Eric McDavid is sentenced to nearly 20 years

By Sacramento Prisoner Support

In the early afternoon of May 8, a crowd of committed friends and supporters filed into the federal courthouse in Sacramento, California. After stressful and frustrating delays since Eric McDavid’s trial in September, sentencing was finally happening. When we arrived at the courtroom, we were met by a row of federal marshals and a white sign taped to the door, informing us that “by order of the court” there would be no electronic devices allowed in the courtroom. This was the justification for the handheld metal-detector search everyone had to undergo before entering the courtroom, as well as the complete search of any bags carried into the courtroom. All of this was despite the fact that everyone had to go through a similar search downstairs upon entry into the courthouse.

The seats behind the defense table quickly filled, forcing Eric’s supporters to spill over into the prosecution’s side of the room. As usual, the marshals did not allow anyone to sit in the row directly behind the defense table—other than four FBI agents who formed a wall between Eric and his loved ones.

It was clear from the beginning of the hearing that everything had already been decided. The judge was simply going through the motions of hearing oral arguments about each of the issues raised by Eric and his attorney. Every time, the judge deferred to the prosecution. He offered a minor concession, allowing Eric’s family members to speak in his favor. Eric’s parents’ and sisters’ defense was strong and passionate, illuminating his compassion and love for life and all creatures. They showed great courage and strength—something that apparently runs in the family.

After they spoke, the assistant US attorney simply reasserted that he did not believe Eric is the person his family thinks him to be. Coming from someone who has never even spoken with Eric, but who has worked tirelessly for 2.5 years to send him to federal prison, these are empty words.

I-69 Treesit begins: an update on resistance in Southern Indiana

By Roadblock Earth First!

Construction on Interstate 69 looms closer every day. Already, four Hoosier families have been evicted and their homes demolished. With contracts for construction signed and clearing all but complete for the first two miles of the proposed route, the state has placed its pieces into position and is poised to move. The creation of the North American Free Trade Agreement superhighway is about to begin, fulfilling the dreams of international trade strategists everywhere.

On May 19, an autonomous group based in Indiana, raised the first anti-I-69 treesit at the north end of the area slated for construction this Summer. This marks the beginning of the land occupation phase of resistance to this infrastructure project. The police response was initially quite heavy, with multiple agencies swarming the scene in cars and helicopters. However, as of June 12, all is going well at the sit. Confrontations with police have been held to a minimum, and support from the locals has grown with each passing day. There has been constant ground occupation below the sit since it was initially raised. Off site, there have been two rounds of home demos at the houses of construction company Gohmann Asphalt and Construction executives. There have also been demos against the Michael J. Baker design firm in both Frederick, Maryland, and Bloomington, Indiana.

The treesit was raised at a time when local I-69 opposition efforts were growing strong. In late April, more than 25 landowners from the first 13-mile section of the proposed route gathered together to discuss the initiation of a “no-sell” pledge. The pledge would force the state to exercise eminent domain against the landowners, bogging the state down in the court system and costing it precious time and money.

In this climate of increased action and organizing, and with construction to begin any day now, Roadblock Earth First! issues a call to any and all individuals and affinity groups to come to southern Indiana and fight this monstrous road project.

While we hope that you and your affinity group will be able to stay long-term and participate in the resistance movement, we recognize that there are dozens of other important projects going on all over the country. For this reason, we have created the X-69 Shutdown Schedule. This shutdown calendar is a way for affinity groups to commit to shutting down construction for a day, with the hope that enough groups will sign up to shut down construction for an entire month.

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The Carrot of Our Stone Soup

For a while after I started working at the Earth First! Journal in summer 2006, it was hard for me to tell if the world was suddenly more aware of environmental issues or if it just seemed that way because I was temporarily immersed in an environmental community. By now I realize that yes, indeed, the outside world seems to have leapt into a whirlwind of not quite ecological awareness, but a more trendy green awareness—one of green capitalism, green consumerism, easy fixes, and anything but biocentrism.

The Journal publishes strategies from environmental activists, rabblerousers, treehuggers and various stripes of anarchists about how to fix the Earth for its own sake, not for further exploitation by humans. Many of us are aware that what's good for the Earth is what's best for humans—after all, we come from the Earth, even if we are currently breaking all the rules. But we are drawn to radical ecology because we believe that living systems beyond humans have the right to exist, to prosper. We know that drinking from fuel-conserving ecological plastic won't save the sea turtles and that growing biofuels won't save the rainforests. Rather than sti

The media is overwhelmed with green reformist crap. Yet we have to struggle every other month to put out a journal. The Journal still doesn't compromise with corporate interests. It is still a place to hash out strategies and actions. This is our journal. It's a publication based on us radical environmentalists. But it is also our responsibility. The Journal needs subscriptions, it needs authors, it needs funds, it needs editors. Stop it up a bit and work for a while—we are severely understaffed.

The Journal can be that first carrot (after the essential but flavorless stone) in a proverbial stone soup. We can be a jumping-off point for a positive feedback loop. We will start by hashing out ideas. Soon we'll have strategies in place. Then, we'll share victories, and finally, we'll forge our way across the battleground to a healed planet.

—Sophia

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Coast Salish Blockade Supports Mohawk Occupation

BY ANGE STERIT

On April 28—as Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) yet again surrounded Mohawk warriors in Tyendinaga, on the eastern side of the continent—about 70 mainly indigenous people gathered on the western shore of the Coast Salish Territory in Vancouver, British Columbia. Elders armed with medicines and drums led the people, while Coast Salish warriors flew Mohawk warrior flags in solidarity on the perimeter of the march. Mothers and fathers, children and youths, elders and warriors chanted, “OPP out of Tyendinaga,” and, “OPP out of Six Nations,” as they marched from a park to a busy intersection and blockaded it for two and a half hours in rush hour traffic.

The blockade was in response to an incident on April 25, when OPP surrounded a quarry in Tyendinaga on Mohawk Territory, in so-called Ontario, Canada. The OPP demanded the surrender of the Mohawks who had been occupying the quarry. News broadcasts failed to report that a young man had been shot, while police and that police guns were pointed at Mohawk children. At the center of the dispute is the Cumbersome Tack land that rightfully belongs to the Mohawks but now contains the destructive gravel quarry. Community members have been occupying the quarry site for more than a year.

On April 27, six indigenous people protecting the Tyendinaga area were imprisoned, bringing to 13 the total number of indigenous people jailed there for defending their land.

On the same day, almost 200 miles west of Tyendinaga, people of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory showed support for the Tyendinaga Mohawks by blockading Highway 6, a major Canadian road, for several hours. They too have faced arrests, violations and repression by the Canadian government for protecting their lands.

The location of the April 28 blockade on Coast Salish Territory is known as the Clark-Knight Corridor Whole Route. It was chosen for its role as Vancouver’s primary arterial for transporting goods (stolen and exploited from indigenous lands). The 3,000 trucks using the western side, or the Clark-Knight the most important truck route in the city. The corridor also links the Vancouver port and industrial areas on the north side of the city with industrial areas in south Vancouver, Richmond, Delta, Surrey and beyond via Highways 91 and 99. The Port of Vancouver is Canada’s biggest port; each year it trades $43 billion in goods stolen from indigenous lands with more than 90 trading economies. In addition, trucking is Canada’s dominant freight mode, accounting for an estimated 70 percent of domestic shipments by value. In short, blocking the Clark-Knight Corridor significantly disrupts economic development in Canada.

The April 28 blockade was not only symbolically effective but also economically disruptive. Money and greed are the heart and heartbeat of Canada, so such an action was guaranteed to make Canada listen. Further, some commuters and truck drivers moving (stolen) native goods were forced to acknowledge that while they were inconvenienced for a few hours, indigenous people who have had their homelands invaded and occupied for more than 150 years have been inconvenienced much longer. Maybe the best part of the 10-minute report on car radio was a compelled people to ask why the OPP backed by the Canadian government had attacked Tyendinaga and why indigenous people and still fighting for their lands.

The blockade was effective. The goal was to impact the economy, create a public awareness of the issue, and show the Canadian government and the public that indigenous peoples are unified and ready to take action to protect our families and our lands. Police have since backed off of Tyendinaga and the Six Nations.

Some Thoughts on Utah Phillips 1935-2008

BY DAVID ROVICS

Utah Phillips was a legend. I first became familiar with the Utah Phillips phenomenon in the late 1960s, when I was in my early 20s, working part time as a prep cook at Magnorington Restaurant in Seattle. I had recently read Howard Zinn’s A People’s History of the United States and had been particularly enthralled by the stories of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). So it was with great interest that I first discovered a greasy cassette tape in the kitchen by the stove. It was Utah Phillips’s album, as well as some other IWW songs I had found in various obscure collections of folk music.

I was a couple years later that I first really discovered Utah Phillips the songwriter. Whether he’s recounting stories from his own experiences or those of others, his stories are classic. The many hours Utah spent in his troubled youth talking with old veterans of the rails and the IWW campaigns created a bridge from now to then, through his pen and through his deep, resonant voice. In Good Thought, Haywood, Joe Hill or Elizabeth Gurley Flynn was to bring alive an era that had once seemed only to exist on paper. Utah wasn’t someone who was just telling stories from a bygone era, it was more like he was a bridge to that era.

Hearing these songs and stories brought to life by Utah, I became infected by the idea that if people joined together in this history in all its beauty and grandeur, they would find the same hope for humanity and the possibility of radical social change that I had just discovered. Thus, I became a Wobbly singer too. I began to stand on a street corner in Seattle, with a sign beside me that read, “Songs of the Seattle General Strike of 1919.” I sang songs I had learned from listening to Utah’s album, as well as other IWW songs I had found in various obscure collections of folk music.

A couple of years later, I was in Nevada City, Utah. I was living in a commune, and was doing a show with a friend at the community radio station. I joined us there, and afterward Utah, my friend, and I went to a nice breakfast place. Utah did most of the talking, and I was pleasantly surprised to find that his use of mysterious hobo colloquialisms and frequent references to obscure historical characters in 20th-century American anarchist history was something he did off stage as well as on.

For those of us who knew Utah’s music and stories, whether on or off the stage, whether as a human bridge to the radical labor movement of yesterday, as the voice of modern-day hobos or as that funky old guy that Ani DiFranco did a couple songs with in Another Day, Utah Phillips will be remembered and treasured by many.

Utah was undeniably a sort of musical/political/historical institution in his own day. He said he was a humor in his own time. It’s no question that one person’s humor is another’s legend. But who cares, it’s just words anyway.

David Rovics is a singer-songwriter based in Portland, Oregon. His website is www.davidrovics.com.
Dear Shit Fer Brains

I had to respond to the article by the People of Color (see EF May-June 2008). Many of the assertions were simply absurd—such as that Earth rituals, the diaspora and wolves somehow belong to people of color only (do I really need to say that people of European descent did rituals and went to war, and that they were insidious to Europe among other places?)—or authoritarian—the attempt to dictate how white people wear their hair. It has never been clear to me the difference between one person’s culture, I’m comforted in knowing ze’s taking care of himself and wish that ze is able to find ways to further communicate his extremely insightful ideas to the community above me at large.

The outcome of my case pains me and begs the question: Do I regret my place in it? The separation from what I was becoming so very close to—a mi querita Dolores—by choice. While I’ve never met the warden of my micro-farm; creating relations with my macro-farm brings a different level of compassion toward community... Sigh...

In recognizing where I am and what has brought me here, I am deeply relaxed and self to who I am—this is not defining myself through my immediate environment but giving credence to those aspects within, which have synergistically permeated this situation whilst affir ming their own uniqueness (being in it but not of it)... So, in a sense, I’d be regretting who I am in this moment... yet, the pain is there: we’re 100 percent. But without it, would there be the experience of love and joy I find in my partner’s eyes, the love of my micro-farm and that from my macro-farm’s letters of support? I will have no intent of glorifying or advocating the Path I currently travel—“causing, as I and those who also partake in this type of journey know—we ain’t no Goddess darin’ heroines I’m simply a human, one of many, who has chosen to explore”—something which resonates in me with the descriptive words of Renzo—toward the future, instead of nothing... one of a myriad paths whose ends are common without a denomination)... That love and wisdom manifest from my connections would exist wherever I was, but the fact that I am where I am—and with that fact, certain realities prevail, my relation to pain being one of them... regardless of who I am, or for however long, I know in my Heart I am the one I have to answer to, my view of myself, how I feel at my self—my own integrity (not some B.S. social/cultural concepts of denial, dissolution, but soundness, completeness)—is what’s at stake. This is what has guided my heart and actions throughout this case—feeling my way through its bureaucratic mechanisms of carrots and sticks, gaining insights to how to proceed via intuition and absorb some thought processes and the actions which they incur, where others simply couldn’t able to justify them (I was going to qualify it) looking at my feet from their death beds, but that even falls short)... I feel that in working through these experiences, I have learned how to combine the principles that are number one on the list of things we need to agree to disagree about—29 days of the month that I was the expectation that I could pretend that “almost vegan” was a synonym and see if that helps us communicate a bit better our different experiences and what we hold in our hearts is brought to light by the respect we show each other as we go about those relationships—the choices we make.

In Solidarity,

D. (aka Eric McBride) (find your joy)

Dear SFB,

The paper arrived safely! Bravo! Thank you so much, this is a real gift. I think a person can read it. I am a “single” great-grandmother living in Romania II as an action; I do not have much money. I love direct action, and you are number one on the list of the-best-of-the-best in my life. Love and Peace,

——GRETCHEN

Dear SFB,

When in the course of a discussion or debate it becomes obvious that the different sides are using words and terms differently, then it becomes necessary to expose the responsibility of whoever notices that to speak up. So Lynn (and perhaps others) I think that at least part of the problem is that I use the terms “vegan” and “omnivore,” these terms have specific meanings to me (see EF January-February 2008 and May-June 2008). They way of course mean something else to you, and we each get to the terms in the way we want to, but let’s at least avoid the misunderstanding caused by assuming that those without a term assigned to a term is the same as the other person’s. So please read everything I wrote according to the following definitions.

A vegan is somebody who does not eat any meat or animal products. An vegan is somebody who does not eat any meat or other animal that eats a diet that contains some meat or animal products. To use your terminology, for example, no, I do not call a person who eats no meat or animal products for 29 days of the month but on the 30th day eats meat “vegan” if I call them “almost vegan,” and I don’t really understand that you want that term to mean. I call them an “omnivore.” When I am preparing food to serve vegans, I would expect them to justly outrage were that food to be three percent meat.

So I would call a chimp an “omnivore,” but for the time being we could pretend that “almost vegan” was a synonym and see if that helps us communicate a bit better our different experiences and what we hold in our hearts. Love and Peace.

——M.D. Novick

Dear SFB,

I find it incredibly disheartening to read such animosity and hostility toward ourselves within these pages. Yes, I know I am not one to criticize, having been guilty of it myself. To all prisoners out there: Don’t ever tell any one tell you that your feelings of isolation, sadness and hurt are illegitimate because someone else has more time or is in a tough physical and psychological experience, period, and each of us must come to terms with it in our own way. Some will do that more easily than others.

Once again we are disagreeing here. I’ll keep it succinct. Action alone will not create change. Education and rhetoric alone will not succeed. Look to the lessons of Stop Huntington Animal Cruelty, learn how to combine the two and keep from going to jail. Then anyone up for, I don’t know, say, ending a war or oil reliance and combined change with a few key companies? I’d also like to chime in on Romania II. I support Romania II as a way to lift my spirits while locked up. More than that, I think it sent a powerful message to the state: You can capture us, and we will still fight; you can punish us, and we will still resist.
That said, the action is not beyond criticism. And Sadie, you must not answer just to your conscience, but you must also answer to my community, the community where you now live and work. None of us is beyond criticism. But no one should ever place blame for state repression on those who resist. Blame rests solely with the state.

