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Earth First!

Beltane May-June 2008

\$4.50 US & Canada

Arrested in Defense of the Everglades

BY HOPE FREID (JOHN SMITH 16)

For Janes and Johns everywhere.

On the bus, for a brief, brief moment, everything becomes still. Memories seep in like the urine staining the diapers of your comrades. You think about how long this is going to take, how tightly the zip ties are cinched around your wrists, all the times you've been arrested before. You think about that special someone, no one, everyone. For a brief, brief moment, you wonder why you're here, why you even bother to care at all.

Without new daydreams, even our imaginations become commonplace.

Number 20 makes a joke, and everyone laughs. A smile crosses your face. It's OK. Everything's going to be OK....

The march began at 8 a.m. on February 18, heading north from

South Florida's Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge to the construction site of the largest natural

gas plant in the country. Invitations and press releases had been going out since before the Earth

First! Organizers' Conference (OC), so the police knew it was going to be big. *How big, nobody was sure.*

Along the driveway of the site, cars dropped off a team of soft blockaders, who stretched out banners that read, "Revoke the West County Energy Center," and, "No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth." Three more cars pulled up alongside the road and let out the Red Team, who rushed up behind the blockade and locked down in orchestrated splendor.

It all happened so fast. In less than 20 seconds, all 10 Red Teamers had locked themselves together in an almost immovable circle. Thanks to the soft blockade, the cops didn't even realize people had locked down for a solid 15 minutes.

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Lock down protesting development in the Everglades

FOSSIL FOOLS Day of Action!



The Clandestine Insurgent Rebel Clown Army (CIRCA) invades a grocery store in Bristol, England.

Proclaiming April 1 "Fossil Fools' Day," climate change activists with the international Rising Tide network and its allies across the globe targeted companies responsible for runaway carbon dioxide emissions.

The Fossil Fools' Day of Action was called for by Rising Tide and was joined by Earth First!, Rainforest Action Network (RAN), the Energy Action Coalition, the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition, the Australian Student Environment Network and many others. Although we have listed many actions here, we couldn't fit them all. For the full scoop, visit www.fossilfoolsday.org.

Building on the momentum of Fossil Fools' Day actions, Rising Tide is again planning international Camps for Climate Action this Summer, in a half-dozen countries. The camps will focus on mobilizing the grassroots movement for climate justice and will culminate in direct actions against local climate criminals. In the US, camps are planned in New York, Virginia and Oregon.

Boston, Massachusetts

At 9 a.m., in conjunction with a downtown rally, four activists locked themselves to the front entrance of a Bank of America branch in Boston's Copley Square. They were protesting the bank's funding of coal and energy companies, which are among the worst contributors to climate change and are directly responsible for innumerable human rights abuses in communities where coal is extracted and burned. The demonstrators demanded that Bank of America stop providing funding for coal companies engaged in all forms of surface mining and cancel all loans to new fossil-fuel-burning power plants.

"Without the financial support of large banks like Bank of America, the fossil fuels industry could not continue destroying the Earth and our communities," said Elise Ansel, who locked her arms to other activists in order to prevent the bank from doing business as usual.

For more info, contact Boston's fossil fools, bostonfossilfools@gmail.com.

Olympia, Washington

Activists with the Environmental Resource Center, Olympia Rising Tide, the Cascade Climate Network and Washington State Public Interest Research Group targeted a Bank of America at Evergreen State College in Olympia. The students built and attacked a piñata in the shape of a Bank of

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Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

Beltane May-June 2008

Finding Roots in Resistance

It's Spring, a time for looking forward to new growth and new adventures. Somehow, when the time for change is approaching, I can't help looking back and reflecting upon my life. I need to know what comes next, and the only way I know to figure this out is by criticizing myself. When was I not listening to myself, my community or the Earth around me? What can I do better? How can I work harder to make changes and feel great about them in times to come? I have experimented with a diversity of tactics, believing that we need this diversity within our communities and trying to find my place within a movement. Few actions have ever left me feeling fulfilled or useful.

Every day, I see the disconnectedness in the eyes of everyone around me. My dear friend Kim recently told me, "We are distant from each other, because we are distant from everything that provides life. We are disconnected, and our roots are broken. How do we fix *that*?" It's all I can do to even try to form roots that I won't break apart five months down the line, or to hang on to the

brief moments when I feel a sliver of connectedness with the Earth and the living things in it. But, I always find a way.

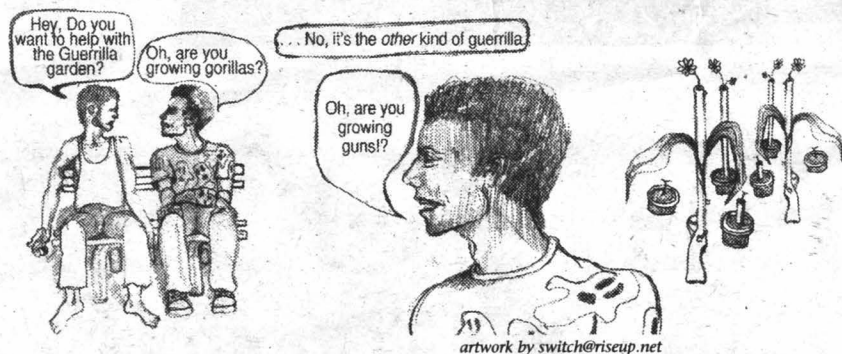
While living in Tucson for the past seven months, I have become close with a lot of people—some of them are just passing through, and others form permanent neighborhoods. On March 30, a gaggle of these people I love, some new friends and I joined together to create a new neighborhood community space in a part of town called Dunbar/Spring. Our garden lies on a practically abandoned and trashed plot of land directly in the proposed path of the Downtown Links highway. Ultimately, this highway would direct heavy traffic through our neighborhood. Taking the form of a guerilla garden, we conceived the Ramona-Magón Memorial Garden and Autonomous Community Park (named after Comandante Ramona and Ricardo Flores Magón).

Replenishing life beneath me—taking a piece of traumatized earth and breathing life back into it—is the greatest resolve I have ever felt. All the fighting, the war, the

anger and disappointment.... It all disappears in an instant when my hands are submerged in cool, deep soil, when I see little green sprouts come up from the Earth in a place that was once abused and declared property, or worse—useless. I try to apply this lesson to all that I experience in life: when interacting with strangers in my town or on the road, when holding the hand of a dear friend in need of a little support, when taking care of myself. It isn't enough just to stop further trauma. We need to repair the trauma that is suffocating the entire world around us and within ourselves.

It's that non-compromise somewhere between militantly pulling out a gun or dropping out of society altogether to live in a redwood tree. We can grow gardens and forests, not just in our own backyards, but on the lawns of our schools, on trashed pieces of urban land and in the path of a proposed highway bypass. We can lock down to our new garden, our forest, our mother, and never let anyone take away our roots again.

—AREN

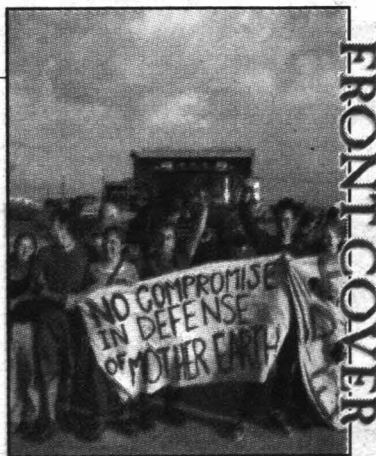


artwork by switch@riseup.net

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A soft blockade distracts while others lock down to protect the Everglades.

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Earth First!

Beltane

May 1, 2008

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

Submission deadlines are the tenth of every odd-numbered month in the calendar year. Articles should be typed or clearly printed. We encourage submissions via email. Art or photographs are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. Send a SASE if you would like submissions returned. If you want confirmation of receipt of a submission, please request it.

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

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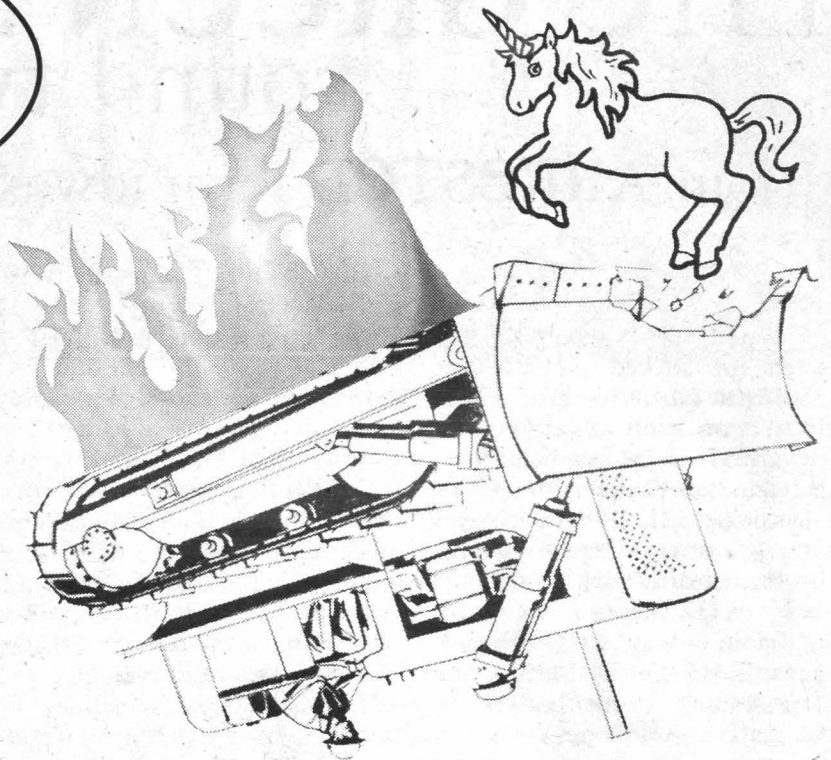
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DEAR SHIT FER BRAINS



Dear SFB,

Fuck every one of you socialist, liberal, commie, wacko, environmental nut jobs. We Americans will fight you back forever. You will all go to hell where you belong. So fuck/off.

—RALPH DECKARD

Dear EF!J,

You are the apple of my pie. You manifest awareness of our wildest realities. You build the contextual playground on which we can discuss and create the world we *actually need* and refuse the bottled-water version of sustenance. I am immensely grateful to you for providing your awesome publication, and I loved hanging here. Thanks for the food, support and kindness.

Much love,

—MAYA FACE PANTS MONKEY POOP

Dear SFB,

I don't want to start a debate, but I do want to respond to a couple of letters (see EF!J January-February 2008) that responded to my previous letter. Nehar Hudson's letter agrees with everything I wrote about human's closest animal relatives all being vegan or nearly vegan. Except, s/he points out that a chimpanzee diet is up to three percent meat. Well, I wonder, what's the purpose of this information? Yes, that's

why I wrote "nearly vegan." If Nehar wants to label a 97-percent-plant-eating, three-percent-meat-eating animal a "true omnivore," then whatever. Still, physiologically, chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans, gibbons and humans are far more vegan than omnivores, which is my point.

As for the argument that it really doesn't matter because people will eat whatever they want anyway: Aren't people more likely to lessen their meat intake if they come to realize that their own bodies are designed primarily for plant eating and, therefore, that eating lots of meat is unnatural and unhealthy? Sure, the environmental argument against meat-eating is powerful, but many folks don't care enough about that either.

Michael Novack's letter (if I read it right) says that many activists will never stop believing that humans are omnivorous, so the question is irrelevant, and we should get on with the activism instead. Michael likens me to a "proselytizer" who self-absorbedly goes around trying to convince people of "the truth"—my truth—at the expense of cooperative action. I agree it's impossible to prove whose

"god" is most real, especially since they all disagree with one another and can't be shown to actually exist anyway. However, there's overwhelming physical scientific evidence that our bodies are indeed primarily vegan. If this doesn't even matter to Michael, that's up to him. But to insist that we shouldn't even try to communicate to one another about why what we eat is important is, I think, unwise.

It's not about being "right," Michael, but what's best for the planet. I'd like to think some people (me as well) would change their diet if presented with enough evidence that it would help the environment. Yes, of course, some never would, but why think these activists would somehow be alienated? Those who would, well, what kind of activism is that? Activism is both within and without. We all do things that despoil nature, and, for various reasons, many of these things we'll never stop doing. But let's at least be honest, open and introspective enough to allow for the possibility of change. This shouldn't "disrupt" "activists' common efforts" too much, right?

—LYNN JACOBS

Dear Editors,

I feel it is my responsibility, as an active Earth Firster, to express my deepest concerns about our "Mother Earth": global warming conditions. We all need to make some real changes today, so we can all have a better tomorrow. It is our responsibility to take action today. We can make a difference if we start making changes for the better, today!

I have been an Earth Firster for more than a decade. I have always lived an environmentally friendly lifestyle. I have protested against loggers when I was tree-sitting in the redwood forest along with Julia Butterfly! I know we have made a difference in the past by the way we live our lives. During my and many others' treesitting, we received the president's attention. We now have made a difference for the better. We have protected land that no longer can be touched or destroyed by man. Our baby owls can rest now in their environment and live happily forever!

Just when I thought I could rest again, another decade has gone by and more disturbing news of our environment is upsetting me—the news of our global warming. Humanity needs your leadership.

Together, we can make 2008 the year that we face up to this civilization challenge. Scientists recently announced that within five years, the Arctic might be ice-free—a strange new open ocean, where bears and other beautiful creatures will no longer live.

In this time of desperate crisis, the world needs your leadership. We have the solutions to hold global warming to the low end, and create a safe and prosperous future. What we will do today and in the next two to three years will determine our future. We are living in critical times.

This is a "last warning" to humanity. We need to slow global warming pollution by 2015 to avert the worst consequences. Please take one powerful action today. Reach out to a friend, and ask them to help make a difference today! There are many things that we all can do daily to make a difference for the better of our "Mother Earth!"

Love Always,

—KRISTINA MARIE FERRO

Dear EF!J,

Thank you for sending me a subscription of the EF! Journal.

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The Earth First! Journal Needs a New Editor (or Two). Now!

The *Earth First! Journal* is actively seeking 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 this movement.

Our new long-term editor ideally will be familiar with Earth First! and the radical environmental movement, 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. When it comes down to it, though, all

you really need is passion and determination. As a collective, all of the work is shared, so a motivated, hard-working individual is required!

We just moved into a new office/house, so when you first get here, you'll live and work in fancy digs here in Tucson. The dumpster scene is top-notch, the radical community is as friendly as can be and there are really good vegan burritos for only \$2.79!

The monsoon rains make late Summer one of the nicest (and craziest) times to be in Tucson. If the skies are blue and the Summer heat feels like a bit much, there are lots of beautiful, cooler places to explore nearby. We are in the center

of the giant saguaro's homeland, surrounded by grasslands, canyons and sky islands. Mount Lemmon sits on the edge of Tucson, at more than 9,000 feet tall, topped with pines, bears and snow (for much of the year).

Now, imagine being in this setting while you're communicating with inspiring activists around the world. You'll spend your days getting firsthand accounts of direct actions in defense of the Earth and turning these stories into the periodical that is, more than any other, the *one* publication that radical environmental activists use to inspire and communicate with one another.

We also welcome people with a variety of talents and activist experience to come and work for one issue of the *Journal* as a "short-term" editor. This adds to the diversity of voices and energy in the *Journal*. Spots on the collective are available as early as July! This is a paid two-month commitment.

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

THE GREEN SCARE, round two

(four **ARRESTED** for midwest **ELF** actions)

BY JOSH

On March 10, four people were arrested for alleged participation in two Earth Liberation Front (ELF) actions: the arson of a genetic-engineering agriculture facility at Michigan State University (MSU) on December 31, 1999, and the destruction of commercial logging equipment near Mesick, Michigan, on January 1, 2000.

Stephanie Fultz, Aren Burthwick and Frank Ambrose of Detroit and Marie Mason of Cincinnati were each charged with one count of arson and one count of conspiracy to commit arson. Ambrose and Mason were also charged with two additional counts of arson. Almost immediately, Ambrose signed an unconditional plea agreement on March 19. In exchange for the dismissal of the three arson charges against him and a reduced sentence, Ambrose agreed to fully cooperate with the government in this and any other investigation.

The Michigan arrests came just four days after Briana Waters was found guilty of participating in the ELF arson of the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture in May 2001 (see next page). Many had hoped—perhaps too optimistically—that Waters' trial would be the final episode of Operation Backfire, the FBI's investigation of old ELF actions in the Pacific Northwest (see *EF!* July-August 2007).

On the contrary, the arrests of March 10 seem to have ushered in the Green Scare's second wave. Not surprisingly, this new round looks a lot like the first: the investigation of an iconic ELF action, the intimidation and persecution of aboveground environmental activists and communities, a clear intention to prosecute the actions as "terrorism," a press conference politicizing the arrests before the national media and a defendant assisting the government's investigation.

The ELF Takes on Genetic Engineering

Although not nearly as ambitious or costly as the ELF's destruction of the Vail ski resort in October 1998, the burning of MSU's Agriculture Hall was nevertheless an iconic, original and effective action. As former ELF press officer Craig Rosebraugh explains in his memoir, *Burning Rage of a Dying Planet*, "Not only was the damage quite significant,... but this was the first time arson had been used to further the cause against genetic engineering (GE) in the US. Furthermore, it was the first time the ELF had taken credit for any GE-related action."

Predictably, the media presented the action as an assault on scientific efforts to relieve famine in the so-called developing world. But, as the ELF communiqué plainly stated, MSU's research was funded by the US government and corporations like Monsanto, which then use their considerable power to force such crops on desperate nations. These nations often resist the importation of GE crops and seeds, given their significant risks to human health,

cultural identity, biological diversity and ecological integrity.

By taking action against GE research at MSU, the ELF did more than simply add another ecologically destructive industry to its list of targets. It also acknowledged the ways in which corporate globalization victimizes both human and ecological communities. Occurring just one month after the World Trade Organization protests in Seattle, MSU could be considered the first ELF action of the anti-globalization era.

The MSU action is significant in yet another way. In the late 1990s, the ELF had been something of a West Coast phenomenon, mainly targeting timber companies and other agents of wilderness destruction. Beginning in 2000, however, the ELF took a growing number of actions in the Midwest and Northeast. The MSU action was a herald of this trend, and it helped to transform the ELF into a national force. Given this significance, it is clear why the feds were so desperate to charge someone with the MSU action. Naturally, the FBI began by targeting aboveground environmental activists in the Midwest.

A Trail of Repression

Ambrose first showed up on the FBI's radar in January 2001, when he was charged with the ELF treespiking of a timber sale in Indiana. The charges were eventually dropped without explanation, but Ambrose had already received the dubious honor of being the first person arrested for an ELF action in the US.

In 2003, Mason and Ambrose were working with Massasauga Earth First! (MEF!) and Sweetwater Alliance in southern Michigan, to stop the privatization of the state's water supply by Ice Mountain, a Nestlé subsidiary. MEF!'s aboveground activism for resource rights and watershed protection, as well as its vocal support for the ELF's attempted arson of an Ice Mountain pumping station on September 21, quickly attracted the attention of the FBI (see *EF!* March-April 2004). On October 28, 2003, Mason and Ambrose received subpoenas demanding that they provide fingerprints and DNA samples to a federal grand jury. When their attempts to appeal these subpoenas failed, the two were forced to provide the grand jury with the requested materials.

The FBI's harassment of Mason intensified during this past year, as the feds repeatedly and unsuccessfully tried to discuss Midwest ELF actions with her. The situation came to a head on the night of February 7, when Mason's 16-year-old daughter caught a plainclothes police officer tinkering with the underside of Mason's car. The cop claimed that he was searching for burglars and departed, only to return with a uniformed officer later that night. They walked right into Mason's house, through the front door and without consent, but left when confronted.

When Mason inspected the underside of her car, she discovered a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver attached to the chassis—a

common method of covert surveillance. Almost immediately, a pickup truck charged onto Mason's front lawn, and four to five plainclothes officers jumped out. With guns drawn, they ordered Mason, her daughter and a friend onto the ground, reclaimed the GPS unit by force and interrogated the trio for half an hour before letting them go. One month later, FBI and Department of Homeland Security agents returned, this time with a warrant for Mason's arrest.

The Indictment and Press Conference

The federal indictment against Mason, Fultz, Burthwick and Ambrose reveals two particularly interesting pieces of information.

First, the indictment repeatedly refers to an anonymous "person known to the grand jury." Many have taken this language to mean that this person is an informant, but there is no proof of this. Such phrasing may indicate that the feds are not yet ready to charge this individual, or it may be a clever attempt to turn the defendants against one another. Until reliable information becomes available, no assumptions should be made about this person's identity or role in the investigation. There are few things more damaging to solidarity than speculation about snitches.

Second, the indictment is carefully worded to ensure that the two ELF actions are treated as federal crimes, even though they both occurred within a single state. The indictment repeatedly describes the targets as receiving federal financial aid and participating in interstate commerce. It also claims that "the object of the conspiracy was for the defendants to influence and affect the conduct of government... by means of force, violence, intimidation and coercion." This leaves little doubt that the government will seek terrorism enhancements against the defendants during sentencing, just as it did in the Oregon cases.

During the March 11 press conference announcing the arrests, the government presented the MSU action as a "significant act of domestic terrorism," even though none of the defendants have been charged with violating actual terrorism statutes. Moreover, MSU President Anna K. Simon made broad and unfounded claims about the ELF's intentions: "This was more than an attack on a building.... It was an assault on the core value of free and open inquiry...." In other words, the ELF didn't burn down a research lab because of its rational opposition to genetic engineering; the ELF burned down a research lab because it hates freedom. Sound familiar?

Ambrose Turns Informant

Back in 2001, when charged with treespiking, Ambrose told the local media, "I've said this before, and I'll say it again: The FBI's the best agency in the world at convicting innocent people." It is this sort of unpromising sentiment that makes Ambrose's current cooperation with the FBI particularly surprising



Marie Mason

and disappointing. Pretrial discovery has already revealed that Ambrose has been assisting the feds since April 2007. More details about the nature and extent of his cooperation will likely emerge in the coming months.

As a condition of his plea agreement, Ambrose admitted to participating in 11 additional ELF actions that occurred in Michigan and Indiana between August 1999 and June 2003. For the sake of security, it should be assumed that Ambrose has already supplied the FBI with the names of alleged participants. Such information is likely to fuel further FBI investigations in the Midwest and beyond. Environmental activists, especially those who know or have worked with Ambrose, should prepare themselves for possible encounters with the FBI.

There is one thing that is particularly new and troubling about Ambrose's plea agreement. Almost hidden within pages of legal jargon is the following sentence: "Defendant stipulates and admits that the property destruction attributable to his pattern of criminal activity on behalf of the ELF... was intended to promote a federal crime of terrorism as defined by 18 US Code § 2332b(g)(5)."

Past plea agreements have required defendants to make numerous admissions, including carefully worded explanations of their actions and motives. This information is then used against them during sentencing to secure terrorism enhancements. However, to my knowledge, no defendant in an ELF case has ever been required to admit to being a terrorist under the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

The application of the terrorism enhancement against ELF defendants was one of the key law-enforcement innovations of Operation Backfire. It could be that the intended purpose of the Midwest case is to establish monkeywrenching and ecodefense as established forms of terrorism under the USA PATRIOT Act.

There can be no doubt: The next phase of the Green Scare has begun.

What Burthwick, Fultz and Mason need most now is support! Burthwick and Fultz were released on bail; their needs are not currently known. Mason is also free on bail (but under house arrest) awaiting trial. Her legal expenses have already surpassed \$10,000, and she is in desperate need of donations to her defense fund. Checks and money orders should be made out to "Books for Prisoners," with a note that they are for Mason's legal support.

To make a donation or for more information, contact Got Your Back: Friends of Marie Mason, POB 19065, Cincinnati, OH 45219; freemarie@riseup.net; www.midwestgreenscare.org.

GUILTY BY ASSOCIATION

The Sham Trial of Briana Waters

BY LEON JANSSEN

Briana Waters, a 32-year-old violin teacher and mother, was indicted in April 2006, for aiding the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arson of the University of Washington (UW) Center for Urban Horticulture in May 2001. Waters was charged toward the end of a string of indictments stretching back to December 7, 2005, when the FBI's Operation Backfire made numerous arrests for a series of ELF arsons that happened between 1996 and 2001.

The twisted legal travesty of Waters' case began when she was indicted in Tacoma, Washington, rather than Seattle (where the arson occurred). The Tacoma judge, Franklin Burgess, is renowned for favoring the prosecution. Waters went to trial facing five criminal charges: one count of conspiracy, two overlapping counts of arson and two counts of using a destructive device in a crime of violence. Waters steadfastly maintains her innocence of these charges to this day. She is also the only one of the Operation Backfire defendants to take her case to trial.

On March 6, after four and a half days of deliberating, the jury returned a verdict of guilty on the two arson charges but deadlocked on the other three charges. This was a heavy blow to Waters and her supporters, who had witnessed the use of selective evidence, doctored evidence and fear-mongering by the prosecution. The government alleged that Waters served as a lookout and acquired a car used for the action, yet there was no physical evidence linking her to the action. The case rested on the testimony of two informants involved in several ELF actions.

In the defense's opening statement, attorney Bob Bloom reminded the jury of the basics of the case: that Briana Waters was *not there*; she was *not* involved. As much as the prosecution could try to spin the facts to its advantage, it was the jury's job to look at things through the filter of reason.

The prosecution began its case with the testimony of Federal Agent John Comery, who went into excruciating detail about nearly every ELF action from 1996 to 2001 *except* the UW arson. This was a format the prosecution would revert to again and again throughout the trial, seemingly to bore the jury into submission.

The first week of the trial featured the testimony of informant Lacey Phillabaum (a former *Earth First!* Journal editor), who pleaded guilty in October 2006 to participating in the UW arson. She went into great detail about how she got involved in *Earth First!*, the buildup of her activism through the 1999 World Trade Organization protests and how she eventually escalated her

activism through the formation of the "Book Club" (a misleading title given to secret meetings to discuss ELF actions and skills). She described what she "remembered" about the events leading up to the UW arson, including specific details of the action that were later contradicted by the testimony of the other informant, Jennifer Kolar.

On cross-examination by the defense, Phillabaum was cagey and evasive. However, she was very effective in her game of deceit, using big words, arguing semantics and implementing debating techniques to avoid answering questions. Throughout Phillabaum's testimony, it was obvious to courtroom observers that she was well-rehearsed.

The next week, the prosecution called Robert Corrina, Waters' cousin who lives in Olympia. Waters had stayed with him off and on for a couple years. He recounted his story for the prosecution: Waters had asked him to rent a car for her, and he agreed. The prosecution went over the details of the rental with him, as well as what happened the weekend of the arson.

