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Earth First!

Brigid January-February 2009

\$4.50 US & Canada

ANTI-COAL MOVEMENT STRIKES BACK



photos courtesy Rainforest Action Network

Snowflake the polar bear knows that clean coal is a myth!

Coal Protestors Fighting "Dirty"

BY SCOTT PARKIN

The anti-coal movement is on the rise. Plans for coal-fired plants are being stopped left and right. Mountaintop removal is becoming a dirty phrase. Coal financiers like Citi and Bank of America, are not only feeling the sting of the credit crisis, but the climate crisis, as well. Blockades and occupations have occurred from the coalfields of Appalachia to the steel and concrete canyons of New York City and San Francisco.

All over the world, thousands are taking on the mining companies, the utility companies and Wall Street. They have been using a variety of creative tactics, including direct action. More and more people are taking risks and putting their bodies, livelihoods and reputations on the line.

A decentralized network—less about non-profits and political parties, and more about people power—is emerging to face down King Coal. Radical grassroots groups like Mountain Justice, Earth First! and Rising Tide have allied with frontline community groups in the affected regions. National groups like Rainforest Action Network (RAN) and Greenpeace are also working in these coalitions to continue putting pressure on the coal sector.

Despite promises of "change" and "hope," people continue to vote with their actions to put an end to dirty coal and the bankers who love it. On November 14 and 15, people in more than 60 cities utilized street theater, ATM shutdowns, banner drops, occupations, flyering, tabling and various other tactics for the National Day of Action Against Coal and Coal Finance.

Our goals with days of action are to mobilize a new generation of activists into existing work (usually, 50-75 percent of people hitting the street on days of action are first timers), get

local media (as opposed to national media) and send a message to our targets that a large, formidable, creative movement of people is confronting their destructive ways.

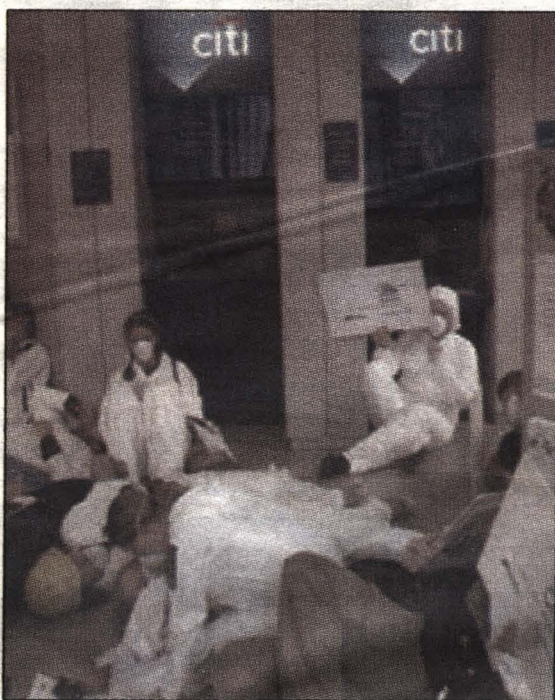
Days of action also contribute to the framework of radical networks acting autonomously and independently of more centralized organizations. This is a growing and effective strategy that bewilders our targets.

Recently, Bank of America executives were startled to find out that many of the actions taken against them were not organized by RAN, but other groups—often without RAN's knowledge. That scares them.

Reportbacks from the Day of Action:

Miami: RAN and Everglades Earth First! activists disrupted Bank of America's energy conference

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Protestors occupy Citi.

GREEK PRISONER HUNGER STRIKE ENDS



photo by Nate

Greek posters in support of the hunger strike

BY JAMES JAMESON

Political prisoner or not, inmates are widely known to be some of the most horribly treated and forgotten people, abused as though they are not human. In a nationwide act of solidarity, more than 7,000 prisoners throughout Greece went on hunger strike on November 3, to finally fight back for their own rights. A dedicated 19 prisoners went so far as to sew their own mouths shut. The move to boycott food ended after 18 days when the inmates won their protest as the Ministry of Justice conceded to a series of requests. This is notable for prisoners all over the world. There is hope that more inmates will take cue and demand humane treatment for themselves, and it's important that those of us in radical, active movements who aren't in prison do what we can to assist in this cause.