The Black Menace
TOWARD A FINAL AND DECISIVE ATTACK ON WHITENESS
BY TAYLOR SPARROW

It was soon after the riots of June ’76, and Johannesburg, South Africa was so tense it was hard to breathe. There seemed monotonous and its many hundred martials, and a political detainee named Wellington Tshabalala had just “hung himself” while in the custody of the secret police. As the phone rang, some white paramedic came on the line to pass along another rumor. Children were being brought into the hospital. Some whites had heard that tomorrow was kill-a-white day. Others had it on good authority that Black malus were being implicated to poison the master’s tea...

—Rian Malan, from My Traveler’s Heart

No need to fear. We are perfectly OK....

South Africa is not going to start shooting you and all that....

—Thabo Mbeki!

We shall need to see efforts so not much as attempts to right wrongs on behalf of the blacks, but a society free from the lies it is built.

—Nadine Gordimer

White South Africans repeatedly justified the continuation of the brutality of apartheid by reminding the world that their country was the last bastion of the white gevar, or “black menace.” Having some awareness of the tremendous level of violence perpetuated by the state in its ongoing in-fighting on the general population, white people lived with the nagging fear that someday they would once again be thrusting into their heavily guarded pockets of prosperity and privilege, and simply annihilate them. Of course, like many other places governed by the tyranny of white supremacy, the violence never boomeranged back enough to fulfill the nightmares of “white man and woman” (who would insist that they were totally innocent and had nothing to do with it, when it was all over). Will the world ever appreciate the decades of anti-colonial wars that brought “independence” to the majority of the world’s people? Will the world embrace the radical frameworks of “anti-oppression” trainings are not generating the type of revolutionary change we need because they are distorted by attempts to fit whatever work we’re doing within the anti-oppression paradigm? Do environmentalists want to attack white supremacy, the whole anti-oppression framework work is imported into the movement, and radicals refuse to “do anything” about race because they are disturbed by the way in which certain inherently liberal “taint” to them and that if they align themselves too closely to the white radicals, that taint will rub off on them?

This criticism from certain anarchists does not only target white radicals, but flipped upside down: there is an important warning in the subtly racist fear of these young militants. The message “I’m different and not white” is one of the radical frameworks of “anti-oppression” trainings is not generating the type of revolutionary change we need because they are distorted by attempts to fit whatever work we’re doing within the anti-oppression paradigm, because they are driven by attempts to fit whatever work we’re doing within the anti-oppression paradigm. They are talking about the idea that white people might aspire to beneath “white heritage” or an ethnic identification, but not just “white.”

Can the word “white” really be replaced with the words “male” or “able-bodied” or by any other privileged group, and convey roughly the same meanings and practice?

Africans in diasporas and colored people working public places within the police stations or other branches of the apartheid government are quite closely not “black,” and I would certainly agree.

—THOMAS Sowell

Wendy Williams was one of the key negotiators for the African National Congress during the transition to majority government. She shortumitted his message to the whites on the “African society” of the negotiating table.

For some time, I prefer to use the word “black” or “African,” as to set our society free from the lies of the “black menace” among the white. Many white radicals refuse to “do anything” about race because they are disturbed by the way in which certain inherently liberal “taint” to them and that if they align themselves too closely to the white radicals, that taint will rub off on them.

—Taylorsparrow@gmail.com

July-August 2008 Earth First! Page 5
The Maine Regional Rendezvous Explores the Future of Earth First!

BY STEPH BOSTON

"Population limitation" is a euphemism for global social inequality. Although the Earth's human population, as a whole, is exceeding the Earth's carrying capacity, it is irresponsible to treat the world's population as a homogenous unit, as deep ecologists so often do. Placing blame for the eco-crisis on undifferentiated humanity puts equal responsibility on white people and people of color, rich and poor, men and women, and those living in the Global North and Global South. It is more justifiable to emphasize limiting development and consumption of resources in wealthier countries, in order to hold them accountable.

Uninhibited industrial development, which is inseparable from capitalism and propagated by richer countries, has led to an unfair ecological burden on poorer nations. There is no boundary placed around industrial development that respects the right of the natural world to its own autonomic existence. The worldwide capitalist market has emerged in an already grossly unequal world, divided by sexism, racism and colonial expansion. Capitalists go where both labor and the Earth's resources are cheap—predominantly in the Global South. There, they leave behind a trail of ecological devastation. Rich nations condemn poor nations for not controlling their population growth while keeping them in poverty, so they cannot have adequate access to empowering reproductive control methods. Radical ecofeminist Mary Mellow explains that unless the benefits of development are widely distributed so that the incentives of poor countries are changed, this trend is expected to steadily increase and create economic inequality. Industrial development, capitalism, colonialism, racism and patriarchy are different dominating forces with their hands around the throat of humanity, poor people and the planet.

Since resources are limited, it makes sense to focus attention on the consumption levels of richer nations rather than on the population numbers of the poorer ones. According to an article by environmental ethicist and economist Mark Sagoff, the wealthiest 20 percent of the world's population consumes 80 percent of goods produced by the Earth's resources. The US has only two percent of the world's population but consumes a quarter of the world's resources. During their lifetime, one person in the US will consume 20 times as much of the world's resources as an African or Indian person. In the last 50 years, the US has consumed more energy and raw materials than the rest of the human race has done in the whole of its history. Instead of placing blame on the Third and Fourth Worlds' population growth, those who consume the most should make the largest sacrifice.

Humanity is not an enemy as a part of nature but an enemy of it. Ecologist Garret Hardin contends that the "freedom to breed will bring rain to all." Hardin, however, is consistently the very platform of the deep ecology movement, which states that the "well-being and flourishing of human and nonhuman life on Earth have value in themselves." Awareness of and accountability for power is crucial for the survival of the planet and for the equality of society. Who would get to choose whether we limit the population or not, and how would they decide who gets to live? If history repeats itself, it will be poor people and people of color who go first. Population control could mean a gynocide for wimmin because they reproduce throughout all classes and nationalities occupying and dividing the movement. It's unclear exactly how to get past this, but hopefully reflections like these, conversations at gatherings and the testing of new ideas will be helpful.
SEEDS OF VICTORY

WHY WE CAN’T SUCCEED WITHOUT A MULTIGENERATIONAL MOVEMENT

BY RODIN

Earth First! faces a substantial barrier to creating a sustainable movement. Our communities suffer from a rapid turnover rate and a lack of diversity, including when it comes to age. While we regularly talk about how often people seem to just disappear, we fail to recognize or discuss the qualities of our communities that contribute to these patterns. We have failed to create the infrastructure and support that would allow people to remain within the movement long-term. Instead, our conversations tend toward the personal (how our actions affect other individuals) and the global (the large scale implications of our actions), while glossing over the effects our collective choices have on our communities. Our failure to create sustainable, multigenerational communities is a direct result of the lack of priority we've given to support for parents and children. Choosing to have kids has become an environmental faux pas, which is not going to help our lack of sustainable communities. The decision not to reproduce needs to be considered not only from a personal and global perspective, but from a community perspective as well. Removing ourselves from the reproductive process has the unintended consequence of removing our communities from an entire facet of human existence.

We see an example of this type of thought in the previous issue of the Earth First! Journal (see EF! May-June 2008). Gedden Cascadia argues in "A Few Too Many" that choosing to have a vasectomy is an important and responsible decision for any male-bodied environmental activist. Surrounded by the effects of a world burdened by a population far beyond its sustainable capacity, it's easy to see where Gedden is coming from. However, we cannot oversimplify the current situation. Even if everyone in the Earth First! movement and other radical communities chose not to procreate, it would not bring an end to environmental destruction. In fact, it would weaken the very sort of movement we are working to build by reinforcing a culture that does not register support for parents as a priority.

The peril the Earth faces was created by more than an abundance of humans. More abstract trends—the commodification of nature and an absurd level of overconsumption—lie at the heart of our current situation, and simply decreasing the number of humans on this planet will do little to change these endemic obstacles.

In Gedden’s article, we are told that adoption can be a viable alternative to creating a child. However, the overall tone of the article implies that having children is an experience valuable to the individual alone. Our communities and the ways in which our decisions affect them are not part of the equation.

The result of our collective blindness to the consideration of community surrounds us. The homogeneity in age of those we associate with is a prime example. In any given community, there may be specific excuses for this lack of diversity, but when looked at on a broader scale, it becomes clear that such homogeneity is endemic. In order to confront this pattern, we must first recognize that this limited age range makes it impossible to build a sustainable long-term movement. Diversity in age brings us a diversity of perspectives and experience levels. It gives us a new generation to take on our struggle, and it creates space for us to move on to a different stage of our lives while remaining active and effective members of the movement. We will neither remain young forever nor desire our current lifestyles forever. Whether train hopping and transient or settled with children, there are infinite lifestyles that individuals can take on while being valuable members of Earth First! Yet only a small portion of those lifestyles are currently supported and accepted by our communities.

The majority of people entering our communities are young adults drawn to radical ideas because they have experienced firsthand how incredibly sick mainstream society is. Their disillusionment and frustration at the dominant culture can be powerful motivators. However, because they didn’t grow up surrounded by a given radical community, there is less incentive for them to remain within it. The all too obvious result is the high turnover experienced in Earth First! and other radical communities. Many have commented that the Rendezvous have few familiar faces from year to year. It’s tough to work on any sort of long-term project or to develop a strong community when people don’t stick around. We find ourselves repeating the same conversations for years because the majority of people in the discussion only recently appeared, and there aren’t enough people from before to pass on collective memories and ideas. Because of this, it is impossible to make large, consensual changes about the direction we want the movement to be headed in or to sustain an effective campaign, which can take years if not decades.

Compare our movement to struggles where those fighting side by side have been together for their entire lives and their communities have carried on for generations. Such communities have more similar goals and a greater investment in remaining united. Our communities are composed mainly of people who only found one another once they were more or less fully developed, so there is a distinct lack of this type of solidarity and sense of personal investment. Couple this with the fact that the majority of our communities fail painfully short when it comes to supporting folks once they’ve decided to settle down or have children, and the reason so few people stick around in the long term becomes undeniably clear.

We are stuck in a rut, and to remove ourselves from this rut, we must begin to accept a wider range of lifestyle choices, including the decision to have kids. Changing our culture requires not simply raising consciousness but actually building support systems. For example, we must develop communal child care. If we put more effort into creating a culture that cares for children and helps them develop, we can introduce them to an alternative to the dominant culture before they have been shaped by it. Not only will this save the children we interact with from years of vague dissatisfaction and misery, it will give us stronger, more robust social cohesion.

We have ignored our communities and their needs for long enough. We will never be able to create a true threat to those in power so long as we do not have unity and stability in our movement, and we will not have that until we place a greater focus on supporting all members of our communities. Creating the infrastructure for a multigenerational movement needs to become a priority. As a movement, we have much on our side. But in order to win, we have got to stop jumping from a personal to a global mindframe, and instead begin thinking of our decisions and actions in relation to our communities.
A Plan of Action to Disrupt the DNC and Resist False Choices

The Greenest Convention Ever and Other Lies From the Democrats

BY UNCONVENTIONAL DENVER

As the season wins its stride and the effects of climate change become increasingly visible, those who believe in the arrival of the Earth First wet dreams of the politicians that haunt such movements — pitting anti-racist struggles and feminism against each other in a battle for solidarity possible.

On the first day of the convention, we will be marching to the federal courthouse to demand freedom for the many political prisoners currently incarcerated for their acts in defense of animals, fellow human beings and the Earth. We’re working hard to frame this action to both illuminate the terrible fact that so many freedom fighters and ecodefenders are behind bars, and also to build the capacity of those on the outside to provide the most effective prison solidarity possible.

For the destruction of capitalism and the state, the crash of the economy and the implementation of security-as-a-way-of-life will take hold. Whether it is the right wing of capitalism or the left wing of capitalism, capitalism will continue to structure our lives and dissolve every inch of autonomy we carved out.

For more information, contact unconventional denver@tsenup.net; www.dncdisruption08.org.

Everyday for Everyone: A Small Demand

ON August 24-28, the ruling elite and their defenders will converge in Denver, Colorado, in an attempt to recuperate the economic crisis — and the war will endow them with the magic to spread amnesia in an ironic destruction of illusions, those who manage statecraft will make material the stuff of the dreams of the politicians that haunt such movements — pitting anti-racist struggles and feminism against each other in a battle for emotion — that we produce ourselves as powerful. We go to the Democratic Party’s convention ever in Denver, Colorado, in an attempt to recuperate the public in order to brand itself the “environmental catastrophe. It should come as no surprise that just as General Motors productive capacity; they are putting forth a green image to the public in order to brand itself the “environmentally friendly” party.

Of course, this is just a greenwashing ploy to make the Democratic National Convention (DNC) a “green convention.” Volunteers are busy screwing in energy-efficient light bulbs at the Pepsi Center and planting bioregionally appropriate gardens outside the convention to greet the delegates. Organizers have announced PR bonanza and are pushing carbon offsets on all the delegates to negate the impacts of their lavish parties and travel to the convention. The DNC committee is keen on putting forth a green image to the public.

Unconventional Action, a network of anarchists and anti-authoritarians organizing around this Summer’s political conventions, has called for all people concerned with the global warming. The Liberal Party members of the party. We will take the streets and counter the Democrats’ false technology like clean coal, corn ethanol and nuclear power, while pushing off expansions of war into the future. Furthermore, they refuse to stop the plunder of the land by oil, logging and mining companies. This Summer, we will stand up to their greenwashed design.

Unconventional Action is planning to host the “greenest” convention ever in Denver, Colorado, this August.

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As we are Permanently Harassed, the effects of climate change become increasingly visible, those who believe in the arrival of the Earth First movement are making a concerted effort to put on a caring, gentle face. Words like “sustainability” and “conservation” are being used by car companies, producers of harmful chemicals, agribusinesses and other benefactors of environmental catastrophe. It should come as no surprise that just as General Motors productive capacity; they are putting forth a green image to the public in order to brand itself the “environmentally friendly” party.

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LETS ADD THE BLACK

BY THE RNC WELCOMING COMMITTEE

Over last years Labor Day weekend, anarchists and anti-authoritarians from all over the occupied US gathered in Minnesota's Twin Cities to discuss the 2008 Republican National Convention (RNC) and hash out a framework for anarchist resistance. Through a consensus process, attendees developed a three-tiered strategy for denying delegates access to the RNC.

This same process happened again in the Twin Cities over the now Labor Day weekend for a pRNC 5.3. The May 3 meeting was a spokescouncil of sorts, where we evaluated our plans and tier strengths, and where we all realized that folks are actively and seriously committed to blockading the RNC.

In light of all this organizing and anarchist participation, you might wonder: Why the RNC? More specifically, how will the RNC protests benefit the radical environmental movement? How will blockading the convention directly confront the systems that our plans and tier strengths, and where we all realized that folks are actively and seriously committed to blockading the RNC.

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Pillage and destroy our shared planet? Environmental protests benefit the radical environmental movement? How will blockading the convention directly confront the systems that pillage and destroy our shared planet?

Radical Environmentalism Must be Visible

Although the RNC Welcoming Committee (RNCWC) is focused on a specific event, we hope that our work transcends the convention by contributing to the development of anti-authoritarian movements and mutual aid networks, both locally and globally. The Earth First movement and the broader radical environmental milieu stand to benefit from participation in the RNC protests.

As people all over the world begin to speak out against global warming, the RNC presents a great opportunity to demonstrate alternatives to both lobbying and voting for environmental action. "Environmental concerns" are at the forefront of not only the liberal agenda but also that of the GOP. Republicans are seeking to capitalize on the very destruction that they have wrought and are billing this year's convention as the "greenest ever." In a political climate where even the most blatant perpetrators of ecological violence claim to care about the future of this planet, it is essential that radicals step forward and offer an alternative.