However, during cross-examination, Bloom effectively destroyed Corrina's credibility. He had lied when he'd first been approached by federal agents at his home and told them he didn't know Waters, his own cousin. He later lied in front of the grand jury about ever renting a car. This was all after Waters had told him that there were accusations against her, that they weren't true and that he should "tell the truth" if he was approached by anyone. The prosecution succeeded in blocking Corrina from testifying to this fact, though it was uncovered during Waters' testimony.



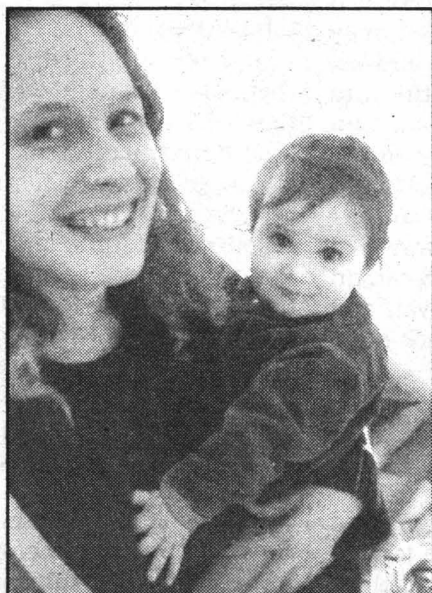
A family photo

People watching were left with serious doubts about Corrina's basic ability to be truthful.

Later, the prosecution called Kolar, who had confessed to her involvement in four different actions. Much like Phillabaum's, her testimony on direct examination went into extraordinary detail, from the "Book Club" meetings to who knew whom and where they had met. Kolar described the events of the UW arson, contradicting Phillabaum in a number of details. In fact, she had

no memory of Phillabaum ever being there.

The prosecution focused on a manila folder that Kolar said Waters gave her containing various articles. Prosecutor Mark Bartlett had Kolar



Waters and her daughter

read aloud to the jury the most inflammatory sections, which he had highlighted. These included quotes from *Willful Disobedience*, and other insurrectionary zines and articles.

Kolar maintained that she had never read these articles but "believed" that they were the ones Waters had given her, because she had simply put them away in a box and not touched them. Also included in this box were an astounding number of encrypted disks, passwords, a scanner, Kolar's old laptop and other documents. Kolar turned this box of goodies over to the feds soon after she agreed to cooperate, leading many people to wonder why she would have saved all these sensitive materials, except as an insurance policy for herself in the event she was ever busted.

In addition, the FBI and the government have refused to turn over a recording of an interview with Kolar, where she pointedly did not name Waters when discussing the identities of her accomplices, even though Waters' name came up during this interview.

During Waters' testimony, she said she authored a note to Kolar, but that she didn't read—much less write—the articles in the manila folder. Inadvertently bolstering Waters' account, the government introduced testimony that while a print of Waters' right middle finger was found on the outside of the folder, not a single fingerprint of hers was found on any of the papers inside.

The circumstances surrounding the folder—Kolar's belated disclosure of it, the disjunction between Waters' note and the articles, and the lack of Waters' prints on any of the articles—also raised profound questions about whether Kolar or

the government substituted different, more incendiary articles for the ones Waters had actually given her. Through such sleight of hand, the government painted a false picture of a violent "ecoterrorist" and distracted the jury's attention from the numerous exonerating facts in the case.

On the first day of the defense's case, Waters' lawyers called Anthony Torres, an FBI agent who investigated the case. He was used mainly to show how the FBI manipulated evidence, altering reports to make a clearer link to Waters when, in fact, the evidence was scattered and circumstantial. Despite his extremely dodgy and evasive testimony, Torres was forced to admit that Kolar had never once named Waters as a participant until March 6, 2006, after the FBI had already fixed on her as a suspect.

The defense spent the remainder of the day calling a series of witnesses who know Waters personally, and who testified to her good character and peaceful nature. Two people testified passionately that Waters baby-sat their children and that they trust her completely. A man Waters interviewed for a documentary said that he found her to be so trustworthy and of such integrity that he introduced her to his tribal elders, which was a very big deal.

The defense wrapped up its case when Waters herself took the stand, a move that is quite rare in federal prosecutions—and one that showed a confidence that she really had nothing to hide.

In the end, the jury must have felt the need to convict Waters on something, rendering a guilty verdict on the two arson counts. The judge agreed with the prosecutor that Waters should be detained pending sentencing on May 30. The effect of this has led friends and supporters to fight more strongly for Waters' release until sentencing, so that she can prepare her young daughter for what looks like an inevitable time in prison while her appeal works its way through the court process. There is currently an emergency detention appeal underway to allow Waters to be released until her sentencing.

Based on lies and manipulations of evidence by the government, a loving mother and caring friend has been convicted of crimes she took no part in. This should come as no surprise to anyone who knows the government's history. But the fight for justice is not over.

Supporters have issued a call for letters to Judge Burgess asking that Waters be sentenced to the minimum time possible. For details on this call or for more information, visit www.supportbriana.org. For Waters' contact information, see page 27.

HAPPY FOSSIL

continued from page 1

America ATM. As the fake ATM fell apart, chocolate shaped like coal, as well as "credit cards" that bore information on Bank of America coal investments, fell out.

Using the piñata, conversations with passersby, creative signs and literature, organizers informed students and staff about how the school's money is being used to fund environmentally and socially destructive coal companies. A petition to change Evergreen's bank was circulated, and pressure against Bank of America on campus has grown. Students at Evergreen are seeking to switch the school's bank to a local credit union.

"Our tuition money is used to support coal companies that contribute heavily to US carbon emissions, practice mountaintop removal, and exploit the land and people in the Black Mesa region," said Maya Face.

For more information, contact Maya, maya@riseup.net.

San Francisco, California

RAN activists used "Bank Closed" signs and "Global Warming Crime Scene" caution tape to shut down six Bank of America ATMs and three Citi ATMs throughout the San Francisco financial district. Confused customers thought the signs were real, and many of these ATMs stayed closed for the rest of the day.

Bank of America—whose CEO, Ken Lewis, won this year's Fossil Fools Award—is the biggest funder of mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia, while Citi is the biggest funder of new coal power plant construction.



photo courtesy Rainforest Action Network

Denver, Colorado

The Unconventional Greenwashing Task Force, a band of locals affiliated with the anti-authoritarian network Unconventional Action, "greenwashed" the main entrance to the Democratic National Convention Committee (DNCC) headquarters.

The greenwashing team showed up at the front entrance of the *Denver Post* building downtown, where the DNCC's offices are located, and wrote "DNC Greenwash" on the windows in light green foam. The greenwashers were apprehended in the middle of the action by security and were threatened with arrest. Meanwhile, a greenwashing representative went to the DNCC offices to announce the free greenwashing services.

So far, some of the largest-known donors to the DNCC include: Xcel Energy, which operates numerous coal-fired power plants; Newmont Mining, which is currently mining for gold on Western Shoshone land; Wells Fargo and JP Morgan Chase, which are both top financiers of coal plants; and General Motors, which is rated one of the worst polluters in the car industry, despite offering hybrids during the convention.

Houston, Texas

Ten activists with Houston RAN targeted Dynegy headquarters. While two activists delivered a Fossil Fool of the Year Award to Dynegy CEO Bruce Williamson, eight others released a balloon banner in the Wells Fargo plaza's main lobby.

Activists proceeded to pass out literature about Dynegy, and coal and wind power in Texas to people entering and exiting the building. Dynegy is currently proposing numerous coal-fired power plants across the US and is the leader of today's US coal rush.

Charlotte, North Carolina

At 6:30 a.m., North Carolina residents locked themselves to bulldozers to stop the construction of Duke Energy's massive Cliffside coal-fired power plant, which is under construction 50 miles west of Charlotte (see *EF!* January-February 2008). The concerned citizens also roped off the construction site with "Global Warming Crime Scene" tape and held banners that read, "Coal Fuels Climate Change," and, "Social Change, Not Climate Change."

"In the face of catastrophic climate change, building a new coal plant is tantamount to signing a death sentence for our generation," said local farmer Matt Wallace, while locked to a bulldozer.

Shortly after activists locked themselves to construction equipment, police arrived on the scene. They used pain compliance holds and tasers to force the activists to unlock themselves.

The new Cliffside plant is currently in legal limbo for being in violation of the Clean Air Act. While Duke CEO Jim Rogers publicly paints Duke as a "green" energy company, he has refused to install the best-available pollution controls on the new coal plant, as required by federal law. The plant would pump six million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere annually, in addition to toxic heavy metals such as mercury.

This action was organized by Asheville Rising Tide and Earth First!

For more information, contact Asheville Rising Tide, risingtide@mountainrebel.net; Katúah EF!, POB 1485, Asheville, NC 28802.

New York, New York

At 12:30 p.m., more than 25 Billionaires for Dirty Energy blockaded the main entrance of Citi's Upper East Side headquarters. Two chained themselves to the front doors and were eventually arrested after cops cut through their chains.



Billionaires for Dirty Energy wearing smokestack-shaped top hats

Dressed in tuxedos and top hats, the billionaires demanded that Citi abandon its large-scale investments in coal-fired power plants, due to coal's increasing investment risk. The billionaires held large signs that read, "Coal=Too Risky," and, "Citi, we want our money back."

"Coal has lost its appeal as a predictable investment. It is fraught with uncertainty," said billionaire Lauren Valle prior to her arrest. "Citi is mortgaging our future and compromising its own long-term competitiveness."

Tucson, Arizona

In honor of Fossil Fools' Day, activists hung banners over Tucson's Snake Bridge on April 2, condemning the proposed Downtown Links and I-10 Bypass highways (see *EF!* March-April 2008). The banners were clearly visible for the duration of morning rush hour but were removed by city officials at 9:30 a.m.

Reading, "No New Roads: Put the Brakes on Global Warming!" the banners were situated just above the proposed starting point of Downtown Links. The action was meant to highlight the role of new roads in promoting runaway carbon dioxide emissions.

"The Fossil Fools in government and industry are playing games with our future. The time for lip service and half measures is over," said Tucson resident Alex Larkin. "Direct action is necessary to stop those who watch the planet burn while counting the money they make from the fire."

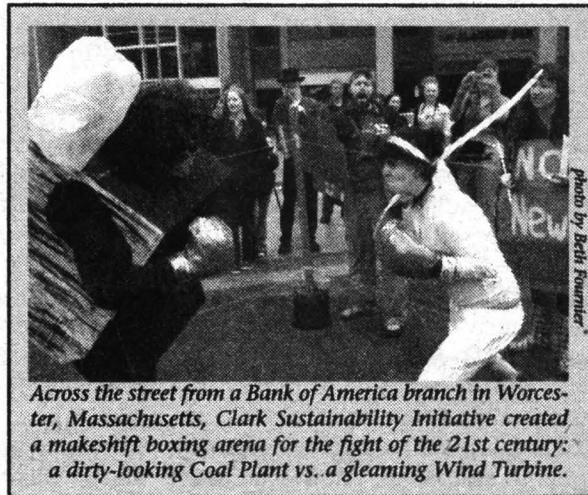


photo by Beth Fountain

Waterloo, Canada

Just before rush hour, student and community activists from AntiWar@Laurier (AW@L) blockaded a local Shell gas station. AW@L's Climate Change Containment Unit deployed to address the planned increase in production of the Albertan oil sands by shutting down Shell's primary outlet in Waterloo. Shell is a leading profiteer of climate-change-causing activities, especially in the tar sands.

After the Containment Unit had closed the station, a crowd of activists enforced the blockade with large banners reading, "Stop Fueling War and Climate Change," "No Tomfuelery, No Tar Sands," and, "No War, No Warming."

However, the Containment Unit and its supporters were "attacked" by a group of Shell executives in business suits wielding hockey sticks. The executives proceeded to destroy a large model of the Earth that had been erected at the scene by the activists. The destruction of the world at the hands of Shell executives seemed to embody their greed and ruthless disregard for the planet.

Durban, South Africa

Petrol giant Engen became the focal point for Durban residents, who have been angered by the refinery, holding it responsible for causing various lung diseases. The protesters laid down floral wreaths signifying deaths in the community due to lung infections. This area has more than five times the worldwide average for cases of asthma.

Newcastle, Australia

A group of people from Rising Tide Newcastle visited a large indoor shopping mall armed with a fistful of leaflets, two bags full of coal and a

Fools Day!

large colorful banner that asked, "How does buying stuff fuel climate change?" While a few people from the group headed up to the roof of the building with the banner, the rest walked toward the K-Mart in order to swap their bags of coal for some cheap consumer products (thereby cutting out the middle man).

The small group of pranksters was met by a stiff line of about 20 police. However, the big banner was successfully hung off the building, facing two main roads and covering the massive shopping center logo on the corner of the building.

Eventually, all those involved were rounded up, threatened with arrest and kicked out of the building.

Edinburgh, Scotland

The Edinburgh battalion of the Clandestine Insurgent Rebel Clown Army (CIRCA) paid a visit to grocery chain stores Sainsbury's and Tesco to highlight the absurdity of how far away the food they sell comes from. Ten clowns descended on the supermarkets between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

The red-nosed army marched into a new Sainsbury's, where it acted out the carbon-intensive process of transporting food from farmer to plate. The clowns then dispersed throughout the store in search of the elusive "Scottish banana," encouraging fellow shoppers to find (if they could) any produce in the store that was actually from Scotland. The battalion placed flyers in shopping baskets among pineapples, peaches and pears, reminding shoppers that 50 percent of vegetables and 95 percent of fruit eaten in the UK now comes from overseas.

The clowns then marched to a Tesco, where they ridiculed the latest greenwashing invention supermarkets and other companies are capitalizing on: "carbon labeling." This is when a company labels its products with their supposed carbon footprint.



photo by Alice Myers

This isn't the Scottish banana!

Shoppers seemed surprised yet amused by the presence of the clowns.

For more info, contact edinburghrebelclowns@riseup.net.

Bristol, Wales

A direct action against the ongoing construction of a Welsh opencast coal mine exposed a "black hole" in climate change policy. At 7 a.m., protesters halted work at Ffos-y-Fran, which, if finished, would be one of the largest opencast coal mines in Europe. They barricaded the main entrance to the site, climbed on the roof of the coal washery and chained themselves to machinery. The action halted work at the massive mine until protesters left in the afternoon.

At the finale of the occupation, the protesters unfurled a 118-foot banner across the main building, stating, "Coal: The Black Hole in UK Climate Policy." One hundred eighteen feet is also the distance between the mine and local residents' homes.

Objections by local residents to the project have caused a delay of almost two decades from the project's proposal to when planning permission was granted.

Coal is already being mined at the partly constructed Ffos-y-Fran mine and sent to the nearby Aberthaw Power Station, the biggest polluter in Wales. Aberthaw was the target of a lockdown and occupation just two days after the Ffos-y-Fran action.

For more info, contact info@thecoalhole.org; www.thecoalhole.org.

Glasgow, Scotland

A bunch of Fossil Fools took to the streets of Glasgow, trying to persuade people to increase their carbon emissions by putting more petrol in their cars, applauding SUVs, and urging pedestrians to stop walking and start driving!



photo courtesy www.fossilfoolsday.org

These silly fools frolicked around Glasgow, Scotland, licking SUVs and applauding traffic!

The stupid-suited fools—some sporting bowler hats, face paint, pin stripes, briefcases and glasses adorned with dollar signs—went to a nearby Shell gas station, where customers were urged to guzzle more gas. One driver refused to drive over a hand-painted Planet Earth as he left the scene of a climate crime, yet sanity prevailed, as the next to leave (a guy in a Jaguar) gleefully put his foot down on the rubbish planet and sped off, to the delight and applause of the fools. The car is mightier than the planet! The confused fools then unfurled a giant award to Shell for its contributions to climate change.

A grotesque hoard of fools suddenly appeared in the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), causing noise and mayhem, and laughing at some insane joke, before unfurling their large award banner applauding the RBS's contribution to climate change. It seemed that these idiots would stop at nothing to show how foolish they were!

The fools then went to an airport to present its staff with another huge award banner for their contributions to climate change. The fools enjoyed a fun game of musical chairs before turning into helicopters and flying out of the place.

Next, they scrambled to drool all over some beooooootiful gas guzzlers. At one point, some of them understandably lost control of themselves over an especially big and beautiful car, slavering and licking at it. The 'owner' then showed them how big a hard-on he has for his guzzler by pushing aside a fool who had produced an old feather duster from the depths of his bag and shouting, "Get away from my car!"

As they continued down the street, lots of children were pleasantly surprised by this strange frolic of fools. Then the cops showed up, having been called by the owner of the aforementioned guzzler. However, the cops soon realized what a harmless bunch of fools confronted them and went away smiling.

Southampton, England

Climate activists from Southampton targeted a Shell gas station as part of Fossil Fools' Day. Eight activists took over the forecourt, while three more activists scaled and occupied the roof, unfurling a banner to highlight the damage and destruction the oil giant is causing to our planet.

One activist stated, "We are here because we feel we have a duty to ourselves, others and generations to come, to not let multinational companies like Shell rape and destroy the Earth."

Manchester, England

Manchester's Fossil Fools were up to all sorts of tricks, visiting some of their Fossil Fool idols in the city center. Unfortunately, in their efforts to congratulate the best Fossil Fools, a few mishaps occurred.

Some clowns got stuck in the revolving doors at RBS, and a human pipeline was escorted from the city center building by security. Some members of the parade got confused and chalked messages on the pavement. Fools trying to escape beating drums ran to hide in the flight center, while a samba band blocked the entrance.

On a positive note, banners that read, "Oil, Gas and Coal: The Joke's on Us! Happy Fossil Fools' Day!" were hung on the walls of RBS, out of respect for their contributions to climate chaos. Placards reading, "Mr. T says, 'I pity the fuel,'" were waved. The parade ended triumphantly outside of the Manchester town hall to recognize the vital role that the Manchester city council plays in the area. Just before the end of the parade, a charming man performed a short but inspiring musical solo on the spoons.

Nottingham, England

At 7:30 a.m., 30 people blockaded the entrances to the Nottingham City Center offices of E.ON, the world's largest investor-owned gas and power company.

People covered in green paint—to represent E.ON's greenwash—locked down to the front entrance of E.ON's office and stood in front of other entrances, preventing E.ON employees from getting to work.

One activist at the protest said, "We are here today because, despite E.ON publicly claiming green credentials, it is trying to build a new generation of coal-fired power stations. It is trying to build the first new coal-fired power station in the UK in 50 years in Kent, and wishes to continue its expansion with a new power station in Nottinghamshire. We are here to tell E.ON that it will not succeed, and the only real solution to climate change is to keep fossil fuels in the ground. Coal is the dirtiest Fossil Fool, and to build new coal power stations in the face of climate change is collective suicide."

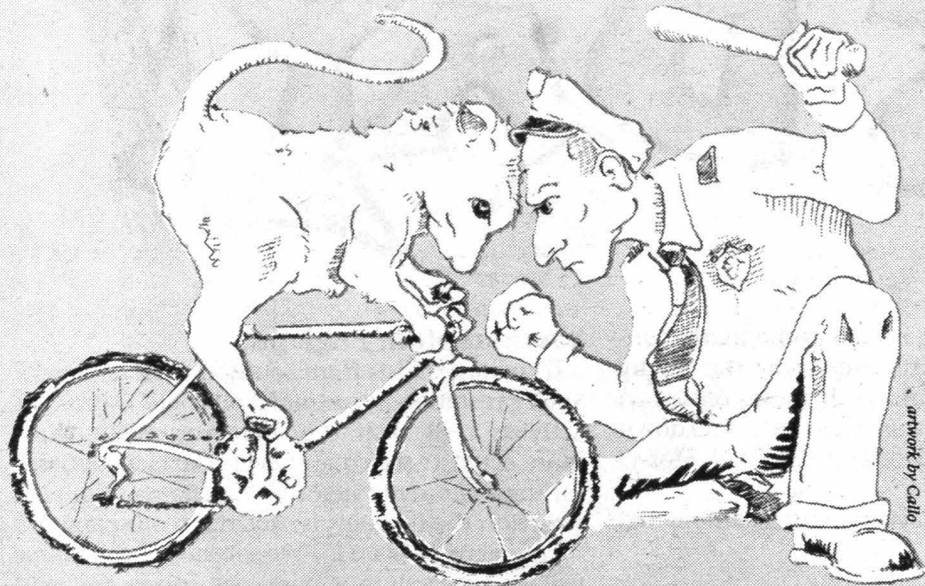
Bacton, England

Approximately 25 Earth First! activists blockaded the UK's largest off-shore gas terminal at Bacton, where 40 percent of the UK's domestic gas is received, processed and distributed by pipeline. Activists blockaded the main road outside the site at 6:30 a.m., preventing construction workers and shift workers from arriving.

Operated primarily by petroleum giants Shell and Exxon-Mobil, this installation includes a gas-fired power station, a processing plant and a distribution point for domestic gas. The protest was in solidarity with protestors in Rossport, Ireland, who have been trying to prevent a similar installation from being built in their community (see *EFJ* January-February 2006).

For more information, contact norfolk@earthfirst.org.uk.

HOUSE RAID and STANDOFF in Santa Cruz



BY MICE WHO FEEL PAIN AND RAGE

Around 2 p.m. on February 24, three police officers and one detective knocked on the door of a Santa Cruz, California residence. A woman answered the door, asking for a warrant. In the absence of one, she shut the door immediately. This was the dawning of a drawn-out, lofty standoff.

The police began to ask neighbors about suspicious activity and to scan the home for exits. That

evening, about 25 cyclists arrived to observe the scene. As day became night, the numbers on both sides of the standoff increased. At its height, there were approximately 20 cops and agents pitted against around 75 copwatchers and supporters of the residents.

According to Indymedia reports, at 9:50 p.m., police adorned in SWAT team/riot gear gained entry to the residence by shattering windows and battering through doors. It is reported that the police had obtained

a key from the homeowner, yet chose to use force and intimidation instead. During the raid, police took clothes, computers, backpacks, cell phones, personal journals and other possessions. Just after midnight, the police finally left.

Apparently, the raid was in response to a demonstration at a vivisector's house earlier that day. The only account of this was from the vivisector herself. She recalled that six masked individuals came to her home and began beating on the door. Her husband opened the door and grappled with the unwelcome visitors. The activists purportedly fled in a vehicle, but not before witnesses noted the vehicle's license plate number to report it to the police.

Police are now searching cell-phone records and other papers they stole during the raid, hoping to find leads on the visit to the vivisector and other activist activities.

The mainstream media has given a tremendous amount of time to this story. While most of the coverage consists of the usual fodder, some has been distinctly ridiculous.

"Obviously, these people are capitalizing on fear and intimidation," commented the local sheriff. However, these words would be better used to describe killing mice for a day job or smashing into someone's home when you knowingly have the key in your possession.

In local coverage, a vivisector reportedly said, "I'm a scientist. I do research that's really valuable." The vivisector continued to say that activists shouldn't be concerned about the ethics of her work because "the animals don't feel any pain—we treat them humanely." Apparently, not everybody agrees with that.

The amount of support provided by the Santa Cruz community for the raided household is an outstanding example of solidarity. Interfering with and standing witness to the acts of our oppressors is important. When support is present in communities, state intimidation is that much harder to employ. Letting people know that we are there for them keeps the hope of continuous action alive.

Dear vivisectors, we mice believe that those who say we feel no pain should spend less time in the lab and more in the natural world. Denial is no excuse for speciesism and murder.

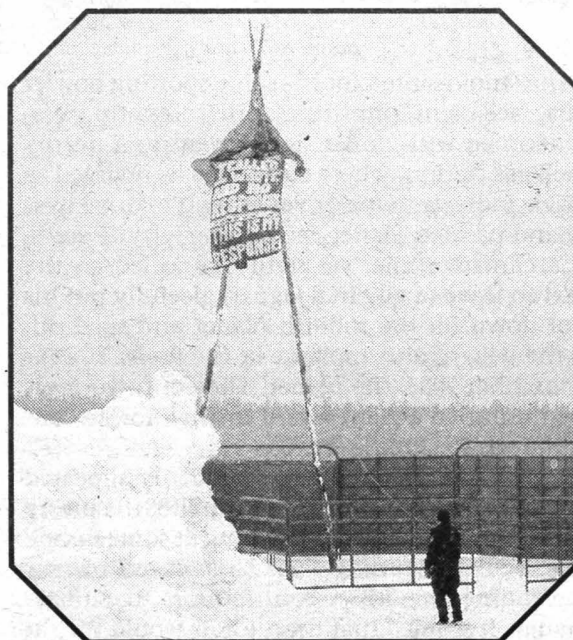
An Unfortunate Opportunity: Buffalo Field Campaign Sees Inside a Bison Trap

BY JESSE CROCKER

Recently, I had the unfortunate opportunity to go on a tour of Yellowstone National Park's Stephens Creek bison trap, in Montana, where more than 1,000 buffalo have been captured and shipped off to slaughter so far this year. On March 18, instead of going out on morning patrol to monitor the Park Service's hazing and capture of buffalo, I got to sleep in a little later than usual. At 7 a.m., I arrived at the north entrance to Yellowstone, right next to the big stone arch, to meet Al Nash (from the park's public affairs office) and representatives from various environmental groups and media organizations. From there, we caravanned several miles down to the Stephens Creek trap.

After driving through several miles of land that had its native plant communities exterminated by agriculture before being incorporated into the park, we turned onto a road I never thought I would be driving down. The road to Stephens Creek is marked with large signs warning the public not to go down the road, though the only sign indicating what happens there reads "corral operations." If I had turned down that road on any other day, I would have been arrested. After passing through rows of snowplows, junk cars and assorted debris, we came to the bison trap.

We arrived just in time to see bison being loaded into a semi-trailer designed to haul cattle. In order to move the bison through the facility and into the truck, there were park employees up on catwalks above the bison with whips and cattle prods. Of all the park employees present, I don't think one was a wildlife biologist or even trained in anything related to wildlife. They were law enforcement rangers, maintenance workers and horse wranglers. Watching the bison being loaded into the truck was one of the saddest sights I have ever seen. Just days earlier, these buffalo had been roaming free, looking for the first shoots of green grass. Now, they were being loaded into a big metal box, to be trucked hours away to a facility designed for handling cattle, where they would be slaughtered. As they moved through



Activist Nathan Drake perched on a bipod inside a bison trap, rendering it inoperable for 15 hours.

the trailer, rubbing against holes in the side of the truck, large chunks of hair were sheered off their flanks and fell to the ground. Throughout the loading, we were not allowed to approach closer than 15 feet from the truck or the facility. The park's reason for this was that we would traumatize the bison.

