery store, I began seeing the insidious side of the teddy bear selling the comfortable, soft toilet paper. Into my mind sprung visions of an army of cuddly stuffed animals wielding chainsaws. They were cutting down acre after acre of forest, leaving a swath of destruction behind them just to meet the ever-increasing demand for rolls of tissue with the texture of a pillow for some person to wipe their ass with.

Many years have passed since that pivotal moment in my life. I have traveled around the world and seen forests on all the continents, but I will always call Cascadia my home. The sad fact is that the few intact portions of ancient, untouched forests here reside only in areas that were too remote and too hard to get equipment into. Thankfully, people didn't have helicopters to extract trees during the first scans of logging that hit Cascadia some 150 years ago. We are now fighting for these last scraps left over from a time when people considered the forests to be an infinite resource and the only controls in place to mitigate the damage was the limiting factor of how much timber the train could haul.

Imagine seeing this land before humans had such a devastating impact. Imagine traveling through the low-elevation groves of 16-foot­
wide Douglas firs and western red cedars. These groves are nothing more than a memory and a few old photos of loggers sitting inside the gaping wounds they had just inflicted upon the soon-to-topple-and-die, 500-year-old giants. I can only guess as to the beauty and magnitude of the Cascadian forests back before they were riddled with roads and logging projects.

It is an unfortunate reality that, where some may see beauty and essential habitat for the other residents of this planet, others only see dollar signs and profit margins. It boggles my mind that anyone could walk among some of the oldest living organisms on this rock called Planet Earth and, instead of being touched on some profound level, their first thought is begin calculating the board-feet available and the money represented in the "timber."

I defend the forest for the animals that need that "timber" to survive. I defend the forest because there is so little wild space left on this planet, and every inch must be protected. I defend the forest for the future generations of the beautiful and amazing species that reside inside the groves of hemlocks and fir trees. I defend the forest because I am unwilling to sit and watch yet another bit of nature trampled and crushed under humanity's ever­
increasing footprint.

I do not defend the forest so that it may be cut or even logged. I do not defend the forest so that the next generation of humans can experience the majesty of the wild. I urge as much as I can the forest so that a recreation

source is saved for off-roaders, hunters or casual campers. These are all reasons given to try to per­
suade the general populace to give a damn about the destruction taking place. Our entire reality is being turned over and made into an anthropo­
centric diatribe that many have lost the ability to see the value of nature for nature's sake.

Even how we talk about this planet reflects our world is not a breeding female, as the term "Mother Nature" seems to imply. However, if such an anthropomorphic analog is to be used, then we use it as an inspiration to take self-styled "guardians" of the Earth who have the boot of humanity placed firmly upon her neck, slowly crushing the life out of her. As our collective footprint increases, so does the weight of that boot. It won't be much longer until we are awakened one night by a catastrophic snap echoing across the land, marking the murder of our Earth and all that is precious. It will not be long before we are forced down the sickn­

ess growing in me. I have the utmost respect for individuals who do not defend the forest so that a recreation equipment to lock down to while the horizon

Why We Do What We Must
Is already beginning to turn colorful, from the comforting embrace of black to the betraying tones of yellow and orange. There have been so many moments in the past history of the Earth that only now are we realizing the depth of the damage and the harm it has caused. The natural world is not just another stage in our endless quest to stop the spread of worthy ideas and the destruction of the planet. We have understood why people take the easy road of apathy, but there are always those of us who continue to stand up for the planet. There are those of us who are willing to sit back and watch the destruction of the Earth. The battle is hard, and there is a very real possibility we won't win. Humanity seems intent on ripping apart the very fabric of life, but we will do what we can when we can.

Because of us and other dedicated individuals, the forests have a chance for survival.

We may be on an irreversible course to the annihilation of most life on this planet, but we will never give up fighting for what life remains. We will never give up and accept the razing of every wild place on this planet and the continued disappearance of species after species. I have no choice in this. That first tree that I climbed is still standing. After all these years, I can still go back and sit under it and remember the blisters and how scared I was. I can be reminded of the moment I fell in love, and that love is what has sustained me along with the anger that is invoked by the sound of every chain-saw being wielded by greed. The Earth is being destroyed, and every one of us is responsible. The only choice left is what we are going to do about that: accept the destruction or act out against it. The Earth is dying but more than that, it is being murdered. I want to be remembered as a person who stood up, pushed aside the apathy inherent in the comfort we enjoy as a society, and took action to defend the wild and to put the Earth first!

Golden Cascadia has lost sleep at forest campaigns all over the world and encourages others to remember, "You can sleep when you're dead!"

Can Emails Lead to Second-Degree Felony Extortion?

BY SOPHIA

In October 2005, the Seattle Police Department showed up at the Seattle Central Community College Library computer lab just 45 minutes after Dylan Barr had finished sending out another flood of emails to Washington Mutual Bank to discourage its involvement in Huntington Life Sciences (HLS), one of the world's largest animal testing companies. The plainclothes cops peered over the shoulders of various computer users until, eventually, they arrested Barr on the grounds that he was looking at an animal rights website and was therefore the person most likely to have sent emails.

Barr had carried out a "denial of service" attack. Over the course of his two-week campaign, he sent more than 5,000 emails to employees of Washington Mutual. Most of the emails contained phrases such as "Dump HLS," repeated for hundreds of pages. A few of the emails stated, "This is what happens to companies that invest in HLS," with a link to the Stop Huntington Animal Cruelty (SHAC) website or the StopHuntingtonLives.com website.