Let's Show Them Our Skills

This Summer is perfect for spotlighting true ecodreece. A free state in Indiana, as well as some of the most inspiring protests in recent memory, may well endure as the battle in the Twin Cities goes down. Let's make this RNC a tribute to those projects. Achieving a victory in St. Paul will raise the spirits of everyone fighting local battles and hopefully precipitate many more struggles. Just as Eff's and other eco-anarchist types were at the forefront of the anti-globalization struggles at the end of the 20th century, we again have an opportunity to make radical environmental struggles visible, relevant and challenging.

Blockading is something that we have put a lot of energy into over the past couple of decades, thanks to the efforts of Eff and EP-related actions. The World Trade Organization protest of 1999 was successful in no small part due to Earth Firsters bringing proven techniques and skills from the forests into the city. This means we have a lot of experience and technical knowledge to apply to this sort of situation, and we have a chance to share those skills with folks just beginning a path of struggle. It's a strategically prudent choice to identify the skills—like blockading—that we have to use them where they're most fitting. Our movement suffers from being small and stretched thin, so focusing on our strengths is simply a more efficient use of our energy. The RNC is a great opportunity to engage in collective direct action within a robust social network.

Pick Your Tactics. Pick Your Targets.

Calling for blockades sets a radical tone for September 1, without dictating the specific forms of resistance that people engage in. Anything from a lockdown to a pile of gathered materials, from a theatrical performance in an intersection to a good old-fashioned traffic jam will help create the desired effect. The more diverse the actions, the less likely the cops will be prepared to deal with them all. The other benefit of a blockading strategy is that every group can choose its own theme or message (e.g. a bike blockade to promote sustainable transportation or a heaping compost pile in the street). Small affinity groups could also capitalize on the effects of a police force stretched thin to target environmental enemies (of which there are many!) in the area.

Strategic Framework

We came out of the May 3 strategizing session with ideas for the next three months. These involve regional organizing around a plan called Swarm, Seize, Stay (3S). Swarm, Seize, Stay is a simple mantra for September 1 and a big picture to direct all collective energies toward. Basically, 3S means: Move into/around downtown St. Paul via swarms of varying sizes, from multiple directions and with diverse tactical intentions. May engaged with the situation in downtown St. Paul as long as necessary; you may move from location to location, but don't jump ship. Bear in mind that the ultimate goal is to deny access to as many people as possible entering the Xcel Energy Center as possible.

The city will be divided up into sectors that different groups or regions can commit to holding or organizing within. Right now, organizing is happening all over the country, primarily through networks of autonomous groups like Unconventional Action and regionally-oriented groups like the Northeast Anarchist Network. Many Students for a Democratic Society chapters and anti-war groups have also begun to organize around this model. In addition to the need for further participation in these efforts, there remains the potential for other organizing bodies and models to emerge between now and September. Do it your way, but do it.

Direct Opposition

The most direct way to oppose this dog-and-pony show is just to stop it. Stopping the convention won't stop the election, but it throws a big fucking wrench in the GOP's public relations machine, and the GOP needs that machine to survive. We recognize that the RNC is purely ceremonial, so what if the protests are only a ceremony as well—one that ushers in a new age of direct action and real sustainability, instead of passivity and green corporations. A new reality will not emerge by simply stopping the four-day spectacle of the RNC. But the new skills that we teach, learn and put into practice here will allow us to return to our communities stronger, smarter and more empowered. The RNCWC is committed to providing infrastructure and facilitating the local organizing work for the demos. We will also be hosting an action camp in southern Minnesota, the first weekend of August. More information about that is forthcoming.

For more information, visit www.nonrc.org; www.unconventionalaction.org; www.protestinc2008.org; actioncamp08.wordpress.com.

The RNC Welcoming Committee loves to ride their bikes and grow their own food. When not plotting against Republicans, they engage in a slew of activities, from supporting political prisoners to running autonomous spaces. They love Minnesota, and they look forward to seeing you when you visit in September.
What do you do when green capitalism tells you to shut up?

Taking out the green garbage

By Attila Gradek

In the midst of a world where climate change, financial crisis, and energy shortages are all the rage, capitalism tells you "green". Its the chocolate that claims to stop climate change, the coffee that claims to stop rainforest destruction. At a time when things seem so frighteningly hopeless, along come the snake oil peddlers to alleviate our fears. They say, "Wronged! That's why we've changed the chemistry of the atmosphere for the next thousand years? If you just buy our product, it will all go away!" And we do, because things seem to keep getting worse. People are not rising up and destroying the electrical grid, so why not give green capitalism a shot?

For a decade, Honest Tea has marketed products that make you feel tingly inside. It produces teas that somehow build community or help the Crown Nation by stealing a recipe from them. And its all organic! Tea can do that. Whatever it is, you feel a little better for it, so you buy another bottle. It's not like we're going to throw away our money, right? By taking up this "green" mantra, we are kissing the planet. It's up to us to unmask these corporate lies.

Potential greenwash targets stand out like fake neon grass on a stripmine site. Below are some examples.

Tropic Isle is going green. The "green" label is on their new product, it will all go away!" And it's all organic! Tea can do that. Whatever it is, you feel a little better for it, so you buy another bottle. It's not like we're going to throw away our money, right? By taking up this "green" mantra, we are kissing the planet. It's up to us to unmask these corporate lies.

Potential greenwash targets stand out like fake neon grass on a stripmine site. Below are some examples.

"Toxic Waste is Good for You": This is the greenwash campaign from corporations that are already on our shit list. This is when landfills market themselves as wildlife refuges. These are the ones that talk about electric cars. Or the ones that talk about making nanotechnology safer. The Natural Resources Defense Council has been working with the Grammys and the Oscars to make those ceremonies green. The Oscars are one of the most watched events in the country. Almost, there would have been a massive impact.

Green Conventions: Universities, corporations and governments are hosting an ever-growing number of conventions where biotech, biofuels, carbon trading and nuclear energy are being peddled. These conventions should become focal points for mass action. All the regular tactics for conventions can be used: locking speakers out of buildings, disrupting with pies, costumes and balloons. Recently, Thomas Friedman was pied during a speech glorifying corporate environmentalism at Brown University. We could also work with student groups to cancel university funding of these things or at least hold them accountable.

Green business conventions, with all the green scum under one roof, offer an opportunity to cause chaos. Banner drops, phony awards ceremonies and flying pies seem like good ways to start. At a convention in North Carolina State University, 50 protesters were ready for us, but we managed to drop a banner. Next time, we will return with more people and cause a ruckus outside the convention.

Imagine a scene of riot cops protecting so-called green conventions from radical eco-activists. These are not meetings they want to have in secret. The whole thing is a publicity stunt. If we can give green conventions a black eye, they will stop spewing this nonsense. Some examples: There is a "Greening Government" Conference in Flagstaff, Arizona, on July 25. Later this Fall, there is the National Green Builders Expo in Las Vegas, Nevada (really? Las Vegas? Green building?), on October 15. Earth Day just passed, but all the green scum seems to float to the top then, making it an ideal day for smaller local actions. Next year, Earth Day could be a day of action similar to Fossil Fuel Day. For more greenwashed conferences, check out www.greenbiz.com.

Green Companies Owned by Evil Masters: At this point, most of the small green businesses that pioneered this niche have been bought out by multinationals. The best example of this is Burt's Bees getting bought by Clorox. After Ben & Jerry's got bought up by Unilever, it shut down some of its factories and laid off workers. These companies should be unmasked so that people realize that they are not the small businesses they once were but rather deceptive green arms of corporations that make most of their money from the destruction of the planet.

Fighting greenwashing is different than defending mountains and forests. It is hard to lock oneself to an idea or slash a media campaign's tires. It requires being humorous, honest and creative. But since we are all of these, let's be the native weed that grows under the biofuel farm!

Attia thinks that green capitalists can best contribute to ecological renewal by pushing up daisies.
May Day 2008: A Small Sampling of Actions
• Oakland, California: Anarchists broke away from a permitted march in order to attack the state capitol and various banks in celebration of May Day. Bank of America—known for its involvement with companies that fund mountaintop removal—was among the banks targeted and had several windows smashed. Protesters also occupied the capitol building, disrupting government work for several hours and leaving behind graffiti messages. A total of six arrests were made throughout the day.
• Santa Cruz, California: Windows were smashed at a McDonald's. Also, at midnight, ATMs were attacked across the city in solidarity with those arrested in Olympia.
• New York, New York: Banks, real estate offices and other businesses were graffitied, and several windows were broken.
• Mexico City: Mexico: Hundreds of anarchists marched in observance of May Day.
• Bogotá, Colombia: Several banks were attacked and had their windows smashed.
• Medellín, Colombia: Protesters attacked and overturned an armored truck.
• Valparaíso, Chile: Anti-capitalist rioters built and defended barricades in the city's streets.
• Santiago, Chile: Protesters destroyed state property, and attacked police and armored vehicles.
• Seoul, South Korea: Students held an anti-government march and clashed with police.
• Ankara, Turkey: Demonstrators fought with riot police. Protesters responded with chemicals, sending at least one demonstrator to the hospital.
• Istanbul, Turkey: Unionists and anarchists fought street battles with police during an unpermitted May Day observance.
• Moscow, Russia: Thieves came out to protest rising food prices and were joined by a dancing band of anarchists.
• Hamburg, Germany: Anti-fascists responded to a neo-Nazi march, blocking train lines and roads. Anarchists and autonomists burned and trashed more than a dozen neo-Nazi vehicles. Twenty police officers were reported injured, and 250 protesters were detained.
• Zurich, Switzerland: Anarchists broke from the main march, trashing businesses and banks.
• Lausanne, Switzerland: Hundreds of anarchists marched through downtown and smashed several windows, including those of a McDonald's.
• Madrid, Spain: About 25,000 people marched through the city, including members of anarchist trade unions.

Saboteurs Light It Up at Construction Site in New Zealand
Saboteurs caused $750,000 in damage to machinery owned by Blackley Construction in New Zealand. In addition, low-intensity acts of arson and vandalism have successfully stalled the construction of luxury homes on the Manawatu River.

According to Blackley operations manager Kevin Bush, a recently burned drill caused major setbacks. “We can’t afford to lose this sort of machinery, so it’s likely we will have to just pack up sites like this and take the gear home each night. The transport costs and time will just have to be tacked on.”

ALF Releases 40 Mink in Oregon, Destroys Breeding Records
The Animal Liberation Front (ALF) released approximately 40 blue iris mink from the breeding stock at Jefferson Fur Farm in Oregon. The ALF permanently destroyed breeding records and issued a warning to the owners through a communiqué: “ Tear down this death camp. If you don’t, we’ll hack to finish the job... To others concerned with the well-being of fellow living beings... go vegan... We want to make it clear that we are not intimidated by the state’s continued witch hunt against the Earth and animal liberation movements. For every liberator you throw in prison, there will be two more to take her place.”

ELF Threatens Australia and New Zealand Banking Group
Mike Smith, the CEO of the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group, received a letter at his $10-million Melbourne mansion in early May. The letter states that his property will not remain safe as long as his company continues financing the Gunns Tamar Valley Pulp Mill in Tasmania (see EFF May-June 2007). Later that evening, numerous vegan pizzas were delivered and billed to the mansion.

The pulp mill is a multimillion-dollar forestry operation intending to cut some 4.5 million tons of old growth for paper production.

Staples Reaps the Whirlwind for Animal Abuse
Saboteurs burned Staples trucks and vandalized stores in the San Diego and Ventura counties of California. According to communiques, Staples—the largest office supply retailer in the US—is under attack for selling Huntington Life Sciences (HLS), an animal-testing company, office supplies. Following the fire-bombings of the Staples trucks, two Staples office supply stores had their windows etched, their locks glued, red paint tossed along their entrances and “Drop HLS” scrawled across their front. These acts contribute to a larger campaign that has crippled HLS in more than 22 countries around the world.

Blue Ridge Earth First! Blockades Dominion Power Headquarters
Early on the morning of April 15, Blue Ridge EFi blockaded the entrance to Dominion Power’s James River headquarters in Richmond, Virginia. In opposition to Dominion’s proposed coal-fired power plant, three people locked down for approximately one hour.

The proposed coal plant would release 4.5 million tons of carbon dioxide annually and emit 49 pounds of mercury into the air and water. Blue Ridge EFi maintains that there is no such thing as clean coal, and will continue to fight Dominion Power and all the “clean coal” initiatives of the new coal rush.
DNA Sampling to Bolster Fed's Database

Those convicted of crimes are often forced to submit DNA to federal databases. However, on April 16, the Department of Justice announced that federal agencies will no longer collect DNA samples from people arrested or detained. A total of roughly 1.2 million DNA samples could be added to the federal criminal database each year, with about 140,000 of them coming from federal arrests and the rest from people detained for being in the country illegally.

The authority for the FBI to expand the collection of DNA samples was granted by Congress in 1994, but the agency has been slow to implement the Vision of the Free Trade; those who want to join the battle but cannot make it to the frontlines of resistance can continue to feel your bitter distaste for this highway.

Wyoming May Be Sold for Coal

The federal government is proposing to begin leasing out more of Wyoming's Powder River Basin for open-pit coal mining. The 2.5 billion tons of coal extracted from new mines would produce 12 trillion pounds of greenhouse gases. The basin already supplies 40 percent of the coal used by the US.

The grasslands of the Powder River Basin are home to deer, antelope, bison and golden eagles, black-tailed prairie dogs, swift foxes, leopard frogs and many others.

This proposal is up for a vote at the end of the year.

Political Interference Prevents Species Recovery

On May 18, about 100 people held a lively march through the streets of Edmonton, to protest this harassment and the poor treatment of those in police custody.

New Sanctions on Animal Rights Speech

On April 17, legislation sponsored by the University of California-Santa Cruz made it punishable to publicize information about animal researchers attacked to academic, nonprofit and commercial laboratories. Limiting access to this once-public information is seen as an attempt to silence animal rights activists from targeting individual researchers.

According to animal rights attorney Christine Garcia, the government has the right to restrict the timing, placement or manner of speech. However, this legislation limits speech for its content and is therefore unconstitutional.

Those publishing or distributing information about researchers will now be subject to injunctions and claims for damages.

Sea Shepherd Ship Seized

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's (SSCS) ship the Farley Mowat was illegally boarded by the Canadian coast guard on April 12. The crew and the Dutch-registered yacht were seized by armed coast guard vessels as they cruised international waters, documenting violations of humane regulations during Canada's seal hunt.

After the seizure, the Canadian government confiscated documentation of the seal slaughter, and brought charges against the captain and first mate of the Farley Mowat for approaching within one-half of a nautical mile of a seal fisher without a government-issued observation license. The captain was also charged with hindering a fishery official.

As of June 15, the Farley Mowat still has not been released by Canada. It is being held for $350,000, but SSCS refuses to pay a ransom for its release, instead billing the Canadian government $1,000 for every day the Farley Mowat is unlawfully held.

Activist Clowns in Trouble

Police in Edinburgh, Scotland, have begun hassling environmental campaigners and others, including the Edinburgh Clandestine Insurgent Rebel Clown Army (CIRCA). CIRCA is one of the many groups that took action on April 1, for Fossil Fools' Day (see EFJ May-June 2008).

Early in the morning of March 28, three environmentalists were dragged out of bed for questioning. The harassment continued when five people from CIRCA were detained at an April 15 demonstration against biofuels, questioned and ultimately charged with committing a "breach of the peace." In the meantime, police unsuccessfully attempted to lure environmental activists for information about past and future Edinburgh demonstrations.