After two trailers had been loaded with bison, they formed a convoy with several other trucks from various law enforcement agencies and headed off to the slaughterhouse. Then, the wranglers who had been loading the buffalo retrieved their horses and headed out for another haze, capturing 10 more bulls. At that point, we were taken on a tour of other parts of the facility, including the larger pens, where approximately 160 buffalo were awaiting their fate. Among them were calves who, later in the week would be tested for brucellosis and then shipped off to quarantine, separated from their families and domesticated in the name of science. Throughout the tour, we had time for questions and answers

with Nash. At one point, Nash said one of the most disconcerting things I have heard a park employee say about bison management. He said that deciding when to send bison to slaughter is "an art, not a science." I guess that explains the lack of biologists on the scene.

At the end of the tour, I headed back to the Buffalo Field Campaign trailer in Gardiner, Montana, to pick up my patrol partner. From there, we headed back into the field to document and bear witness to yet another bison hazing and capture operation.

On February 25, Nathan Drake perched upon a bipod on public land inside the Horse Butte bison trap, in West Yellowstone, Montana, in protest of bison slaughter. Suspended from his platform was a large banner that read, "I called, I wrote and no response.... This is my response." After rendering the trap inoperable for 15 hours, he was removed, arrested and charged with three misdemeanors: obstruction, trespassing and resisting arrest. He was released on \$5,000 bail, reportedly the highest ever for a bison-related direct-action protest.

In a separate incident, two activists, Miriam Wasser and Cat Simonidis, locked down to a post inside the Mammoth Visitor's Center in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming on the morning of March 26. They wanted to call attention to the Park Service slaughter of nearly 1,000 bison since February 8—more than ever before in a single season. Upon discovering the activists, Yellowstone officials closed the visitor's center to the public and the media, including reporters from CNN, CBS and an independent filmmaker. The women were removed, arrested and taken to the Mammoth jail at around 12:30 p.m. and held for 26 hours.

During the action, Yellowstone Rangers captured between 30 and 50 bison a few miles away. Between February 8 and March 26, Park rangers captured more than 1,200 bison on the north side of the park. While the government's official reason for the slaughter is to prevent the spread of brucellosis from wild bison to cattle, no such transmission has ever been documented.

A Tour of the Desecration

The Longest Walk Is Taking Notes

BY PATHFINDER

On February 11, the Longest Walk 2008 embarked on a five-month journey from San Francisco to Washington, DC. This second Longest Walk not only marks the 30th anniversary of the first Longest Walk of 1978, which resulted in historic changes for Native America, but more importantly, it is taking note of the desecration of our environment. The goal of this walk is to bring attention to the massive destruction that is going on all around us. Our world is in peril, and the Native American worldviews that have had to fight for their very existence hold some of the answers to these problems.

The original Longest Walk was conducted in response to 11 proposed bills in Congress that would have annulled treaties protecting Native American sovereignty and furthered an American history that has continually chipped away at the very existence of indigenous cultures.

"In 1978, our communities faced many hardships, such as non-existent religious rights and the criminalization of our people who fought for cultural survival. This is why the Longest Walk was necessary," said Jimbo Simmons of the International Indian Treaty Council.

Starting out with just 17 people in San Francisco, the original walk ballooned to 30,000 by the time it reached Washington, to stand at the doors of Congress and defeat those 11 bills. In the following month, participants pushed for the passage of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978. As a result of the walk, indigenous people were granted the federal legislative right to freedom of religion—a fundamental right guaranteed to all other Americans under the US Constitution.

"As indigenous peoples in the US, our environment and our cultural survival are directly correlated and are still imperiled today. This is why we must walk once again," added Simmons.

The religions of native cultures are directly intertwined with the land. When the land is in danger, the very existence of our culture is in danger. When you consider the problems we are facing in this country due to global warming, resource extraction, nuclear waste dumping, deforestation and water pollution, you start to see what a great danger we are all in—not just spiritually, but mentally and physically. Once again, it is time to take a stand—or in this case, a walk!

The Longest Walk 2008 is taking two routes. The northern route will follow the original route across 11 states and 3,600 miles. The southern route will follow another route across 13 states

and 4,400 miles. Both routes will visit sacred sites across the US and promote awareness of sacred sites protection and environmental preservation.

In past years, Dennis Banks, the southern route coordinator, has done sacred runs from San Francisco to Washington. During that time, he and others began to notice that sage, a plant sacred to many indigenous cultures, was living amid garbage along the roadways. In the spirit of protecting a sacred plant, we have also launched the Clean Up Mother Earth campaign, where Longest Walk participants clean our country's highways

Further along the south route, the walk stayed with the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, which is dealing with chromium contamination. According to Marc Lifsher of the *Los Angeles Times*, "From 1951 to 1969, Pacific Gas and Electric dumped at least 108 million gallons of water laced with hexavalent chromium into the ground around Topock. The utility used the chemical compound, a known carcinogen referred to as chromium-6 and made infamous by the 2000 movie *Erin Brockovich*, to prevent corrosion and retard the growth of mold in a cooling tower at a compressor station that pushes natural gas through its pipelines."

Walking across the California-Arizona border and into the Grand Canyon to visit the Havasupai Tribe, the group was informed of huge piles of uranium tailings that sit just feet from the Colorado River. These tailings have been affecting the health of the Havasupai since the 1950s uranium boom. They are now trying to deal with the fact that the Bush administration is once again attempting

to open that area up to uranium mining.

We moved out of the Grand Canyon and into Flagstaff, Arizona, where the Save the Peaks Coalition has been holding the US Forest Service (USFS) at bay for the past seven years in the USFS's plans to use treated sewage effluent to make fake snow at Arizona Snowbowl, a ski resort on the San Francisco Peaks. This area is completely surrounded by land with a wilderness designation. These same peaks are considered sacred by more than 17 Arizona tribes, and this treated sewer water would literally destroy the power of the medicines gathered on the mountain by those tribes. According to the Hopi, it is also home to the deities known as Kachinas.

From Flagstaff, we head to Black Mesa, on the Diné Nations, where the federal government has allowed Peabody Coal to build stripmines and use pristine aquifer water to slurry the coal more than 200 miles to a power generating station. This use of water has led to aquifer depletion and local springs drying up. This coal mining has also polluted local water supplies to the point where animals have been seen to drink from the springs and die overnight.

Meanwhile, up in Colorado, the north route has been paying attention, too. Colorado Governor Bill Ritter issued a proclamation that March was Longest Walk Month in Colorado. After Ritter's proclamation was read on the steps of the Colorado State Capitol, Longest Walkers proceeded in a prayer vigil to Newmont Mining Corporation. They did not back down when Newmont's security forces called the Denver police. They continued with a drum song and prayer vigil when faced with arrest. Simmons then read to a representative of Newmont the demands of the Western Shoshone: that Newmont and other mining companies halt the destruction. Newmont's representative declined to comment.

We still have a few thousand miles to go. Already, we have witnessed the destruction of the environment in mind-boggling quantities. It looks as though we will be issuing a very large book to Congress when we get to Washington.

If you are interested in coming on the walk, helping out in your town or just want more information, visit www.longestwalk.org. For a live broadcast from the northern route, visit www.earthcycles.net. For more information about the northern route, visit www.bsnoirrell.blogspot.com.

Pathfinder is sitting at his computer wishing he was able to walk, too! But somebody needs to update the website and make sure that Oklahoma is ready for 100 or more walkers. See you in DC!



The Longest Walk 2008

and roads by collecting debris found along the Longest Walk route. In the first 40 days, we have collected more than 1,000 bags of trash.

In addition to this, the walkers are paying attention to the world around them as they go, stopping in communities to talk to the people there. After taking note of the problems we all face from the destruction of our environment, the walkers are going to come together in a Cultural Survival Summit in Washington. Then, once again, they will knock on Congress's door to tell it the story of the Great Walk and all they saw.

What Have We Seen So Far?

In Berkeley, California, at the very first steps of the walk, we witnessed treesitters trying to protect a grove of oak trees from development by the University of California-Berkeley (UCB). These oak trees were planted in 1923 on top of an Ohlone Indian burial ground, interestingly enough, to memorialize Californians who died in World War I. These activists have been treesitting now for more than 500 days. The group responsible for the sit has more demands than just saving the trees, though. It wants the repatriation of 13,000 native remains held at UCB's Phoebe Hearst Museum and an end to UCB involvement in nuclear weapons design and research. In addition, it is demanding the preservation of Strawberry Canyon, a green belt where the grove and stadium are located, which also hosts Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories, an Energy-Department-funded research facility dating back to the Manhattan Project and now slated to expand with a nanotech lab dubbed the "Molecular Foundry."

Only one mile into the walk, there is already a lifetime of work to be done. However, we must venture on to Bakersfield, California. As walker Kaelen Holmes puts it, "The agriculture in California is disgusting. Bakersfield's oil, agriculture and relative elevation make it one of the most sickeningly polluted places I have ever seen."

If you are wondering where spinach and *E. coli* met, it was in Bakersfield, where it is a regular occurrence to spread sludge removed from toilet water and industrial sewage on the crops because it's "nitrogen rich." Of course, this sludge is also rich in pathogens, heavy metals and pharmaceuticals.

Links to Threatened Sacred Sites

- Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska: www.arcticrefugeaction.org
- Bear Butte, South Dakota: www.defendblackhills.org
- Black Mesa, Arizona: www.blackmesais.org, www.blackmesawatercoalition.org
- Cave Rock, Nevada: www.petitiononline.com/caverock
- Haskell-Baker Wetlands, Kansas: www.savethewetlands.org
- Mauna Kea, Hawaii: www.kahea.org/maunakea
- Medicine Lake, California: www.mountshastaecology.org
- Mt. Graham, Arizona: www.mountgraham.org
- Mt. Shasta, California: www.protectourwaters.org
- Mt. Tenabo, Nevada: www.wsdp.org
- Petroglyph National Monument, New Mexico: www.sagecouncil.org
- San Francisco Peaks, Arizona: www.savethepeaks.org
- Shellmounds, California: www.vallejointertribalcouncil.org
- Woodruff Butte, Arizona: www.sacredland.org
- Yucca Mountain, Nevada: www.wsdp.org

BARE BONES

Wildlife Refuge Saved

Since 2003, the US Navy has been planning to build a fighter jet Outlying Landing Field (OLF), only 3.5 miles from Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Washington County, North Carolina. This refuge is the winter home to tens of thousands of swans, geese and ducks, as well as the only home in the country for the red wolf. The OLF would conduct 31,000 landings and departures each year, averaging one every 30 minutes.

After five years of struggle from local environmental groups, the US District Court finally ruled that the Navy had ignored environmental laws while pushing forward with the project, and funding for the OLF site was cut. However, new sites have been proposed in swamps in North Carolina and Virginia.

Among the notable protests, the group Citizens Opposed to the OLF drove tractors to Raleigh and set up a "Liberty City" tent encampment between the proposed site and the refuge.

Logging Planned Near Grand Canyon

On February 29, plans were released to tractor-log 9,000 acres in Kaibab National Forest, which withstood a "warm fire" in 2006. While the area has significantly recovered, the US Forest Service claims that logging is necessary to "promote recovery... and reduce future fire risk."

"Post-fire logging destroys soil, spreads weeds, damages habitat and natural tree regeneration, and even increases fire hazard," said Taylor McKinnon of the Center for Biological Diversity.

Possible Authorization to Kill Sea Lions

On March 18, the National Marine Fisheries Service authorized the killing or capture of up to 85 sea lions per year for the next five years, in order to "protect" the dwindling Pacific Northwest salmon population in the Columbia River.

Authorities have already tried to deter the sea lions from eating the salmon by installing physical barriers, and firing rubber bullets and firecrackers—to no avail. Before the sea lions are killed, they must be trapped and held for 48 hours, because fisheries managers are supposed to find them a spot in an aquarium, zoo or marine theme park. If the sea lions prove difficult to capture, there is a provision that allows them to be shot in the water.

Though it supports "non-lethal harassment" of sea lions (meaning bringing them to zoos, aquariums or marine theme parks), the Humane Society of the US successfully postponed the killing of sea lions by filing a motion on March 28 for a preliminary injunction. If not granted by April 18, it will file a restraining order.

THE GAMES HAVE ALREADY BEGUN

Resistance to the 2010 Olympics

BY SW

Resistance to the 2010 Olympic games in British Columbia, Canada, began with last year's string of direct actions and protests (see *EF!* July-August 2007). As it becomes clearer that the Olympics are already causing evictions, homelessness, industrial development and environmental destruction, the resistance continues to grow. In the first few months of 2008, a wide variety of militant actions and public demonstrations have already taken place. As most groups engaged in the resistance have vowed, things are sure to escalate in the coming months. Here is a quick roundup of what's been happening recently.

On February 11, the eve of the two-year countdown mark for the Olympics, about 150 mostly native protesters (including the Wolverine, the Secwepemc Nation and veterans of the 1995 Gustafsen Lake standoff) rallied in downtown Vancouver. Led by elders from the Downtown Eastside Women's Center, a march went from the Countdown Clock to the Hyatt hotel, where British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell was hosting a luncheon for Olympic sponsors, government officials and members of the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the Olympics. The protest was held to draw attention to native lands already being destroyed by Olympic construction and to protest attempts by the Olympics organizers to downplay native resistance to the games.

About a week later, a large anti-poverty rally of 50 protesters—with members of the Anti-Poverty Committee (APC), the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users and Students Against War (Victoria), as well as indigenous and poor people—was held at Victory Square in downtown Vancouver, on February 17. The rally was held on the eve of the provincial government's release of its new budget, and addressed the issues of poverty, stolen indigenous land, lack of affordable housing, homelessness and evictions related to the coming Olympics.

Activists denounced the British Columbia government's use of its budget surplus on massive Olympic spending and tax cuts for the wealthy. As the APC's Jill Chettiar said to the crowd, "People on the Downtown Eastside are paying for the surplus with their lives, and what are they getting? Tax cuts for the rich. They're spending money on tax cuts for people who already have homes, who already have cars."

From the rally, about 40 protesters marched across the city to the Countdown Clock, yelling slogans such as, "No Homes, No Peace," and, "Homes, Not Olympics." There, they met up with about 30 more protesters. With no cops guarding

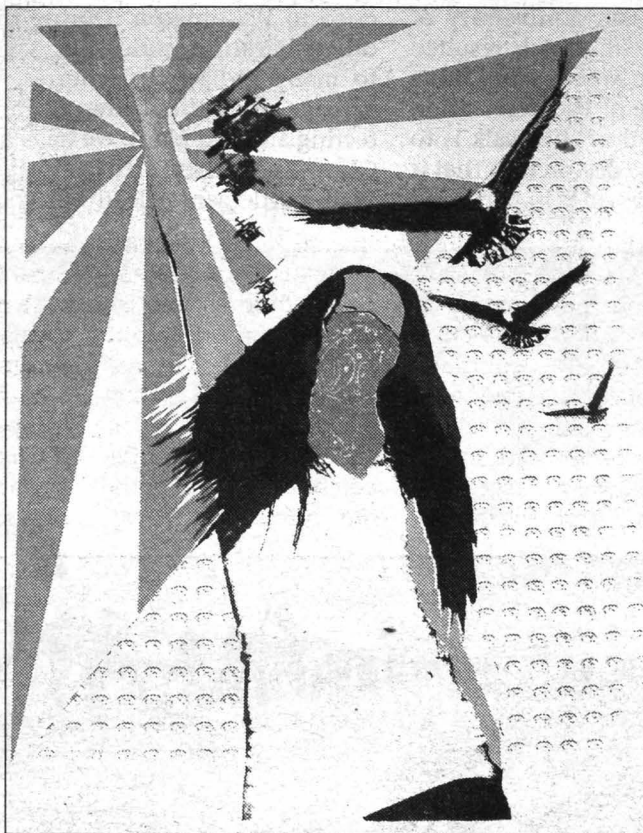
the clock, the protesters hurled yellow paintballs at its face, making its continuous countdown to the coming 2010 Olympics difficult to read. Protesters chanted, "Homes Not Games," "Stop the War on the Poor, Make the Rich Pay," and, "No Olympics on Stolen Native Land." No one was arrested.

"This isn't the end of resistance," said Thomas Malenfant, of the Downtown Eastside Residents Association, while pasting a poster onto the clock. "This is only the beginning."

The Countdown Clock has previously been the site of anti-Olympics demonstrations, beginning in February 2007, when the clock's unveiling ceremony turned into a melee of protesters throwing eggs and paintballs on live network television.

The next day in Vancouver, a Four Host First Nations (FHFN) and Assembly of First Nations (AFN) photo-op was held to announce "First Nations participation and volunteer opportunities with the 2010 Olympics." It was interrupted when women from Native 2010 Resistance dumped bags of apples onto the stage, yelling, "No Olympics on Stolen Native Land!" and admonishing those present, saying, "You should all be ashamed of yourselves for contributing to the rape and destruction of Mother Earth!" The apples were meant to symbolize the way the FHFN and AFN, in their bargaining with the Olympics organizers, are similarly red on the outside and white inside.

On February 22, Premier Campbell's office was attacked by four members of the APC wearing paint suits and paint masks. The front door and window were left splattered in paint of three of the five colors from the Olympic rings and were covered in posters demanding that the budget surplus be directed toward tuition, community centers, rent reparations and social housing. The APC has vowed to up the ante on its campaign against the 2010 Olympics organizers and that more actions are soon to come.



artwork by Angus Smeritt, Gibsons Nation/Insh

A few days later, three welcome signs at the southern entrance to Vancouver were hit with paintballs. The attack was reported on the No 2010 website, which expressed the sentiment, "We hope that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) president feels unwelcome and the resistance to the Olympics continues to spread."

On February 27, a small demonstration of about 20 people was held to protest the visit of the president of the IOC, Dr. Jacques Rogge. Before the protest, a poster had been hung up around town. It's headline read, "Dead IOC Prez," and it continued with, "It is elementary to the Art of War: Cut off the head and the body will die!" This was considered so threatening that the

city allotted 40 riot cops to patrol the demonstration.

In late February, warriors from the Native Youth Network completed a No 2010 East Coast speaking tour with more than 20 stops. The tour brought them through Mohawk, Anishinabe, Algonquin, Seneca, Cayuga, Penobscott and Wampanoag territories, 11 major cities and many other native communities. On the tour, they spread the story of 2010 resistance, listened to the stories of others' resistance, and worked to unite native struggles for land, freedom, life and survival.

Throughout all this, more underground tactics have also been employed. On February 12, bricks were thrown through the windows of the Bank Street and First Avenue Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) branch location in Ottawa. The RBC has been named as the target of a campaign by Ottawa anarchists since late 2007, when the windows of one of its branch locations was smashed by "some exceptionally large pieces of pavement."

As the 2007 communiqué stated, "RBC is targeted for sponsoring and profiting off of the gentrification, environmental destruction and colonialism that characterize—indeed, are—the entirety of the 2010 Winter Games." The communiqué also included a call to participate in anarchist games against the RBC. Participants are reminded, "Don't forget, a gold medal will be given for the most damage at a single location."

Indeed, the games seem to have begun, as March 1 saw the windows of the Elgin Street RBC branch smashed in, and by March 5, the Bank Street and First Avenue RBC branch was targeted again, this time with large blocks of ice mixed with street salts.

The resistance doesn't end there! Actions will be ongoing, culminating in an anti-colonial and anti-capitalist convergence in February 2010 at the Olympics.

For more information, visit www.no2010.com.

We See Color and It Fucking Matters

A Reportback From the People of Color Caucus at the 2008 Winter Rendezvous

BY THE PEOPLE OF COLOR CAUCUS

Any serious discussion of race within our movement must begin with the candid recognition that Earth First! is a predominantly white movement. Following this recognition, a spring of interesting questions will naturally begin to arise from the curious, anti-racist, environmental activist. "Why are people of color so few in EF!? What patterns are perpetuated within EF! today that inhibit people of color from getting involved, and how can we change this? How can we better illustrate the connection between the struggles of people of color and ecocide? How can attitudes of white domination be dealt with openly and positively? What can I do?"

This was the general tone throughout the Anti-Authoritarian People of Color (POC) caucus at the EF! Winter Rendezvous in February. Moreover, we consistently came to the shared understanding that strategies for combating this not-so-invisible form of oppression are still in their infancy.

Why Caucus?

While many of us are tired of having to hold white people's hands with regard to recognizing privilege, the fact remains that there continues to be a simple misunderstanding—as well as outright ignorance and intolerance—about the need for an exclusively POC space.

Here's why we caucus: POC-only spaces serve as safe spaces in which those of us most directly affected by white supremacy can find solidarity with each other's shared experiences without having to deal with accusations of "reverse racism" and outbursts of white guilt. Moreover, they serve as a kind of social pressure valve where we may safely air our grievances. That way, outside of these spaces, we can have more productive conversations—keeping these feelings bottled up is emotionally and psychologically unhealthy, and is certainly not conducive to getting shit done.

So, for a few hours at the Winter Rondo, a voluntary and temporary line was drawn around a plastic tarp in the Everglades with about a dozen POC in attendance. During a simultaneous white auxiliary caucus, white allies gathered to discuss how they could use their privilege to support the struggles of people of color and oppose white supremacy in movements they are a part of. When we all came back together to continue with the gathering's workshops, we had a slightly better understanding that, although we are all inheritors of a long racist past, we have also inherited generations of hard-won progress in breaking free of that

past. We shouldn't bring that progress to a halt by acting like we've already won, pretending that race is now a relatively negligible issue or claiming to be "colorblind."

White Dominance in EF!

Proceeding from the recognition of white dominance in EF!, the question arises of how historically dominating aspects of white culture are still embodied in EF! culture. White culture has been nurtured, defended and imposed by the forces of imperialism for centuries. This is the inescapable reality of white privilege: It has been bought with blood. Wherever white privilege is in use,

"tribal Earth rituals" and dreadlocks, to the war cries you hear at every protest, to the wolf howls at gatherings (which has the potential for being pretty disruptive to local wildlife patterns). You have your own culture(s) and ethnic roots that date back over millennia; research and embrace them instead of stealing ours. Added to this is an obsession with what is essentially the "noble savage" myth and the recurring imagery of POC with spears in literature that is not even about actual indigenous struggles.

Tokenization—This includes asking us for our "unique" opinion on something as if we could speak

Typically, EF! is identified as a wilderness protection movement, fighting for the remaining unspoiled and undeveloped areas of the Earth. It's not hard to see how this complements the image of EF! as a white, middle-class movement—the folks who get to enjoy the wilderness are usually folks with the economic means, leisure time and social background to do so. It seems that, as long as the definitions of radical environmentalism extend only to the unspoiled or "uncompromised" landscape, its demographic will extend mostly to whites.

Beyond Tokenism

With these difficulties in sight, and a shared understanding of the long-term nature of this discussion, POC and whites have a lot of work to do in confronting white cultural domination in the movement. While many POC within EF! want to work on anti-racist organizing and are often more aware of patterns of white supremacy, exclusivity and racism in the movement, it is imperative that they are not expected to take on the bulk of the burden of dismantling said patterns. White allies must work to be aware of these issues, using their privilege

to challenge them and ensuring that there is an active anti-racist organizing component to EF!.

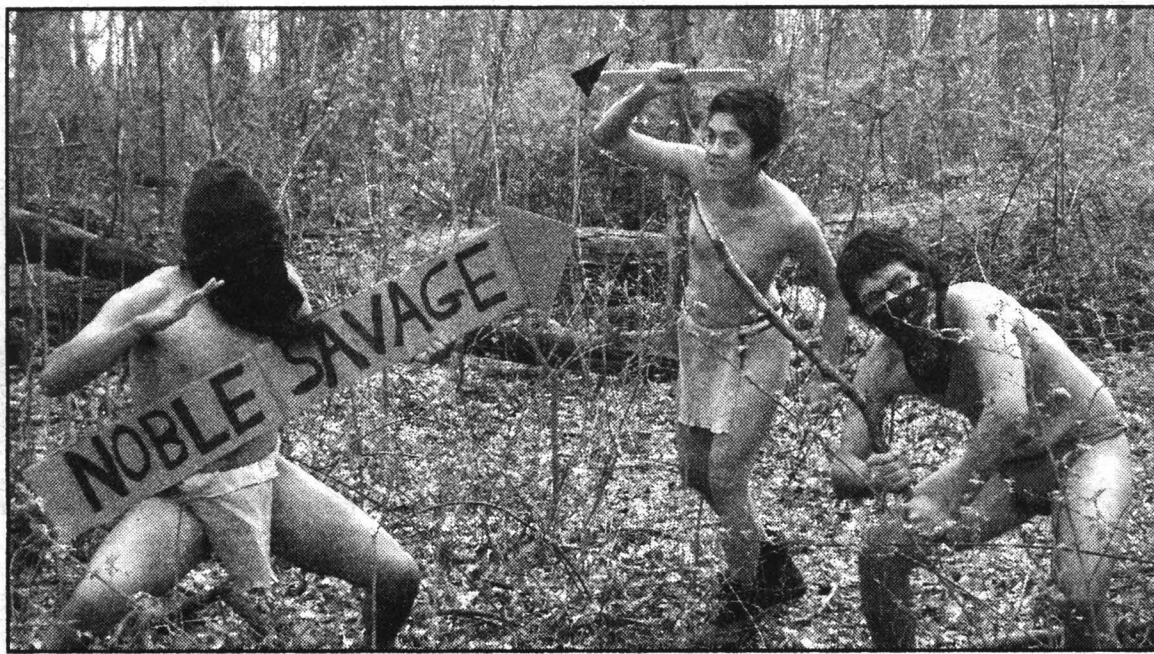
Developing this anti-racist framework within our movement will also help avoid tokenizing POC. Too often, white-dominated movements believe that the first step in anti-racist action is bringing in POC. This can stem from a belief that a movement that is multiracial will also be anti-racist. It ignores the dynamics of white cultural superiority that create a movement that is not truly inclusive, and it trivializes the organizing in which POC are already engaged. It is crucial that we simultaneously confront issues of white supremacy within our organization and work to build solidarity with POC-led organizations and campaigns.

There are many POC-led organizations working on transformative campaigns that EF!, as a predominantly white movement, could support. Indeed, some examples of this kind of solidarity include support for indigenous resistance to the 2010 Winter Olympics and EF!ers marching with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers for fair wages and working conditions.

Looking Ahead

With the last few minutes of the POC caucus, participants brainstormed how to make future Rendezvous more open, inclusive and hospitable to the rest of our POC comrades. Sitting in the middle of

continued on page 24



Some of the authors of this article: "No borders! No state! Obama '08!"

without being understood and acknowledged for what it is, patterns of white supremacy are not far off. To the extent that white dominance and supremacy prevail in EF!, the movement will continue to be marginalized by enemies and potential friends alike as a movement stuck within its bubble of white privilege.

To illustrate the patterns of white dominance and supremacy experienced by participants in the POC caucus and by POC in the environmental movement as a whole, we have included a brief run-down of tendencies POC have consistently run across.