Barr was arrested on the grounds that "this movement is not in decline. Although the government wanted to make an example of him by prosecuting his case, the real lesson Barr hopes we take from his experience is that "this movement is not in decline. You are not isolated. There are millions of you, and no court will ever be able to stop the spread of worthy ideas and the actions that arise from them."

Barr urges everyone to continue taking action to shut down corporations like HLS and to demonstrate support for imprisoned victims of the Green Scare. He also needs help with his restitution expenses. If you want to donate to his restitution payments or hold a fundraiser for him, contact support@dyland@gmail.com or donate online at www.supportdyland.org.

Of course, Barr also made progress on some larger goals: inspiring people to take action despite the Green Scare, showing solidarity with the SHAC 7 (see EFLI November-December 2006) and other political prisoners, and, of course, shutting down HLS. Washington Mutual ceased its investment in HLS three days after Barr was arrested.

After Barr was released from jail on $15,000 bail, there were no immediate charges filed against him. Still, his apartment was searched and ransacked, and he and his girlfriend were questioned by the FBI (though, of course, they would not speak to the feds). Finally, in March 2007, more than a year later and after Barr had been acting alone and was not even aware that there had been any Seattle SHAC demonstrations. Barr was sentenced to 29 days of community service and $25,000 of restitution payments, complete with a 12-percent interest rate.

As Barr explained in a recent article in Bite Back magazine, there are lessons to be learned from his experience. First, the cops can determine the location from which an email is sent, but they won't know it was you if you are using publicly accessible computers and get out of the place fast. (Obvi­ously, it's also wise to avoid leaving fingerprints or being caught on camera.)

Although the government wanted to make an example of him by prosecuting his case, the real lesson Barr hopes we take from his experience is that "this movement is not in decline. You are not isolated. There are millions of you, and no court will ever be able to stop the spread of worthy ideas and the actions that arise from them."
LAKOTA FREEDOM DELEGATION

Declares Withdrawal From All US Treaties

Press conference at which the Lakota Freedom Delegation announced withdrawal.

continued from page 1

hit more of the declaration's back­
ground and each of their visions. When I interviewed Russell Means, one of the founders of the American Indian Movement, he ref­
ered to the Lakota land as the “Re­
public of Lakotah.”

His vision includes constructing a provisional Lakota government to be replaced eventually by a governing structure based on the elder women, as is traditional in Lakota society. He also explained a lot of the legal measures the Republic of Lakotah has been taking and will continue to take to reclaim land stolen by the US government, and concrete steps to ensure an economically strong

independent and sovereign 

This in contrast to what Canupa Gluha Mani spoke to me about. Also known as Duane Martin, Sr. Canu­

pa Gluha Mani is a member of the Strong Heart Civil Rights Movement. While he acknowledged the work that Means is focused on as impor­
tant, he explained more about the psychic shift the Lakota people need to make toward a place of love and communication. He referred to the Lakota Oyate (People) rather than the Republic of Lakotah.

Although the two of them both signed the declaration, they have differences at this point. By includ­ing both of them in this article, I mean to explain “a wider range of the meaning of this declaration.

A History of Struggle

The decision to withdraw is one that has deep roots. Looking to atrocities of the past, the reasons behind this move are clear. The La­

kota have survived massacres like the one by US troops at Wounded Knee in 1890, the infamous reser­

vation boards, and lack of basic civil rights, unyielding gov­

ernment repression and infiltration, and institutionalized racism.

Yet from the Battle of Little Big­
horn (Custer’s defeat) in 1876 to the 1973 standoff at Wounded Knee to a history of activism in the battle against corporate takeover of their land, the Lakota have always fought back.

Still, the insidious repression con­tinues. Means explained this situation to the Journal. “When you ... an Indian on an Indian reservation, you have no protections by the US Constitu­tion,” he said. “No protections against the courts, against government of any kind—
even tribal government. You have no protections against corporations or individual crimes by white Indians; we have no protections! None!”

The Lakota were forced off their land, the “Dakota Territory,” and

onto reservations in the 19th cen­
tury. The area they were allotted continued to shrink after that. Con­

ditions on most Lakota reservations are terrible: The life expectancy for men is only 44 years (and much higher for women). Diseases that are most unknown elsewhere in the US are rampant on reservations. The Lakota suicide rate is 800 times the US average, and the infant mortality rate is 200 times the US average.

The Lakota Pine Ridge Reserva­tion, located in one of the poor­
est areas in the country, is a case in point. “Contrast them to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and see what’s going on. That will make enough tears fall out of your face, and you will understand why,” Canupa Gluha Mani told the Jour­

nal. He was arrested last summer for blocking a road from Nebraska to keep alcohol from entering the dry reservation. “The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is the death trap of America, where all these colonial practices going on to this god-forsaken day—and nobody in the gov­

ernment system wants to do anything about it. That’s an insult to us!”

Things are getting worse in the rest of the US, too. Ac­

cording to Means, “That’s what scares us the most: In­

dian policy is now on your heads. Your health system, what there is of it, was bred and born on an Indian reser­

vation. Your entire public educational system: bred and born on an Indian reser­

vation. Your land policy: Get rid of the family farmer and give the land to a corporation, be­

cause the family farmer is in the way of progress. So your land policy has been bred and born on an Indian reser­

vation. These major factors of your life, along with the deprivation and the continual degradation of your constitutional rights by the imple­

mentation of fear: that’s bred and born on a reservation. When we see America becoming a big Indian res­

ervation, we don’t want any part of it. We have to maintain our integrity and our identity as a distinct people. We have our own value system. We have our own societal structures that are becoming extinct.”