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Species Recovery

On June 5, the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) reached a settlement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding the protection of critical habitat for the arroyo toad. The USFWS must now create a new proposal for critical habitat by October 2009, with a decision to be put into motion by October 2010.

This was the conclusion of one of several lawsuits the CBD has brought against the USFWS in late 2007, for harming 55 endangered species and cutting more than 8.5 million acres of wildlife habitat. The rollbacks have resulted from the Bush administration's continued appointment of corrupt officials to federal agencies responsible for upholding the Endangered Species Act.

One such official, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior Julie MacDonald, resigned last year after an investigation into her political interference, which included issuing informal policies limiting the designation of critical habitat to only the small area in which a species was found and delisting species that had not yet reached the goals of their recovery plan.

Environmental activists are now dedicated to informing the public about the past and future Edinburgh demonstrations.

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Those publishing or distributing information about researchers will now be subject to injunctions and claims for damages.

Sea Shepherd Ship Seized

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's (SSCS) ship the Farley Mowat was illegally boarded by the Canadian coast guard on April 12. The crew and the Dutch-registered yacht were seized by armed coast guard vessels as they cruised international waters, documenting violations of humane regulations during Canada's seal hunt.

After the seizure, the Canadian government confiscated documentation of the seal slaughter, and brought charges against the captain and first mate of the Farley Mowat for approaching within one-half of a nautical mile of a seal fisher without a government-issued observation license. The captain was also charged with hindering a fishery official.

As of June 15, the Farley Mowat still has not been released by Canada. It is being held for $350,000, but SSCS refuses to pay a ransom for its release, instead billing the Canadian government $1,000 for every day the Farley Mowat is unlawfully held.

Activist Clowns in Trouble

Police in Edinburgh, Scotland, have begun hassling environmental campaigners and others, including the Edinburgh Clandestine Insurgent Rebel Clown Army (CIRCA). CIRCA is one of the many groups that took action on April 1, for Fossil Fools' Day (see EFJ May-June 2008).

Early in the morning of March 28, three environmentalists were dragged out of bed for questioning. The harassment continued when five people from CIRCA were detained at an April 15 demonstration against biofuels, questioned and ultimately charged with committing a "breach of the peace." In the meantime, police unsuccessfully attempted to lure environmental activists for information about past and future Edinburgh demonstrations.

On May 18, about 100 people held a lively march through the streets of Edinburgh, to protest this harassment and the poor treatment of those in police custody.

Species Recovery

On June 5, the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) reached a settlement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding the protection of critical habitat for the arroyo toad. The USFWS must now create a new proposal for critical habitat by October 2009, with a decision to be put into motion by October 2010.

This was the conclusion of one of several lawsuits the CBD has brought against the USFWS in late 2007, for harming 55 endangered species and cutting more than 8.5 million acres of wildlife habitat. The rollbacks have resulted from the Bush administration's continued appointment of corrupt officials to federal agencies responsible for upholding the Endangered Species Act.

One such official, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior Julie MacDonald, resigned last year after an investigation into her political interference, which included issuing informal policies limiting the designation of critical habitat to only the small area in which a species was found and delisting species that had not yet reached the goals of their recovery plan.

I-69

Treesit Begins

continued from page 1

Without a doubt, there is space for those who want to join the battle but cannot make it to the frontlines, saying "no" to international trade infrastructure campaigns, with Gohmann as the target. In early February, Gohmann was awarded the contract for demolition and clearing of the first two miles of the proposed route, and in early April, it was contracted for the construction of I-69 in that same area. We are calling upon all those interested and inspired to take creative actions that make Gohmann feel your bitter distaste for this highway.

The fight is just beginning. We must work hard to kill I-69 before it spirals out of control. International trade infrastructure projects, such as I-69, are key to implementing the vision of the Free Trade Area of the Americas—the vision of the exploitation and destruction of people and nature from Canada to Argentina. When we defeat this project and ones similar to it, we will have dealt a serious blow to the workings of neoliberal capitalism. Join us in standing up with the people of Canada, Mexico, and Central and South America in saying "no" to international trade infrastructure. Join us in working to protect the plants and animals that live in the path of these hideous projects. Join us in stopping I-69!

Update: At 7 a.m. on June 4, 20, 25 police officers from three different agencies arrived to evict the treesit. Two protesters, the only ones in the trees at the time of the officers' arrival, were forcibly removed from the sit with little regard for their safety. Despite this, the fight against I-69 continues. For more information, contact roadblocker@yahoo.com; stopI69.wordpress.com.
Mobilize THIS!

it’s time to bring direct action to corporate shareholders’ meetings

BY SCOTT PARKIN

Companies like Bank of America, Citibank, Dominion Resources, Duke Energy and Dynegy are getting the sharp end of the divide action stick from various groups and networks around the country. From coast to coast, groups like Appalachian Justice, Justice Summer (MjS), Rainforest Action Network (RAN) and Rising Tide are organizing widespread resistance to the coal sector. This Spring, we’ve coupled actions at corporate America’s most high-profile shareholders’ meetings with our long-term campaigning and direct action strategies.

These annual general meetings (AGMs) are the companies’ most public points of decision. They put their greenwashed public images on display, and we shine a bright light to expose their hidden deeds. These corporations are vulnerable to pressure campaigns. They have to respond to challenges at the pillars of their supremacy: their brand name, their consumer base and their shareholders.

AGMs are a point of intervention at which we can destabilize those pillars.

You Can’t Bail Out A Dead Planet

Bank of America and Citibank (among other banks) invested heavily in risky subprime mortgages that resulted in more than one million home foreclosures in 2007. These disproportionately affected low-income people and communities of color. The federal government responded by bailing out wealthy bankers and leaving everyone else out in the cold.

The same financial institutions that created the “credit crisis” are bankrolling the “climate crisis.” Citibank and Bank of America finance the fossil-fuel infrastructure. Oil, coal, natural gas and everything else is subsided by them (or some other corporate bank) from the cradle to the grave.

Citibank is the biggest coal financier in the world, with twice as much money invested in the industry’s infrastructure as its closest rival, Citi. It is also the top financier of mountaintop removal coal mining, with connections to the top five producers of mountaintop removal coal: Kentucky-based Atlas Coal Company, Virginia-based Blue Ridge Coal, Inc., and Mountain Energy, Virginia-based Blue Ridge Energy, the “poster child” for mountaintop removal. In 2006, Bank of America’s client portfolio in the utilities sector emitted a total of 215 million tons of carbon dioxide—more than 10 percent of the US’s total greenhouse gas emissions.

Coal is Over, Shut It Down

In April, RAN mobilized activists against the Citi and Bank of America shareholders’ meetings in New York City and Charlotte, North Carolina. For more than a year, New York City RAN has steadily organized and built pressure against Citi in its own hometown. Utilizing tactics such as ATM shutdowns with “out of order” signs, street theater, raucous processions, crashing corporate events and lockdowns at its Manhattan headquarters, climate activists have waged a battle against Citi.

The night before Citi’s hullabaloo, New York activists gathered to listen to Maria Gunnuce, Ed Willy and Kerry Chad Albright—“miracle baby” of the Buffalo Creek Disaster—talk about their struggles in Appalachia. The next morning, more than 60 activists confronted shareholders and executives at Citibank’s investments in coal, with images of coal-powered destruction crowded so large and raucous that the New York Police Department had to put up barricades. Inside an AGM already riled by the subprime mortgage crisis, Gunnuce and Rebecca Tarboton from RAN read statements, and pounded Citi’s CEO and board chair with questions about mountaintop removal.

While the Citi campaign has been focused in New York, the Bank of America campaign has a more Appalachian tone, since that bank is increasingly seen as the face of mountaintop removal. Protests, branch occupations and direct action have occurred all over the central Appalachia. In April, more than 20 activists protested the Bank of America AGM in Charleston, West Virginia, the company’s corporate headquarters. “Miracle baby” from the subprime mortgage crisis, Gunnuce and Maria and Rebecca Tarboton from RAN read statements, and pounded Citi’s CEO and board chair with questions about mountaintop removal.

The Truth About Dirty Coal

Fights against utility companies remain intense. The struggle against 150 proposed new coal plants continues. So far, more than 60 have been defeated. Resistance to coal plants proposed by Dominion Resources, Duke Energy and Dynegy has steadily increased over the past few years.

Dominion’s proposed plant in St. Paul, Virginia, is being challenged by regulatory agencies, the courts, the legislature and frontline communities. Blue Ridge Earth First! and MjS have employed direct action at the company’s headquarters. More action will surely occur in the coming months, as approval for the project gets closer. Construction has already begun on site, so pack up your chains and lockboxes, and head to Virginia if you want to take action. Dominion wisely convinced its AGM in Chicago (away from escalating campaigns) but was met inside its meeting by Chicagoans in solidarity.

Duke Energy’s new plant in Cliffside, North Carolina, is also being challenged in multiple arenas. Asheville Rising Tide and allies have locked down to halt the plant’s construction. In November, two activists chained themselves to Duke’s headquarters. On Fossil Fools’ Day, eight activists chained themselves to construction equipment on the Cliffside site, before being forcibly removed by police employing taser guns. Duke saw dozens greet its shareholders inside and outside the meeting.

Bank of America is no less responsible for environmental devastation. Despite its highly polished green image, awards from craven environmental groups and a green-energy-efficient propaganda machine, Bank of America is a climate criminal with a client portfolio of the worst carbon emitters and human-rights abusers.

Bank of America is the top banker for both Peabody Energy, the biggest mining company in the world, and Massey Energy, the “poster child” for mountaintop removal. In 2006, Bank of America’s client portfolio in the utilities sector emitted a total of 215 million tons of carbon dioxide—more than 10 percent of the US’s total greenhouse gas emissions.

The Catalan climate activist PortAventura is currently seeking approval for 11 new coal-burning power plants. Dynegy has the largest coal plant proposal in the works: six new plants in Georgia, Illinois, Nevada and Texas. At Dynegy’s AGM, activists staged teach-ins and protests in opposition to the plants. Inside, Co-op America activists confronted CEO Williamson on his plan to poison communities and destroy the climate. RAN and Southern Energy Network activists staged a die-in inside the AGM area, before being thrown out by authorities.

Mini-Mobilize This!

Summit-hopping during the early part of this decade was an oft-used tactic for social and environmental movements. Mobilizations put events in motion that created grassroots movements, which triggered a shift in culture and consciousness. They also catalyzed direct-action campaigns that created the “credit crisis” and, more importantly, an organization against the empire.

Today’s climate movement has its roots in the global justice movement that demonstrated around the Battle in Seattle, but to many in the youth climate movement, those mass protests are ancient history. One strategy turns those mass protests against corporate shareholders’ meetings into mini-mobilizations at shareholders’ meetings. Imagine thousands supporting the end of coal by shutting down a Bank of America AGM in downtown Charlotte, climate activists trekking to Houston to “educate” Dynegy’s investors about global warming or a mass of Katrina survivors swarming outside ExxonMobil’s AGM in Dallas, to confront its backward policy on climate change.

We need grassroots organizations to build a base. Mobilizations and long-term organizing against mining and coal plants are the name of the game. It’s time to keep it up against the coal and climate sectors. Corporate AGMs can be the sites of the next rounds of global struggles.

Shareholder season starts next March. Let’s start organizing now! For more information, contact dirtymoney@ran.org.

Scott works with RAN and lives in California. He used to live in Texas, and misses the target-rich environment.

Above left: A coal plant in Ken Lewis, CEO of Bank of America
Above left: A coal plant in Ken Lewis, CEO of Bank of America
Above: Outside the Bank of America AGM

July-August 2008 Earth First! Page 13
This is another contribution to the ongoing discussion about evolving EF!—perhaps beginning again, from a different angle.

I intend to present a modest argument in favor of an Other Earth First! What has made EF! powerful is not a particular ideology but rather a network structure based on affinity and, in most cases, cultural codes, rituals and customs. It follows that evolving EF! will continue to stand on and operate within that infrastructure. However, there are new maps we must examine and difficult topics that demand our immediate attention. The first and foremost is a question of: Who are we? The second is a question of our current world or conditions: capitalism, the global ecological crisis and its social consequences. The third is a notion of possibility and uncertainty: How will we contribute to not simply defending ecosystems, but also to circumventing green capitalism and tendencies toward fascism with a green angle, and how will we usher in a transformation of society?

It is not my intent to argue in favor of collapsing ecological struggle into a broad movement of movements. As contraire, ecological struggle is special but only as a social force. A powerful ecological struggle against industrialism and capitalism is the only social force that can prevent the catastrophic future of eco-fascism, and that can attack and destroy the reigning system of capital. While it is clear that the global ecological crisis we've struggled to prevent is becoming a component of daily life—something mentioned in the news, over the phone with family, in passing with acquaintances—our current modes of struggle are making little headway, either in mitigating the constant expansion of capitalism, or in reaching the hearts and minds of a significant portion of the population. Unfortunately, this is predictable.

Currently, capitalism produces the conditions under which we act. Capitalism, not EF!, currently has the intelligence and labor-power to fantasize about and reorganize society. It is no wonder that when we point at the world on fire, a product to temporarily extinguish the flames becomes available or a movie with laughable solutions is made. However, ours is a problem of neither capacity nor consciousness, but rather of memory and imagination. When polemics on the topic of civilization, such as Derrick Jensen, inform us that we will never be a popular movement, the myths of our lack of power and of our need for heroic true-believers become more palatable.

Although these myths about how the world works are seductive and consistent with the popular narrative of defeat, they prove incorrect when we more deeply examine the world. Capitalism is not merely a political-economic order but an edifice developed throughout history to structure all human relations. Despite all its anti-social pretensions, capitalism is a social structure. This means that the nightmares of capitalism are not caused by special individuals but by a complex system of social relations. The hypothesis of an Other narrative is this: Given the right circumstances, a complex system of social relations could materialize our dreams. Capitalism may have just about every power relation to defend and enforce it. However, it is important to remember that it was our labor and knowledge that imagined and constructed the geometry of the gears, the logic of the advertisements and the cartography of deforested land. Furthermore, it is our urge for utopia, not that of bureaucratic systems, that has always provided an alternative.

EF! would do best to reimagine what becoming powerful might feel like. It would benefit us to experience our power intimately embodied in spaces where capitalism is being called into question. This means we would not continue to exist as a mere protest movement but rather as criminals experimenting with ways to survive. We would notice that a similar fabric runs throughout social movements but also to many people who survive without compromise in this world on fire. We are not individuals acting on our moral impulses; we are a social force becoming aware of its power. Becoming powerful is a matter of making our story a place to inhabit—making our story material. We dream in the face of nightmares, not as an escape into an alternate reality but as a weapon to change this one.

Who Are We?

Within activist circles, the question of "Who are we?" causes vertigo. Some attempt to define themselves not simply by what they do but by how they do. This is an interesting divergence but ultimately a meaningless one. Can we be described by a technique? Sadie's SFB defends her anti-political assertion. "I am not an activist," she claims (see EF! March-April 2008). "I don't think I ever was. Anarchist, yes...." She alludes to an important point. As activists we express things to those who manage the state, not to those exploited by the state. Activism is the division of labor that specializes in social change. When we engage in activism, our struggle is transformed into "issues," becoming political capital for politicians. From this perspective, the poodle-assessed behavior of Al Gore and the Sierra Club is not surprising. How will more militant tactics redefine
ecological discourse if we are still communica-
ting through political means? Even if we eschew the activist label, our communiqués
are not an affirmation of our power as much
as thinly veiled pleas for inclusion in the po-
ditical discourse.