Dealing Constantly With Unchecked White Privilege—This ranges from the absurd assertion that "we are all colored" and/or "tribal" (own up to your whiteness, honkies) to the equally ridiculous claim that POC can "drop out" just as easily as white people (by squatting or dumpstering, which many POC do anyway as a matter of survival), to the insulting declaration that white people "know what it's like" or "understand" because they had the privilege of spending a Summer in Chiapas or some other "exotic" community of color. Also, white activists who live in "marginalized" subcultures still have white skin privilege and the ability to choose whether or not to remain marginalized, a luxury that people of color do not have.

Rampant Cultural Appropriation/Fetishizing Indigenous Cultures—This ranges from white people and their

for the global community of POC, expecting us to do the necessary outreach to POC communities and expecting us to bottomline anti-racist and environmental justice organizing within our movement. These phenomena are annoying and offensive.

The unfortunate reality is that none of these things are new to POC within EF! (or the radical environmental movement as a whole). Our individual experiences echo those written about in the article, "Facing Off the Radical Environmental Lynch Mob" (see EF! September-October 2004).

With examples like this, it is not hard to see why POC often haven't found EF! to be a welcoming and inclusive place. Understanding the ways in which a culture of white dominance excludes POC from participating in radical environmental movements is crucial when asking why those movements are so white. It's not like POC are less affected by environmental destruction than whites: Worldwide, environmental injustices are more often committed against communities of color. POC, as a socially and economically marginalized group, live in neighborhoods with the worst environmental conditions and countries with the lowest environmental standards. Within a bubble of white privilege, EF! is in a weak position to combat this problem and redraw the connections of environmental issues to issues of race and economy.

BARE BONES

Peruvian Environmentalist Murdered

On February 26, Don Julio García Agapito was murdered in Alerta, Perú, after he reported a truck loaded with 34 logs of poached mahogany. The mahogany had been logged along the Perú-Bolivia border, a region of the Peruvian Amazon that is one of the most biologically diverse places in the world.

While García told the Peruvian national police and the National Institute for Natural Resources (INRENA) about the truck, a man with a copy of the truck's key jumped in and drove away. National police officers ran off to chase the truck, leaving García in the local INRENA office. Within a few minutes, 10 bullets were fired, killing him instantly. Amancion Jacinto Maque was identified as the shooter but escaped to Bolivia.

Native Leaders Jailed in Mining Protest

On March 17, Chief Donny Morris, Deputy Chief Jack McKay and four band councilors from the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (also known as KI or Big Trout Lake) First Nation, all received six-month sentences for opposing mining on their traditional lands in northwestern Ontario, Canada. This is the second time this year that native leaders have been jailed for mining blockades.

Last Fall, the court issued an order allowing Platinex Inc. to begin drilling in Big Trout Lake on November 6. Native officials say that they will arrest Platinex drillers if they proceed onto native land. The Platinex company has offered financial compensation for mineral exploration, but natives in Big Trout Lake are vowing to maintain their opposition, even though the court cases have brought them near bankruptcy.

Schumacher Furs Pays PETA

On January 24, US District Judge Michael Mosman ordered Schumacher Furs to pay more than \$40,000 in legal fees to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). Gregg Schumacher and his wife Linda sued PETA, claiming it was "stepping over the bounds of free speech into crimes and violations of city ordinances."

Judge Michael Mosman stated that the lawsuit was "an extraordinary abuse of the litigation process." He went on to add, "I find that awarding fees in this case will properly serve to deter putative plaintiffs from filing multimillion-dollar suits against nonprofit groups and private citizens engaged in First Amendment activities."

Mountain Justice Disrupts Bank With Old-Time Appalachian Music

BY WILLIE

At noon on March 5, approximately 24 Mountain Justice activists visited a Bank of America (BoA) in Boone, North Carolina, to protest the bank's funding of mountaintop removal coal mining and coal-fired power plants. The event was the third bluegrass-themed protest in a week in which Action Jackson, an Appalachian string band from East Tennessee, staged a traditional fiddle and banjo jam inside a BoA branch, for a rally in opposition to the bank's investments in coal. While the demonstration was underway, three account holders present in the bank chose to close their accounts in protest, informing the branch assistant manager that they would not allow their hard-earned money to destroy Appalachian communities and ecosystems. When police arrived on the scene they



BREF! pluckin' their strings inside Bank of America

briefly detained one protester. The activist was later released without arrest or citation.

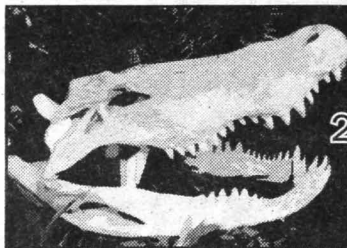
BoA has invested billions of dollars in companies that practice mountaintop removal, including Massey Energy, Arch Coal, Alpha Natural Resources and others. Mountaintop removal is a method of coal mining in which up to 1,000 vertical feet are blasted off a mountain and dumped into the adjacent valleys. The practice has destroyed more than 800 square miles of mountains,

and buried or polluted more than 1,200 miles of streams in Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. In addition to wreaking ecological havoc, the mining practice also endangers coalfield communities with toxic flash floods and mudslides. These and other impacts of coal extraction, coupled with the accelerated climate change caused by burning coal, have prompted the creation of this national campaign to pressure BoA to pull its funding of the coal industry.

"So long as BoA continues to fund the destruction of Appalachia, Appalachian string bands will have no choice but to bring our music into these banks. For as long as BoA is funding coal, we're going to keep coming back," promised one of the musicians.

For more information, contact Blue Ridge EF!, blueridgeEF@yahoo.com.

Between gigs and actions, Willie is soaking up the stillness of the Shenandoah Valley, working with Blue Ridge EF!, Mountain Justice and the Southeast Convergence for Climate Action.



Inspiration in Alligator Territory: 2008 Organizers' Conference Reportback

BY HANNAH

Palm fronds swaying, egrets bathing, environmental activists playing in the shallow swamp: In February, Earth Firsters returned to the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area in South Florida, for a week dedicated to movement strategizing, campaign building, networking, sharing and growing. Two years ago, the annual EF! Organizers' Conference (OC) was held in this same beautiful swampland. The 2006 OC was my first Earth First! event, and I felt it had been the most inclusive, productive radical gathering I had ever attended. This year, bringing the gathering back to Palm Beach County, the Everglades EF! crew outdid themselves, creating a conference even more superb than their last. The word among seasoned EF!ers is that this year's OC was the best in years.

What made it so successful? At past EF! gatherings, things have felt very homogenous, with most attendees coming from the local bioregion and, recently, most people being younger and newer to the movement. But this year's OC was one of the most diverse conferences I've attended. Folks representing an array of campaigns came from across the continent and beyond to lead workshops and share strategies, creating a diversity of ages, genders, ethnicities and languages. Everglades EF!, having raised money in advance, flew in environmental organizers from Canada, southern California and Ecuador. They were joined by organizers from the Stop I-69 campaign in Indiana, the Coalition of Immokalee workers in Florida, the anti-Plum Creek initiative in Maine, the mobilization against the Cliffside power plant in Katúah, the campaign against Florida Power and

Light in South Florida, the EF! Journal in Arizona and many others.

It was clear that the organizers had put months of planning into this gathering. The site included a deluxe outdoor kitchen that was complete with do-it-yourself rocket stoves, a covered library built from wood pallets and the most beautiful shitters you've ever laid eyes on. The schedule was organized and full of workshops that were a good balance of specific campaigns, movement strategizing and anti-oppression work. A panel of speakers at a workshop exploring indigenous environmental campaigns exemplified this. However, I would like to have seen more opportunities for skill sharing in the workshop schedule.

The energy and power dynamics among organizers and attendees felt balanced, making the conference feel more inclusive than most that I've attended. Organizers' roles were well-identified and beautifully handled. The organizers served as facilitators for morning circle and police liaisons, while attendees took care of setting up and breaking camp, cooking and security.

The direction of EF! was a focal point that came up throughout the week during conversations about anti-oppression, campaign tactics and government repression. With 250 people at the OC throughout the week, the workshops felt productive. They were well-attended, and goal- and strategy-oriented. Compared to workshops I've attended at past Rendezvous, which felt drawn out and convoluted, discussions about "the movement" were thought out and focused. Excellent facilitation made the difficult topics manageable.

One night, after word came of the latest round of Green Scare accusations, everyone gathered around the campfire, fueled by our anger and

our fear. After days of talking about the solidarity we all long to experience, here was a moment when long-term activists joined with the new, and older folks joined with the young. We created a call to action and painted a vision of unity in this struggle. The words left me energized and inspired.

The enthusiasm from that night prepped us for the action on the last morning. The lockdown at Florida Power and Light was well-coordinated and went off perfectly. Despite last-minute planning, the process still managed to be inclusive. Also, in contrast with male-dominated actions of the past, this one included skilled and powerful women in major roles. At the debriefing that night, many people shared that they thought it was perhaps the best post-Rondy action that they could recall.

Overall, the OC was organized, productive and inspiring. Yet, there's always room for improvement. The medical support throughout the week was spotty, without a clear location for supplies or visible communication channels between medics and attendees. I also found myself missing the raucous, music-filled fires of past gatherings. This year, the nights were mostly empty of activities that bring people together. While recognizing there's always room for growth, this gathering was full of learning, networking, strategizing and unification. The space was beautiful, the energy was fun and productive, and the action accomplished its goal. The Everglades EF! crew definitely raised the bar for future gatherings. I went home motivated, hopeful and ready for action.

Hannah lives in the mountains of North Carolina, and enjoys dancing in the street and belly-crawling through swamps.

Organizer's Conference Action

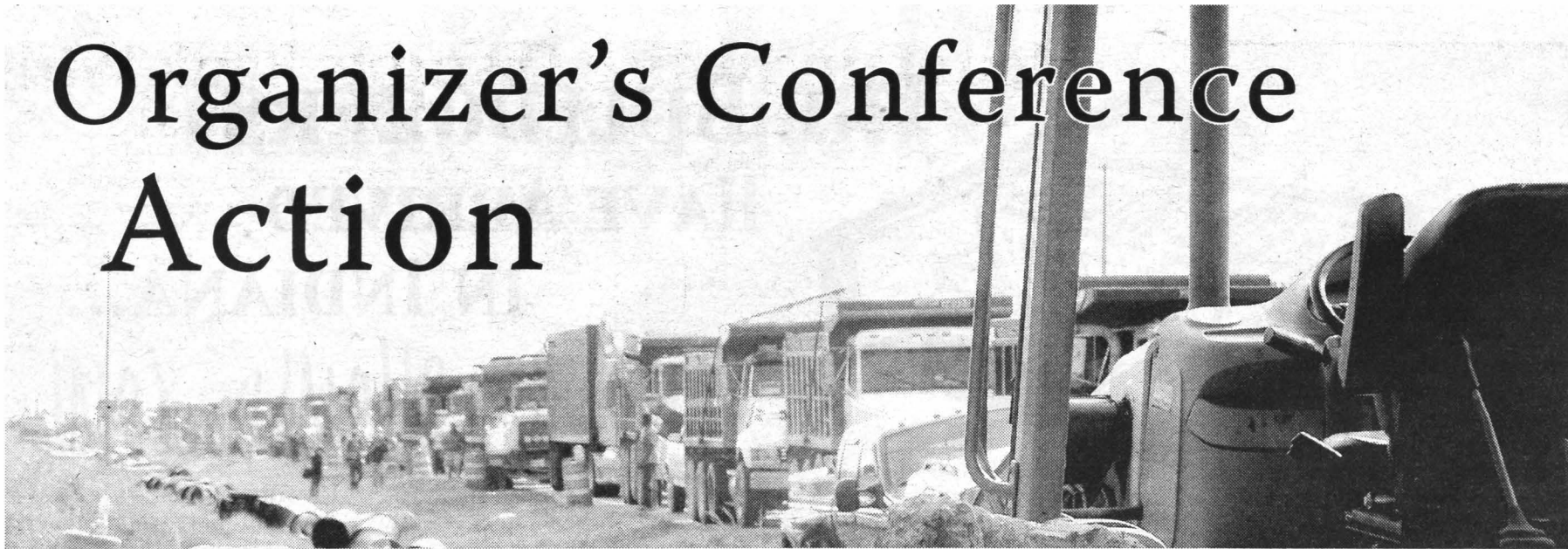


photo courtesy Everglades EFL

More than 150 trucks were stopped in front of FPL.

continued from page 1

We were there to stop the West County Energy Center, a massive natural gas plant that Florida Power and Light (FPL) is building at the headwaters of what's left of the Everglades. Any one of the problems this plant poses should be enough to cancel it: 12 million tons of carbon dioxide emitted annually; 13 pounds of mercury; 4,800 tons of other hazardous emissions; up to eight billion gallons of water drawn from surface and aquifer sources every year, 20 million of it deep-well-injected 3,000 feet below the Earth's surface as wastewater every day.

All of this is scheduled to occur less than 1,000 feet from a wildlife refuge that's home to 30 threatened and endangered species. Where's Charlie Crist, Florida's "green" governor? Where's the outrage, the dissent?

Our only demands were that we get to speak with Lew Hayes, FPL's CEO, and that we be allowed to stay until sunset. But Lew wasn't interested—and neither was the Sheriff's Department. Not that it mattered. Reasonable or not, none of us really expected our demands to be met. Why should they be? To them, we were criminals—petty criminals, but criminals nonetheless.

However, the crimes of FPL and its shareholders are far more severe than what we were doing. You see, aside from being ecologically immoral, the construction of the West County Energy Center is actually *illegal*. The deep-well-injection system—the prototype of which collapsed—is being built without a permit. FPL also lacks permits for the 34 miles of natural gas pipeline that this plant will require to work in the first place.

Maybe that's why Lew never shows up when we invite him out. Maybe he has a hard time answering certain questions.

Despite the fact that the construction of this plant totally undermines the federally funded, \$10-billion Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (see *EF!* November-December 2007), the Palm Beach Sheriff's Department had the audacity to complain that our actions cost the city \$100,000—a figure that it hasn't even bothered to explain. If the

Sheriff's Department was so concerned about the cost to taxpayers, maybe it shouldn't have blocked off seven miles of traffic leading up to the site. All we blocked was a driveway. Maybe it could have used fewer officers, fewer random cop cars sitting around with their



photo courtesy Everglades EFL

Playing leapfrog in front of FPL

lights on, fewer riot police. Maybe it didn't need to block traffic each time it transported protesters on the bus. Maybe it could have left that poor police dog who injured his paw back at the kennel.

Around 11:30 a.m., it came time to move in for the kill. The cops started out with pain compliance, threats and intimidation. Then came the buzzing of saws and the weird euphoria of going limp while random strangers yank you every which way. After that, we were carried like six-packs, one by one, to the bus, as our fans cheered and chanted. Overall, it took the cops until 1:40 p.m. to finish arresting those who locked down.

In 24 hours, we managed to travel from the rough-edged beauty of the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area (where the OC was held) to the bustling frenzy of a successful direct action to the perfect dystopia of incarceration.

At first, we refused to give our names. The county wasn't happy about processing 26 rambunctious Jane and John Smiths (not to mention the confusion of having an *actual* John Smith booked shortly before we got there).

In jail, our treatment was at once privileged and reprehensible. Our size and our unity allowed us to get away with things that the average inmate could never dream of—a fact I made sure never to forget. For example, after six hours without a restroom, several of us had urinated ourselves, and the police refused to give us any clothes to change into. As a result, some of us staged a naked solidarity strike for

our soiled companions, where we stripped nude, banged on the window and chanted, "Some clothes or no clothes! Some clothes or no clothes!" Eventually it worked. The Johns got away with more than the Janes, of course, because of the Jane's smaller numbers and the inherent misogyny of the system.

All of us were out within 36 hours, some sooner.

Being a group that learns from its mistakes, we took careful (and tedious) note of things that we could have done better. Certain aspects of the jail solidarity—withholding our names, for example—came up rather suddenly, and it was hard to keep tabs on how far we wanted to take things. Making whispered, last-minute decisions about fingerprints on a police bus is hardly comprehensive planning.

Additionally, more attention should have been paid to the truck drivers who shared the driveway to the construction site. Some of them were losing a day's pay and hadn't worked the previous week, either. At the very least, we could have talked to them more, offered them food and soda, or invited them to join us. (One of them actually *did* join us.)

Unexpected good things came out of this event as well: Based on the awesome jail support, some of us are starting a Food Not Bars, which



photo by Abigail

will give out free food, cigarettes, cell-phone calls and literature about the prison-industrial complex to

people coming out of jail. Ideas for better lockbox designs have been discussed as well. More importantly, some of the strained relationships a few of us had endured in the past few months are now a bit smoother.

People always ask if this sort of thing is effective. The naysayers proclaim that we're really just doing this for ourselves—that if we really want to change the world, we should run for office.

Every time somebody stands up (or locks down) in defense of something she truly believes in—something just, something worthwhile—then yes, it is effective. Even if no one hears about it, even if nothing changes externally, the mere act of defiance itself is worthwhile. Anything that breaks the spell of passivity, apathy and powerlessness that consumes us as a culture is worthwhile.

But even beyond that, actions like ours—and those detailed in every issue of the *EF!*—give *teeth* to the lawsuits, the editorials and the coffee-shop banter. They remind the people in power and on the streets how important what we're fighting for truly is. If you're not willing to fight for the planet you live on, the very thing that gives you and everything around you life, then what *are* you willing to fight for?

In many ways, February 18 was a new beginning for Everglades Earth First!. We now have new participants, new solidarity and a new sense of intimacy. Finally, we can dream again. It's easier to imagine a world worth saving and to go about creating that world every day with our thoughts and deeds.

Because of our efforts and the efforts of everyone who participated on that momentous day, FPL is on the defensive once again. Wherever it goes, whatever greenwash scheme it comes up with, people will be paying attention.

Plans are already underway to form a Loxahatchee Free State along part of the proposed 34-mile pipeline route. On top of that, we are gearing up for a fresh round of battle against FPL's nuclear expansions in Port St. Lucie and Miami.

This is far from over. From here on out, it's only a matter of time and tenacity. We invite you all to join us.

For more info, contact Everglades *EF!*, evergladesearthfirst@gmail.com; www.earthfirstoc2008.com.

John Smith 16, casually known as Hope Freid, has been involved in radical activism for three years—the three most fulfilling years of his life.



THE BULLDOZERS HAVE ARRIVED IN INDIANA... AND SO SHOULD YOU!

BY ROADBLOCK EF!

After years of planning and preparation, we have finally reached the breaking point. Construction contracts have gone out, and clearing has started for the first 1.8 miles of the I-69 free trade super-highway. Trees have been downed, and house demolitions have begun. Survey stakes cutting through cornfields clearly mark the path of destruction. Indiana Earth First! is busy with last-minute preparations to proactively defend the first section, starting immediately.

This Winter, as some folks began setting up networks and gathering supplies in Evansville and Bloomington, others did short speaking tours at national and regional gatherings. Carrying much-needed advice and inspiration, the I-69 consulta brought many dedicated Midwesterners, and more plans were solidified. We formed groups to take care of needs such as housing, convergence space, supplies, legal support, medical support and more.

In preparation, as well, are the police. The Indiana State Police and the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force are making the resistance against I-69 their highest priority in Indiana. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and local police have already been using intimidation tactics. During the March consulta, two cars were followed, on separate days, for 20 miles by INDOT trucks. After photographing houses slated for demolition, the founder of a liberal Bloomington anti-I-69 group was detained for an hour, and local police searched his car without consent.

Recognizing that we need to use a wide variety of tactics if we are actually going to be successful, some folks in Indiana are working on a "no-sell pledge." Folks have been contacting farmers and landowners who stand to lose their land and asking them to pledge not to sell to INDOT. The Hoosier Environmental Council and other liberal groups have gotten behind this and are setting up a legal team so farmers can challenge the state in a group lawsuit without losing any of their own money to legal fees.

Action Call Out

Now is the time. If you've ever thought about coming to Indiana, or if you've stayed in Bloomington and told us you'll be back when the bulldozers are here. If you are looking for the right excuse to quit your job, drop out of school or leave home. If you've ever wanted to fight with others to protect our wild places. If you've ever had a stake in this before, *now is the time!* The bulldozers have arrived, and so should you!

Affinity Group Model

So, you are ready for action. One of the most effective ways to carry out your action is through the use of the affinity group model. An affinity group is a group of people who share a specific idea for action and help each other to effectively carry it out. Affinity groups help people gain support for and from one another. They are nonhierarchical. Working with a group of people you know, trust and work well with aids you in building strength. They are usually small in numbers, being anywhere between two and 15 people. Groups can be assembled before or at actions. Your group could be anything from a bunch of medics who share supplies to a group of lawyers or to people with U-locks and barrels, ready to lock down.

Affinity groups help take some of the stresses away from planning and helping out in actions. Nobody is perfect, but with the help of others you can bounce ideas back and forth, and gain knowledge from one another. Affinity groups also help assure that no one is singled out or arrested without others knowing and helping them. While in the midst of actions, your group can help process problems that come up. It can help prevent rash, unthought-out reactions. So, whether you are a lone desperado or a band of rowdy ragamuffins, don't forget to act for and within the safety of your affinity group!

What to Bring

- A vehicle if you can!
- Camping supplies (tent, sleeping bags, tarps, mosquito nets, raingear, etc.).
- Food. We will be coordinating large food donations, but it would be helpful if you bring a stockpile of food when you arrive.
- Whatever materials you will need to carry out your action. We do have some materials to loan, but far from enough for everyone!
- Please check the wish list on our website before you come, and see if you can bring anything on it.

What to Expect

Gohmann Asphalt and Construction Inc.—contracted by INDOT—is currently clearing the first 1.8 miles of Section One, which runs from Evansville to Oakland City. The section begins where I-64 hits I-164, 16 miles outside of Evansville. The terrain is mostly agricultural fields with lines of trees separating different large plots.

The few houses on this part of the route have already been knocked down. Expect

a large amount of open space and some trees. There are currently many survey stakes, and there will probably be a wide variety of Earth-moving machines.

Previously, the clearing sites have been well-patrolled by marked and unmarked police cars and private security. This may be subject to change, but please consider this when planning. We are not sure about the presence of police at night. We do know that INDOT is employing a wide range of agencies, including the Indiana State Police and the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force—and that this alone is costing them loads of cash!

Check the website before you come. It should give you directions to the convergence space. From there, we will update you on what has been happening and help you figure out the logistics of your group's action. If you come by yourself, we will try to hook you up with other working groups. We encourage a wide variety of tactics. There are definitely ways to be involved without risking arrest.

Housing

We will have short-term floor space in Evansville and/or camping space near the start of the route. Folks coming for long periods of time (more than a week) are encouraged to camp out at nearby campgrounds or squat houses in Evansville. There are many abandoned houses in Evansville, and some houses sell for less than \$10,000. Efforts to create an autonomous free state on the route may or may not be successful, so be prepared to find housing if you are staying for more than a week.

If You Can't Make It

Please consider sending things on our wish list, which is on the website. We will need lots of bail money, so consider throwing a benefit and sending us some cash! Otherwise, continue to struggle against and fight the Earth-destroyers wherever you are.

For more information, contact roadblockef@yahoo.com; stopi69.wordpress.com.

RBEF! can't wait to see you!

Calling All SQUATTERS

TIME TO STRIKE
NOW IS THE CAPITALIST INFRASTRUCTURE
...in the heart(land)

Update on I-69 in Indiana

Ground has been broken for the construction of I-69, the NAFTA Superhighway, in southern Indiana. After 18 years of fierce public opposition and intense corporate lobbying, on March 11th, 2008 the construction company Gohmann A&C began using heavy equipment to remove trees on the lots of the six evicted houses within the first 1.77 miles of the proposed route. If completed I-69 will stretch some 2000 miles from the Canadian border to the Mexican border where it will connect with the Atlantic corridor highway of Plan Puebla Panama. The cost to complete I-69 in Indiana is huge—\$4 billion dollars and rising—and the population of the state is overwhelmingly against it. In Indiana alone, the highway is slated to displace 450 families and destroy 5,000 acres of farmland, 1,600 acres of forest, and 500 acres of wetlands.

NOW IS THE TIME TO STOP THIS MONSTER OF A ROAD!!!

LNG Facilities
Atlantic
Trans-Texas Corridor
Plan Puebla Panama

Come to Southern Indiana ASAP

Evansville is the closest city to the start of the route. It is the quintessential rustbelt town with many very inexpensive and abandoned houses, an infoshop, community gardens and a "pre-guerrilla garden" mayor, an anarchist owned coffee shop, a friendly food coop, and a very friendly housing coop. RBEF! will be able to direct people to short-term housing or base camps from which to get involved. We ask folks coming to be able to supply their own food, equipment, and gear, but we have some quantities of those stockpiled. Legal support is available, but limited. **NOW IS THE TIME TO COME TO SOUTHERN INDIANA!!!**

For more information see: StopI69.wordpress.com Questions? Resources to offer? Contact us: RoadblockEF@yahoo.com

Clip now for big savings of Indiana forests! Post everywhere!

JUNE 30 -
JULY 7

The 2008 EF! Round River Rendezvous

why ohio?

photos courtesy HockHocking EF!

This Summer's Round River Rendezvous will be held from June 30 to July 7 in southeastern Ohio's Appalachian region. We invite you to join us in our struggle for Ohio's forests and against renewed mining activity. We hope that this year's Rendezvous will provide space for reflection on the movement, time for planning and strategizing, a chance to get to know Earth First! companions from other places, and an opportunity for others to get to know and love some of the damaged yet resilient ecology of Ohio. Meet Indiana bats, cerulean warblers, and a variety of herbaceous plants and hardwood trees. Whether you've never been to an EF! gathering or you've never missed one, join us in Ohio for a week of activist work and play!

BY HOCKHOCKING EF!

A Brief History

Ohio is a state defined by its geography. The Wisconsin ice sheet bulldozed its way south from Canada 18,000 years ago, flattening terrain, churning rocks into paste and leaving a rich layer of freshly excavated mineral soil, which remains over most of the state today. To the north, the glacier left the Great Lakes, which contain 22 percent of the world's fresh water. To the south, it left the Ohio River, the single largest tributary of the Mississippi. Ohio sits in a temperate belt, experiences four distinct seasons and enjoys a wealth of hardwood forest biodiversity. Before 1492, Ohio was home to some of the most complex agricultural civilizations in North America.

European settlement in Ohio was largely determined by its waterways. From Ohio, timber, furs, clay, iron ore, coal and people could be moved south to New Orleans or north to the Great Lakes. Early settlers clearcut forests to build farms, pastures and, eventually, cities.