Land and People

There is a reason that land is the focal point of this declaration. Land is often tied to community, to spirit­

uality, to well-being and to health. In the case of the Lakota, their land was outright stolen, the rivers were dammed, their sacred mountains

were mined for gold, and the buf­

falo that were so important to their way of life were slaughtered. Now, more than a century later, they must continue to fend off corporate attempts to use their land for min­

ing, nuclear energy facilities, hog farms and other industrial uses.

Speaking about the current state of the Earth in the hands of the corporations, Canupa Gluha Mani said, “Our trees are getting stripped right off of her like her pubic hairs! Those are hers; they’re her hairs from her mountain. The clouds are polluted with all these chemicals from these... corporate industry plants that are sending this toxic waste into the air.”

“There’s an old saying among the Lakota people,” Canupa Gluha Mani continued, outlining the re­

ponsibility of the people to de­

fend the Earth. “When you keep

stripped away, it’s because we are stubborn enough to allow it to happen. We don’t know how to say ‘no’ anymore!”

Promises and Lies

“The government officials always stated, ‘As long as the grass grows and the rivers flow, this land and these rivers will be yours.’ Well, that’s all a lie,” related Canupa Gluha Mani emphatically.

The Lakota are pulling out of trea­
ties with the US because, although Article Six of the Constitution states that “all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the author­

ity of the US, shall be the supreme law of the land,” it seems that the US never intended to honor any of them. Treaties of “peace and friend­
ship” were signed in the early years by US troops and settlers out of the area. In the 1870s, General George Custer charged into the sacred Black Hills, beginning the rush for gold mining in the region. Ever since, the rights of the Lakota to self-determination and sovereignty have been violated and violently repressed so that the US economy could grow.

1974 to 2007

The predecessor of the 2007 decla­
rations came in 1974 with the Declaration of Continuing Indepen­
dence. It was written by the first International Indian Treaty Council, which was attended by more than 5,000 people represent­
ing 97 tribes. Means, who was in attendance, remembers: “In the 1800s, had never gone to school and had been raised by people who were born free. They had a
A pleasantly surprising. I guess you have one good deed in you — wolf to several phone companies, who cut off CFI wipers used to eavesdrop on suspected criminals this January. More than half of the FBI’s 990 phone bills were not paid on time, so the phone companies pulled the plug, resulting in lost evidence. Michael Cappio, a former FBI agent and current American Civil Liberties Union national security policy counsel, put it this way: "If the telecoms believe it when the FBI says the warrant is in the mail, but not when it says the check is in the mail.

If anyone should know how to break the law at this point, it’s the FBI. Don’t they know by now that you have to obey the little laws if you’re going to break the big ones?


The wall also goes against a 2007 Environmental Impact Statement released for the area and would pose a threat to wildlife. Homeland Security says it will seize property even without the consent of the landowners (largely made up of indig- enous people).

A not-so-corruptulent-cleric but wicked- pixie-fili-wolf Bishop Dom Luiz Flávio Cappio of Brazil, who, after a 24-hour hunger strike, was rushed to the hospital after losing consciousness. Bishop Cappio, 61, began his hunger strike on November 14, when he protested the Supreme Court of Brazil’s ruling in favor of a project that would divert water from the San Francisco River, South America’s fourth largest river. This would cause lasting environmental damage and steal a water source from thousands of citizens. The majority of the diverted water would go to large farms owned by wealthy landowners. Only four percent of the water would go to the homes of poor families in the area, who would be charged a fee to use it. He said after hospitalization that he would "interrupt the fast but not the fight.

A backstabbing, sleeping-with-the-enemy, you’ve-gone-bananas, licksippity putz to Rainbow Alliance, which is con- tinuing its pressure campaign. Rainbow Alliance receives 30 percent of its funding by certifying industrial logging through its Smartwood program. It is the largest such certification in the world. A dozen boycotts, including the National Trust for Nature Conservation, follow Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) guidelines, which Rainbow Alliance claims en- sure the conservation of biodiversity.

In truth, FSC guidelines allow first-time log- ging of pristine ancient forests. In addition to enabling legal, unsustainable logging, Smartwood has issued FSC certificates to various companies involved in illegal logging. Also, Rainbow Alli- ance has issued "ethical certificates" to Chiquita, a banana corporation involved in illegal deals with paramilitary operations in rural areas of Co- lombia in order to "protect" its certified banana plantations.

A heartless, the-wild-isn’t-Six-Flags- themepark, just-have-to-poodle-you­ again poodle to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). They want to start a one-year experimental harassment program against Mexican gray wolves. It would allow people to shoot the wolves with paintballs when they are in the vicinity of livestock and human residences. "We, USFWS, will modify our permits to allow the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to harass wolves using paintballs. Paint- balls deliver a stinging blow that will scare the wolf away and reinforce their natural fear of hu- mans.... We will issue paintguns and paintballs to people who have a documented history of in- teraction with problem wolves.

A totally missing-the-point, hey-you-re­ not-Poseidon poodle to James Lovelock (best known for his Gaia theory) and Chris Rap- ley, who have been plotting with a billionaire to build the barefoot bills that would alter climate change with pipes in the sea. They claim that this will "rejigger marine ecosystems to counter climate change.