Presently, we are working toward only a
radicalized version of the solutions present-
ed in An Inconvenient Truth. Gore says, “You,
individual, can use more compact fluores-
cent light bulbs, reduce your carbon dioxide
emissions and recycle.” We say, “You, indi-
cidual, can ride a bicycle, eat trash, give up
thing and even punish those who don’t.”
Although we have added a more militant
moral character to our argument, the story
remains the same: Individuals making moral
choices will transform society. What’s hid-
den within that narrative is an assumption
that history and social change have been
made by individuals. But we are not one sto-
ry; we are a multiplicity. We are not made up
of heroes and bystanders; we are the combi-
nation of those who created capitalism and
those who are oppressed by it.

The Individual and Activism
The (Western) individual is the protagonist
of Western civilization, a construct of values
developed during the Enlightenment and a
story set into motion by the rise of capital-
ism. The individual expresses a person dis-
joined from the social; it produces a story
where freedom is individual choice and in-
dividual agency.

The ELF tradition contains an affirmation
of the individual and utilizes an activist
methodology of social change. Even during
the times when rowdy rednecks who real-
ly appreciated wilderness were putting the
fictions of Edward Abbey into practice—a
golden age for some—ELF was not able to
breathe itself outside of politics-sexual. In
stead, it attempted to develop political capi-
tal and credibility through publicity stunts and
public land proposals. Over time, the social-
ity, camaraderie and affect that were
cultivated through a collective practice of
sabotage, were replaced by the urgency and
moral impulsion for direct action, which be-
came increasingly a specialized practice of
our heroes alone. Eventually, the urgency
and moral impulsion that demanded, “Some-
thing must be done!” pushed us back to sab-
otage, but this time it was the underground
component of a dwindling movement. Like
the Weather Underground component of
the 1960s anti-war movement, our friends
and co-conspirators who spray “ELF” on
burned-out developments still essentially
practice nonviolent direct-action activism.
Direct action gets the goods and all, but
shall the rest of us just watch or fill “sup-
port” roles? We have exhausted ourselves as
individuals specializing in social change; we
need collective confrontation.

What would attention to the needs of the
environs that we are attached to be if it was
not framed as “individuals making ethical
choices”? And what would our be if not ac-
tivists? Furthermore, what if we were based
on our experiences, identities and desire, rather
than simply on what we currently do?

History is not only the history of class
struggle. Let’s be clear: If Marx and the clas-
sical anarchists were right, and there was an
easy answer called the proletariat, our task
would be much easier. We could take a long
look around, notice the simple fractures in
society and recognize ourselves based on
our class interests. Those of us who work,
and who work to avoid it, would see our-

The Individual and Activism

What if “climate justice” meant seizing the means
distributing of clean water and producing clean water systems
in autonomous zones? What if environmental anti-racism
meant the liberation and destruction of prisons?

We must recognize ourselves as a part of
those who will be impacted by the social
consequences of global ecological crisis and
who already are impacted by capitalism.
Only then can we imagine what it would
look like to be a part of a social force that is
not an expression of a moral impulse, but a
need for survival and desire for utopia. What
if “climate justice” meant seizing the means
distributing of clean water and producing
clean water systems in autonomous zones?
What if environmental anti-racism meant
the liberation and destruction of prisons?

This is what will occur when we examine
the realities we are attached to but arm them
with fantasy.

Political identity and its limited effects
have reached their expiration date. What
little autonomy we carved out by produc-
ing ELF as an activist approach is being
taken from us. Whether we call it “climate
justice” or whether we relate our notion of
we to a philosophy of biocentrism, we are
still failing to draw lines that are based in
reality. Reality: We will die without clean
water, and we will go to prison if we get
cought breaking the laws that we are going
to break—laws we must break if we are

reality. Reality: Extinction of most
care to. Reality: We are components of capitalist
society, which transforms everything into
capital including our relationships, desires
and self-interests.

We are currently the we of our
conditions; we seek to cultivate a
we of our direction.
The we of our conditions is the we of a posi-
tion within a capitalism, but it is also the we
of the capitalism itself. If we are not the we
of activism and not merely the we of action,
then what use are the communities we associate
with? The point is not to denounce our com-
munities, our identities, but to reveal the true
power of those communities and identities if
they have liberated from the structures of
capitalism. We are alienated, isolated and disempowered
when we are no longer at the Summer Ren-
dezvous, the gathering, the potluck. We are
weak without a community of support.

continued on next page

A loop sign and a file is forlorned
and heralded in New Orleans.
However, the weaknesses, sadness and alienation, are where we spend most of our time and where most of the human population spends its time too.

If we deconstructed our old selves, our old communities, what would we have left? Social relations, customs, rituals? Exploitation at work, structured gender relations, racialized power, reproductive systems of control, so many prisons? Thus, we will not have class struggle as our objective but social war. What if we recognized ourselves as the we of our conditions, and then attempted to meet and communicate with others who share similar conditions? What's more, what if we attempted to not merely understand ourselves as a community of capital but to direct our struggle in a way that is intended to make us powerful? It would cause us to inhabit social war—with a clear understanding of our experience as a component of a total system of social relations. Social war can then be direction is biocentric because it understands itself as inseparable from its conditions. Our anti-capitalist, ecological social force is the union of our need to exist on the Earth as participants in an ecosystem and the desire to edit, transform and play with what being human means.

Seizing the Means to Produce Existence

If we intend to genuinely change society, we must have space to experiment. It follows that our task is to locate the cracks in capitalism and exploit them—to materialize our social force, both through actions and insurgent gestures, while laying down physical foundations. As the economy begins to melt down, the need for inhabitable spaces will rise. We can open up the doors of possibility by literally opening up doors to locked buildings and by producing autonomous territories with ecologically sustainable systems, giving permaculture teeth. When our "nice" projects are recognized more objectively for what they can achieve, we can begin to really understand their power. An anti-capitalist ecological social force needs money and resources. We are not yet connected through a network of editors nor of the loudest, craziest person. Our social force is not the sum of urgent calls to defend this or that place, or to protest the next big thing. However, this is not to say we would do best to leave such places to those who are still held hostage by politics. An anti-capitalist ecological social force is interested in power. Therefore, we will manifest our force in places where we are powerful and where we have the capacity to achieve our objectives. The old saying, "A losing battle is the only one worth fighting," no longer enchants us. We must point to the burn-out and depression of those who were trying to treat treaties with pragmatism if it offered a more sustainable entry. We will riot when we can destroy everything we wish to. We will blockade when it interrupts capital. We will test our capacity and power without regard to those who say "hurry up" or "slow down." We will do as we please.

No Compromise

Those who cheer on the consequences of collapse, those who would foolishly sign peace treaties with pragmatism if it offered a more sustainable entry, and those who will be the next Julia Butterfly or the next Green Party, we will politely show to the door. "No compromise" still has meaning.

The future is uncertain. On the one hand, life on Earth and the human species as we know it are already being fundamentally altered and may simply go extinct. On the other hand, life may survive and proceed to an even more terrifying nightmare. Both futures determined by capitalism will result in a world where people must fight one another for access to resources. It sounds so familiar. It is these futures that an anti-capitalist ecological social force is circumspect. Conversely, it is an Other future that our social force will precipitate.
A slime mold forms over a beer can.

Cellular slime molds are the interactions of normally isolated amoebae. These amoebae join up into a tiny, coordinated, multicellular, slime-like creature.

It has been noted before that conflicts at and because of borders should beckon our unwinking eyes (see EFJ September-October 2006). Considering capitalism’s tendency toward fascism, this is an important site of conflict. The Minutemen point to an already existing discourse within our society—one that is framed in ecological terms. If we can prove the meaninglessness of borders, then we can reduce their appeal to those who have made the mistake of viewing the geography of the Earth through nation-states. Moreover, we can undermine the next fascism’s use of borders and anti-immigration as selling points, and constitute our anti-capitalist ecological social force as a counter-terrorist.

Because of the existing distribution of resources and production of knowledge, food and water will be the most contested, followed by social spaces and habitations. Many within EF! have accumulated some very helpful special knowledge. However, this is usually used for accumulating capital, maintaining a nonprofit status or impressing friends. This knowledge must be liberated from its current form. An anti-capitalist, ecological social force will have the means to produce knowledge, and it will seize ways of distribution. In our workplaces, in our subcultures, in our many environs, we should produce and share this knowledge. We need our day laborers and our baristas to be connected with our beat-harvesters and Conservation Corps workers in a circuit of information.

The Anti-Capitalist Ecological Social Force Becomes Material

To become powerful, we need to locate in that circuit a kernel capable of seizing and maintaining space. Revolt is not a military operation but a social affair. However, this does not negate the very real necessity of the space plays. We need social spaces, places for us to get organized, places that can sustain life, places worth calling home. In the metropolis and in the mountains, in the small towns and in the city, we will produce a village within the city and a city without walls. We need material structures and thread to weave them together. The material structures will, at first, be social centers, radical neighborhoods, appropriated land, but will transform into autonomous, rebel communities, archipelagos of revolt, and experiments in food and water acquisition that develop beyond organic farms and water conservation. The thread to weave them together will be our capacity to cultivate portals of communication that say, “We need this, do you?” in rhythm with our material and existential conditions that have been only recorded so far over beer or coffee, or in blogs and journals. As we grow more powerful these portals will become fault lines on a planetary scale—connecting us to older worlds and ones yet to exist.

With ink and dagger, curse and irony, cheer and uncertainty, we will continue to walk and converse—breaking bread, asking questions, making love, growing old, and contributing to the overall creation and reproduction of life on the planet. We are always seduced into walking; it’s the fabric of our creative urge, the thumping of our hearts, that directs us to accelerate, to become robust and networked. It is likely that no matter what happens, we will continue to experiment with living.

The constitution of EF! as an anti-capitalist ecological social force is a matter of the magical tendencies that link all humans as social critters. But furthermore, it is a matter of our new desire, liberated from politics and put into motion as social war. Social forces will destroy capitalism and deindustrialize the planet, but we will not stop there. Let our stories intoxicate us with a profound meaning. Let us seize the means to produce existence. Let us usher into being an age of uncertainty, leaving behind the old world and opening up the doors to all possibilities. We want bread, blood and roses too.

Liam Sionnach is a service-class intellectual who attempts to get paid selling culture at cafes and aesthetics to publishers. After a failed attempt to join the Maquis, Liam began to contribute to the insurrectional think tank and small publishing group the Institute for Experiential Freedom, recently publishing the book Flaming Arrows and the journal Politics is Not a Banana. Liam currently is contaminating the EF! Journal with post-proletarian con sciences and a love of pretty things. For lectures and design, give us a telia at left-southeasticrope.net.
Feedback Loops of Resistance: ENVISIONING A SUCCESSFUL CLIMATE JUSTICE MOVEMENT

By Las Noches de Diciembre

Positive feedback loops apply not only to the specter of melting permafrost and smoldering jungles. Brace yourself for some optimism: Human society is on the verge of stumbling into a social feedback loop away from industrial civilization, quicker than most of us believe possible. As most environmentalists realize, the need for a reduction in carbon emissions suggests a fundamental challenge to our society. Many have recognized this reality; it’s a large part of the allure we feel in organizing around climate change. The imperative to slash carbon output is the invitation that we have been anticipating, a chance to have our critique of civilization taken seriously. It can and should be the revival of a vibrant, creative, radical movement.

The assessment reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) can be seen in a manner comparable to earlier documents, such as the Declaration of Independence, that reminded people in this country of an obligation to overthrow tyranny. In many ways, the anti-globalization movement of the past decade laid a foundation for what is ahead in the climate justice effort. A massive, decentralized, grassroots response to the pending (and present) climate crisis is inevitable. But how will it look? How should we shape the revolutionary project that is being ushered into existence before our eyes? How will we fan the fires that are being lit in scientific and academic circles, so that empowerment is widespread and independent of the corporate-sponsored environmental-industrial complex? The strategy will not follow some classic formula of organized social revolt. There are many balls already in motion on multiple levels of politics, law and activism.

While the realm of politics and law is corrupt and scandal-ridden, many of the things happening there cannot be ignored or avoided in the process of strategic planning. These factors will inevitably shape public perception and should be reflected in our organizing. For example, states such as California and Florida have declared initiatives straight from IPCC data, such as carbon reductions of 80 percent below 1990 levels over the next 30 years. This means, essentially, dismantling all fossil-fuel infrastructure and defending all intact carbon sinks (i.e., every living organism that breathes in carbon dioxide). Areas where local, regional or state government is standing with the IPCC are on the verge of having the strongest legal cases and political will for challenging destruction and pollution, not only through environmental law but also through civil disobedience and other forms of direct action. The ever-controversial legal strategy of the “necessity defense” is being validated on multiple levels of jurisdiction when it comes to greenhouse gases. What the Sea Shepherd Conversation Society gets away with on the open seas under the pretense of international law is becoming the acceptable form of direct action around the world.

Below is one scenario for what this article is calling a “Positive Feedback Loop of Climate Justice.” Some of the ideas are based on existing or impending legislation; many are based on hopeful speculation. They should serve some strategic value for folks engaged in long-term planning around climate change and resistance to industrial civilization. It may also provide an uplifting read to ward off the looming temptation of miserable pessimism.

A Visualization Scenario

Try reading this part aloud with some friends. Start with a few relaxation exercises, and encourage them to close their eyes and let their imaginations drift. Seriously.

What sets our metaphorical snowball in motion could be something seemingly mundane. For example, a conservation group wins an Endangered Species Act (ESA) violation lawsuit over the endangered Florida panther’s habitat loss due to rising sea levels.

By the end of 2008, every carbon-emitting industry is publicly confronted with the fact that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are pushing these animals toward extinction. This sets a precedent for making the same case for many other animals and plants that are losing habitat due to warming or cooling waters, flooding or drought, or other extreme conditions. Lawsuits, lawsuits and more lawsuits are piling up. Companies and politicians who sent them to fight. Several domestic militia factions from urban and rural areas declare war on the US empire and transnational climate criminals. Multiple Category 5 hurricanes whack coastal Florida and the Gulf; floods swell across the Northeast; storms across Central America and Mexico drive record numbers to cross the Arizona desert border; and crop failures cause food prices to skyrocket, leading starving rural families and inner-city gangs to join in looting grocery stores throughout US cities.

Footnotes

A Visualization Scenario

1. This is called the “necessity defense” or “emergency defense” and is used by people who perform illegal acts in response to emergencies to which they are subjected. This strategy is being validated on multiple levels of jurisdiction when it comes to greenhouse gases. The Sea Shepherd Conversation Society gets away with this under the pretense of international law.

2. Some of the ideas are based on existing or impending legislation; many are based on hopeful speculation. They should serve some strategic value for folks engaged in long-term planning around climate change and resistance to industrial civilization.

3. Envisioning a Successful Climate Justice Movement.

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GLOBAL ECOLOGY

The End of Capitalism

GLOBAL ECOLOGY IS A COMPLEX SYSTEM. It is the result of the interactions of more than six billion people. Capitalism is dynamic, the rapid changes in labor practices and the bewildering explosion of commodities attest. Capitalism is an network with nobody "in charge." Lastly, capitalism is highly nonlinear. Take, for example, the unexpected financial crisis in Argentina in 2001, which changed life for Argentines. This was sparked by a few financial investors removing their money from the country. Yet, investors remove money from countries every day with usually negligible effects. Complex systems often have multiple stable states. We can explain this by: a society that co-exists with valleys and hills. Now imagine a ball rolling around, in constant motion. This is our complex system. Most of the time, the ball will stay in the same valley; various forces may push it away from the valley bottom, but it will tend to roll back toward this same valley bottom—this same stable state. The whole valley, which surrounds the valley bottom, is known as a basin of attraction. It would take a tremendous effort just to get the ball rolling. In these same dynamics, known as phase transitions, are often preceded by periods of "critical instability," during which the system is under great strain. It may exhibit seemingly chaotic behavior before settling into a new, more stable state. During these periods, the ball is balanced precariously on a ridge, and there are several valleys it could potentially descend into.