The glaciers never reached southeast Ohio, and the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains formed a distinct ecosystem with a very different geology. The 300-million-year-old soils are thinly layered there atop steep slopes and leached clays, unable to retain nutrients like the soils of the plains. Many farms in this region were abandoned as early American settlers learned the hard way that Ohio's hill country stored its biomass best in the trunks of trees.

The ancient coastline that created the rotting sandstone cliffs of the Appalachians also left behind coal, oil and natural gas. As early as 1810, coal mines opened throughout the region, setting the stage for a multi-century drama of resource extraction. Failing farms provided the desperate work force, rivers and canals provided the transport to market and high-sulfur seams provided the wealth. With the arrival of railroads, Ohio's role as energy supplier to the eastern US was secured.

The Mesabi Iron Range opened for mining in Minnesota in the 1880s, sending iron ore out of Duluth, Minnesota, and across the Great Lakes. Investors quickly realized that the energy provided by coal could be used to fire mills and iron refineries in Ohio, and thus, Ohio's industrial boom was born.

It was during this period that Ohio's "C" cities (Columbus, Cleveland and Cincinnati), along with smaller centers like Akron, Dayton and Youngstown, boomed, drawing immigrant populations from across the globe. The boom lasted until the 1970s, when the US economy deindustrialized and jobs went overseas. By the 1980s, the boom had busted, Ohio joined the rust belt, and the big cities, like the rural settlements before them, were struck with waves of unemployment.

Ohio's only national forest, the Wayne, consists almost entirely of land stripped bare and then donated to the federal government, without mineral rights, by mining companies during the Great Depression. Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration workers planted millions of native trees in the Wayne in the 1930s and 1940s, reforesting the landscape as part of a surprisingly intelligent federal plan that has allowed the land to return to its more natural eastern deciduous forest ecosystem. Scattered throughout the Wayne are more than 5,000 mining-related sites, including open mine shafts, piles of debris and old furnaces.

Current Trends

Unfortunately, the humans of Ohio have fared little better than the trees, soils and waterways. Poverty and risky employment—mining remains the most dangerous industry in the US—have exacerbated the health risks posed by local environmental hazards. Ohio is much like all states, in that rates of asthma, obesity, diabetes and heart attacks have skyrocketed in recent years. Less often reported is that southeast Ohio has one of the highest cancer rates in the country.

Ohio's air quality ranks among the worst in the US, and the Ohio River is contaminated with

PCBs, mercury and dioxin. Communities along the river suffer from unexplained illnesses. Residents complain of foul smells, black dust, acrid mists, sores, headaches, respiratory problems, high cancer rates and physical ailments not usually seen in otherwise healthy people.

Today, the steel mills are gone. Urban sprawl is gobbling up land around the city centers. Coal mines are silent, and farms in Appalachian Ohio are overgrown. The cities, which once overflowed with diverse cultures, are slowly going bankrupt, encircled by tract suburbs and foreclosure belts. Farmers in the glacial plain struggle with drought, flooding, the consequences of overgrazing, genetically modified crops, and effluent from huge cattle, pork and chicken farms.

In southeast Ohio, the scars of the last two centuries are inscribed deeply into the land. Toxic, yellow, green and orange acid mine-drainage leaches from sulfur-rich tailings piles around abandoned coal seams. Huge gob and slag piles dot the forests. Crumbling chemical plants and superfund sites drip complex organic contaminants into groundwater. Despite the resilience of second- and third-growth forests, many never recovered from being clearcut, and hardwood logging continues to this day.

Up until the last 10 years, southeast Ohio has remained fairly isolated by poor roadways, leaving much of the Appalachian culture of the area intact. This isolation also made it difficult to industrialize the region (except along the river) and kept it free, for the most part, of major development. However, over the past decade, new road projects and big-box stores have reached virtually every town of more than 20,000 people. In the absence of better employment, municipalities are competing for the minimum-wage jobs that come with them.

The tentacles of the energy industry are once again slithering into the hills and forests of Appalachia. The coal and natural gas never truly dried up, and the Ohio River still offers transportation and cooling for heavy industries. Most

continued on next page

JUNE 30 -
JULY 7

The 2008 EF! Round River Rendezvous

why ohio? (CONTINUED)

continued from previous page
importantly, though, the poverty and neglect created by the first waves of Appalachian exploitation remain, and the captains of commerce expect little resistance to their plans.

As Human Habitat

The steep hills and deep hollers of southeast Ohio have, until relatively recently, made the area inhospitable to newcomers. A lot of the traditional Appalachian culture is still strong in

these remote areas. We chose this region of the state to host the 2008 Rondy because of its biodiversity and its rich history of rebellion.

During the mid-1700s, conflict brewed along the Ohio River. In the French and Indian War, British colonialists from Pennsylvania and Virginia—both of which claimed the territory—fought the French forces that also claimed the region. Eventually, the British gained sovereignty over the Ohio Valley. In the early 1800s, Tecumseh, a Shawnee warrior, was a unifying force for

the native resistance movement east of the Mississippi. Tecumseh and his brother Tenskwatawa broke all the rules by traveling among warring tribes with a message to refrain from ceding any more lands to the US, unify against the whites, return to native ways and independence, refuse to drink alcohol and cease prisoner torture among the Shawnee.

The conditions of early European settlement of Appalachia are debated, but a lot of families claim that their ancestors “ran to the hills” to

escape indentured servitude or worse. A healthy disrespect for government and regulation has characterized the region ever since. Appalachia has seen titanic union struggles against coal companies, numerous stations on the underground railroad and several economies dealing in various officially prohibited substances.

Appalachian culture has traditionally been less socially segregated than other regions of the US. The Knights of Labor, one of the earliest labor organizations to welcome women and blacks, built their first union hall in Shawnee, and many local towns proudly describe their heritage as WIN—standing for “white, Indian and negro.”

Athens and surrounding counties have experienced a second wave of cantankerously independent culture in the last half-century. Numerous social-justice-oriented projects, land trusts and intentional communities dot the landscape. Local annual events include the Moonshine, Pawpawfruit and Atlatl (a Paleolithic hunting tool) festivals.

Several environmental actions and campaigns have taken place in southeast Ohio, including the Zaleski treesit (one of the first east of the Mississippi) and the Eastern Forest Defense Camp. Many organizations dedicated to environmental and social justice, food security and access, and cultural preservation call southeast Ohio home.

This year, southeast Ohio hosted Mountain Justice Spring Break, and will host the annual Heartwood gathering and the EF! Round River Rendezvous.

What to Expect

If you grew up without a 4-H Club, you probably don't realize how devastating rural poverty actually is in the US. In southeast Ohio, common thefts include the siding off of houses, the catalytic converters out of cars and standing timber off of other people's land. There is a good chance that your great idea—rainwater collection, for instance, or scrap-wood shacks—is already in common use as a *survival tactic*. While here, do not act the fool; do not be arrogant. Comments to the effect that it is sick to live

**EARTH FIRST! 2008
ROUND RIVER RENDEZVOUS**

CAMP OUT
SHARE SKILLS
REIGNITE A MOVEMENT
NETWORK
MAKE FRIENDS
HAVE FUN

APPALACHIAN OHIO
JUNE 30TH-JULY 6TH
WWW.ROUNDRIVERRONDY.INFO

Cut out and display!

JUNE 30 -
JULY 7

The 2008 EF! Round River Rendezvous

... AND A FEW DETAILS

so far from "wilderness" will not be taken well by locals or by organizers of this event.

Ohio, like any place, has a complex story, full of contradictions and rich with detail and nuance. It is easy to condemn coal mining and logging as destroyers of the Earth. It is much more difficult to engage with old coal miners and their families as they work to revive the town of New Straitsville from its economic downturn. Or with a neighbor who began to selectively cut maple trees from his forest several years ago, only to fall ill last Winter. With no insurance, he had to make the decision to clearcut his forest to pay the medical bills.

This is the reality of the world we inhabit; it is not specific to Ohio. What we lack in pristine forests and rivers, we replace with our fierce connection to the land and each other. In our wounded land, clean running springs bubble out of the hillsides, and caves hide in the tangles of our forests. They, and we, are doing exactly what we have always done: thriving against all odds. The land here has many secrets and a long history: human habitation, struggle, compromise, rebellion and victory have all come to Ohio by turns. Now, we are inviting you.

What to Bring

- An open mind
- Camping gear (camping area is wooded)
- Food and snacks (three meals a day will be provided, but plan on cooking a few meals for yourself)
- A reusable water bottle and water
- Rain gear
- Warm clothes
- Comfortable footwear
- Sunscreen
- Instruments
- Friends and a positive attitude!

What Not to Bring

If you bring food or water bottles, please cut down on excessive packaging—pack it in, pack it out!

We encourage you to leave the booze at home, but if you can't be without it, bring all you will need with you, as there will not be anywhere close by to obtain it. *Alcohol will only be tolerated in designated spaces.*

We encourage you to leave your dogs at home. People who do bring dogs are required to keep them leashed (except in the designated doggy play area) for the safety and sanity of all individuals attending. We expect you to clean up after your dog on trails and in common areas.

Dinnerware and silverware will be provided.

Workshop Submissions

We want to create an environment that encourages and inspires new ideas, learning, sharing, and reflection on the tactics and strategies of the environmental movement.

We need *you* to do this! If you've been working on a project or skill that you think others could benefit from learning, we invite you to share it!

To submit your workshop ideas, contact rondy2008@gmail.com.

The deadline for workshop submissions is May 31.

hockhocking ef! revival (REPORTBACK)

On March 21-23, HockHocking EF! (HHEF!) hosted the "Earth First! Revival" in Athens, Ohio. Three EF! chapters, as well as organizers from Columbus, Ohio, met to plan the 2008 Round River Rendezvous and discuss the revival and direction of our regional movement. Blue Ridge EF! and Maketewah Terra Prima EF! joined us in a dilapidated but warm cabin that was originally built as a Girl Scout camp.

Friday night was a relaxing evening of music and conversation around a campfire. We watched the sun set and the full moon rise, breathing in the brisk air of another Spring equinox. Saturday morning, we shared an early breakfast and got down to business. Each group reported on its current projects. We also discussed our intentions to nurture a unified movement by creating open, respectful dialogue with other environmental organizations in our communities—a dialogue that does not split hairs by focusing on disagreements, but rather one that highlights areas in which we agree and how we can work together.

After lunch, EF! traveled to Meigs County, where we were invited to join in a similar discussion at Mountain Justice Spring Break. EF!ers and Mountain Justice huddled in a circle around a pot-bellied wood stove with their minds and ears open. After introductions, HHEF! gave a brief overview of the EF! movement and invited Mountain Justice attendees to this year's



You've got to know your chicken of the woods mushrooms (upper right) and butterfly weed (lower right) before coming to Ohio (left).

Round River Rendezvous. Mountain Justice followed with an account of its birth in 2005 and its history to the present. We found a lot of common ground and pledged to build on one another's momentum, working strategically toward the same goals as part of a regional anti-coal campaign.

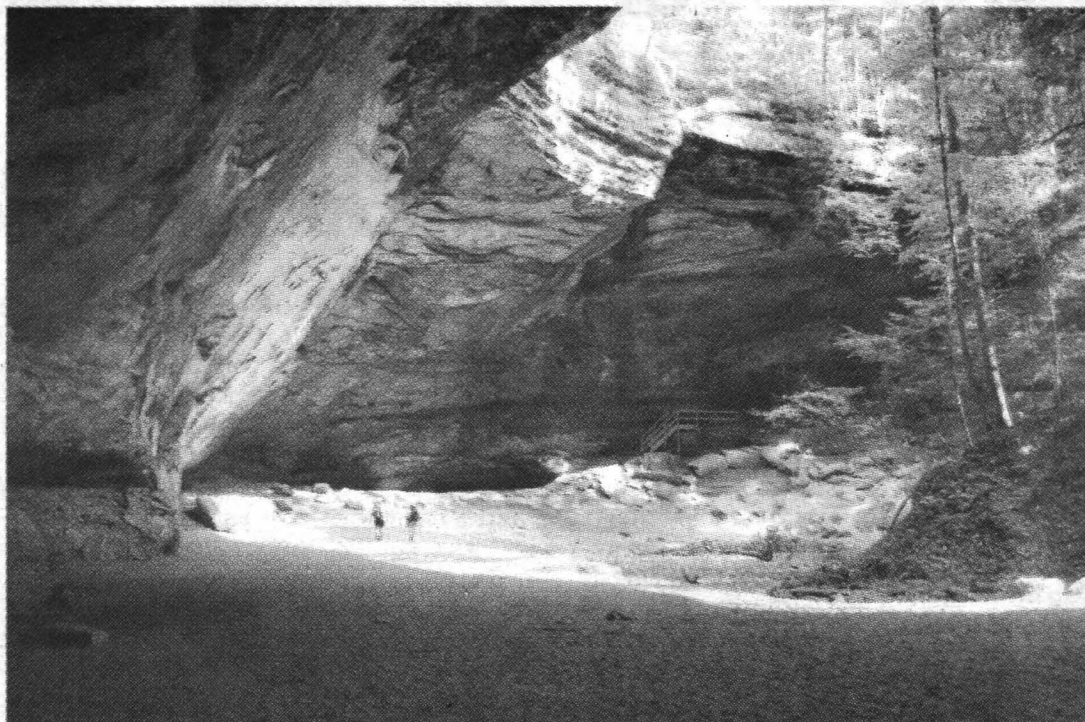
Later, a representative from Blue Ridge EF! reported back from the Organizers' Conference (OC), encouraging HHEF! Rondy organizers

to build off of the thoughtful intentions of the OC organizers by giving special attention to oppression and privilege within the EF! movement. We pledged to work on these issues explicitly at the Rondy by having elders in the movement illuminate our shameful past, blocking off most of two days for anti-oppression workshops, calling on skilled anti-oppression trainers and infusing these themes into the entire week.

After this discussion, the group enjoyed a delicious dinner and traveled to Athens to attend a raucous performance by Here's to the Long Haul at the Smiling Skull Saloon. EF!ers and Mountain Justice folks mingled with the Skull's hippie biker regulars. The original Appalachian-grown, old-time-inspired protest music of Here's to the Long Haul struck chords with everyone present and sent us all home smiling and thoughtful.

JUNE 30 -
JULY 7

The 2008 EF! Round River Rendezvous



no new coal in ohio!

HockHocking Earth First! decided to kick off our newly revived group with a No New Coal in Ohio! campaign. Ohio is now in the crosshairs of a major energy project that would bring three new coal plants to Meigs County, Ohio, and two new plants to neighboring Mason County, West Virginia, in the next several years. It may also mean a resumption of underground coal mining as early as this year. The completion of these plants would create the highest concentration of coal-fired plants in the country.

Gatling, a company based in Beckley, West Virginia, has been busy buying and leasing mining rights and conducting pre-blast surveys on privately owned lands in Meigs County. It is preparing a 90-acre coal preparation site on the floodplain along Yellowbush Creek, near Racine, Ohio.

Citizens have requested a public meeting with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to ask questions regarding changes Gatling made to the original mining permit application since the 30-day public comment period ended almost a year ago. ODNR has yet to confirm a meeting to answer community questions. The local newspaper, however, reported that blasting could begin any time now. This is in spite of the fact that, as of March 23, ODNR has issued neither a mining permit nor a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit to Gatling.

Additionally, ODNR and the Army Corps of Engineers have repeatedly denied citizens' requests for a 401 permit, which would evaluate the impacts of the proposed mining site on groundwater. Amazingly, each of these agencies determined that there would be *no significant impacts on the water*, despite the presence of three streams running through the proposed site. In addition, the site would sit on two overlapping flood

plains that empty almost immediately into the Ohio River.

In Gatling's communication to local residents, the company states that blasting activity aimed at removing overburden (the hard, rocky earth under the soil that hides the precious elements deeper underground), building up the mine site in the floodplains and building sludge impoundments could begin in April and last through September.

Completion of the prep site would pave the way for Gatling to process the coal it would gather from its 2,000 acres of new underground mines. (This initial mining area would be expanded in five-year increments to encompass a much larger area.) The prep site and the underground mines would cement Racine as the heart and soul of mining activity in the area.

Gatling plans to mine the area for the next 40 years, and Tim Myers, Gatling's former chief engineer, told community members that the company intends to begin doing sludge injection into abandoned underground mines when it reapplies for its permits in five years.

If plans continue unabated, citizens of Racine and surrounding areas would hear blasting nearly every day for the rest of the year, would face potential damage to drinking water supplies, and would be at risk for increased flooding, subsidence and dust from the processing plants. In addition, roads could be impacted, and the county will be strapped to deal with potential damage.

The context for this increased mining activity is the recent approval granted by the Ohio Power Siting Board for two of five proposed coal plants for the Meigs County area. The American Municipal Power plant (one of the two) is slated to begin construction in 2009. If completed, it would burn 12,000 tons of coal per day. American Electric Power also

received approval to build an Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) plant in Meigs. Many environmental organizations approve of this plant, staunchly defending IGCC's "clean-coal" technology as the best available. Almost certainly, none of the organizations' leaders are residents of Meigs or surrounding counties.

Even though siting permits have been issued, many other permits are still needed before these plants can begin operating; they are not a done deal. Meigs Citizen's Action Now (Meigs-CAN) is the only community-based group currently working to stop all new mining activity in the area. Since its inception, Meigs-CAN has educated residents about their rights in relation to mining-related activities. It conducted listening projects to identify community concerns and created opportunities to address those concerns. It is currently receiving no major funding and is composed almost exclusively of citizens of Racine and the surrounding countryside.

With Mountain Justice Spring Break kick-starting things in Meigs County, the Heartwood Annual Gathering in Ohio's Shawnee State Forest and the EF! Round River Rendezvous in southeast Ohio, there is the potential to give significant support to local organizing efforts. As many have said, it is nearly impossible to shut down a plant once it's in operation, but it's very possible to stop a plant

from being built before it's even broken ground.

For more information, contact Elisa Young of Meigs-CAN, (740) 949-2175; elisayoung1@hotmail.com.

NATIONAL CORPORATIONS THAT CALL OHIO HOME

•**Mead Timber Co.:** With its headquarters in Dayton, Ohio, Mead has vast landholdings throughout southeast Ohio and a large pulp-processing plant in Chillicothe.

•**Eramet:** A French company, Eramet produces manganese, which is used to strengthen steel. Eramet has a plant located along the Ohio River in Marietta, home of the worst air quality in the country.

•**Goodyear:** Headquartered in Akron, Goodyear is the former owner and operator of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant nuclear facility.

•**Ohio State University:** The largest university in the US, Ohio State is located in Columbus. Its president, Gordon Gee, is on the board of directors for Massey Energy Corporation, a major perpetrator of mountaintop removal coal mining in central Appalachia.

•**American Electric Power:** Headquartered in Columbus, this is the US's largest electricity supplier, owning 80 power plants with a 36,000-megawatt capacity. Seventy-three percent of this energy comes from coal.

•**AK Steel Holding Corporation:** Headquartered in West Chester, AK Steel's main products are carbon, stainless and electrical steels, and cold-rolled and aluminium-coated stainless steel for automakers.

•**Diebold, Inc.:** Headquartered in Canton, Diebold makes the electronic voting machines that have replaced paper ballots around the country. In 2003, Diebold's CEO said that he was "committed to helping Ohio deliver its electoral votes to the president [Bush] next year."

Frontlines

Proposed Titanium Mine Suffers a Setback

More than 300 Vietnamese ransacked a proposed titanium mine site in late December, destroying machinery and pipelines. They were moved to act out of concern that the mine would contaminate soil and groundwater around their seaside community.

Developers intend to turn the site into a tourist resort after the mine is depleted, but the residents are firm in their preference for maintaining the site as it stands, using it as a buffer from wind and sand.

Deceased Animals Finally Cremated

An animal rights group claimed responsibility for a fire that destroyed a taxidermy shop in Delhi, New York, on January 25. A letter, signed with the initials "ARF," said the fire was "just a warning." However, investigators are unsure what "ARF" means or if the letter was even written by someone connected to the fire.

David Shaw, the owner of Perkins Taxidermy, said he found the letter in the shop's mailbox two to three weeks after the blaze. Regardless of the letter's authenticity, Shaw said he is taking the threat seriously.

"There are a lot of lunatics running around out there that no one can stop," he said.

UCLA Primate Researcher Hit for the Second Time in Four Months

An incendiary device was left at the door of a primate researcher's house on February 5. Edythe London, a professor at the University of California-Los Angeles, was not home when her front door was set alight. However, the blaze didn't extend past her door.

In October, the Animal Liberation Front flooded London's home with a garden hose. No arrests have been made in either attack.

London's work studying tobacco addiction in primates is funded by a \$6-million grant from the tobacco industry.

FLAM Extends Streak

The Animal Liberation Front Mexico (FLAM) graciously accepted the award for Most Active Animal Liberation Front cell at an imaginary awards ceremony.

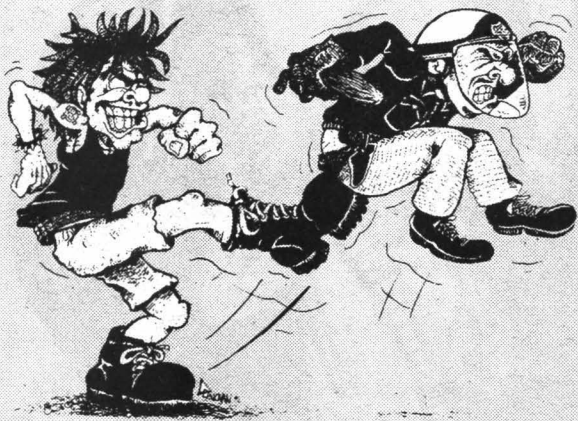
FLAM dropped jaws in the last "Frontlines" section (see *EF/I* March-April 2008) with its impressive determination in attacking animal exploiters. Since then, FLAM has kept at it.

On February 8, the FLAM-Commando Green Black unit set fire to a Bachoco shop in Mexico State. The attack against Bachoco, Mexico's largest poultry company, was intended to express "disgust and hatred for the system in which we live—where machismo, fascism and speciesism are the way of living in these times of death and destruction," according to a communiqué.

On March 6, FLAM attacked three restaurants in Mexico State. The next day, a KFC in the

same area was thoroughly vandalized. Among the messages left, FLAM warned the KFC workers to "go vegan straightedge!" Two more restaurants were attacked the following day, and another KFC was hit on March 11.

Let's wait and see what FLAM has got in store for the next two months....



sist, and their fans did just that.

About 24 people surrounded the cop car that the arrestee had been taken to, successfully un-arresting the person in question and causing the cops to abandon the car. As the mob grew to more than 200 people, rioters smashed the car windows, tagged the car, took what they wanted from inside—including a laptop and a radar gun—and turned it upside down.

When more filth showed up, they encountered rocks, bottles and other projectiles thrown their way. There were no arrests.

Solidarity Attack in Uruguay

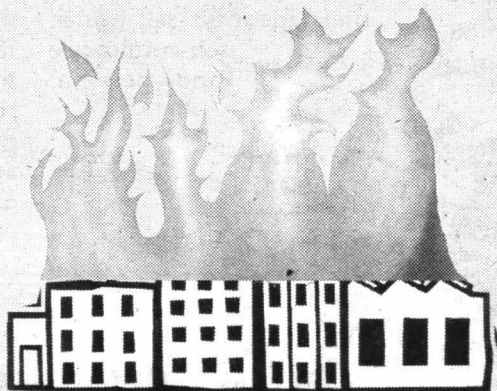
On February 27, the Goethe Institute of Montevideo, Uruguay, had all of its windows destroyed by anarchists. According to a communiqué, the Goethe Institute was chosen because of its connections to the German government.

The attack was carried out in support of and in solidarity with a hunger strike that took place from February 18-29 by anarchist prisoners in Germany, Spain, Switzerland and Argentina. "Down with the walls of the prisons!" exclaimed the attackers.

"Green" Builder Given a Black Eye

A banner reading, "Built Green? Nope, Black!" was left at a firebombed "environmentally friendly" construction site in Woodinville, Washington. Cops said three luxury homes were destroyed and two more were impacted on March 3, causing a total of \$7 million in damage.

A signature with the initials of the Earth Liberation Front was found at the site, but there is speculation that the developer or others in the failing real estate industry could have had a hand in the arson.



Six Cops Are Going to Have to Start Walking

Six cop cars were torched in Montréal, Canada, on March 14. Hours afterward, the Your Father Collective claimed responsibility with a message posted on Indymedia Québec.

According to the message, the action was against "increasing oppression in the neighborhood and everywhere else exploitation exists." It also urged people to set fire to not only more cop cars, but also the "homes and hotels of capitalists." In addition, the group said it was acting in solidarity with indigenous people fighting for freedom and autonomy.

The arsons occurred a day before the International Day Against Police Brutality, at which 47 people were arrested in Montréal.

Irish Road Resistance Sees the Light of Day

A tunnel was dug into a hillside and under a proposed highway site in Ireland, in an attempt to prevent the road from being constructed. Lisa Feeney spent 60 hours in the tunnel in mid-March, forcing workers to stop construction for fear that the tunnel would collapse with her inside.

Eventually, the Irish government brought in Feeney's father and uncle to plead with her to come out. Both relatives had been told Feeney's life was in imminent danger, although protesters had taken great precautions to reinforce the sides of the tunnel. Before she came out, the government agreed to stop construction for a month, giving protesters time to file a legal injunction to halt the road.

The hillside in question is the Hill of Tara, upon which the Rath Lugh National Monument is

positioned. This is an important cultural site for Ireland and is under consideration for UN World Heritage Site designation.

A Festival of Fire

A Greek anarchist group, Conspiracy of Cells of Fire Thessaloniki-Athens, claimed responsibility for a series of arsons conducted during a "three-day festival of fire," from March 18-20. According to a communiqué, the group wanted to attack aspects of today's world that directly lead to an increasingly Orwellian society. The "festival" was dedicated to two activists who were detained for attempting to blow up a cop vehicle.

Among the group's targets were a cop bus, the Thessaloniki city hall, two security vehicles, a bank, a prison-construction company vehicle, an electric company and a security company building.

The Great Mung Bean Offensive

Mung beans seem to be the fad with activists in Edinburgh, Scotland, who have been putting the dry bean in a car's tire valve, causing the air to escape, before they leave a message on the windshield, explaining their actions.

Deflating the tires of cars that are deemed environmentally unfriendly has been on the rise in Europe (see *EF/I* January-February 2008). Though the Scottish government feels differently, it's been pointed out that this is not a crime in many countries.



What's That Giant Sucking Sound?

Could It Be YOU?

BY WARCERY

Oppression is like accidentally stepping in dog shit. You rarely see it coming, but once it has happened, you are forced to deal with it. You can't pretend it didn't happen, because there you are, scraping it off your sole/soul. I have learned that one must not dwell in dog shit, because one has somewhere to go and must continue on one's path. Dog shit is not an endearing metaphor, I realize, but it seems to be an enduring one.