The hunger strike was enacted to highlight a 45-point list of demands. Involving 21 prisons across Greece, inmates protested unreasonable living conditions, such as poor access to basic hygiene and sanitation, a reduction of exacerbated sentences, improper medical care and severe overcrowding. Greece has the most over-crowded prisons in Europe, with nearly 11,000 inmates sardined into jails designed to hold slightly more than 7,000 people. Many of these prisoners are drug addicts and offenders with no opportunity for rehabilitation services. Detainees wait an average of 12 months in pre-trial detention before they are able to have their cases heard.

During the hunger strike, many solidarity actions were carried out by anarchists, humanitarians and other sympathizers. Greek embassies in many countries were targeted, as several mass protest marches added to the solidarity movement.

In response to the prisoners' demands, the Ministry agreed to the following:

1) All persons convicted to a sentence of up to five years for any offense, including drug related crimes, can transform their sentence into a monetary penalty. This will not be allowed in the case that the jury decides that the payment is not enough to deter the convict from committing punishable acts in the future.

2) The minimum sum for transforming one day of prison sentence to monetary penalty is reduced from around

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Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

Brigid January-February 2009

Preparing Our Flaming Arrows for the First Stirrings of Spring

In Winter, it's natural for many of us to retreat from the cold into the relative warmth of our homes. While some hibernating may take place, this is a perfect time to reflect on the experiences of the previous seasons while we regroup and re-strategize. Soon enough, we'll burst back into the world with a renewed zeal and new projects, as our surroundings begin to thaw and Spring reveals itself.

Similarly, this Winter looks like it will be just that sort of opportunity for Earth First! Here in Tucson, activists are busily preparing for a grand Organizers' Conference (OC) and Winter Rendezvous that will be held in southern Arizona from February 12-16 (see page 16). Likewise, Earth Firsters all around the US are preparing for the first movement-wide Earth First! roadshow in decades (see page 29). Launching from the OC, the roadshow will snake its way around the US until it reaches the Round River Rendezvous in Cascadia in late June.

The *Earth First! Journal* is also taking this time to come out stronger as the weather warms up. We are in the process of expanding our long-term collective to reach a position we haven't

seen in years. New long-term editors are being trained over these Winter months, allowing us to follow through with more projects—like the always crucial, never satiable fundraising, for instance—to ensure the *Journal* has a long and effective life. (Please consider donating by mailing checks or cash to POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702, or by visiting www.earthfirstjournal.org.)

We're also bringing to you the question of whether the *Earth First! Journal*

should move in 2009 (see page 3). Earth Firsters in Asheville, North Carolina, have submitted a proposal to bring the *Journal* to the heart of the southern Appalachians in an effort to revive the energy of this publication and make it more accessible to the movement. Come to the OC in February to help make that decision.

Also in this issue, you'll find us looking back at some of 2008's tree-sits, the anti-I-69 campaign, the life of a wild and beloved Earth Firster who has left our circle, and a slew of actions that have occurred over the last two months. It is the *Journal* collective's hope that our reflection on all of this as a movement will put us in a better perspective to realize what we need to do to make 2009 a truly special year. Those years pop up from time-to-time, where actions happen like nobody's business and results that we never could have dreamed of are realized. Let's make this coming year one to be celebrated.

So, from the *Earth First! Journal* to the Earth First! movement, here's to a productive Winter and an unbridled Spring!

—THE EARTH FIRST! JOURNAL COLLECTIVE

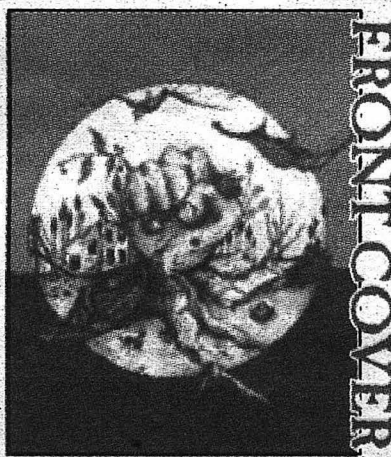


ARTWORK BY JASMINE RIVERWILD

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Earth First!