Capitalism and the Global Ecological Crisis

Human social organization involves a large number of people interacting in a complex and dynamic network. Historically, there have been two, possibly three, stable states of social organization that have in a maintained-near-equilibrium er-gatherer societies, subsistence agricultural societies and, some might say, capitalism. This doesn't include the many highly hierarchical large-scale civilizations—the feudal system of medieval Japan, Mayan civilization or classical imperial systems like ancient Rome—because although such societies have appeared and disappeared regularly across the globe, none has achieved global dominance. This suggests that these civilizations were not stable states. It suggests that authoritarianism is not a functional survival strategy, because it attempts to control people through rigid social organization, rather than allow for the continuous regeneration and development of the system.

Capitalism relies on ever-expanding production. However, this requires ever-expanding resources, leading to a chronic crisis with no exit: the global ecological crisis. After 500 years, capitalism is ceasing to be a viable strategy.

Capitalism is a basin of attraction because it works. Remain quiet, work hard and play the game, and you will be rewarded with food, shelter and, most likely, a marriage resulting in children. However, as the material substrate of the system collapses, capitalism as a survival strategy is becoming less attractive. In more and more people's minds, the cost-benefit will shift. In order to survive, people must—and will—develop alternatives to capitalism. Their (our) very survival will depend upon it.

by organizations of disillusioned immigrants and refugees. Several Iraq War veterans are arrested for acts of sabotage and are accused of treason and terrorism. They demand prisoner-of-war status and plead the necessity defense. Several Iraq War veterans are arrested for acts of sabotage and are accused of treason and terrorism. They demand prisoner-of-war status and plead the necessity defense.

Possible Futures

We are living through a period of critical instability. Critical instability is detectable via a massive systemwide hysteresis. We are lurching toward a new, unknown basin of attraction. Only one generation in 40 or 50 may have the chance to live through a phase transition in human society and, more importantly, have the chance to create the new society. This spectacle of collapse is both terrifying and exciting.

One potential basin of attraction is eco-fascism. In this scenario, an elite would use modern tools of control and command to dictate a new economy based on renewable energy. Investors and industrialists would be removed from the country. Yet, investors remove money from countries every day with usually negligible effects.

Complex systems often have multiple stable states. We can explain this by: a society that co-exists with valleys and hills. Now imagine a ball rolling around, in constant motion. This is our complex system. Most of the time, the ball will stay in the same valley; various forces may push it away from the valley bottom, but it will tend to roll back toward this same valley bottom—this same stable state. The whole valley, which surrounds the valley bottom, is known as a basin of attraction. It would take a tremendous effort just to get the ball rolling. In these same dynamics, known as phase transitions, are often preceded by periods of "critical instability," during which the system is under great strain. It may exhibit seemingly chaotic behavior before settling into a new, more stable state. During these periods, the ball is balanced precariously on a ridge, and there are several valleys it could potentially descend into.

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We have reasons to be optimistic. Capital's current trajectory cannot continue. Complex systems can change in the blink of an eye.

The global ecological crisis usually involves pessimism, but perhaps paradoxically, it also provides hope. Conditions are currently more optimal for rapid shifts in human social organization than they have been for probably 200—if not 500—years. Of course, we cannot know what form this new social system will take. But we should remember: paradigmatic change —this system embraces no determinism. The logic of autonomy allows the components of the system to optimize their own connections, and so connect to people, materials, passions and places in a manner that takes optimal advantage of material and energy flows.

In Summary

Our situation could change faster than we've imagined. Our current momentum has built up at an exponentially increasing pace, there's no stopping for the capitalist allure of greenwashed false solutions. However, there are a few terrifying obstacles and risks that may present themselves. For one, what the hell will we do with all the nuclear waste in this country? Perhaps that is a responsibility that justifies our continued presence in this deadly enterprise. The constant embarrassment of that whole climate incident. Maybe the French will help figure something out, but let's not get distracted. Stay active, take a look on glumness of this rest. And that once the feedback loops of resistance are in effect, nothing short of total transformation into a just, ecological future will do.

Los Noches de Decembr is an underground militant cell of fictitious anti-capitalist terroists trying clumsily to defend the smugly peninsula they cherish and call home.
Longest Walk 2008 Participants Violently Attacked by Columbus, Ohio Police

On June 2, after trekking more than 2,400 miles on foot, participants in the northern route of the Longest Walk 2008 were violently attacked by Columbus, Ohio police. Although the Ohio Department of Transportation had been notified that the Longest Walk 2008 would be passing through Columbus, city police swiftly and forcefully arrived with squad cars and arrest warrants, and began assaulting the men, women and children who walked through the town carrying the message, "All life is sacred."

Eight police cars surrounded the walkers as the group stepped up onto the sidewalk of Main Street. A police officer approached a vehicle providing support to walkers, reached through the window and grabbed the steering wheel. The officer yelled at the young woman driving a carload of young children and threatened to place the children with Child Protective Services.

As dozens of police hastily approached the walkers, Michael Lane (Menominee) was targeted by police with a taser, which was held three feet away from his head, in front of his wife and young daughter. Tasers are supposed to be aimed away from the head and toward major muscle groups. A veteran walker from the 1978 Longest Walk, Lane joined the walk with his wife and children approximately two months ago. Lane, who holds a law degree from Arizona State University, stated that the worst part of being targeted by a police officer with a taser was that it terrified his young daughter, who thought that a real gun was being pointed at her father’s head. This violent action caused severe emotional distress for the children who witnessed it.

Luv the Mezenger, who was acting as road safety for the walkers, was physically assaulted, thrown to the ground and handcuffed. Luv suffered minor injuries. Police made no arrests.

Harassment by police continued the following day, during a press conference. Police ordered Longest Walk drummers off the steps of the Ohio Statehouse, but Longest Walkers peacefully continued with their press conference and aired statements blaming the police for their cowardly actions.

For months, the walkers have endured the natural elements, including snow, extreme rain, straight-line winds, volatile heat, lightning storms and near misses by tornadoes. Often tired, hungry, thirsty and sore, they have been peacefully accepted into native and non-native communities along the way. This is the first experience of extreme police harassment they have been faced with.

The Longest Walk 2008 is a spiritual walk for cultural survival and is composed of men, women and children from native and non-native communities (see EJJ May-June 2008). The five-month-long transcontinental journey from San Francisco will end in Washington, DC, on July 11, bringing attention to issues of environmental justice, protection of sacred sites, cultural survival, youth empowerment and the defense of Native American rights. Two separate routes, covering more than 8,000 miles, will converge in Washington, DC, for a three-day cultural survival summit. The Longest Walk 2008 also marks the 30th anniversary of the original Longest Walk of 1978, which resulted in historic changes for Native Americans.

People from all over the world are joining the walk with its spiritual call to protect Mother Earth and defend human rights. The Longest Walk is an indigenous people's walk, but it is open to people of all nations and cultures. Everyone is invited to participate in the walk at any point in time, on either route, for any length of the route.

For more info, visit www.longestwalk.org.

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UK Law Targets Animal Rights Activists
Website Posting Means 4.5 Years in Prison

by Salmon

Two years ago, 14 doors were kicked in by British police targeting a small anti-vivisection campaign, against Sequani, which is based in Ledbury, England. Despite spending nearly $2 million on the subsequent show-trial, only one defendant, Sean Kirtley, has been found guilty. The case against the others finally collapsed. This revealed the degree of collusion between police, corporations and the government in their efforts to suppress protest against vivisection labs, no matter how peaceful the protest.

The 2005 Serious Organized Crime and Police Act (SOCPA) specifically curbs the right to protest, while Section 145 of SOCPA makes it a crime to “interfere” with animal-testing companies.

The CEO of Sequani was one of several pharmaceutical leaders consulted during the drafting of SOCPA. Disturbingly, in this case, the government argued that even peaceful protest amounted to interference. Kirtley’s sole conviction was for conspiring with others unknown to help organize the anti-Sequani protests through his contributions to the campaign’s website. He was sentenced to 4.5 years in prison for those contributions.

The fight against Sequani has never been a high-profile campaign like Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty. There were no attacks on workers and no accounts of criminal damage. Yet opposition to Sequani has been treated as terrorism nevertheless.

The trial has left a nasty taste in people’s mouths. In the words of a 63-year-old female defendant, “A terrible injustice has been done with regard to peaceful protest.” The judge hearing the case was clearly biased, refusing to stand down after a conflict of interest became apparent. During the trial, there was also deliberate manipulation of the jury to instill in them a fear of animal rights activists at large. Fortunately, it became clear that the prosecution had little in the way of evidence.

The defendants in the first trial refused to budge when offered plea deals. The result was that two people were acquitted outright, and the verdict hung in the case of two others, causing the next trial to collapse.

Throughout the trial, those campaigning against Sequani refused to be intimidated. Demonstrations continued weekly, and as a result the campaign remains alive. If anything, it has been spurred on by the absurd overreaction of the company to what are fairly insignificant levels of protest.

For more information, visit sequani.woodstockjunction.org. To support Sean Kirtley, visit www.myspace.com/supportsean.

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Protesters lock down during a December march and blockade against Sequani in Ledbury, England.

Page 20 Earth First! Lughnasadh 2008
A twisted, are-you-cutting-off-circulation-to-your-brain, double-whammy poodle to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), which wants to get its claws to death and grow them in test tubes. PETA's first stellar move was to submit a shareholders resolution to Supervalu, a grocery store that doesn't yet adopt PETA's "more humane recommended killing method," which includes gas-sting chickens to kill them instead of electrically stunning them. Apparently, dying in a gas chamber is much better than dying by electrocution.

Also, PETA is offering a $1-million prize to whomever is able to make the first in vitro chicken meat and sell it to the public by June 30, 2012. According to PETA's website, "in vitro meat production would use animal stem cells that would be placed in a medium to grow and reproduce. The result would mimic flesh, and could be cooked and eaten." So no animals would be harmed, and we could eat laboratory-killed food for the rest of our lives. Mmmm... mimicked flesh.

A stop-your-fueling, inorganic, union-busting, since-when-does-local-produce-comes-from-a-warehouse-poodle to Whole Foods Market, for being big, fat liars. The ecological principles of the biggest "green" food retailer could be compared to a fat Arkansas hog. It may be healthier, but you should still feel sick. Some evil highlights include Whole Foods' CEO John Mackey's favorite pastime of going on the Internet to promote union-busting or to bash now-bought-out competitor Wild Oats, and the facts that more than 40 percent of the company's suppliers are not organic and that more than 50 percent are not local. A lot of the products for sale travel hundreds if not thousands of miles before reaching stores, some even coming from as far away as China. The company also refuses to support farm workers, such as the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and the United Farm Workers. Sadly, you can almost make a crapload of money fooling liberal white yuppies, so we doubt Whole Foods will lose any steam. Just be sure to leave a flaming, reusable, hemp bag of poop in the humming aisle.

So I was at the mall the other day—

... well, they cut down rainforests to plant eucalyptus monocultures to offset first world carbon emissions.

A selfish, I hope you get sucked-up-in-a-tornado-so-your-nasty-face-will-be-bashed-in-by-a-hailstorm poodle to John Coleman, founder of the Weather Channel, due to his awesome stance on global warming. In 2007, he said that global warming is a "fictional, manufactured crisis... the greatest scam in history. I am amazed, appalled and highly offended by it." He recently said that he hopes Al Gore will be sued for fraud, because Gore allegedly deals carbon credits—which of course do nothing, so Coleman's got that right. But just because more hurricanes mean better ratings for the Weather Channel doesn't mean that Coleman can just make shit up.

A mammoth, take-it-to-the-streets wolf to the cyclists of Budapest, Hungary, for showing up on Earth Day for the largest Critical Mass in Hungary's history, as well as one of the largest in the world. With estimates of between 50,000 and 80,000 cyclists this April, Budapest has been steadily growing a big bicycle culture. The initial breakthrough came on World Carfree Day in 2004, when 4,000 riders participated. Earth Day 2005 hosted a 10,000-person Critical Mass, followed by a Critical Mass that September with estimates ranging from 24,000 to 30,000 riders. In 2006, the Earth Day Critical Mass ride had 50,000 riders, and the President of the Republic of Hungary, László Sólyom, was among the participants. A music-is-power, you-rock-out wolf to Livebroadcast, a Jamaican reggae artist who is wise to the idocy of biofuels as a replacement for oil. His latest hit, "The Biofuel Song," is a response to the global food crisis afflicting many countries. Due to biofuels production and increased international demand, the cost of staple foods is dramatically rising. As Livebroadcast said in an interview with Caributters, "Anyone who thinks of using food to produce fuel for motor vehicles is crazy." He's using online sales of his song to pay for ads in local Jamaican newspapers that educate people about biofuels and how they are contributing to the food crisis. Since 1996, Livebroadcast has written more than 100 songs, with lyrics focusing on poverty in Jamaica.

A seriously hardcore, no-climate-justice-no-peace, food-over-cars wolf to food rioters, who have taken it upon themselves to fight back and make their voices heard. In nearly 20 countries, from Bangladesh to Egypt, people have been stealing food and taking to the streets to demand higher wages and lower prices on food. In Haiti, Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis was forced to resign by the riots.

However, this is not a joyous wolf; people are starving, and many have been killed due to the riots and subsequent police violence. Since the beginning of 2006, the average world price for rice has risen by 217 percent, wheat by 136 percent, corn by 125 percent and soybeans by 107 percent. Some causes of the current food shortage include the increased use of food crops for biofuels, climate changes and damaged water tables. The cost of transportation and an increasing demand for food (and meat) have also been cited as causes.

A memorial wingnut wolf to Alexander Bichkov, who was gunned down by police on March 14, in Russia. Nicknamed "Russia's Rambo of the Forest," this former forestry worker quit his job by disappearing into the dense Kologriv woods, camping for 20 years until his death. He hunted, built shelters and only ventured out of the forest during Summer, leaving no detectible tracks. He also burned down 30 vacation homes belonging to rich Muscovites. Police were too terrified to look for him, though, ever since he caught a police commander and held him at gunpoint for several hours before freeing him and escaping into the trees. Finally, there was a shoot-out resulting in Bichkov killing two, setting fire to the forest, and nearly escaping had not a sniper seen him and shot him in the head.
Human Diet and Its Effects on Natural Ecosystems

Herbivore Because I Give a Shit

BY GEDDEN CASCADIA

What will it take? What will it take for environmentalists to make the connection between what is on our plates and the continued degradation of the planet? The impacts of animal agriculture are not only accounted to huge financial factors. Many of the most destructive elements of animal agriculture are even present in small-scale “alternative” operations. In our current society, the only diet that is in line with a biocentric ethic is a diet that does not contain animal products.

Animal agriculture plays a major part in land, air and water pollution. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, livestock such as cows, pigs, sheep and chickens now contribute 18 percent of overall greenhouse gas emissions. That is significantly more than the 13 percent that transport—including cars, trucks and airplanes—is responsible for. By buying that carton of organic yogurt, you are directly contributing to an industry that has more impact on climate destabilization than the industry that produces “inorganic products” like Hummers. This doesn’t even take into account the amount of energy that goes into the production, transportation and processing of animal feed. Once these other factors are figured in, you have to put three times more energy into producing one pound of beef than the beef itself provides.

According to the Worldwatch Institute, “American feed contributes to runoff from animal industry. Thirteen to two billion to four billion people. The run-off from these events has devastated all waterways.”

The devastating effect that animal agriculture has on aquatic environments is overshadowed by the effects it has on terrestrial areas. About 26 percent of the Earth’s land has been dedicated to grazing, with an additional 33 percent of all arable land being used to produce animal feed. Seventy percent of all agricultural land is being used to support animal industry. Seventy percent of deforested land in the Amazon is now pasture land, with a majority of the other 30 percent being used to produce animal feed. A huge majority of the land base that has been cleared for agriculture in the Amazon is used for soybean production. This is because soybeans aren’t destined to become a block of tofu. They are, instead, used for European feedlots. In the US, more than 60 percent of all grain produced becomes feed for livestock. This is purely a matter of numbers and logistics.