Oppression has a nasty way of eroding one's sense of self-worth and value. It can be insidious in the way it creates self-doubt, in the way it creeps into your psyche, eroding your spirit little by little—one insulting, degrading and dismissive comment at a time. In her essay "Oppression," Marilyn Frye compared being oppressed to being a bird in a bird cage. When you look closely, you can only see one bar—it doesn't seem like a big deal. However, when you take a holistic view, you can see the many bars that surround the bird, making flight impossible.

I have learned a lot about oppression since my first backwoods direct actions with EF! more than 10 years ago. I have participated in different political movements since then. I have watched so-called radicals and not-so-radicals grow resentful and scream at me at the top of their lungs simply because I dared to hold an opinion that differed from theirs. They couldn't handle the fact that someone might consider their ideas and still disagree. Unwilling or unable to debate ideas respectfully like mature adults, some find it easier to censor, ban and silence than to allow discussion. It amazes me that I am expected to suspend the critical thinking process that I use to determine my own beliefs. It is as if they expect submission. Are we wearing vinyl body suits and wielding whips and chains? No? Then don't expect me to be your submissive.

I often sense that if I just smile and nod, I could avoid tirades by white men who tower over me, spittle flying as they try to intimidate. Where is the pepper spray when you need it? Some people still expect a "yes-sum mastuh," instead of recognizing that I have my own brain and that I might even want to use it. Sorry, but dem slave days are over!

If you internalize negative messages, taking them into your system of beliefs and feelings, and allowing them to remain, they will debilitate your spirit and colonize your thinking. Soon the invading thoughts seem like they are your own. But they are not! They have been implanted, and they must be identified and up-

rooted like alien weeds that strangle one's precious life force.

I have learned that I must always explore what I am capable of, no matter what anyone else says. I have learned that I must never, ever view myself through the eyes of my oppressors or internalize their definitions of me for a single second. It is life-draining to have your value and worth determined as null and void by some arrogant, presumptuous, insensitive, self-serving fuck.

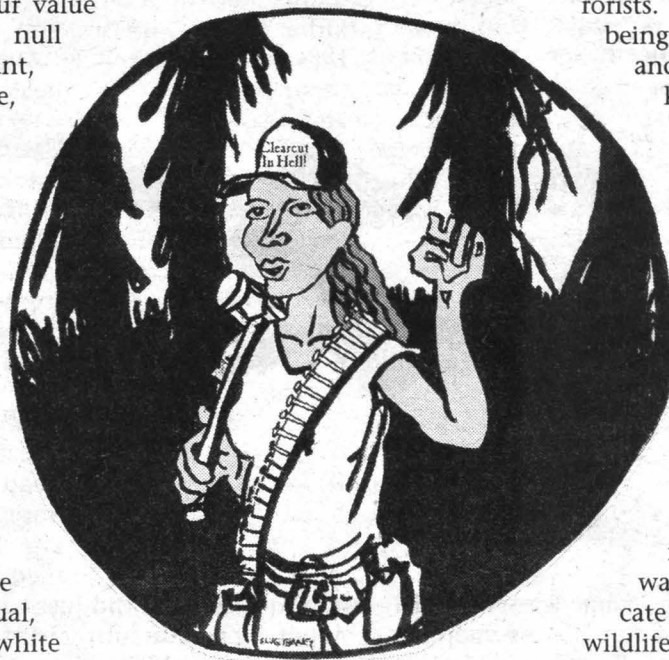
Despite their politically correct rhetoric, some people just cannot or will not treat women or people of color as equals. They disguise their fear with hostility and contempt because they cannot come to terms with their own insecurities. For example, a white supremacist hates black people because it allows him to feel superior. Deep down, he feels insecure as an individual, so he has to embrace a white power identity to feel good about himself. He projects his self-hate and insecurity onto the target of his contempt, which spares him from facing his own uncomfortable feelings of low self-esteem. For another example, black slaves were not allowed to read or write, because whites found educated Negroes too threatening—just as men found educated women too threatening and didn't allow them to go to college until after the civil war!

The New Orleans disaster showed the world that Amerikkka does not care about black people. It tore away the fig leaf of equality in a violently racist society. Similarly, if we scratch the surface of any progressive or even radical movement in the US and peek beneath its politically correct jargon, we often find intolerant and power-hungry individuals. At least on the political right, there are fewer pretenses of inclusivity and tolerance. Just because you don't identify as a white supremacist does not mean you do not replicate similar dynamics of exclusion and oppression.

Within our movements, people are too savvy to say, "She's too smart, too difficult to control and manipulate." However, they will find excuses to exclude those by

whom they feel threatened. Some mask their hostility and prejudice with smiles and friendly words while secretly attacking and undermining one's standing.

Because oppression can have subtle forms, it can be a bewildering and disorienting experience



precisely because it is so difficult to name. The politics of exclusion are so frequently cloaked in other guises. A variety of "reasonable" excuses are invoked and employed to justify the oppressive exclusion.

Oppression may seem like an abstract concept, but it can be deeply painful and demoralizing. Even the US Marine Corps identifies "troop morale" as an important factor in battle. The better one's morale, the better one can withstand the stress and challenges of combat. Low troop morale is equated with weak soldiers. EF! doesn't have a boot camp (yet) where they teach you that maintaining morale, especially in a protracted engagement, is going to be a deciding factor between who keeps fighting and who drops out.

US military torture guidelines refer to someone who has been psychologically broken as a Person Under Control (PUC). One goal of torture is to reduce prisoners to PUC status, as they are then easier to control and extract information from.

Our goal in the movement should be the opposite. Instead of psychologically breaking people with attacks on their identity, self-worth, self-confidence and personal

value, we should strive to build up one another's sense of personal worth and power. A resistance made of unbroken and strong-willed individuals is a movement less likely to be shattered.

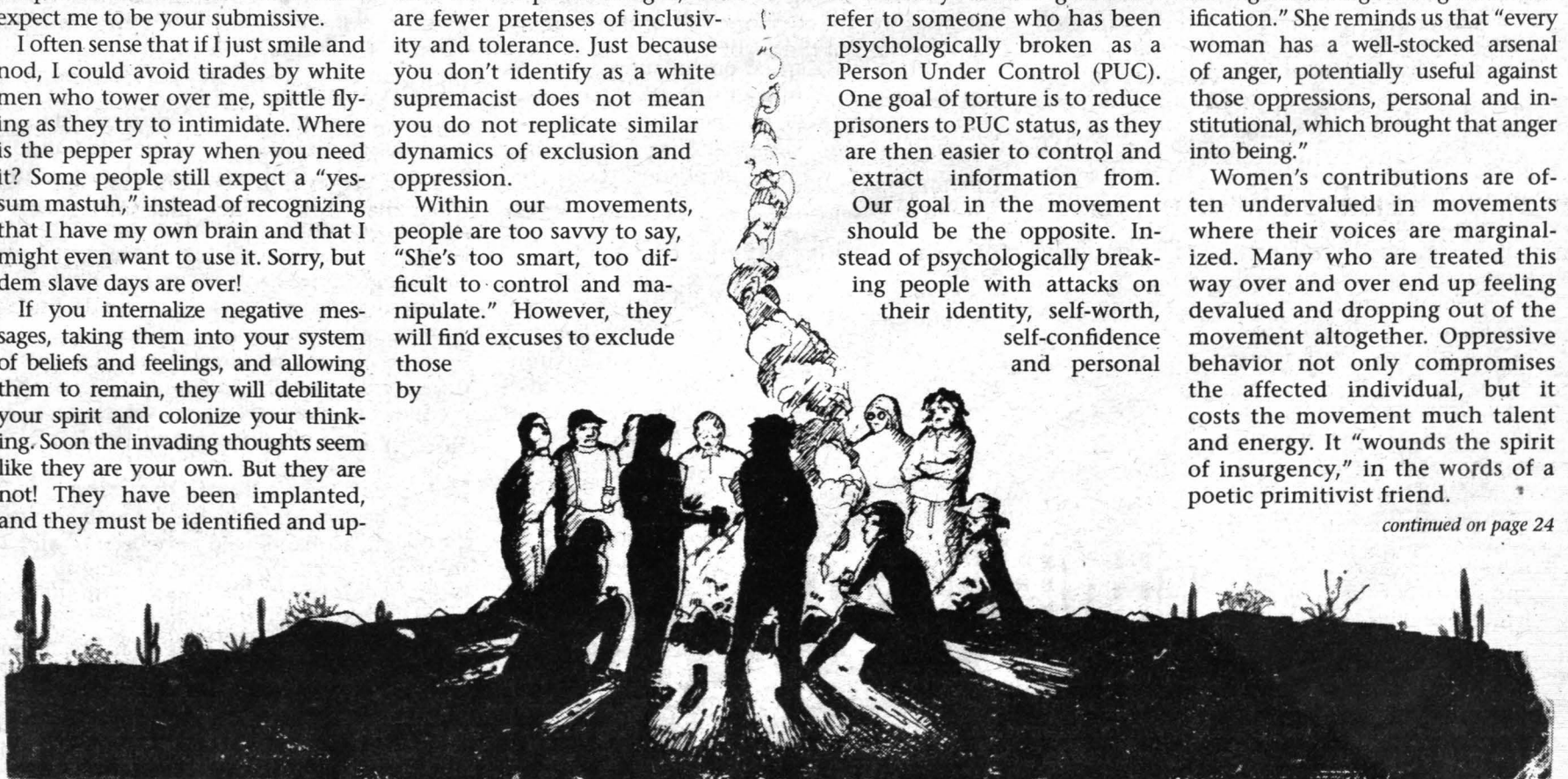
George W. Bush once said that withdrawing from Iraq would send a message that would "embolden" terrorists. The state is interested in us being not bold but psychologically and emotionally crippled. Also, keep in mind that the system is fundamentally anti-love and anti-self-realization.

Our job is to undo the damage we have all already suffered (to varying degrees) to our self-concept and self-worth. Our job is to expand the imagination of the individual, improve confidence and, yes, embolden one another. Our job is to rewild and restore the dignity of the individual in the way one might restore the delicate ecology of a badly trampled wildlife trail. In the words of Cuban radical feminist Aurora Levins Morales, from the book *This Bridge Called My Back*, we need "a revolution capable of healing our wounds. If we are the ones who can imagine it, ... dream about it, if we are the ones who need it most, then no one else can do it."

I want to mention anger because anger is seen as negative, especially in women. But anger can also be a sign of good psychological health. Anger that is not expressed but swallowed like a bitter poison, turns to depression. It destroys the dignity and potential of the individual. In her essay "On the Uses of Anger: Women Responding to Racism," Audre Lorde writes that anger, "focused with precision, can be a powerful source of energy, serving progress and change." Anger, says Lorde, "is loaded with information and energy." It is "a liberating and strengthening act of clarification." She reminds us that "every woman has a well-stocked arsenal of anger, potentially useful against those oppressions, personal and institutional, which brought that anger into being."

Women's contributions are often undervalued in movements where their voices are marginalized. Many who are treated this way over and over end up feeling devalued and dropping out of the movement altogether. Oppressive behavior not only compromises the affected individual, but it costs the movement much talent and energy. It "wounds the spirit of insurgency," in the words of a poetic primitivist friend.

continued on page 24



blast from the past Beltane 2001

The Lost Esoteric Art of the Wink: Cultivating a Culture of Conspiracy

BY NEUWUT I. MEEN

wink (wingk) v. 1. to close and open one eye as a signal or suggestion.

conspire (ken-spir') v. 1. to plan together secretly to commit an illegal act 2. to work or act together; unite 3. to breathe together (Latin's conspirare: con—with, together; spirare—breathe, as in respire or respiration).

So far, the discussion of Earth First! movement security has covered the reasons why folks shouldn't cooperate with investigation and harassment by the feds/police, and it has offered some suggestions of what to do when they arrive. OK, that's better than nothing (although late in coming, and the most basic concepts need to be continuously retaught amid our history-repeating-itself tragic comedy). We've got to start (or restart)



somewhere, after all. But it's time the discussion went far beyond this preliminary and reactionary level.

What has not been adequately addressed is what I feel to be the singular "security" problem with our movement: Simply put, we don't "got each other's backs." Even more so, we have forgotten how the string of letters that makes up that phrase might sound out phonetically enough to say the words at all, much less understand how to carry out the idea. (Please excuse the bitterly sarcastic tone, but our lack of solidarity and smarts here in the US is pathetic, even if it is an understandable result of living in a privileged state where everyday struggle to survive doesn't mean as much as it should.) We need to delve deep into why we don't have solidarity when push comes to search warrant.

Beyond a culture of security, we need a culture of conspiracy. We have forgotten the art of the wink, the tacit understanding. The secret codes and decoder rings of childhood. A cooperation that can, at certain magical times, reach near-telepathy. In a nutshell, we lack a true understanding of community and affinity, be it with plant, mineral or animal (our own kind or the less domesticated).

It is not enough to scramble to educate or remind ourselves of the principles of good security after crackdowns are already happening. It is not even enough to be fully

prepared beforehand for reactionary non-cooperation, as a voice touched on in the last issue of the *Journal* (see *EF!* March-April 2001). One cannot be better at security, or anything for that matter, if the aspiration is for a thing that at its core is not felt or dreamed of like life depended on it. We must rise to the occasion before the occasion occurs—be proactive—and fight with stealth and guile.

The Melting Pot and the American Nightmare

US pop culture tells us that there is no culture, only selfish individualism and soda pop. Thus, "consumer culture" is given a (brand) name. A bit of travel or correspondence with people in less-consumptive countries, meaning most of the rest of the world, shows just how much peoples' roots of interaction and diverse ancestry have been stripped away here in the US.

From New Orleans to New York, one finds it impossible to say that the US has no cultural vibrancy, but the point is that less and less often can diversity resist the homogenizing melting pot. America's greedy individuality is epitomized by privileged, white, monocropped "culture." Though change is coming in a strong tide, *EF!* is still predominantly white, privileged (gender, skin, class, the list goes on) and has a major listening problem.

We don't think we need to listen to the very people who are fighting alongside us! Somehow our interest in learning from them wanes because they hold down a different hillock of the revolutionary landscape. Yet, we wish they would give us the time of day to drop their struggles and join ours. Ain't gonna happen, not like that. Social justice and Earth liberation must work together to each mean something.

Working class solidarity is a much stronger force in other parts of the world. The huge general strikes and picketline battles of turn-of-the-century US history are for the most part past memories (no disrespect meant to those few workers who are subverting their bosses today). We have an enemy here in the states, and it is a most clever opponent: The enemy is us. It is in the self-policing of insecurity and jealousy. It is in the rule-following good Samaritan who will turn a fellow citizen in for jaywalking or shoplifting. It is in the worker who won't bend the rules or bargain with the customer who doesn't have quite enough money for her dinner. And it is in our friends and ourselves in our compromise in defense of the Earth.

For the rest of this article, see *EF!* May-June 2001. Back issues of the *EF!* Journal are available for \$5 each. Order our near-complete, 28-year set for \$500.

Environmental News of the Weird

Turn Your Death Into Diamonds While Capturing Carbon

If you do not possess the emotional stamina to hold on to the feelings and memories of those who have passed on, just turn their corpses into diamonds, and hold on to those! A company called LifeGem can trap and harness the carbon from your deceased partner's, friend's or even pet's ashes to create a diamond—the color and size of your choice. If "bling" isn't your thing, LifeGem can also create a stone from hair or cremated remains.

A testimonial from the LifeGem website reads, "Whilst John and I were driving Linda and her two sons (aged 11 and 14 years) back to their accommodation, I heard her younger boy say, 'Mum, show me Dad again.' He then kissed the ring... tears all around—again!"

Pavlov's Fish to End World Hunger

"Give a man a fish, and he'll eat for a day. Dupe the fish into trapping themselves, and you'll end world hunger." That's how the saying will soon go, since the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, has received a \$270,000 grant to research ways to train fish to catch themselves. The fish would be trained to swim into nets when they hear a tone signaling feeding time. Then, during the harvest season, as if out of a sci-fi movie, they'll swim into giant underwater cages called Aquadomes. Our trained-to-be-dumb, sci-fi fish of the future could end world hunger, as long as the sharks don't catch on.

Ringtones Fighting for Mother Earth

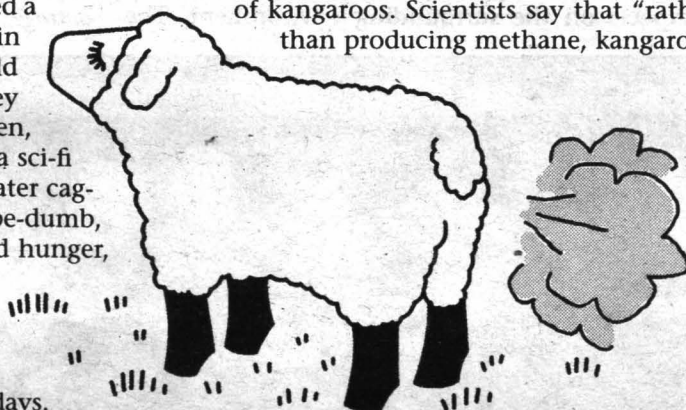
Everyone has a cell phone these days. Even activists are texting away about which McDonald's was burned down, what flavors of organic, free-trade chocolate to bring the treesitters,

and whether to wear all black or a green/black combo to the Anarchist Bookfair. Now, not only can you keep up with the most important news within the movement, but you can make a statement with your cell phone by downloading endangered species ringtones from the Center for Biological Diversity website.

The center is trying to create a "buzz" around endangered species. Already, more than 24,000 people have downloaded rare calls, such as "the underwater warbles of the beluga whale." Word on the street is that kidz at the *EF!* Journal are downloading the hypnotic call of the loon and the eerie howl of the coyote.

Battle of the Gasses: Kangaroo vs. Cow

Large-scale animal flatulence is a major contributor to greenhouse gasses. However, we don't have to stop industrial animal farming or experimentation in the name of progress. Scientists in Queensland, Australia, have discovered how to upgrade our livestock's stomachs to resemble the more efficient and productive stomachs of kangaroos. Scientists say that "rather than producing methane, kangaroos



produce acetate, which aids digestion." Certain microbes in kangaroos' stomachs allow them

to eat without flatulating those harmful greenhouse gasses.

Other Australian scientists disagree, proposing we just toss out our pork chops and hamburgers, and start eating kangaroos, which are accused of running wild and in abundance all over Australia.

Redwood Trees: Losing Credibility or Bad for the Environment?

In an environmental battle to the death, would you put your money on a redwood tree or a solar panel? Environmentalists Richard Treanor and Carolyn Bissett of Santa Clara County, California, refused to cut down trees they planted in 1997, and put \$25,000 toward court fees to battle a California law imposing a fine on landowners whose trees overshadow solar panels. Self-proclaimed environmentalist Mark Vargas won his money fair and square when the court declared that solar panels are more "green" than trees.

Research has shown that when polysilicon (the main ingredient in solar panels) breaks down, it leaves high concentrations of chlorine and hydrochloric acid in the soils of manufacturing countries such as China. Despite having no limbs, those solar panels pack a mean punch!

Kinky Environmentalists Conserve Water

Environmental designer is now combining the freaky fetish of torture with trendy green living in the new Eco Drop shower. The shower is designed to slowly increase the amount of torture you experience the more water you use in your shower. But with trends turning to fetish and kink, will this encourage us to use less water or more? This green product will torture the bottoms of your feet and then move on to shocking you with electricity in a way you can feel good about in today's eco-conscious world.

A Few Too Many

BY GEDDEN CASCADIA

Snip. A simple action that any guy can have done. Snip. One moment in time that will solidify a person's resolve to help the planet. Vasectomy. The most liberating moment of a man's life is when the vas deferens tubes are severed and the planet is spared the burden of one more resource-draining, Earth-trampling shit machine.

Not to sound overly harsh, but let's face the facts: Overpopulation by the human species, our continuing exponential birth rate and our lack of a biocentric worldview are having far-reaching and overwhelmingly destructive impacts on many other animal and plant species. Every species on this planet has a finite amount of time to exist before the inevitable fate of extinction creeps up on it. The thing that differs in the current state of affairs is that this latest round of global extinctions is not being caused by outside forces (meteors) or gradual changes in the planet's climate (ice ages), but rather by a single species: humans. This species is fully aware of what it is doing and has the capacity to stop the destruction if only it wanted to.

As of 9 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, on March 31, 2008, the estimated world population is 6,658,448,807 and growing, according to the US Census Bureau. The human species is increasing in an exponential fashion. There is a story by Albert Bartlett that clearly illustrates the effect of exponential growth: "Imagine a hypothetical strain of bacteria in which each bacterium divides into two every 60 seconds (the doubling time is one minute). Assume that one bacterium is put in a bottle at 11 a.m. The bottle (its world) is full at noon." At 11:59, the bottle was only half full, and at 11:58, the bottle was 75 percent empty. If the bacterium was capable of realizing that it was running out of room, at what point do you think it would have made that discovery? At 11:59, when half of the world was empty? Possibly. At 11:58, when only one-quarter of the world was populated? Probably not. If the bacteria was able to escape its world and move into three new bottles, it would have bought itself only two more minutes before its world was once more packed full.

The human growth rate is 1.2 percent per year. This certainly doesn't seem like much of a number. It is significantly lower than the rate of the fictional bacteria. However, even at such a low rate, we are doubling the world's population in less than 50 years. This means that there are 84 million more people on this planet every year—230,000 more every day. This is not the number of births. This is the actual amount of increase—almost 10,000 more people every hour. There were 2,819 deaths reported as a result of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City. In fewer than 20 minutes, the world population had recovered. The tsunami that hit Asia in December 2004, killing 230,000 people, only impacted the

world's population for a day before the numbers were once again the same. Such events are little more than speed bumps on our race to overpopulate. When looking at the graph of population growth, the only event that had a marked impact on human population was the Black Death, and even that shows up as a barely perceivable dimple.

As the population grows, not surprisingly, the amount of resources we must take from the Earth grows as well. Most arable land is now occupied. Humanity has to go farther and farther afield to find the resources it craves. It wasn't that long ago that the thought of drilling for oil in an arctic environment would have been dismissed as an absurdity. Yet here we are, engaged in heated debate about the preservation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The ever-increasing need for natural resources to support an out-of-control population is driving the development of more extreme measures to secure those once out-of-reach fragments left over from the first wave of extractions.

How many people can the Earth support in a sustainable manner? No one knows. The estimates range from a few million to more than 40 billion people. One thing is certain: As we expand, we are actively destroying the Earth's biodiversity. This trend is not new. As the first people migrated across the landscape, they left a swath of extinctions behind them. As soon as humanity reached the North American continent some 10,000 years ago, we see in the fossil record evidence of the extinction of all megafauna on the continent. Is this nothing more than a coincidence? Not according to a growing number of anthropologists, who attribute the missing mammals to humans overhunting them. The entire history of humanity is one of environmental destruction and the eradication of other species. This was true when the entire world's population of hominids was only a few million. What else can we expect from a population of several billion?

If a population overshoots the carrying capacity of its environment, then the population will crash until it is realigned with the carrying capacity. However, if in the process of overshooting, environmental degradation takes place, the new carrying capacity will be greatly reduced, if not gone altogether. In isolated communities, overshoot can manifest itself on a local level. In his book *Collapse*, Jared Diamond gives extensive examples of societies that have suffered greatly and, in many cases, disappeared entirely because of their impacts on the surrounding environment. The

Anasazi, of what is now considered the Southwest US, are one such example. Having wreaked havoc upon the land as they increased soil salinity with improper irrigation practices, they could no longer support a growing population, and their society subsequently disappeared because of it.

Humanity is now at the point where civilizations are no longer isolated. We are a global species with one global society and, more and more, one global culture. Our destruction is no longer limited to one region or one continent. Everything we do has global ramifications, the

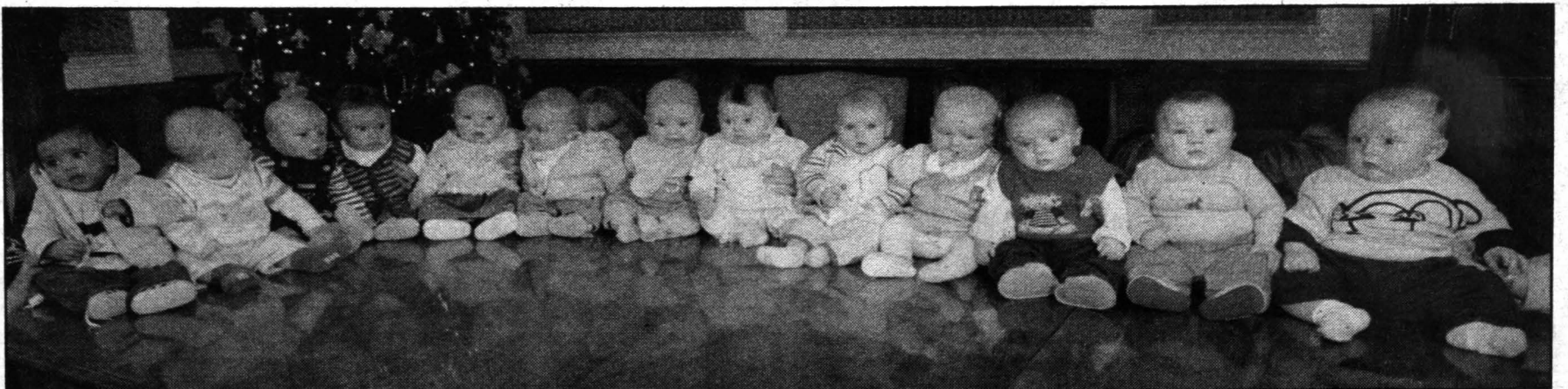
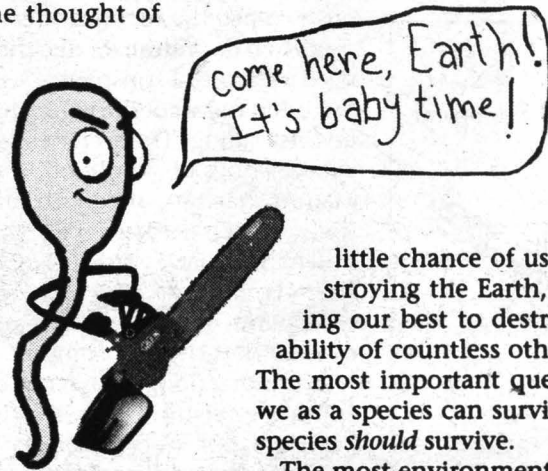
likes of which have never been seen before. There is a very real chance that we have already overshot the carrying capacity of the Earth. Only time will tell. There is

little chance of us actually physically destroying the Earth, but we seem to be doing our best to destroy our ability (and the ability of countless other species) to live on it. The most important question may not be how we as a species can survive but rather if we as a species *should* survive.