They want to place 100,000 buoyant pipes in the ocean to better circulate nutrient-rich water, supposedly leading to more algae, which would reduce carbon dioxide. Their vision is that the 100-yard-long, 30-foot-diameter pipes would float in the ocean and use flaps to increase the mixing of warm and cool waters. Please join us in reality for your next scientific breakthrough, felia.

Plans for the Future and "Bringing Back the Way"

When asked, Means and Canupa Gluha Mani explained some proj- ects in the works and next steps for carrying out this withdrawal.

For Means, following interna- tional and US law is of the utmost importance. "We are not going to ever be involved in confrontation of any kind. It would not gain us any- thing, because we’ve already tried it. We’ve tried armed struggle. It has not worked," he said. Wounded Knee in 1973, and strug- gled against the American govern- ment, militarily fought against it.

He explained concerns about the sucking in the works for the Lakota terri- tory. These include setting up a La- kota government led by the elder women; filing liens on (in other words, reclaiming) all federal, state and local government property within Lakota territory, including the Black Hills and Mount Rush- more; setting up a national Lakota bank and currency; and generating power based on wind, water, and geothermal energy. Another priori- ty is opening up communication between the Lakota reservation and federal and state governments within Lakota territory, as well as with other indigenous nations.

Canupa Gluha Mani also wants a way to "realize our self-determina- tion," membership in Congress and other US government officials. He empha- sized that, in order to become free, the Lakota must work on "bring- ing back the way." These words are only a weak English translation of an original Lakota phrase, but it means that the way of love and responsibility to others and to the Earth is essential. He explained that he uses the phrase "to understand the type of dignity and prosperity we once had as a free people, an independent nation." We have to take the secret to this. I’m confident we will prevail. And when a nation becomes free and independent, then and only then do we really prosper as a people again. And dignity will return. That’s how you save humanity. When you look at the real picture of reality, nobody implements freedom. No- body talks about love. Love is never taught in the home; neither is lan- guage. What does nature tell us? We have become the wretched refuge within our own environment.

That’s why we do sit down with... I’m confident we will prevail. We’ve tried armed struggle. I’ve been in the colonizers and only a weak English translation of an original Lakota phrase. It means that the way of love and responsibility to others and to the Earth is essential. He explained that he uses the phrase "to understand the type of dignity and prosperity we once had as a free people, an independent nation." We have to take the secret to this. I’m confident we will prevail. And when a nation becomes free and independent, then and only then do we really prosper as a people again. And dignity will return. That’s how you save humanity. When you look at the real picture of reality, nobody implements freedom. Nobody talks about love. Love is never taught in the home; neither is land- language. What does nature tell us? We have become the wretched refuge within our own environment.

When don’t sit down with...
Drought

When I was a child, a greenhouse seemed exotic—poinsettias peering out at snow, Easter lilies white as wedding gowns, glass mysterious with the breath of plants.

Now, we all live in one, the sun a giant gro-light, the air a haze of halogen.

No pounding on the glass will set us free.

Someday from the lemur-eyes of gas masks, we will see faint outlines of our ghosts—lisping breath from proboscis-hoses.

Stunted corn will be plowed under for wheat fields that do not germinate: Shriveled leaves will blanket the ground white as drifts of snow that once held the prints of angels.

Sleds will hang on museum walls, children's ice skates rest behind glass.

If science concocts a giant mirror, pale antidote to deflect sun, will it crack like a glacier?

Children, ask grandpa, when you gather at his knee, to tell you about when there were birds who rode on air you couldn't see.

—Constance Vogel

Shadowland

We have become a country where truth and scientific facts are pushed into the shadows and hidden from the light of day.

Since the late '40s we have been living better through chemistry and dying sooner. The war was won but truth was lost.

We developed pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers.

We won the war over Japan with atomic bombs and malaria with DDT.

Outmoded scientific thinking opened Pandora's box plauging the population with cancer, diminished the ozone layer and heated the Earth with CO2 concentrations in the air.

Aristotle's scheme of studying the world by breaking it down to discrete parts is still in vogue though we know better.

Though of many parts, nature is of a piece.

When we eliminate a thread of life's fabric, the whole is weakened and diminished.

Our practice of killing what we don't like or find useful is as old as man but now reaching new heights, poisoning other life and inserting into our cells time delayed death.

Half of the men and a third of women have or will get cancer. While we heat the Earth and poison our bodies look at our fields and sky and shudder.

Look at our government and vomit.

Look at our corporations and curse.

Look at our justice system and howl.

—Sid Bridges

Blue Whales

Blue whales are out there somewhere, six thousand of the hundreds of thousands that once roamed the planet's seas.

Now separated from each other by thousands of miles, they moan their loneliness four octaves below middle C, so low, so slow, we humans cannot even hear. But on our ocean liners and in our lighthouse kitchens, the cutlery jangles on the table, the glass pane vibrates in its frame, and we know something nearby is crying out in need.

Two thousand miles away, they can be heard and answered, the loudest sound made by a living thing, and we don't know what it says, but only that, speeded up ten times, what we hear is a long, blue, unearthly note, a gurgle so deep we slip down into our own loneliness, grateful that they are carrying for us something bigger than we could hold.

—Gail Rudd Entrekin

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—Gail Rudd Entrekin
Mike Thought Big. He Was a Warrior.
He Will Be Missed.

BY KATAMI CARES

Mike Edge died on December 21, after a struggle with cancer. Some of y'all may remember Mike as Sketchy Mike or Chattanooga Mike. An active member of Katahah EPI in Chattanooga and Knoxville, Tennessee, he was 26 years old.