A common misconception is that much of the land base used for grazing is unsuitable for the production of crops. However, if the land base is ecologically fragile enough to be unsuitable for the production of crops, then this is exactly the same area that will be most easily destroyed by grazing. Fortunately for the livestock rancher, the lands that are being trampled are most often large tracts of public lands that have been opened up for private grazing. Federal and state lands are being devastated by livestock. In the 11 western states, 91 percent of all federal land—roughly 284 million acres—is open to livestock.

Once the removal of these plants and the introduction of invasive weeds are just the beginning. Fragile microbial crusts that take hundreds of years to develop in grasslands get trampled and destroyed by the roaming hordes of cattle. The excrement from these cows is so fundamentally different from the scat of native animals that it has been likened to “fecal pavement.” The term “free range” should be viewed with contempt because it indicates that thousands of acres of wild land were trampled to bring the consumer whatever carcass is rotting under the label. Even the most humane and sustainable animal agricultural producers are guilty of mass-destruction of natural ecosystems.

From forests being cleared for feed production to the competition faced by native animals, animal agriculture contributes significantly to habitat loss. The active culling that has happened at the behest of animal industry is the reason grizzly bears and wolves now occupy only a fraction of what was once their home. And in a campaign that is solely motivated to protect livestock ranchers, more than 5,000 buffalo have been slaughtered outside Yellowstone National Park.

All agricultural endeavors require controlling and subjugating the natural environment. It would be absurd to pretend that plant-based agriculture is not directly connected to the same issues as animal agriculture. However, it is clear that a majority of crops are not intended for human consumption but as feed for exploited animals. Only a fraction of the current agricultural land would be required if people adopted the more environmentally sustainable diet of veganism. By supporting the animal industry in any manner, whether it is by eating at McDonald’s or purchasing “free range” eggs at the local co-op, you are enabling an industry that is inherently unsustainable and environmentally unsound.

While it is irrefutable that giving any support to animal agriculture is environmentally unconscionable, what about other forms of animal consumption? A common argument when the question of environmentalism and veganism comes up is that veganism is just another form of consumerism and that it is much more environmentally ethical to eat food produced locally. However, to propose that the only two options are a diet of imported, processed vegan food or a diet of locally produced animal products is absurd. What about fresh vegetables? In addition, to match the environmental impacts of one block of locally produced cheese, a block of tofu would very nearly have to be shipped from the other side of the planet.

Other say the best option is to hunt and gather. But the human population is so far beyond sustainable levels that if any sizable portion of us took it into our heads that we wanted to be more “in tune” with nature by going out and killing something, then the resource would very quickly disappear (i.e., all the animals would be wiped out). To think that hunting is some sort of sustainable practice is to glorify a lifestyle choice without any critical analysis of the workings of ecosystems and civilization.

An important caveat is that hunter-gatherer societies are by far the most ecologically sustainable societies. Killing other animals for food is a natural part of survival for all carnivores and most omnivores. Unfortunately, with very few exceptions in completely isolated pockets, humanity has turned its back on this natural cycle. There are fundamental flaws in any civilization that ignores the fact that we are a part of nature but to ignore the reality of our situation in the name of “rewilding” is naïve and destructive to all the planet’s inhabitants. If we were possible to return to a truly sustainable hunter-gatherer lifestyle, then I would be the first to pick up my flint-head spear. But it is not possible in any meaningful way. It is purely self-indulgent decadence to try. In the current state of the world, is it possible to consume any animal product in a humane and sustainable manner?

If people care enough to try to limit their driving or to make sure all the lights are turned off, then it only makes sense to turn that critical eye to our eating habits. If any thought is given to the environmental impacts of a vegan diet versus that of a vegetarian or meat-eater, then the only course of action left for people who give a shit is to cut all animal products out of their lives. It is obvious which path individual who cares about issues outside ourselves must take. It is obvious which path someone will take if they actually put the Earth first.

Gedden Cascadia is an animal rights activist and vegan who worked for the animal rights organization PETA. He worked hard to get the animal rights people to become enviros and get out of the SUVs they drive to Whole Foods, as well as working to get the EF’s to pull their heads out of their asses and stop supporting the animal industry and the slaughter of native animals. To get the full text of this article or to send letters to defend your carcass habit, email Gedden at cascade@bikerider.com.
SMOKE

Amidst the azure sky is the smell of smoke
in my wonderful home is the smell of smoke
smoke wafts and filters out in the city.
So I can find my way by navigating thru smoke
where there's smoke there is fire
of a controlled kind, a constant kind, a capitalist kind smoldering
flame broiled burgers sizzles savaged meat
send out a beacon
that is the fire
the forest that is cut and burned;
the smoke that is the fire
the forest that is cut and burned;
and the chattering orgy pf life she is ephemeral and alive and
of a controlled kind, a constant kind, a capitalist kind smoldering
a god that looks out over virgin creation and sees a carpet of green
the smoke that is the fire
the forest that is cut and burned;
the smoke that is the fire
the forest that is cut and burned;

So i can find my way by navigating thru smoke
send out a beacon of smoke that rolls out of the smoke stack.

So I can find my way by navigating thru smoke
send out a beacon of smoke that rolls out of the smoke stack.

Now go the Whales

Black jews 55 set them afloat on the beach where my life began
all those Summores of my childhood I never knew of their
shimmering sleek 2,000 pound bodies in deeper water out beyond my
small one and how they dove and reached in the same waves
that reached me at shore:
Beach where I stood and watched my father swim
studied the waves in search of his head and arms
now too many whales have lost their way
Beach where I walked hit my skin turned tan;
collecting smooth pieces of shell
Nine of them didn't make it theirs sleek wet skin
dulled in the burning sun
Beach where I cry and pray at my mother died five miles inland
Were they hungry, the waters have been overfished
had they heard strange rachatical noises from some technological
monster bursting the delicate structure of their hearing
Beach where a sea of light was shattered into thousands of sparkling
fragments, the people tried to keep them wet drowning their huge
bodies with buckets of sea water, covering them with dripping
beach towels and sheets
Beach where I fell in love with warm sand against my cold wet skin
When the tides came in 46 of them made it out into deeper water
the bulls their
time to come and go and for the young ones going gracefully out to sea
Beach where I lay on a sandbar at midnight and had my first moon bath
nine whales didn't make it. their huge innocent eyes staring dully
all that life gone to waste.
Beach where I let the waves caress my feet the sand grit in my hair
human hands gently rinsed the watery mammals
Which ones died was there a calf a mother separated by death
IMMUNITY

A fine mosquito net-
insects themselves, arrayed 20 or more to a leg,
spindly assemblages of paper clip and wire
with the straight sure needle
finding multiple marks.

Bloody Summer sheets, the legacy of every child
where rain and forests meet, and for me
through 29 years, the base of Summer evenings,
always the excuse not to dine outdoors, to walk
quickly, stay on the path, retire early.

But on that medicine trip—
July, when 60 friends and relatives, eight llamas,
six cheescakes, a flute, guitar and cased of champagne
backpacked their way into Olympic wilderness
to celebrate five straight days of wedding—

the natural inconnu of the clouds
rose with every step, the trees,
the unprotected swells. Unable

on my back, in my right hand, the lead
drop of a llama latching for position,
layers of sunscreen and useless
repellant ran rivulets down
both legs, perspiration and dirt.

All at once, mere hours into the journey
I lost that intense desire, the pack
settling into my shoulders, my feet
on virgin land, falling
into a llama's steady gait,

the itch receding
slowly; those irritating bumps
flattening, smoothing out
across the skin
as though they never were.

—Susan Edwards Richmond

DOWN IN THE VALLEY, UP IN THE SKY

Send poems to:
warrior poets society,
po box 14501,
berkeley, ca
94712-5501

In pools of darkness
under curling vixes
cooled droplets of sunshine
rest in clusters
at the breath of night
sighs
through the vineyards.

Dark orchard thick with plums
and leaning shadows.

At the end of the dirt road
between orchard and vineyard
a field of open cotton beats
glow white in the moonlight,
and the stars are sugar crystals
sprinkled across the sky
in the warm summer night.

—Kirk Lampaun

ARMED WITH VISIONS
Radical City Living

By Joanna


Toolbox for Sustainable City Living is a diverse manual for urbanites to provide food, water, energy and waste management locally—mostly from cheap, recycled or salvaged materials. Written by Stacy Pettigrew and Scott Kellogg, two founders of the Rhizome Collective in Austin, Texas, this is a kickass first book. The systems are incredibly varied and can be implemented on a range of scales, making them highly adaptable to a variety of city codes, resources and needs. These designs are equally useful both for curious beginners who want small, simple systems that can live in the cupboard of an apartment and for experienced gangs of rabble-rousers who want to take down corporate America.

The tone of the book is an encouraging dare to begin building a better world—a call to arms to get stuff done, create a self-reliant lifestyle and explore possibilities beyond the limits of the book. Toolbox is guided by “radical sustainability,” a concept explained in the introduction. The book distinguishes this from what the mainstream version of sustainability has come to mean: alternative energy sources that create another kind of waste and are only for the rich. Pettigrew and Kellogg instead define their sustainable tactics as working at the root of the problem. Their goal is to place the means of production in the hands of local autonomous communities, ostensibly destroying the barrier between environmental and social issues in our activism and organizing.

The book’s specific focus on urban spaces is particularly engaging. It’s exciting to think how a place as ecologically desolate as an urban center could be transformed into a sustainable, mindful space. Land covered in concrete can be reclaimed and rejuvenated to grow and provide once again.

Many ideas presented in the book are ideal for an urban setting, since projects take advantage of pre-existing infrastructure and don’t rely on lots of sunlight or soil. Some highlights include farming insects, growing mushrooms, aquaculture, wind turbines made of bicycle parts and mobile composting toilets. The book also includes basic information on a variety of projects including veggie-oil systems, low-tech rainwater harvesting, constructed wetlands/graywater, removing asphalt and bioremediation.

It was disappointing that there wasn’t anything on how to generate energy with bicycle power. Most of the alternative energy systems in the book go outside the confines of an apartment, which could be a constraint for many people who live in an urban setting.

Toolbox is a great reference, but some systems are difficult and complex. It could be helpful to see those designs in action and learn more by attending a Radical Urban Sustainability Training (RUST) in Austin, Texas, or Albany, New York. These are workshops that the Rhizome Collective hosts, and they are the testing grounds for many of these technologies.

We have a lot to teach ourselves; we must learn how to attend to our basic needs without relying on the disastrous mechanisms currently in place. Resources like this one will be critical tools throughout that relearning process. The skills presented in this guide can empower us to start that process now, in our current space. We don’t have to go to a farm or ecovillage to learn how we should live. Toolbox for Sustainable City Living: A Do-It-Ourselves Guide proves it is possible to stay in an urban setting and still build a powerful, autonomous resistance space. It proves we can have revolutionary folks and environments in all the crevices and communities of the Earth, as we continue to incite social change.

Joanna has lived in New York City all her life and daydreams about the brewing Earth lying strong under concrete.
Poems of the Earth to Move Us to Action

BY RADIKAL WEATHERMAN
Earth National Park, by Dennis Fritzinger, Poetry Vortex, 2008.

After many years of editing the "Armed With Visions" segment of the Earth First! Journal, a compilation of work from Dennis Fritzinger seems long overdue. Earth National Park is a genuine collection of warrior poetry, written by one very genuine warrior poet. The book opens with a pledge of allegiance to the Earth and "here's a concept!, and from that follows one gem after another in an honest and heartfelt effort to give voice to the water and sky, mountain, canyon, river, desert and forest; wind, storm, earthquake, flood and tsunami; grizzly, wolf, whale, turtle, frog, beetle and horsefly.

One piece presents a challenge to turn the Earth into a global national park, and in a satirical (and likely prophetic) jibe against the coffee industry and the bourgeois society it caters to, the poem demands we trade ecocentrism for ecocentrism. In another poem, the author implores scientists and poets to work together to break the deafening silence imposed by this society and to warn the human masses of the ongoing mass extinction we are causing.

One of the most creative aspects of Fritzinger's work is that the beginning of a poem can often give no clue as to the subject matter the poem ultimately addresses. As one reads further, each such poem is a mini-journey unto itself that often leads to unforeseen but obvious (and foreboding) conclusions. For example, one of those poems starts out describing the experience of eating a spicy sausage sandwich. A common theme in many of Fritzinger's poems is the plague of apathy that permeates most of Western civilization. He does not mince words when calling attention to this apathy, which is any activist's greatest enemy. One heart-rending piece tells the story of a former "greenie" who finally opts out for a political career with a fat paycheck, selling his very soul and conviction in the process. Some of these gems are in fact rather disturbing, even as others are enlightening, uplifting, amusing and provocative. Some of the poems, such as "The Natural Guard," actually offer viable courses of action for this and future generations concerned with the uncertain fate of the Earth and life.


Today we face a world devastated by the effects of human overconsumption, overpopulation and greed. The solutions we are spoon-fed by governments and corporations seek to channel our valid fears about the planet's destruction into the status quo. We are constantly told: "Everything will be alright; just buy energy-efficient light bulbs, recycle your cans and continue life as usual." According to those in power, global warming, species extinction and all other problems can be solved with little thought and effective action.

As the World Burns: 50 Simple Things You Can Do to Stay in Denial obliterates these myths and instead poses us with a challenge to move beyond passivity and greenwashing, to take action and take down the systems of power that are the roots of our current predicament. Derrick Jensen has teamed up with artist Stephanie McMillan to create a graphic novel that is engaging while remaining clear in its message. The authors present a caricatured and sometimes absurd parallel universe in which the president has sold the rights to all of Earth's resources to invading aliens. The book also features a large range of easily recognized characters: money-grubbing CEOs, ineffective nonprofit employees and police obedient to the point of idiocy.

The only people with a real answer to the planet's troubles are the nonhuman ones, and only a few of the human peoples in this parallel world are willing to recognize the reality of the situation, let alone respond. The heroine of the novel is among these, and we follow this unnamed, black-clad kid as she deals with her frustration with both the torture of the natural world and her sunny counterpart's attempts to save the world through simple lifestyle changes. Through the characters' conversations, As the World Burns knocks down barrier after barrier that humans have created to excuse themselves from taking any sort of real, effective action.

Jensen and McMillan have succeeded in creating a book that clearly articulates that direct action is more important now than ever, and they do so in a way that any person within today's society can understand and enjoy. As the World Burns is a book that anyone who gives a shit about this planet will be able to connect with, on some level. Those who already know the importance of direct action will recognize the novel as a fun affirmation of their beliefs, while anyone who is still buying into the concept of "50 simple things you can do to save the world" will experience its message as a wake-up call to move past "solutions" perjured by the managers of this disaster. Although complex situations are incredibly simplified, the authors' goal is obviously not to argue the details of strategy or theory, but rather to instill in readers the need for an appropriate response to the state of the world we are currently faced with—a response that must move beyond petitions and green consumerism to true action.

Rodin is an insect-loving North Carolinian, currently boiling in the Arizona heat.

July-August 2008 Earth First! Page 25
The greenhouse pollution from Australia’s coal-fired power stations — all of the country’s domestic pollution combined. Newcastle is home to the biggest coal-exporting facility in the world, with a capacity of more than 100 million tons of coal per year. Come join us to stop this dirty coal! Please register ahead of time for logistical reasons.

For more information, contact info@climatecamp.org.au; www.climatecamp.org.au.