The most environmentally destructive act any one person can do is to have a child. However, the need for progeny is hardwired in most species on this planet, and it may seem unnatural to forsake this desire in the name of environmentalism. The answer is simple. The answer is as abundant as there are children needing homes, families and someone to love them. The point of this essay is not to be anti-family, anti-parent or anti-child. Adoption is the logical course of action for anyone who wants to be a parent but does not want to contribute to the destruction of the Earth. There is nothing so special about any individual's DNA that makes it more important than the thousands of lives every additional human will snuff out. When comparing the cost of adoption with the cost of breeding in the US, it can be much cheaper to adopt than give birth. There are many agencies that help with the financial aspect of adoption. People who are shallow enough to insist on a little white baby are going to pay more, but if your motivations are nobler than some perceived aesthetic of your new child, the cost drops dramatically.

The conclusion is simple. If an individual cares about the Earth or the animals—hell, even if that person cares about other people—they will not breed. Abstinence and same-sex partners are great, but the finality and commitment implied by a vasectomy or tubal ligation make a true hero.

Gedden Cascadia is doing his part to continue the grand tradition of misanthropy and is preparing to celebrate his fifth year of proudly ejaculating sperm-free. For the complete text of this essay or to send letters of outrage, contact Gedden at cascade@bikerider.com.



GENTRIFICATION

Part I—Vancouver:

Condos growing up everywhere;
weeds to make dandelions jealous,
pushing the poor east in a never-ending
cattle drive, pushing further into a corner
of nowhere else to go
and even the residential hotels
dreaming of transformation into
18-screen multiplex, glass walled
testament to gluttony.
And today on the radio:
so many of these fast-food
five-minute instant condos
falling apart in the face
of coastal inter rains,
held together with tarps and string
rotting from the inside
and these co-conspirators
of gentrification are looking for sympathy?

Part II—Deeks Bluffs:

Entering shady sanity of giant
Doug firs, meters from highway
then ascending steep
rocky hillside—
a well-drained slope
dressed in arbutus and shore-pine
and grayish lichens.
Something's not right:
Trees cut down,
small holes in the Earth;
too regular and uniform for any animal
but humyn.

There, see the death warrant:
pink engineering tape—a blasphemy
to these low hills
at the edge of the Coast Mountains.
But that's not all—
trees hacked open, daubed with yellow paint
foreshadowing the roads to come.
New roads opening up new developments—
million dollar houses for yuppies,
the trade-off for this forest
of old Doug fir and cedar, of pine and arbutus.
Too soon the marvelous song of Deeks Creek
will be fenced in, imprisoned in the backyard
of one of these invaders who believe
the amount of dead tree flesh
in their bank accounts
gives them the right to pave over
the home of coyotes and eagles
so they can be "closer to nature."
It's called gentrification,
whether in the cities or the forests—
leaving those with nowhere else to go homeless
so the rich can be anywhere
their desires take them.

—Mark Stoddart

ANYTHING TO SURVIVE

When the Spring floods receded
some bullheads were left
behind in a ditch
They'd wriggle away in the liquid
mud as we passed
As the water continued to dry up
they crowded together
gasping at the same desperate air
& keeping each other moist
with their mutual slime
Anything to survive
Still they'd rather forget each other
& be swimming free
in a full body of water

The Earth carries every form of life
including our own
in the bodies she lends us
& calls the Earth in them
back to herself when we die
What makes our lives good
makes our deaths good as well
Sometimes we heedlessly forget each other
No matter where you put something away
it can get lost or stolen
but if you put your whole life
into the whole Earth
there's nowhere left
to be misplaced

—Steve Toth

ARMED

WITH

VISIONS

Clear as cut glass
& just as dangerous

CORNFIELDS OF DOOM

Flying over the Great Plains
Below me lie endless green circles and squares
America's tortured heart
Distance hides the ugly nature of these
Cornfields of Doom
But I know
Once a rich prairie, now stripped of all life
Home only to a vast army of corn
Drenched with poison, drinking lakes of water
Forsaking the sun for nutrition from oceans of oil
Filling rivers with precious, fertile soil
The work of millennia washed away in months
To warm seas, where it suffocates all living things
Farmers are going bankrupt
People are dying in oil wars
The Earth is warming, perhaps beyond our survivability
Vast lands are wasted while we struggle to find homes
All for this corn
Which we cannot even eat
It will feed our billions of livestock
Fattening their flesh that will fatten our own
Changed beyond recognition, it will build our processed foods
Infiltrating far too deeply to be avoided
Our home, our bodies have been overtaken
By the Cornfields of Doom

Only once have I visited this dreadful place
In early Spring, its bleak flatness was unbearable
I fled to the hills, to the sea, anywhere
Too afraid to see the place that feeds me
I see it in nightmares, taste it in my food
Now I'm going to another refuge, in the mountains
Another place to pretend I can forget the truth
A flight attendant offers me soda
Made of the corn from the fields below
A chill runs down my spine

—Sasha Paris

UNTITLED

I think of my degree
from the school that wants
to cut down its oaks

the school with the extinct
California grizzly
on its football helmets

and I wonder
if we really need
another hall,
more fluorescent rooms

I think it is time
they let people major
in
oaks

—mlw

Send poems to
Warrior Poets Society
POB 14501
Berkeley CA 94712-5501

UPDATES

Bear Mountain

On February 13, everyone at the Bear Mountain treesit in British Columbia, Canada, was arrested. Loggers immediately cut the mature Douglas firs that stood along the highway corridor (see *EF!* March-April 2008).

Thirteen days later, activists arrived to see a work crew cutting limbs from a mature Garry oak that was in the way of widening a highway. Two people were arrested while defending the tree, but the group managed to stop further cutting.

As of press time, both the tree and the struggle to defend Bear Mountain are alive and resolute.

For more information, visit treesit.blogspot.com.

UCSC Treesit

The University of California-Santa Cruz (UCSC) is trying to intimidate activists working to prevent it from building a new biomedical sciences building (see *EF!* January-February 2008). In December, UCSC filed lawsuits against nine people connected to the treesit. However, a judge struck two names from the lawsuits, saying only these two activists are protected by the First Amendment. The others are forbidden from being in trees or sending supplies to treesitters. A number of activists have been arrested in relation to the treesit in the last few months.

Meanwhile, resistance to UCSC is widespread, with graffiti attacks, monkeywrenchings and proposed strikes by service workers.

I-10 Bypass

A possible bypass highway around Tucson and Phoenix no longer threatens the fragile San Pedro Valley in Arizona (see *EF!* March-April 2008). Government officials voted on March 21 to eliminate the two San Pedro Valley routes, though they will continue to study other routes.

The March 21 meeting was packed with activists. Many shouted threats and insults at the officials, vowing continued resistance.

Aotearoa Trials

Nineteen activists who were rounded up in raids across Aotearoa/New Zealand now face charges of unlawfully possessing firearms and molotov cocktails (see *EF!* January-February 2008). Eighteen defendants were arraigned on March 5, when many received improved bail conditions. Hearings to decide which charges will be brought to trial are slated for September 1.

For more information, visit www.october15thsolidarity.info.

Weld Angel Victory

Forestry Tasmania's lawsuit seeking financial compensation from Allana Beltran, an activist who posed as an angel atop a tripod to block logging in Australia's Weld Valley, was dismissed on February 25. The image of the Weld Angel received international attention, including the inside cover of the *Earth First! Journal* (see *EF!* March-April 2007).

Rough Times for Sea Shepherd

On March 7, Captain Paul Watson was shot in the chest by a Japanese whaler during a confrontation in stormy seas near Antarctica. Fortunately, Watson was wearing a Kevlar vest. Without the vest and a metal badge to stop the bullet, the attack would likely have been fatal. Two other crew members were injured by flash grenades during the same skirmish.

In the North Atlantic, another Sea Shepherd boat was rammed twice by the Canadian Coast Guard, while trying to stop the seal slaughter on March 30. Then, on April 4, a hoard of angry fishermen attacked the boat and its crew on an island off of Newfoundland, forcing it to leave port and inflicting possible engine damage. Finally, the Canadian Coast Guard illegally boarded the boat on April 11, roughing up at least one Sea Shepherd volunteer, before towing the boat to an undisclosed location.

A Reportback From the People of Color Caucus at the 2008 Winter Rendezvous

continued from page 11

a swamp, miles away from the nearest urban body, it wasn't hard to imagine how attending this conference could be far fetched for people of some demographics: The ability to get enough time off from work to go out

into the woods for a crazy camping trip is a privilege many folks in cities can't afford. While zero caucus members advocated having fewer conferences in swamps, the idea for an urban environmental conference, focusing on urban environmental issues, sparked plenty of excitement. Possible plans for a radical POC environmental/animal liberation gathering also

surfaced. The call for strong anti-oppression and anti-racist workshops at every Rondo, including more caucuses of this type, was echoed around the tarp.

It is also important to honestly evaluate the culture of *EF!* and identify ways that it perpetuates white privilege. This will help ensure that the transformations that need to happen in order for *EF!* to become an inclusive movement don't just end at the Summer or Winter gatherings. For example, the *EF!* focus on civil disobedience at actions creates a situation where POC, who are often targeted by the police, may not be able to comfortably participate in actions. To help with

this, we need to have more open conversations and analysis of our movement's culture.

In closing, it's necessary to emphasize that, while this report sets out to demand recognition of the unpleasant realities of white domination within our movement, it is *not* the

intention of POC to stir up more feelings of white guilt within *EF!*: Guilt is *never* proactive. Instead, POC in *EF!* hope to further the conversation around developing a strong anti-racist framework within our movement and encourage our white allies to act on these issues.

It is also *not* our intention to establish the fight against white supremacy above or before fights against other forms of oppression: In

We encourage people within the radical environmental movement to realize that we cannot build a strong and powerful movement to oppose environmental destruction without incorporating a deep understanding of the links between ecocide and all other forms of oppression.

fact, in short fragments throughout this article, the word "white" could have been substituted with words such as "male," "straight," "middle-class" or "able-bodied." We also encourage people within the radical environmental movement to realize that we cannot build a strong and powerful movement to oppose environmental destruction without incorporating a deep understanding of the links between ecocide and all other forms of oppression. The habit of separating race, class and environmental struggles with contrived divisions is a privilege that we, as one movement in a shrinking world, can no longer afford.

Oppression in the Movement

continued from page 20

Avoidance and denial are common reactions from the "community" to the inevitable conflict that surfaces when oppressive behavior is identified. Work, deadlines and "the revolution" are often used as excuses to avoid dealing with uncomfortable and controversial situations. Avoidance allows oppressors to be successful in silencing and invalidating those they find threatening.

Too often, our communities are passive. I could never understand how the same people willing to fight cops and brave violence for

their beliefs suddenly lose their voice, spine and will when it comes to opposing injustice within our own ranks. WTF?!? The oppressor takes advantage of confusion and apathy. It is easier to take the side of the oppressor. All the oppressor needs is for the bystanders to do nothing. Standing up to oppressive behavior demands action and engagement.

In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Dante was less tolerant of cowardly bystanders when he wrote, "The hottest places in Hell are reserved for those who maintain their neutrality in times of moral crisis." One's silence can speak loud and clear.

Understanding the pathology of the oppressor is less important than preventing oppression. We cannot tolerate oppressive behaviors any more than we tolerate snitches. Both are detrimental to a strong movement. Both undermine the capacity of activists and the movement to

withstand repression. Security culture, always a serious and genuine concern, is sometimes used as a convenient pretext to exclude from decision making those perceived as a threat to the most powerful in the group. However, there is no security in oppression. The lack of a supportive community encourages snitching, and elitism does not prevent infiltration. Oppressive behaviors create ripe conditions for infiltration, nurturing mistrust, alienation and poor communication. How can we trust people who don't value or respect our contributions?

A movement capable of withstanding repression is one that doesn't crumble inward when the heat is on. It would require genuine solidarity, affinity and community. An example is the popular movement in Oaxaca, Mexico, which has resisted state terror, torture and violent intimidation. How? They have something more important than fear: love. Their courage is rooted in their tightly knit communities.

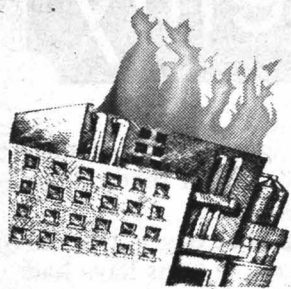
It isn't just a scene full of elitist, high-school-level cliquishness. Their courage enabled unarmed civilians to take control of their city and their lives for a golden moment. The state knows we lack that kind of solidarity here, and that is one reason it hands out absurdly long jail sentences to activists. It knows it can get away with it.

We need a movement that creates the space and opportunity for us to realize our individual and collective revolutionary potentials. Not only must we allow the best in ourselves and others to unfold, but we must also encourage it. If we can treat each other with respect instead of contempt, we may actually discover what we are capable of.

This is dedicated to my bro, Brad Will, who stuck up for me.

I could never understand how the same people willing to fight cops and brave violence for their beliefs suddenly lose their voice, spine and will when it comes to opposing injustice within our own ranks.

...MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITORS



continued from page 3

It is much appreciated. When I received it, I read it cover to cover. I was very happy to read Jake Conroy's letter and the article on Daniel McGowan (see *EF!* January-February 2008). Jake is an old friend, and since I am unable to be in touch with him directly, it is nice to see his writings in the *Journal*, even if it is only a letter saying how crappy FCI Victorville is.

As for Daniel McGowan, I never knew him until we were arrested and began to work together on our cases. Since then Daniel and I have become good friends. I am flattered by Daniel's comments about me in his writings. He is too kind. For myself, I have the utmost respect for Daniel. His strength, integrity and honor never cease to amaze me. If the others in this "Green Scare" case had a fraction of Daniel's honor, I do not think I would be writing this letter from a medium-security federal prison.

For the Earth and the animals,

—JONATHAN PAUL

Dear SFB/*EF!*,

Your Eostar letters page depressed me badly enough to write you (see *EF!* March-April 2008). So much rancor and bitterness on display! Half the letters seemed devoted to people of our little movement hurling venom at one another. Sadie, Felicia, Jim, Pearson... I know how difficult it is to put aside our differences for a common good. I know how easy it is to become angry at "wrong"

opinions and attitudes, especially when they come from those we consider our fellow travelers. Is this productive or really furthering any goal? Accomplishing *anything* is fraught with danger and difficulty these days. Surely we—everyone dedicated to a world free of coercion and oppression—can find a way to coexist without insulting one another. Forgiveness is hard but simple. Just say, "Hey, I disagree with you, but I'm still glad you're here to help." There are so damned few of us!

Life in prison sucks, but the pain of it is eased when I read about the movement, feeling part of a community and being encouraged by the occasional victory *EF!*ers achieve. For the sake of effectiveness and harmony, please try to promote acceptance, not divisiveness. Keep up the good work, and good luck.

—THOMAS MARC HOY

Dear SFB,

In the beginning of my prison trip for arson of a development, I was pretty resentful with *EF!*. Putting my ass on the line for the Earth that I love and then not being supported was kind of a blow. After three years in maximum security and lots of semi-riots, I've learned that I may have been selfish to want to be a star or a friend. But, I've stayed committed to my beliefs, and I continue to write ecoprisoners. But if it was not for John Zerzan, I would have hanged myself a few times.

There are some nobodies who are very, very real about destroying civilization and infrastructure. I don't feel holding a sign is gonna make a difference, but some people can't do prison time. In here, there are bad people, and sometimes you gotta get bad with them—meaning against them.

KEEP YOUR LETTERS TO 300 WORDS OR LESS!

In three years, I've never kicked into a gang, nor have I taken shit from cops without retaliation. I spent nine months in the hole for terrorist threats on police, as well as chasing one behind a desk. I'm not a Greenpeace hippie, by any means. But the Earth is in a place where we need more radical actions. I do believe there is a difference between your readers and those of *Green Anarchy*. But, together, I hope we can put a dent in civilization, and let the Earth and animals remain free, even though a few of us are not. Thanks for all of you who care, and the ones that don't....

—WASTE

P.S. Hang tough, Free. You're almost home. And best to all Earth Liberation Front/Animal Liberation Front prisoners and supporters. Our bows are of fire, our arrows are of flames.

Dear Shit fer Brains,

Hey, all. Wishing you the very best. I've been a long-time reader of the *EF!*—

picking up issues where I could at shows, book fairs, demos, etc. But it wasn't until recently that I got my first actual subscription, and that was only afforded to me because of a recent friend that I acquired through correspondence. I too am incarcerated and can definitely attest to how shitty prison is and

how hard it is to survive off of 25 cents an hour. So thank be-jesus for the donation to inmate subscriptions and my boy Josef, you're awesome!

I'm a longtime activist and have done my share for all until I allowed my life to slip away during some not-so-good times, and as a result, I'm sitting in prison. It's been almost five years though. Thankfully, I'll be released in September of this year.

Aside from writing to ramble, I wanted to write and say thank you, and emphasize how truly important prisoner support is. Though I'm not technically a "political prisoner," I've definitely received plenty of support, and words cannot do justice to the amount of gratitude I feel for that support. This is not about me, because I'm in for being a dummy, but more for our comrades who are sitting behind bars for fighting for the ultimate cause: compassion. If you cannot afford to send things, then write a letter(s). If you are close, pay a visit. Times are hard enough in these places, and our brothers and sisters incarcerated are so because they gave their all. So, the

least we can do is give them our all.

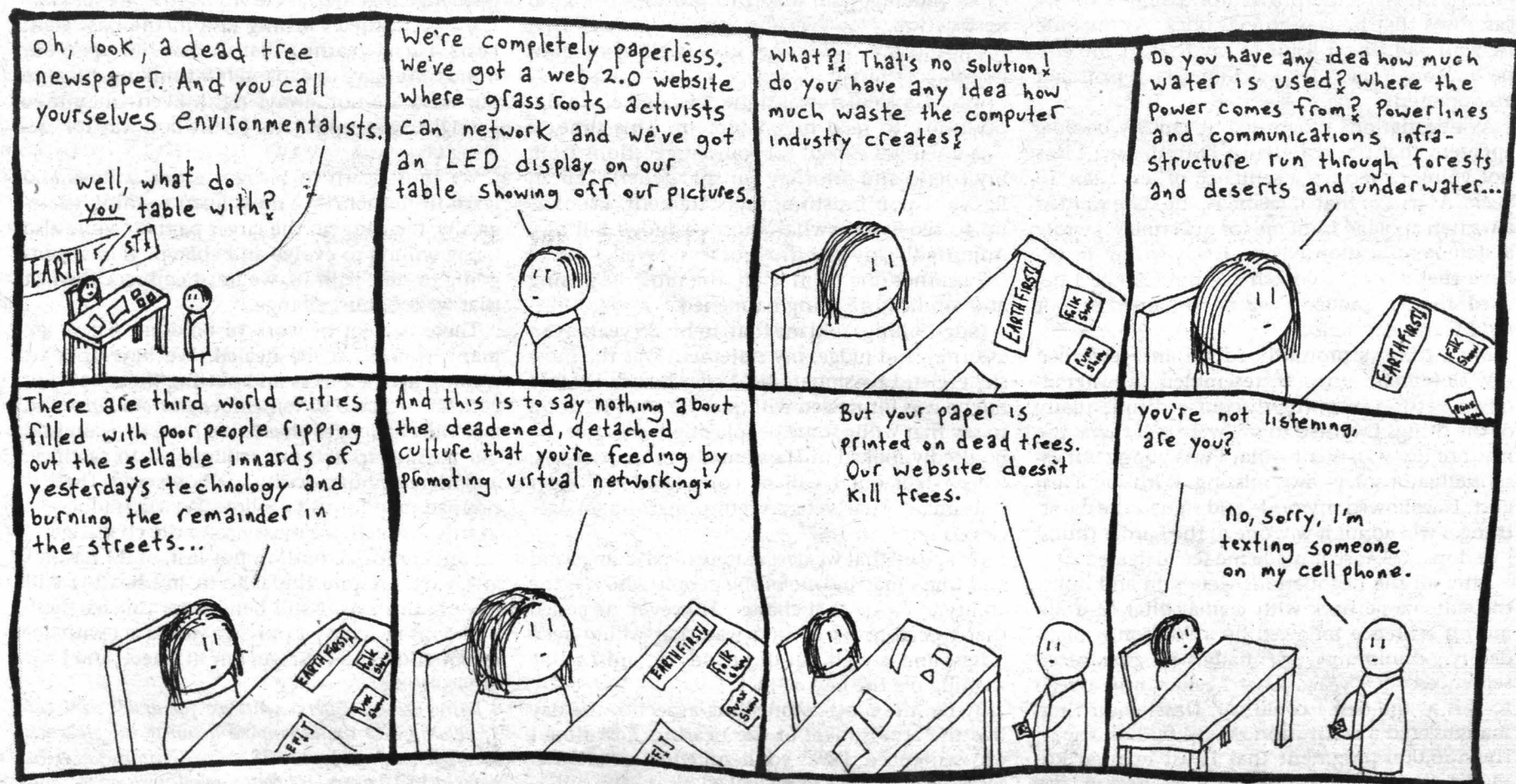
Recently, an activist named Mike Edge passed away (see *EF!* March-April 2008). Though I do not know this person, I do know that his mother's address was provided for letters of support, and it's important that we write her during what's probably been the greatest struggle and obstacle in her life and give her our support.

For the prisoners, I'd like to say that my greatest obstacle throughout my incarceration has been the aggravation and powerlessness I feel watching all of these crimes against humanity and our environment. But we cannot allow those feelings (because I'm sure I'm not alone!) to overpower us and render us completely helpless. Though there's only so much we can do from in here, it's important that we try in any way available to us to reach out and do our part. We are only in temporary situations that are part of a permanent situation. So, it's important that we strive to continue, even while incarcerated. Write, write, write!!! Read and pay attention to everything that's happening and who's responsible for it, because the majority of us will not be in these places forever! Thanks for listening and thanks to all involved in the never-ending struggle for justice.

For my boy Andy of the SHAC 7, I love you. Keep your head up. Though it's been forever and a day, we'll meet again.

Until every cage is free....

—ZAK



Meeting the Eyes of the Enemy

"Free" may be free soon.

BY JEFFREY "FREE" LUERS

What a long and strange journey this past year has been. I have been riding highs and lows, as I have struggled to regain my freedom and find a balance between my desires for this movement and my own personal happiness.

I've made no secret of my often conflicting emotions or my disappointment in radical struggles here in the US. Yet, despite my confusion about my own part in this messy struggle that now sees so many of us locked behind bars, so many split into factions—while many others' hearts are broken by the betrayals of friends and former heroes—I have strived to remain true to the ideals in which I believe.

It is often difficult to carry your head high when the rest of your life feels like it is falling apart, but we must continue to do so because it is only with our heads high that we can meet the eyes of our enemy and let them know that, while we may be afraid, we are not cowards; while we may be hurting, we are not broken; and most importantly, while we may be small, we are not weak. We are still defiant. We can still be dangerous.

As many of you are aware, I was resentenced on February 28, after years of fighting for a reduced sentence. In the months preceding my resentencing, I was faced with numerous obstacles and forced to make difficult decisions. Upon my arrival at Lane County Jail, I learned that not only had Judge Lyle Velure come out of retirement to resentence me, but the state was threatening to seek a 20-year sentence again. Judge Velure began suffering severe prostate problems and had to retire again. Upon receiving a new judge, my luck began to change, and for the first time, I thought I just might have a chance.

Now, I must say that my original opinion of Erik Hassleman, the prosecutor assigned to my case, was that he was an evil prick. As I'm sure he will read this, I want to say that in the end he impressed me. I respect him as a person and an opponent.

As negotiations progressed, it quickly became apparent that the state had a bottom line: I was not going to receive a sentence of less than 10 years. As part of that agreement, the state wanted a written apology from me for my crimes. I wrote a statement acknowledging I was wrong to believe that arson could achieve the change I desired, though I added I was not ashamed of, nor did I regret, my actions.

My attorneys promptly edited and rewrote my statement until it resembled a watered-down version of polite discourse. While many of the things I wanted to say were still there, the heart of my statement—that I was wrong but essentially not sorry—was missing. With some disgust, I swallowed my pride and signed the damn thing. I will admit it was one of the harder things I've done, because it made me feel defeated.

After all the negotiations were said and done, the state came back with a final offer of a 30-month sentence followed by a 90-month mandatory minimum—essentially a guaranteed sentence of 9.5 years. After I reluctantly agreed to this as the best I could get, Hassleman then maneuvered a restitution of \$14,000 on top of the \$56,000 judgment that I just learned Romania Chevrolet, the target of my action, has against me.

In a frantic and somewhat pissed-off effort, my attorneys spent the next month trying to get the restitution dropped without success. In the final days, with my head admittedly hanging much lower than usual, I decided I would have to accept the state's offer, restitution and all.

Come February 28, however, I was surprised beyond my wildest imagination. Not only had Hassleman agreed to dismiss the restitution, but he had decided to grant a sentence modification in



artwork by Benny

my favor. The sentence would now be 90 months followed by 30 months run out of order so that I may qualify for programs and possibly be released next year!

During the course of sentencing, Hassleman spent some time describing my progression as a person and even as an activist during my incarceration. He talked about my subtle shift from a fiery radical to one who acknowledged the failures of some aspects of radical struggle—my words not his—by embracing more mainstream methods of change, all of which is true.

Hassleman then went on to describe how I continue to view my actions as a necessary evil, similar to acts such as the Boston Tea Party. Surprisingly, he seemed in agreement with this analogy and even admitted that good arguments have been made about the legitimacy of sabotage and arson to protest ecological destruction. However, he went on to say that these acts are still crimes and need to be punished accordingly.

After Hassleman was done, I was given an opportunity to read my statement. This time, it was unedited except for some suggestions from my friend and attorney (in that order), Lauren Regan. Upon finishing my statement, I looked up to see a somewhat stunned Judge Billings. Admittedly, my first thought was, "Well, I pissed off another one." But then, the most surprising and vindicating thing happened.

Judge Billings told me that, in his 35 years as an attorney and judge, my statement was the most sincere and passionate he'd ever heard. He told me he was impressed with me. He then went on to say that while some people might disagree (he pointedly looked at Hassleman), in many ways, when I get out I will be considered an "elder statesman" or a "veteran returning from an ugly campaign."

He agreed that we desperately need change and said that I may be one of the people who has the ability to create that change. However, he added that I need to do so in a way that would keep others and myself out of prison. He finished by wishing me the best of luck.

By far, the most astonishing aspect of the day was the atmosphere of the hearing. Last time I was sentenced, I was condemned as an evil terrorist who needed to be locked away. The difference this time was quite frankly shocking. I was

no longer a terrorist but someone respectable. My message was no longer one of rhetoric but one that needed to be listened to.