Mike was completely dedicated to stopping mountaintop removal coal mining (MTR). After his participation in Mountain Justice Summer (MJS) 2005, he went to engineering school to learn about designing better windmills and other alternative power sources.

"I decided that the best way for me to duke it out with King Coal is to fight his technology for a career," said Mike in a letter to his friends. "I'm keeping going and get a doctrate afterward for teaching and my friends. Not a day passed—even when he was in pain—without him finding something to lighten the mood and heart. When he told his mother about his cancer, Mike said, "Mom, I'm dying of cancer, but guess what? I might have had to breathe smog and eat dirt for years to get where I am today."

Among his efforts to improve life on this planet, Mike went to Idaho to work on wind turbine construction in the dead of winter. He also took part in treesits in California and protests in the East. He always promoted the conservation of water, electricity, air, animals and human life.

Making Nature Poetry "Cool" Again

BY DENNIS FRITZINGER


Poetry has played a part in Earth First! since its inception. Poet Gary Snyder read at Earth First! fundraisers, and San Francisco poet Art Goodtimes volunteered to edit a page of poetry in the Earth First! Journal that he named "Armed With Visions." Moreover, poetry made its appearance at campsites, demonstrations and every rally, with poets filling the role of entertainer, mischief-maker and tribal storyteller. They shared this role with Earth First! members, often the first to access to the printed page.

Fast forward to 2007. An Englishman named Neil Astley, the guiding light and founder of Bloodaxe Books (a publishing company devoted solely to poetry), turned his considerable editorial skills to the seemingly impossible task of making nature poetry "cool" again.

Citing a bias that some hold against nature poetry, he points out that this is a misconception of the ignorant, who are not aware that nature poetry may be relevant by keeping up with the times. "Daffodils," by English poet William Wordsworth, is in some ways a quintessential nature poem, yet it's pure calendar art—it leaves out the smoketacks in the background and the roting fish in the foreground. To distinguish itself from the Wordsworthian kind, contemporary nature poetry that brings in those modern details is now called "ecopoetry"—a poetry that embraces nature and humans' (often negative) relationships to nature.

This book, Earth Shattering: Ecopoems, is basically a dirge. If anything, it's depressing: a catalog of human misbehavior through time, beginning with 17th- and 18th-century England and continuing into the global present. It's a pity that there aren't more victories we can celebrate.

Still, there's no denying the book's power. Astley is a clever and knowledgeable anthologist. He provides us with many poems important for historical reasons, many poems that challenge the way we look at the world, a few poems that are so sublime I can only look on them with awe, and some that are so terrifying that I want to shitek and run away.

A bookseller is in the business of selling books, yet I doubt this is Astley's purpose here, given that he has tackled such a difficult subject. Instead, I think that Astley has assumed the activist's role, in which one gleefully informs the audience of a few inconvenient truths.

Earth Shattering: Ecopoems hasn't received the attention it deserves. However, this book has staying power. It presents a considerable intellectual edifice that is a bit more challenging than the latest scandal coming out of Hollywood. London or Washington, DC.

Dennis is active with the Warrior Poets Society. He also compiles and maintains Armed With Visions, the poetry section found inside each issue of the Earth First! Journal. To submit an original poem, send it to Warrior Poets Society, POB 14501, Berkeley, CA 94772-5501.
Hymns for Caged Friend

by DONNY

Free Jeff Luers, Free the World, compiled and released by Friends of Jeffrey "Free" Luers, 2007.

For those of you who have been living in a cave for the past seven years, Jeffrey "Free" Luers is an eco-activist who helped torch three SUVs in 2000. In June 2001, he was sentenced to 22 years and eight months in prison. Last year, the Oregon Court of Appeals agreed to withdraw this unusually draconian sentence and issue a new one that may be as much as 15 years shorter. Hopefully, he'll be "free" with the rest of us very soon.

Of course, all of this legal wrangling requires a lot of money. To help cover the expenses, Friends of Jeffrey "Free" Luers has put together this compact disc. It is compiled entirely of songs donated by Luers' support group. All of these songs are either favorites of Luers' or favorites of his support group.

Perhaps, I think it's really interesting to get a glimpse into the musical tastes of people I consider my... (my mind; even)... and more insidious beast that endures. Anyone who has read the Feedback-laden punk of the Happy Bastards "rows" and "TchKung!'s dirge-like "violence" separately, currying more vegans, but it would never be wishy-washy corporate compromise. Torres, AK Press, 2007.


Making a Killing is written for someone without much knowledge of animal rights, but with some understanding of Marxism and the philosophy of other such dinosaurs. In other words, it is not for me, but maybe it is successful in explaining the suffering of non human animals to folks who would otherwise be disinterested. I hope so, as this seems to be the point of this book. Author Bob Torres almost lost me when talking about animals as being part of the working class, but he got back to terms I can understand when he described the conditions in slaughterhouses for both the human and non human animals involved. He also made all the right connections between the intertwined systems of oppression: racism, sexism and speciesism.

I'm frequently skeptical of people who criticize capitalism but don't seem to talk about how the violence and more insidious beast that enables its evils. Torres doesn't go so far as to talk about this as a destructor of all things good and wholesome, but he does acknowledge the hierarchical way of looking at the world that limits our consciousness by the culture movement as any, so it's fitting that this is how the compilation shapes up.