The Front Lines Tour
July 10-August 30 • Nationwide

The Front Lines Tour is an artists-run initiative to reconnect the severed edges of our community.

For more information, visit www.myspace.com/frontlinetour.

Rally to Save our Forests
July 27 • Portland, OR

Through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), George W. Bush is trying to give one last gift to his big timber buddies before leaving office. You can imagine them laughing as they coined the acronym WOPR (appropriately pronounced whoper). It stands for Western Oregon Plans Revisions and would increase the clearcutting of old-growth trees in public forests by 700 percent.

In September, the BLM will announce its final decision on WOPR. Until then, we are working hard to raise public awareness of this issue and to build energy to defeat the plan.

We now ask you to help us, not only to stop WOPR but also to issue our own list of demands about how we want our public forests to be managed.

On July 27, from noon to 5 p.m., a rally will take place at Pioneer Courthouse Square, in Portland, Oregon. This will be followed by a march to the BLM and US Forest Service Headquarters. Expect forest defenders and speakers and a free concert by one photographer and one journalist. It will take several weeks to reforest the clearcut areas of Oregon.

For more information, contact Bike!Bike!, (651) 278-6748; dianefaydodge@hotmail.com; www.growingpower.org.

Northeast Climate Confluence
July 27-August 3 • High Falls, NY

The Northeast Climate Confluence aims to kick-start a regional disaster-response network. We want to be better able to respond to both “natural” disasters and the unnatural disasters that people face in their communities every day. The main elements of this disaster-response network might include local food networks, accessible health care projects, autonomous energy, first-responder trainings, access to land and housing, and networks of defense against violent authorities.

For more information, contact Northeast Climate Confluence, POB 173, Turners Falls, MA 01376; (413) 863-6883; northeastclimateconvergence.org; www.northeastclimateconvergence.org.

West Coast Climate Convergence
July 28-August 4 • Eugene, OR

Locally and nationally, the resistance to liquefied natural gas development has grown a lot due to grassroots efforts by communities across Oregon. Now is the time to join together in solidarity with one another against the fossil-fuel empire.

For more information, contact westcoast@climateconvergence.org; www.climateconvergence.org.WEST.

UK Camp for Climate Action
August 3-11 • Kent, UK

This year’s UK Climate Camp is being launched at a major meeting on aviation expansion at Heathrow Airport. This will be followed by a caravan procession from Heathrow to the site of the proposed Kingsnorth coal power plant in Kent. Because coal is about as clean as an anthrax sandwich, we will make sure that the Kingsnorth power plant never gets built.

For more info, visit www.campek.org.uk.

Southeast Climate Convergence
August 5-11 • Louisa County, VA

This year’s convergence will be hosted in Virginia, where communities are fighting uranium mining, nuclear power, mountain-top removal coal extraction and new (as well as old) coal plants. Expect workshops, trainings and direct action.

For more information, contact Southeast Convergence for Climate Action, POB 7586, Asheville, NC 28802; southeast@climateconvergence.org.

German Climate Camp
August 15-24 • Hamburg, Germany

Hamburg is the most frequented hub of maritime and road traffic in Germany, the largest coal harbor, where supplies from Australia, Indonesia and Columbia are landed for domestic power stations and industry; where Archer Daniels Midland operates one of the large biodiesel factories; and where Vattenfall manages nuclear and coal-fired power stations. There will be an anti-racist camp at the same time that we take the Hamburg Charter Deportation Airport its action target. Both camps will be fine-tuned with each other for peak potential of mobilization.

For more information, contact kontakt@klimatecamp08.net; www.klimatecamp08.net.

Climate Camp New Zealand
Date and Location to be announced

From new roads to airports to coal mines and power plants, there is much work to do in New Zealand. To get involved in planning a climate camp in New Zealand, contact climatecamps@riseup.net; www.climatecamp.org.nz.

International Animal Rights Gathering
August 21-24 • Near Vienna, Austria

It has been 10 years since the Animal Rights Gathering went international. Come and celebrate the first decade of international get-togethers at a beautiful spot south of Vienna, Austria, at the foot of the massive Schneeberg Mountain.

The International Animal Rights Gathering attracts about 400 activists from all across Europe and beyond. It is a time to get together and talk, socialize and build networks. On the afternoon of August 21, there will be a demonstration march in Vienna. A train connection and buses will bring you to the campsite afterward.

August 22-24 will be filled with discussions, workshops, talks, film screenings and a soccer tournament. There is no participation fee; the vegan food provided will be kept to the lowest possible cost.

For more info, contact info@ar2008.info; www.ar2008.info.

Twin Oaks Women’s Gathering
August 22-24 • Louisa, VA

This will be our 25th year of coming together to celebrate our connections, creativity and strength as women in all our diversity.

Throughout the weekend, there will be opportunities to relax, swim in the river, and enjoy the mud pit, sweat hut, hammocks and company of women.

The sliding scale fee of $40-$140 includes camping and workshops.

For more information, contact Women’s Gathering, 138 Twin Oaks Rd, Louisa, VA 23093; (540) 894-5126; www.twinoaks.org.

Bike!Bike! 2008
September 25-28 • San Francisco, CA

Bike!Bike! is the growing annual convergence of community bicycle projects from North America and beyond. We recognize the bicycle as a powerful tool for sustainable transportation that does not threaten our neighborhoods and environment, and is conducive to livable urban design, community building, healthy living habits and personal empowerment.

Join us in building community, and in sharing ideas, skills and knowledge of community bicycle projects.

For more information, contact Bike!Bike!, POB 423911, San Francisco, CA 94142; www.bikebike.org.
Dear EF! Lawyer,

I got subpoenaed by a grand jury. I don't want to tell them anything. What should I expect to go through?

—Witness Against the Machine

Dear WM,

You should expect to go through a lot of hassle, stress and possibly prison. You should also expect to earn the respect of your friends and more, many you've never met, while learning about yourself, and just how strong, brave and good a friend you can be.

Books—long books—have been written in answer to your question, so I'll just review a few basics. Hopefully, the seven items I discuss will provide you with an idea of what you'll go through. You can defeat the government if you are smart, stubborn and perhaps a bit lucky.

1. Get a Lawyer: It is insanely dangerous for you to face a grand jury and prosecutor without a lawyer experienced with grand juries. To get a free, experienced lawyer, call the federal defender's office in the city you are being asked to appear in. If you are able, you may also want to hire a lawyer.

2. Develop a Plan: You and your lawyer will discuss a specific plan for the grand jury process. For example, you might decide to set traps for the prosecutor and subtly invite her or him to make mistakes that could force the government to free you from your subpoena. You must, at all costs, stick to the plan.

3. Handwriting Samples and Other Evidence: The prosecution can force you to provide handwriting samples. However, if you can force them to give you written material to copy, rather than requiring you to read the documents, the government cannot force you to reveal your spelling abilities. You may also be able to request material that is beyond the scope of this article. You can also force them to reveal any and all wiretaps they are conducting, if you have some evidence they're conducting a wiretap.

4. Finally Meeting the Grand Jury: On the day of the grand jury, you must stick with your plan. Do not give them anything. Know how much the prosecutor threatens you, yells at you or offers not to harass you if you only answer his or her questions. The prosecutor will try to throw you off your plan. You and your lawyer will try to throw the prosecutor off her or his plan.

When you arrive at the courthouse with your lawyer, you will head to the grand jury room with the prosecutor. Your lawyer will wait in a nearby room or outside the grand jury room. The grand jury rooms I've seen are small—meant to hold 23 grand jurors, the prosecutor, a stenographer and you. Of course, will be in the witness chair. The 23 grand jurors are in their chairs and will all be focused on you. The prosecutor will be in your face asking, or even yelling out, questions in rapid succession. The stenographer will create a transcript of the proceedings and will be sitting practically in your lap, the room is so small. Thought the grand jurors will already have been turned against you by testifying FBI agents, so don't count on any allies there. There will be no audio or video recording.

When the prosecutor asks questions, write down every question on a pad. Be sure to take your time writing down each question to ensure you answer accurately. When you have written each question down, ask to see your attorney. If the prosecutor does not let you see your lawyer, do not be shy about insisting to see your lawyer. Tell the prosecutor that s/he may continue asking questions, but you will not answer any of them until you have spoken with your lawyer. When you visit your lawyer, you two must go over each question carefully but quickly. When you have discussed each question, go back in the grand jury room and read your answers.

They should be something like, "I take the Fifth." or "I invoke my right to remain silent." You should also claim the First, Sixth and Ninth Amendments (rights to freedom of speech, to a lawyer and to political expression). While each of these amendments is weaker in this situation than the Fifth Amendment (against self-incrimination), they can provide you some protection and protection is good.

5. After Immunity Is Imposed: The second round, in my experience, will take place another day, after the prosecutor continues to press the grand jury room and you, and you either agree to or s/he commands you to return on that other day. The prosecutor will give your lawyer the documents imposing immunity on you, and you will start the second round of questioning. This immunity probably protects you from any prosecution based upon anything you say during this round, but that is not a guarantee. The government could prosecute you if it proved to a judge that even though you told the grand jury all about it, you see your lawyer, do not be shy about insisting to see your lawyer. Tell the prosecutor that s/he may continue asking questions, but you will not answer any of them until you have spoken with your lawyer. When you visit your lawyer, you two must go over each question carefully but quickly. When you have discussed each question, go back in the grand jury room and read your answers.

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6. After the Judge Threatens You With Contempt: The prosecutor and you will be alone again with the grand jury. The prosecutor again will read you the questions the judge has already ordered you to answer, and you will refuse to answer the questions. You return to go before the judge, and the judge will hear the arguments of your attorney and the prosecutor. At this point, without hesitation, the judge might order you into prison for the remainder of the grand jury's term. I have to note here that I've represented many high-profile Earth and Animal Liberation Front activists in grand jury situations, and so far no one has been held in contempt, but it does happen.

7. Winning Your Freedom and Immunity From Future Grand Juries: If you are unlucky enough to spend some time in prison (every case is different—it could be the remainder of the grand jury's 18-month term or just a matter of weeks), your lawyer can move to have you released well before the end of the grand jury's term. Your lawyer could argue that the coercive effect of imprisonment does not work on you, so it is silly to continue holding you. If the judge were to agree, you would go free, and your grand jury ordeal would be over (probably for life, because your strength this time will be proof to a future grand jury that prison can't make you squeal). Last but not least, your community and all your friends will be in awe of you because you've proven your dedication and shown such courage.

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

BY STU SUGARMAN

Learning about yourself, and just how strong, you may also want to hire a lawyer.

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Eric McDavid
IS SENTENCED TO NEARLY 20 YEARS

continued from page 1

The government also attempted to downplay and even deny many of the issues Mark Reichel, Eric's lawyer, raised during the hearing. Perhaps one of the most blatant lies told by the government was its claim that Eric had only suffered one bout of pericarditis during his time in Sacramento County Jail. This was a slap in the face to Eric, who had to physically endure more than one serious encounter with this dangerous heart condition; to his friends and family, who dealt with the emotional strain of having a loved one in jail who was suffering from a serious medical ailment; and to all of Eric's supporters, who spent countless hours calling and writing the jail to demand that Eric be given proper medical care.

The outcome was one that some of us had feared, some had never expected and few could actually believe: 19 years, seven months for a crime that was never committed, for falling prey to a government informant, for being entrapped by the state and for talking about things the government found to be distasteful. This may be the longest sentence for any environmental prisoner to date. (While Jeffrey "Free" Luers was originally sentenced to more than 22 years for burning three SUVs, his appeal was finally successful, reducing his sentence to 10 years.) Even folks who were found guilty of—or who pleaded guilty to—committing multiple acts of arson and vandalism received "only" six to 13 years in prison. It seems completely irrational and unjustifiable that someone who did no more than talk could be given such an insanely long sentence. Yet it happened. Eric's trial and sentence were clearly meant to set an example (and the government has stated this explicitly in its post-sentencing press releases) for anyone who dares to even think about opposing the state. It's a scary precedent and one that's not to be taken lightly. Eric's trial and sentence were clearly meant to set an example (and the government has stated this explicitly in its post-sentencing press releases) for anyone who dares to even think about opposing the state.

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The government stated repeatedly—in pretrial press releases, during trial, in its sentencing memorandum and at the sentencing hearing—that Eric's actions constituted terrorism. In its sentencing memorandum, the government stated, "McDavid's home-grown brand of ecoterrorism is just as dangerous and insidious as international terrorism. A 20-year term of imprisonment demonstrates that the public does not tolerate those who would generate fear and inflict massive property damage in order to oppose government policy." This kind of hyperbole and blatant disregard for the truth is consistent with the government's rabid campaign against environmentalists, anarchists or anyone else it sees as challenging the status quo. While equating Eric with international terrorists is an outrageous and disgusting use of rhetoric, the statement—and Eric's sentence—speaks volumes about the lengths to which the government is willing to go to pursue these kinds of convictions. The message: "Stand up against us, and you will be locked away for 20 years—even if you just think it. And don't you dare talk about it."

This is no excuse to cower in fear or silence your voice. The government intends to hold Eric hostage for 20 years to terrorize whoever might question its actions, intentions and authority. We must have the strength and courage to stand up for what we know is right, to hold on tight, in the face of repression, to see clearly what it is we are up against and to know why it is so important for us to fight back.

For more information, visit www.supporteric.org.

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Prisoner and Legal Updates

- The Arrow, SWIS #640393, Multnomah County Detention, 1201 3rd Ave, Portland OR 97201, USA. Headed guilty on June 3, to two counts of arson for burning logging trucks and vehicles owned by a sand and gravel company. Arrow's sentencing is scheduled for August 12. For more information, visit www.trearrow.org.

- Munia Abu Jamal, #AM5468, NJ Greene, 715214, Lompoc, CA 93436, USA. Awaiting trial for allegedly using explosives to damage power lines. Abu Jamal is a member of II Silvestre, an Italian fishing group and frequent target of state repression.

- John Smith, #F1405, UK, Serbia, on May 31, to 4.5 years for organizing legal demonstrations against animal-testing companies. For more information, see page 20 of this issue.

- Eric McDaid, #16209-097, FCI Victorville Medium II, POB 5700, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA. Serving nearly 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, 5401 South St, Waterbury, CT 06708, USA. Serving 5.5 years for conspiracy to destroy Forest of Genesis, a cell-phone tower and an ELFדיו, both of which are in connection with the campaign against the US Forest Service's Institute of Forest Genetics, a cell-phone tower and an ELF.ACTIONS. For more information, visit www.supporteric.org.

- Daniel McGowan, #63794-053, Columbia Correctional Institution, 16403, USA. Serving an "indefinite sentence" of at least six years-with no fixed release date or upper limit-for arson against targets linked to the animal liberation movement.

- John Ornstein, #AM4974, SCI Dallas, Follies Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612, USA. Serving 10 years for arson at a car dealership and a horse slaughterhouse and for ELF actions against genetic engineering research. For more information, visit www.freemarie.org.

- Daniel Tattenhoe St, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK4 4DA, UK. Awaiting trial for conspiracy to rob a post office. Tattenhoe St was framed for the murder of a cop in 1981. For more information, visit www.freemarie.org.

- Phillip Phillips Africa, #AM4984, SCI Dallas, Follies Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612, USA. Serving nearly eight years for ELF arson at a SUV dealership and a hybrid poplar farm.

Indigenous Resistance

- Byron Sharon of Chubut/Chubut, 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.

- Marco Camenisch, Postfach 3143, CH-8105 Bern, Switzerland. Camensch reads French, Ger-

Prisoner Support Groups

- Earth Liberation Prisoner Support Network, elpl423@hotmail.com; www.spiritoffreedom.org.

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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 $2.99!

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 first-hand accounts of direct actions in defense of the Earth and turning these stories into the periodical that, 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 or two issues 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- or four-month commitment.

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