What I took away from that day is that, in a subtle and elusive way, our actions have had an impact on the conscience of the American public and even on some of those who are our natural enemies. For sure, it isn't just our actions but the truth behind them that has come to be understood. Messages about environmental dangers that seemed fatalistic years ago are now accepted science.

There is a shift occurring in this country, and it is one that we have very much helped shape. It is not a radical shift and is not enough of a change to correct society's many wrongs. But it is a noticeable shift that we must embrace and continue to push in the right direction.

Since my last dispatch many months ago, people have written and expressed concern that I have retired from activism. That is a misconception. I have not retired, I have simply sought a different way to create the change I want to see.

I still believe direct action and militancy have their place. But I also see quite clearly their failures and our

failures. I'm also quite aware of the failures of mainstream channels of activism. We must find ways to overcome barriers and the obstacles that come into our path. It seems nearly impossible, but it isn't.

All we must do is seriously evaluate how each of us can make a difference, how we can each contribute to the changes that need to occur. In order to do that, we must leave the rhetoric behind; we must step away from pigeonholing ourselves into no-win situations. We have to recognize when to stand our ground and when to compromise. We must move beyond our comfort zones and embrace strangers as potential allies.

The very simple truth of the matter is that the environmental crisis facing us is going to affect all of humanity, regardless of color, creed or political affiliation. It is the one thing that we must challenge together; if we fail in that, we all fail.

If I've learned nothing else in the past eight years, I have learned that we have to open our minds. We have to expand our thinking, because our ways are not always right. Even when they are right, they might not be the best way for creating change.

We must learn to recognize our failures and learn from them. We must learn to think strategically, focusing on the larger picture, while also being willing to evolve and change. If change is going to start with us, we must embrace the fact that we too must change.

There is a lot of work to be done. There are many wounds to be healed. We have to start picking up the pieces and putting them back together. We have to remember our strength and face the challenges ahead. We have to again find our passion to act, our willingness to sacrifice, and increase our capacity to understand. There is no road map for us to follow. We are trailblazers in this. As such, we must rise to the challenge.

I am confused, but I'm not lost, and I haven't given up. Despite the ache in my heart, I still have faith in us. I still believe we can fix these problems facing us if only we would act with determination and courage. I'm still here, and I am not quitting.

Jeffrey "Free" Luers' sentence for arson at a car dealership and the attempted arson of an oil truck was reduced on February 28, from 22 years and eight months to 10 years. He could be released by December 2009. For contact information, see page 27.

Prisoners in the Struggle Support Them!

The following list is a small sample of the total number of political prisoners and prisoner support groups worldwide. Regulations for mail sent to prisoners vary according to individual prisons. Before sending monetary donations, stamps, books or packages, ask prisoners what the regulations are. Assume that the authorities read everything you write to a prisoner. When prisoners are awaiting trial or sentencing, it is best not to discuss their cases or related topics with them. Although some prisoners are listed together, they must be written to separately. Prisoners can obtain a discounted subscription to the *EF! Journal* by sending a book of 10 41¢ stamps to POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. Individuals who want to sponsor a prisoner's subscription should send \$20 to the same address.

Prisoner and Legal Updates

•Mumia Abu-Jamal, #AM8335, SCI Greene, 175 Progress Dr, Waynesburg, PA 15370, USA. A federal appeals court rejected motions for a new trial on March 27, and ruled that Abu-Jamal must be resented to either life in prison or death within 180 days. Abu-Jamal, a politically active journalist, was framed for the murder of a cop in 1981. For more information, visit www.freemumia.org.

•Tre Arrow, SWIS #640393, Multnomah County Detention Center, 1120 SW 3rd Ave, Portland, OR 97204, USA. After fighting extradition from Canada for four years, Arrow was sent to the US on February 29. Arrow's trial for alleged involvement in the arsons of logging trucks and vehicles owned by a sand and gravel company is scheduled to begin on May 6. For more information, visit www.trearrow.org.

•Vaggelis Botzatzis, Dikastikes Fylakes Komotinis, TK 69100, Greece. Awaiting trial for the alleged arson of a bank, a car dealership and two cars owned by an energy company. For more information, visit greekelp.blogspot.com.

•Byron Shane of Chubbuck© Clan, #07909-051, USP Coleman I, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521, North America. Serving 80 years for aggravated assault of federal agents, escape and bank robbery. "Oso Blanco" funneled money that he stole from banks to the Zapatista National Liberation Army in Mexico. He has been moved to the above address.

•Rod Coronado was sentenced to a year and a day for distribution of information related to the assembly of explosives and weapons of mass destruction. He is scheduled to self-surrender on May 12. With possible credits for good behavior, Coronado may be eligible for release in March 2009. For more information, visit www.supportrod.org.

•Jeffrey "Free" Luers, #13797671, Columbia River Correctional Institution, 9111 NE Sunderland Ave, Portland, OR 97211, USA. In February, Luers was resented to 10 years for an arson at a car dealership and the attempted arson of an oil truck. He may now be released as early as December 2009. He has been moved to the above address. For more information, see page 26 or visit www.freefreerow.org.

•Eric McDavid, X-2972521 7E128, Sacramento County Main Jail, 651 "I" St, Sacramento, CA 95814, USA. Awaiting sentencing on May 1, for conspiracy to destroy the US Forest Service's Institute of Forest Genetics, a cell-phone tower and power plants. He has been moved to the above address. For more information, visit www.supporteric.org.

•Michael Sykes, 100 E 2nd St, Monroe, MI 48161, USA. Awaiting

trial for the alleged arson of two newly constructed condominiums, and possibly burning a supermarket, damaging an 80-foot utility pole, defacing a US flag with an anarchy symbol, burning the flag and attempting to siphon gas from an undercover cop who was tailing him.

•James Tucker, #218447, Clay County Jail, 915 9th Ave N, Moorhead, MN 56561. Serving 3.6 years for the ELF arson of a construction site. He has asked to be included in lists of political prisoners.

•Briana Waters, #36432-086, FDC SeaTac, POB 13900, Seattle, WA 98198, USA. Waters was found guilty on March 6, of participating in an Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arson at the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture. Her sentencing is scheduled for May 30. For more information, see page 5 or visit www.supportbriana.org.

Awaiting Trial or Sentencing

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

•Natasha Avery, NR8987, and Heather Nicholson, VM4859, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Awaiting trial for alleged conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS.

•Mel Broughton, TN9138, HMP Woodhill, Tattenhoe St, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK4 4DA, UK. Awaiting trial for conspiracy to blackmail and possession of explosives in connection with the campaign against Oxford University's primate lab.

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

Animal Liberation

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

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

•Donald Currie, A3660AA, HMP Parkhurst, Clissold Rd, Newport,

Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX, UK. Serving an "indefinite sentence" of at least six years—with no fixed release date or upper limit—for arson against targets linked to the vivisection industry.

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

•Sarah Gisborne, LT5393, HMP Downview, Sutton Ln, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5PD, UK. Serving 5.5 years for conspiracy to damage vehicles owned by people linked to HLS.

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

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

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

Ecodefense

•Grant Barnes, #137563, San Carlos Correctional Facility, POB 3, Pueblo, CO 81002, USA. Serving 12 years for the ELF arson of SUVs.

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

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

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

•Jonathan Paul, #07167-085, FCI Phoenix, 37910 N 45th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85086, USA. Serving 4.25 years for the Animal Liberation Front/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.

Il Silvestre

Il Silvestre is an Italian eco-anarchist group whose members have been framed for a variety of direct actions. In May 2007, Alessio Perondi and William Frediani were found guilty of terrorist conspiracy and participating in direct

action. They are under house arrest pending their appeal. Ragusa and five others who are free on bail are awaiting trial for allegedly using explosives to damage power lines.

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

Indigenous Resistance

•Leonard Peltier, #89637-132, USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837, USA. Peltier, an American Indian Movement activist, is serving life in prison after being framed for the deaths of two FBI agents killed during the 1975 Pine Ridge siege. For more information, visit www.freepeltier.org.

MOVE

The MOVE 9, members of an eco-revolutionary group, were framed for the murder of a cop and sentenced to 30 years to 100 years each. All eight surviving prisoners are being interviewed for parole in April. If granted, they would be free in August. For more information, visit www.onamove.com.

•Debbie Sims Africa, #OO6307, Janet Holloway Africa, #OO6308, and Janine Phillips Africa, #OO6309, SCI Cambridge Springs, 451 Fullerton Ave, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403, USA.

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

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

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

Other Political Prisoners

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

•Helen Woodson, #03231-045, FMC Carswell, Admin Max Unit, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127, USA. Serving nearly nine years for violating her parole by dumping a cup of red paint over the security apparatus of a federal court and making warnings ("threats") of weapons of mass destruction. In 2004, Woodson completed 20 years for disarming a Minuteman II missile silo with a jackhammer, mailing warning letters with bullets inside to officials, and robbing a bank and burning the money.

Prisoner Support Groups

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

•National Jericho Movement, POB 1272, New York, NY 10013, USA; www.thejerichomovement.com.

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

ASK AN EF! LAWYER



BY STU SUGARMAN

*Dear EF! Lawyer,
How can I get my FBI file?
—Subject of Investigation*

Dear SOI,

You can get your FBI file by filing a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA, pronounced FOY-uh) request with the FBI. FOIA applies to any federal agency of the executive branch, including the FBI, but not to any state or local agency, or to any federal legislative or judicial entity. To request information from a state or local agency, please consult your state's public records law or use the letter generator described below. Nearly all of the information here about FOIA and the FBI applies to any federal executive branch agency.

Designated FBI FOIA officers are responsible for handling information requests. If you want to make an informal request for your file, call the FBI's central FOIA office at (202) 324-5520, your local FBI's FOIA officer or the FBI office where you think an investigation of you was based. Always be respectful, but state your intention to make a formal FOIA request—it will give them

an incentive to deal with you informally. During these calls, you can also save time by finding out where the records you seek are located, so you will know where to direct a formal, written request.

If the informal approach does not succeed, exercise your rights under FOIA to make a formal request in writing. In most cases, you should be able to prepare a simple request letter by yourself. The FBI searches its field offices (offices in different cities) for records only when requests are made directly to those offices; a request to the FBI in Washington, DC, will lead only to a search of its central files.

Make sure in advance that the particular office you are sending your request to will accept a request in whatever form you prefer (hand delivery, mail, fax, email or through its website). If you mail your request, mark the outside of the envelope

"FOIA Request." Send the request by registered mail with a return receipt requested. A photocopy of your letter and your receipt will help you later if you need to appeal.

The request letter should contain your full name, your address, your daytime phone number, that you are looking for "any documents mentioning me" and that you request the documents under FOIA's authority. You may also explain why you should have an expedited response or why you shouldn't pay for the response cost. You should find out in advance whether you meet FOIA's criteria for expedited responses or fee waivers. If you need help, call the FOIA Service Center at (800) 336-4243.

Before making your FOIA request, you may want to obtain—over the phone, if possible—an estimate of what the search and duplication fees might be. You may also want to state in your request letter your willingness to pay fees up to a certain limit, and that you'd like to be contacted by telephone or letter if the fees are likely to exceed that amount. In this way, you can indicate how much you are willing to pay.

If the FBI writes you to confirm receipt of your request or to seek more time to respond, that letter does not legally count as a "response." If you get a response letter from the FBI refusing to disclose all or part of

the requested information—or no "response" at all—within 20 working days of filing a written FOIA request, you may formally appeal to the FBI's Freedom of Information Appeals Officer. You may take your appeal directly to federal court only if the FBI does not respond within this required time period.

You can also file a lawsuit in a federal court convenient to you if your administrative appeal is denied. If you win in court, a judge can order the FBI to release the records and may award you attorney's fees and court costs.

If you want additional help when writing a FOIA request to any federal agency, including the FBI, or even to any state or local agency, visit www.rcfp.org/foi_letter/generate.php. At this site, there is a FOIA (and local public records law) letter generator that asks you simple questions and then creates a letter for you to make sure your letter is as effective as possible. You can also find the FBI's FOIA letter generator at www.foia.fbi.gov. It's quick, easy and fun for the entire family!

Do you have a legal question? Contact Stu Sugarman, quixote516@yahoo.com. Please write "Dear EF! Lawyer" in the subject line.

• announcements •

Northeast Regional Rendezvous May 23-27 • Moosehead Lake, Great North Woods, Maine

In northern Maine, the world's largest landowner is trying to suck up the largest wilderness east of the Mississippi, and spit it out as condos and golf courses. In other words, let's get our shit together, build our skills and grow our resistance to this plan.

Arrive Friday night and set up camp in time for an open-mic-less night. There will be a Night to Howl on Saturday evening. Bring musical instruments and your favorite circus tricks.

We'll spend three days in hands-on direct action trainings, including: beginning through advanced climbing, blockades, how to use media schmucks, facilitation, staying safe in the streets and the woods, info about Plum Creek's plans for the North Woods, Earth First! philosophy, the role of forest defense in the climate change movement, legal training and how to be sneaky in the woods. Plan to stick around 'til Tuesday to apply your new skills.

Come prepared to camp out; it could be chilly and wet. May is black-fly season. Light-colored clothing (allegedly) helps. Bring something to contribute to a common kitchen.

Kids are totally welcome. Please get in touch ahead of time if you would like help with child care. This camp is an anti-racist, feminist, queer and trans-positive space. So leave your bullshit prejudices and egos at home—and your dogs, too. We mean it.

The suggested donation is \$20, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

For directions and more information, contact maineef@yahoo.com; www.maine.indymedia.org.

Citizens' Direct Action Camp June 1-6 • Montana

We live in a time that requires citizens to take action against global warming. While our national politicians and leaders propose

compromise and weak measures, the situation gets worse. It's time for US citizens to take leadership and direct action to make our politicians accountable to us. To this end, we announce a Citizens' Direct Action Training Camp to oppose and confront the massive development of Rocky Mountain Corridor from Fort MacMurry, Alberta, all the way to New Mexico.

This camp is being hosted and organized by JR Roof (former director of Greenpeace's Ships and Direct Action Division, and co-founder of the Ruckus Society), Mike Roselle (a founder of Earth First!), the Rainforest Action Network and the Ruckus Society.

For more information about the camp, contact JR Roof, jr@globalwarmingsolution.org; www.globalwarmingsolution.org.

Great Lakes Anarchist Gathering June 6-8 • Toledo, Ohio

This is going to be an important event, due to its geographical and chronological proximity to the Republican National Convention (RNC) in September. The three-month window between the Great Lakes Anarchist Gathering (GLAG) and the RNC will allow those in attendance to take advantage of skills learned and to share any plans made with those unable to attend.

For more information, to help or to share ideas, contact GLAG, typea@riseup.net; October Fifteenth Anarchist Collective, october15ac@hotmail.com.

National Conference for Media Reform June 6-8 • Minneapolis, Minnesota

Join activists, educators, journalists, policymakers and concerned citizens in calling for real and lasting changes to our nation's media systems. Guests include Amy Goodman, Dan Rather, Bill Moyers, Van Jones, Naomi Klein and many others.

For more information, contact Free Press, (202) 265-1490; www.freepress.net.

2008 G8 Protests June 26-July 9 • Japan

This year's Group of Eight (G8) meetings will be held in Japan.

The protests begin in late June, with demonstrations against the foreign ministers' meeting on June 26-27. On June 28, there will be an anti-G8 rally and march in Tokyo. Then, from July 1-4, there will be four themed days of action in Sapporo: July 1 will be anti-military base/anti-war; July 2, anti-World Trade Organization/anti-privatization; July 3, anti-neoliberalism; and July 4, farmers' day and the day for native people and minorities.

July 5 will be a day of international action, and July 6 will be an airport protest. July 7-8 will consist of blocking the G8 meetings in Lake Toya and holding an alternative summit in Sapporo. Finally, on July 9, we will all come together to block the G8 meetings.

Facilities will be available in Tokyo, Osaka, Sapporo and Lake Toya, and will include convergence centers, inexpensive rooms, camping, independent media centers and a limited number of private homes.

For more information, contact no-g8@sanpal.co.jp; linux7.sanpal.co.jp/no-g8.

CrimethInc. Convergence July 16-20 • Near Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Foster a culture of resistance! Come together for several days of self-organized workshops, presentations, performances and more. Everyone can be a presenter, so bring your own ideas, not to mention camping gear and whatever resources you can share.

This year's focus will be on coordinating for the demonstrations at the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, as well as longer-range anarchist endeavors. Internationals will share experiences from overseas. Participation is free, of course, along with literature, food, child care and camping space. The convergence will be a sober, consent-based space.

For more info, visit www.crimethinc.com.

You Have the Right to Remain Controlled

BY JOANNA

Policing Dissent: Social Control and the Anti-Globalization Movement, by Luis A. Fernandez, Rutgers University Press, 2008.

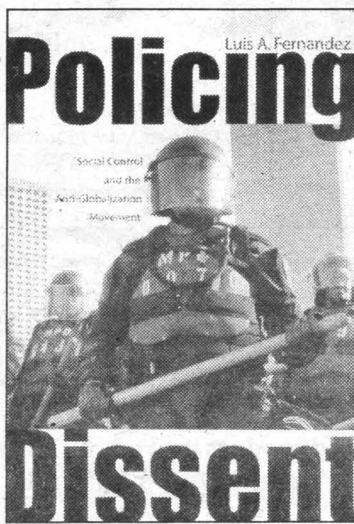
Luis Fernandez's new book, *Policing Dissent: Social Control and the Anti-Globalization Movement*, was an informative, scary read. The book maps out the changing and increasingly powerful nature of control during protests, using the anti-globalization movement as a case study. As the book unfolded, I remembered in detail all of the police interactions I've ever had. It was both satisfying to see my experiences articulated so well in Fernandez's analysis and depressing to consider how the few rights we have left are so vulnerable.

Policing Dissent had a narrow focus: looking at how police interact with protesters in a mass demonstration. I enjoyed this, since I haven't read too much that is so well researched about street-level repression. The author interviewed activists and police, another method that gave the book depth. Of course, we're all curious to read what the police are plotting and how they are framing our struggle (as well as what they refuse to comment on). However, it made me a little nervous to think that Fernandez might be sending the more cooperative police officers contributor copies of his book, since his tone

isn't one of flat-out police hatred. Even though you don't need to hate something to overthrow it, I think he could have been much harder on the police.

Fernandez is very clear about his role and approach as an academic researcher. Explaining every choice he made in the making of this book seemed a little forced and out of place. I couldn't tell if this book was meant for other academics, activists or the "uninformed masses." Perhaps, it is meant for all three, since Fernandez offers a nice mix of factual information, political theory, personal experience and interviews. It bothered me that he never offered a more radical vision drawn from his findings, such as a world with no police, systemic social control or legalized physical violence.

His main "thesis"—as it reads like a dissertation—is this: The adoption of the USA PATRIOT Act a month after September 11, 2001, has served to legalize police control of dissenters, thus transforming the police into a much larger beast than ever before. Informed



citizens are now treated like terrorists. The USA PATRIOT Act has made "domestic terrorism" a ubiquitous term. The act defines it loosely, saying that domestic terrorism could apply to "any domestic group involved in an act in which violence erupts," thus allowing the state to monitor and attempt to control any group. Government funding is now legally used

for things like infiltration, surveillance, building huge fences, conducting massive pre-emptive arrests right before a protest and normalizing (and thus legitimating) long, violent training programs on how police can transform a protest into a militarized war zone.

Fernandez details each tactic that the police employed at anti-globalization protests and discusses how that affects individual activists, further organizing and movement building on a mass scale. The book is a good way to learn about what you're getting into if you are new to protesting and can help you consider some scenarios that might occur during your action. Fernandez discusses how police have used intimidation and fear tactics to control protesters.

He witnessed police detaining many people at various planning meetings in order to gain information, pre-emptively arresting hundreds of activists right before a protest and running through a protest to arrest key people.

Fernandez also discusses psychological control and how we, as citizens, self-regulate our behavior because we already "know the rules." Framing "the law" as "good" and huge crowds of people as "terrorists" has created serious consequences on successful activist organizing and our ability to think radically and practice free speech. For example, needing a permit to protest serves to clue police in on how many people will be at the protest and what to expect. It also gives police the power to designate where a protest takes place, exemplifying a more subtle form of control.

If you become too depressed as you read this book, the very last paragraph may uplift you. Fernandez reminds us that, in focusing on control, the book skews our view of the overall political landscape. There are many more factors out there than just control and repression. Victory, liberation and justice should also be considered while reading this book. We must feel just as inspired to fight for freedom as we are informed about what we're up against.

Joanna has been involved in radical organizing for four years.

From the Forest to the Feedlot

BY ANDY CAFFREY

Western Turf Wars: The Politics of Public Lands Ranching, by Mike Hudak, Biome Books, 2008.

Have you ever stopped to think seriously about what it means to "protect" wildlands? In 1964, the passage of the Wilderness Act promised a just-leave-it-be revolution in protection and management of the wild. Now, almost a half-century later, with half the biomass of the planet harnessed for human use, the results are in—and we're scratching our heads, staring at what is now only a tattered blanket of evolutionary potential, wondering what the hell happened.

What happened is that everything we didn't pay attention to got wasted. What's left stands at the precipice of a climate mega-disaster. All by themselves, the postage stamp wilderness areas—where we've historically put most of our emphasis—don't stand a chance. Is there even a future for evolution itself?

Oh, and by the way, what about the cows? In the midst of war, terrorism, ethnic cleansing, AIDS and the sixth extinction, Sierra Club Grazing Committee Vice Chair Mike Hudak is scampering around, jumping up-and-down and waving his arms over his head, yelling, "Look at the freakin' cows, man!"

He's talking about the cows and other livestock that nearly 25,000 operators are grazing on 230 million acres of public wildlands managed by the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in 17 western states. He's talking about 140 years of impact that, by the late 1980s, had eliminated more than half of the plant species on 64 percent of USFS and 78 percent of BLM rangelands. This is taxpayer-subsidized extinction.

Back in the early days of Earth First!, welfare ranching was one of our top concerns—thanks

to people like Lynn Jacobs, who produced the definitive creed and documentary resource, *Waste of the West*. As Mike Hudak makes clear in his new book, *Western Turf Wars*, it's way overdue for this direct action campaign to come back.

In this book of interviews with land managers and activists, Hudak writes about an evolution-crushing cowboy mythology and its accompanying culture of corruption. It's our unconditional support of this myth that undercuts our efforts to protect public lands. So far, 82 species of mammals, 58 species of birds, 114 species of fish, 35 species of amphibians and reptiles, 23 species of mollusks and 12 species of insects have been adversely affected by a used-car-lot system of scamming and management.

The story is a familiar one. Resource extractors bully the land managers and buddy up with the legislators to scam privileged access to public lands, keep below-cost fees so low that they are, in effect, welfare for ranchers and get bogus compliance with paltry environmental regulations.

Conscientious rangers who strive to enforce environmental laws sometimes find themselves and their careers attacked in their own communities and by corrupt superiors within the agencies. When Dave Koehler, a BLM resource manager, tried to shut down a New Mexico operation in which 28 individuals were running 880 cows on a BLM single-use permit allotted for 208 cows, the

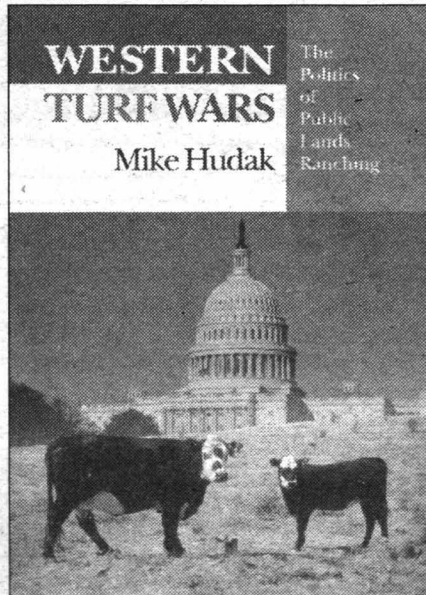
deputy state director investigated Koehler for "illegal and inappropriate" activities and audited his program for 37 days, going through all of his files and interviewing all of his employees.

According to Hudak, "endless meetings and meaningless exercises" have "consumed hundreds of careers" in massive bureaucratic projects that are intended to further reduce enforcement activities by keeping agency officials out of the field. This is all compounded by the fact that we are paying big bucks for all of this devastation. The 2004 shortfall of USFS and BLM grazing receipts cost taxpayers \$115 million.

Now, the evidence is in. Mike Hudak has collected the verdict straight from the mouths of the jurors for us to read in this fine collection. The judgment is unequivocal. As USFS fire management officer Jim Prunty says, "The worst possible use for this western country is livestock grazing." Despite all of this, public awareness remains low. Hudak and the Sierra Club's national grazing committee are revising legislative proposals for a voluntary buy-out of grazing permits to finally and permanently remove the livestock from our public lands and repair these areas before it's too late.

To buy *Western Turf Wars* for \$26.95 (plus \$4 shipping), contact Mike Hudak, PhD, c/o Biome Books, 38 Oliver Street, Binghamton, NY, 13904.

For more information, visit www.mikehudak.com; www.westernturf wars.com.



FLAMING ARROWS

writings by Rod Coronado

\$10 all money goes to Rod

flamingarrows.mountainrebel.net



"I spent a year in the Northwoods of Wisconsin at an outdoor school. It was not a survival school, because I died. I died to my old way of thinking. I died to being egocentric. I died to the pursuit of the civilized lifeway.

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

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

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

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Small Groups

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

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

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

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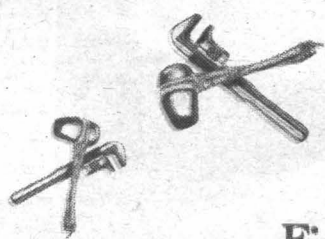
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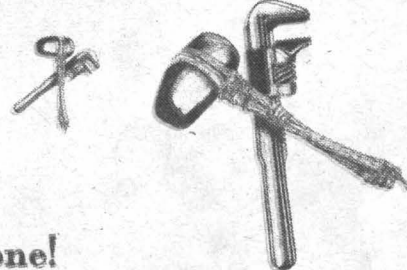
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Arkansas EF!
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Free Mind Media
546 Pacific Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95404
info@freemindmedia.org

Healeth EF!
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(530) 241-1007

Long Haul Infoshop
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Sierra Nevada EF!
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smartMeme Strategy & Training Project
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Gulf Coast Lowlands EF!
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(773) 465-7774

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Roadblock EF!
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Wild Rockies EF!
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Wetlands Activism Collective
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Wild Wasatch EF!
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VERMONT

Save the Corporations From Themselves
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The Last Wizards

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WISCONSIN

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Teewinot EF!
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PROJECTS & CAMPAIGNS

Challenging Oppression Within
earthfirstcow@yahoo.com

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