Highlights for me include a live version of Casey Neil's biocentric call of wild, "Flaming Arrows," "(ch)Kung's dirge-like "New Earth Rising;" the feedback-laden punk of the Happy Bastards in "Great White Plague;" and Desert Rat's always relevant defense of "Eugenics the Anarchist." Ultimately, my favorite selection has to be the extremely touching "Song for Rod Coronado," by Dana Lyons. That guy just has a special knack for grabbing his listeners and mesmerizing them with his voice and guitar.

Except for one hip-hop tune by Grand Prix, the rest of the album is rounded out primarily by folk songs from Francine Allen, Thunder Craig, Mill a-Uile Rud, Spring, the Lonesome Shack and David Rowics. The last track is a speech Luers gave from his prison cell to the 2005 Environmental Law Conference about the urgency of working to halt global warming. While he is often thought of primarily as a treesitter for his co-founding of the old-growth canopy defense group Red Cloud Thunder and his constant vigilance at the Fall Creek treest in Oregon, it's important not to create a one-dimensional image of anybody. In Luers' case, he sees forest defense and the need to stop global warming as intertwined in a larger eco-revolutionary struggle. When he committed the arson he is in prison for, it was very specifically to draw attention to the role SUVs play in causing climate change. This connection has re-established a central point for Luers ever since.

Luers summed up the situation in an interview with "Free" Luers, write to POB 3, Eugene, OR 97440 or visit www.freeluernow.org. The support group has also set up donation gift packages to reward supporters for giving various amounts of money. Inquire with them for details.

To get in touch with Luers while he awaits resentencing, write to Jeffrey Luers #1366729, Lane County Adult Corrections, 101 West 5th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401-2695.

Donny likes to rock hard, but he also likes to take it easy and listen to nice songs about good people.

Marx, Murder and Madness

by TIM COMPST


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Torres' proposals for activism beyond being vegan and recruiting for the team are vague. It was reminiscent of reading a Daniel Quinn book wherein the reader is introduced to the concept of "freedom" left with much of a clue of what to do with it besides tell other people. After all of his criticisms of the animal rights industry, Torres says nothing about the ways the animal rights movement has been successful in recent years. What about the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty campaign? What about the fur stores that have closed? What about the fact that there are no longer any horse slaughterhouses in the US? And what about those "violent" tactics that result in animals living their lives in freedom instead of in cages?

In the end, Making a Killing may very well be a good book for re-reading more vegans, but it would do well to expand on the positive elements of the animal rights movement. Making a Killing is meant to be an introduction for an outsider. If I were reading this as my introduction to animal rights, I probably feel fomenting guilt. If you present this book to someone in an attempt to open their eyes to this crucial struggle, you could also be telling them that there are effective animal liberation struggles going on.

"Vegan Cuisine deserves to be totally OK...
For those who are hesitant to address our own internalized sexism, racism, anti-Semitism, ableism, ageism or homophobia because it might marginalize the needs of the Earth, this book documents the result of such a strategy. By not proactively creating a safe forum to explore problems like sexism and racism in your organization, you silence important and critical voices and limit your revolutionary vision and impact. In the case of the Weathermen, Wilkerson feels they were "doomed to crash and burn."

Finally, a problem that Wilkerson only hints at—but which was at the forefront of my mind—is how the Weathermen seemed to rely on the idea that struggle served as a symbol, that clear slogans in and of itself would collectively change the minds and hearts of US citizens and spark a revolution. Earth First! appears to be having this problem, too; symbolic struggle and meaningful change seem to suggest different roads to freedom. I took from Wilkerson's reflections that this phenomenon might be a symptom of whiteness. Symbolic protest played a key role in SDS and the Weathermen, while the Black Panther Party (BPP) had both symbols to demonstrate its political framework and practical local solutions, such as free breakfast for children. The Weathermen leaders believed these efforts took away from the more pressing goals of sustained confrontations with police and citizens, which the BFP found to be dangerous and negative. It is important to speak freely about these issues in any organization, to think about who has the freedom to do what and how much our perspective has to do with our skin color. Without a diverse set of ideas coming from people different than yourself, the scope of radical change can only reach so far.

Wilkerson says very clearly that the Weathermen were sexist in their reactions at all. I don't really know if it was inherent in the Weathermen's whiteness is hardly marginalized at all. I don't really know if it crossed her mind. This book is brutally personal, pain­

ingely chronicling how a white, well-

off, Republican-bred young woman went underground and accrued a 1,000-page FBI file before turning 25. If you want the violence and political analysis, I would skip the first 100 pages. Yet, Wilkerson's early years may help your judgmental relatives understand how you ended up on the radical left, as her transformation is so gradual they may not even notice and could end up wanting to plant a pipe bomb themselves! I wouldn't continue reading after the explosion, since the end is a huge disappointment. I read through all of Wilkerson's action and reflection, as she poses relevant questions about how to create a different world. I was waiting for a very complex and nuanced analysis, as well as a political philosophy with specific models of action, but I got nothing. Wilkerson just wraps up her time in jail and her decision to become a teacher without any reflection. Rather than having an even clearer picture of revolutionary change and how to go about creating it, she simply writes, "I am discovering more about leadership. I have a new appreciation for the power of a grassroots movement."

Wilkerson ends the book suggesting that it is naive to act with a clear vision of revolution because one won't come, and we all must be patient and do the best that we can. So, if you can stand the narration of a burned-out activist, vitally important questions can be explored in this book. Anyone taking active steps to make the world a safe place for all its inhabitants should keep searching for answers that will sustain us through the important work, keeping us strong and inspired, but also mindful of lessons from the past. Joanna wishes she hadn't fallen for the "maybe this book will be written by a feminist" trick and just read Bill Ayers' Weathermen memoir, Fugitive Days, instead.

Wilkerson at a women's demonstration during the Days of Rage
this look at the legal circus surrounding MTR is a useful tool for anyone who supports the mountains and people of Appalachia. As we fight to tear down the larger neocolonial system, we need to educate ourselves about its thefts and trades while it still exists. This book outlines King Coal’s strongholds in Appalachia, Wall Street and Washington, DC, in a clear, engaging way. Only toward the end do the numerous lawsuits and appeals begin to blur together. Reading Coal River gave us a better understanding of the courts and regulatory agencies, such as the West Virginia Department of "Environmental Protection" and the Army Corps of Engineers, as well as an unsettling reminder of the political power wielded by corporate actors and their money.

Shnayerson’s primary credentials came from his role as a contributing editor of Vanity Fair, so it’s wise to approach this book with the understanding that it is crafted in a similar style. We had been hoping for a better balance of optimism, activism and social impacts, which, sadly, this is not. The people’s stories are powerful and need to be heard and Coal River does a good job of telling them, but Shnayerson addresses ecology only as it is most directly relevant to human communities. His use of personal narratives to poignantly describe the recent history of mining in Appalachia highlights the strengths of individuals in the struggle.

In his description of the people who have come out to support coalfield residents (Mountain Justice Summer participants and Earth Firsters, for example), Shnayerson perpetuates detrimental stereotypes based on appearance, and he shows a lack of understanding of the efforts at cultural sensitivity that these activists strive for. While the author gives well-deserved credit to the inspiring local organizers he follows in the book, readers are left with the impression that Mountain Justice Summer folks came to the coalfields for one Summer of marching and then went back from whence they came. Many have stuck by their commitment to the mountains and the people of Appalachia by remaining in the coalfields as allies or by working in their own communities to bring awareness to what is at stake and to hold the corporate scavengers accountable.

Shnayerson recounts the rich history of many longtime coalfield residents, but he glancingly omits the even further-reaching roots of the indigenous people in this region. The one mention of native peoples is an offensive comparison of a protest march with a Native American funeral procession. Shnayerson does get some things right. In his portrayal of Don Blankenship, he couldn’t have created a nastier, more ruthless character if he’d been writing fiction! The stories of bribery, union busting, negligence, buying elections, intimidation, exploitation and unabashed greed show the danger of a capitalist system in which one man with enough money can wield power without limit.

We would hope that a book that illuminates how pointless it is to assume legal victories can bring about lasting change would end with the seemingly obvious conclusion that systemic change is necessary. Shnayerson demonstrates how these systems operate, but never challenges their existence overall. In fact, he tries to leave readers with the hope that change is possible if the next presidential administration would simply upend the law. However, MTR can’t be solved as an isolated problem. It is a representation of this whole society, and as long as this society is based on runaway consumption, no technological replacements or amount of mining reform will save us.
The following list is a small sample of the total number of political prisoners and prisoner support groups worldwide. Regulations for mail sent to prisoners vary according to individual prisons. Before sending monetary donations, stamps, books or packages, ask prisoners what the regulations are. Assume that the authorities read everything you send to a prisoner. When prisoners ask if it is OK to send a particular item, it is best not to discuss their cases or related topics with them. Although some prisoners are listed together, they must be treated separately. Prisoners can obtain a detailed list of the known 10-11 items of mail allowable, POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. Individuals who wish to sponsor a prisoner's subscription should send $20 to the same address.

Prisoners and Legal Update

- Rod Copper and six others were guilty to one count of distribution of information related to the assembly of explosives and weapons of mass destruction. The government has agreed to ask for a year prison sentence, and drop charges from other cases in Tucson, Arizona, and Washington, DC. For more information, visit www.supportrod.org.
- Chris Mcintosh, who is serving eight years for the Joint Animal Liberation Front (JALF)/Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arson of a McDonald's, has made a number of statements justifying rape and racist violence. For this reason, the Journal is withdrawing its support for Mcintosh and removing him from this listing.

Awaiting Trial or Sentencing

- Mumia Abu-Jamal, #A48335, SCI Green Grotto, 233 C-6586, 351 North 3rd St, Harrisburg, PA 17102, USA. Serving the results of his May appeals hearing. Abu-Jamal, a politically active journal- iser, was framed for the murder of a cop in 1981. For more information, visit www.freemumia.org.
- Richard Lucas, #15872, Van- couver Island Regional Correction Center, 4216 Wilkinson Rd, Victoria, BC, V8C 5B2, Canada. Appealing extradition to the US to stand trial for alleged involvement in the arsons of logging trucks and vehicles owned by a sand and gravel company. For more information, visit www.supportrj.com.
- Natasha Avery, NR8987, and Heather Nicholson, VM4859, HMP Bronzefield, Deanston St, Wotteridge, Tweedles, TW 3JZ, UK. Attending trial for alleged conspiracy to blackmaill people linked to Huntington Life Sciences (HLS). Avery is also serving 16 months for using abusive words and behavior toward a fox hunter.
- Mel Broughton, TW9138, HMP Woodhill, Tattenhoe St, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK4 4DA, UK. Attending trial for conspiracy to blackmail and possession of explo- sives in connection with the campaign against Oxford University's primate lab.
- Amado Delfino Caro Hernandez and Oscar Maria Caro, CERESO, Miahuahtlan de Por- fiazo Diaz, Hall B, Cell 5, Oaxaca, MEXICO. Arrested, Oct 17, 2000, charged with Resistance Against Animal Torture.
- Jeffrey "Free" Luers, #1306729, Lane County Adult Corrections, 101 W 18th St, Eugene, OR. Luers' resentencing for an arson at a car dealership and the attempted arson of an oil truck is scheduled for February 28. For more information, visit www.freeluersnow.org.

Animal Liberation

- Jon Alewine, TB4885, John Smith, TB4887, and Kenneth R. Duckworth, TB3986, HMP Lowtham Grange, Lowtham, Nottingham, NG14 7DA, UK. Serving 12 years for conspiracy to blackmail a smaller supplier of guinea pigs for experiments. Greg Avery, TA7450, HMP Win- chester, Romney Rd, Winchester, SO22 5DF, UK. Attending trial for alleged conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS.
- Jacob Conney, #93501-11, SCI Danbury, Rte 57, Danbury, CT 06811, USA. Serving four years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC). For more information, visit www.supporthake.org.
- Donald Currie, A36604A, HMP Parkhurst, Cliffs Road, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 SNX, UK. Serving an "indefinite sentence" of at least six years for the release date or upper limit—for arson against targets linked to the vivisection industry.
- Lauren Gazzala, #93497-011, SCI Danbury, Rte 57, Danbury, CT 06811, USA. Serving 4.5 years for conspiracy charges stemming from her work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.supportlauren.com.
- Sarah Gisborne, LTS393, HMP Downview, Sutton Ln, Sutton, Sur- ry, SM3 9AQ, UK. Serving 5 years for conspiracy to damage vehicles owned by people linked to HLS.
- Joshua Harper, #29429-066, FMC Schenectady, Box 500-14-A, Schenectady, NY 12301, USA. Serving seven years for arson at a lumber company and a hybrid poplar farm. For more information, visit www.supportjonathan.org.
- Jonathan Paul, #07167-085, FCI Phoenix, 37910 N 45th Ave, Phoe- nix, AZ 85068, USA. Serving 4.25 years for the ALF/ELF arson of a horse slaughterhouse and meat-packing plant. For more information, visit www.supportjonathan.org.
- Joyanna "Sadie" Zacher, #36360- 086, FCI Dublin, Camp Parks, Unit E, 5701 8th St, Dublin, CA 94568, USA. Serving nearly eight years for ELF arsons at an SUV dealership and a hybrid poplar farm.

II Silvestre

II Silvestre is an Italian eco-an- cientist group whose members have been framed for a variety of direct actions. In May, Alessio Perondi and William Freddiani were found guilty of terrorist conspiracy and participating in direct action. They are under house arrest pending their appeal. Ragusa and five others who are free on bail are awaiting trial for allegedly using explosives to damage power lines.

Costantinio Ragusa, Casa Circondatale, Via Prati Nuovi 7, 27058 Voghera (PV), Italy. Serving more than two years for an arson at a company engaged in an anti-genetic-engineering protest.

Indigenous Resistance

- Byron Shane of Chubbuck Clan, #07099-051, USP Beaumont, POB 26030, Beaumont, Texas, North America. Served 10 years for sabotage stemming from the agitation of federal agents, estate and bank robbery. "Oso Blanco" funded money that he stole from banks to the Zapatista National Liberation Army in Mexico.
- Leonard Pettier, #89637-132, USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17042, USA. Pettier, an American Indian Movement activist, is serving life in prison after being framed for the deaths of two FBI agents killed during the 1975 Pine Ridge siege. For more information, visit www.freepettier.org.

MOVE

The MOVE 9, members of an eco-revolutionary group, were framed for the murder of the sheriff of Chester County, PA, 30 to 100 years each. For more information, visit www.oomamove.com.
- Debbe Sims Africa, #006307, Ja- net 17, 21737-400 POB 955, and Janine Phillips Africa, #006309, SCI Cambridge Springs, 451 Pullerton Ave, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403, USA. Served charges linked to HLS.
- Michael Davis Africa, #4973, and Charles Sims Africa, #4975, SCI Orange. POB 244, Graterford, PA 19426, USA.
- Edward Goodman Africa, #4974, SCI Mahanoy, 301 Morea Rd, Frackville, PA 17931, USA.
- William Africa, #4974, and Delbert Orr Africa, #4985, SCI Dallas, Follies Rd, Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612, USA.

Other Political Prisoners

- Fan Thompson, #1090915 HU 1C, FMC Camden, POB 300, 1101 E Hwy 54, Vandalia, MO 63382-0300, USA. Before receiving a life sentence in the early 1990s for shooting a stalker in self-defense, Thompson was active in animal rights and environmental campaigns.
- Heken Woodson, #207856, FMC bellsville. Admin Max Unb. POB 27137, P. Worth, TX 76127, USA. Serving nearly nine years for violating her pa- role by dumping a cup of red paint over the security apparatus of a federal court and making warnings ("threats") of weapons of mass destruction. In 2004, Woodson received a 20 year for dis­ arming a Minuteman II missile silo with a jackhammer, mailing warning letters with bullets inside to officials, and rob­ bing a bank and burning the money.

Prisoner Support Groups

A variety of sizes and styles of

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

We also welcome people with a variety of talents and activist experience to come and work for a 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 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702.

Please forward a writing sample, activist history and the names of some activists who can vouch for you. For more information, contact (520) 620-8900; collective@earthfirstjournal.org.

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Thousands of fish have died on the bed of the dry Manaquiri Lake as a result of severe drought in the Brazilian Amazon.