Brigid

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

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

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

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

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A Proposal to Move the Earth First! Journal to Asheville, North Carolina

BY THE ASHEVILLE COLLECTIVE
TO MOVE THE JOURNAL TO ASHEVILLE

The *Earth First! Journal* needs help. We've heard it at the Round River Rendezvous (RRR), at the Organizers' Conference, on email lists. We've received the letters. We've been hearing—and making our own—ideas of how and what the *Journal* can change in order to survive as a newspaper. Many of these changes are being made, and the collective is growing and becoming stronger.

However, can the *Journal* make all of the necessary changes in the atmosphere they are in now? The collective has been in Tucson, Arizona, for nearly eight years. A new location can breathe in some new and exhilarated energy, which would reflect into the pages of the *Journal* and onto a movement that is searching for positive changes.

A collective has formed in Asheville, North Carolina, that is proposing to *host* the *Journal*, rather than *take over* the *Journal*. The collective in Tucson has done a great job of recruiting current and prospective long-term editors from all over the US. It would be silly to throw away the results of a few years' worth of recruiting, just so an Asheville collective can begin recruiting from the same places. Instead, this Asheville collective is proposing to move the *Journal*, current *Journal* collective intact, and host them—i.e., find a cheap and suitable house, an affordable and quality printer, a group of volunteers to assist with all of the tasks that need assistance and basically provide all of the things that the *Journal* collective would need in any location. Additionally, we are committed to orienting the collective to their new home and helping make the connections that will ensure that the *Journal* is in as good a position as possible.

With this in mind, since the RRR, a group of Asheville activists—experienced Earth First! organizers, environmental studies students and folks who care a whole lot about these mountains—have been researching what Asheville could offer the *Journal* and what the *Journal* could offer Asheville. Here is what we've come up with.

These mountains are the oldest mountains in the world. The Appalachian Mountain system is also one of the most biologically diverse regions in the world. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park alone harbors more than 1400 varieties of flowering plants and 100 species of trees; Shenandoah National Park trails lead to groves of 300-year-old hemlocks and 400-year-old white oaks. These forests provide habitat for an equally impressive display of wildlife, including black bears, northern flying squirrels, and many uncommon varieties of salamanders. People have survived in these hollows (We pronounce them "hollers" here!) for hundreds of generations, living off of the food, medicine and shelter that the mountains alone provide. Even in the shadow of mountaintop removal, clearcuts and multi-million-dollar gated communities, there are still springs that we can drink clean water from, Bloodroot leaves 12 inches across and slopes too steep for any motorized equipment to conquer. These ridges and hollows never leave us questioning what we are fighting for.

Asheville is a destination. It is a transient town, but people pile into this city for a reason. Even more than the rumored giant

crystal that lies beneath the city, luring people into town, the mountains are truly what call to people, and the city itself holds a radical history defending these mountains. There were points where the name "Katúah Earth First!" had so much power behind it, just the threat of an action would be effective. That energy has diffused and been re-focused into other projects, like an infoshop and a very active Rising Tide group. Bringing in a new long-term project with decades of history and experience will encourage a new group of folks with a new set of skills to become involved in radical projects, as well as get some old-timers back into action.

It's amazing how folks who have been here for years still meet other people who were prominent EF!ers years ago. Even one of our city councilmen was a well known Earth First!er back in the day.

Having the *Journal* come to Asheville would (and already has) brought some of

publication have offered to help with the *Journal*, should it move here.

Geographically, Asheville is more accessible than Tucson. It is very much the East Coast, but it is closer to St. Louis than Philadelphia, and folks from central and eastern North Carolina consider us the West. It is northern enough for thousands of Floridians to come up to see the leaves change, but it is defiantly the South. We have four very different seasons. It snows enough to remind us that the beauty in Winter does exist, but Spring comes quickly, so we don't forget what sunshine feels like.

Additionally, Asheville is very much on the activist traveling circuit. A large volume of travelers pass through our streets, each one a potential *Journal* volunteer. Tucson only experiences that for a few months over the Winter—and even then, it's not at the same magnitude that Asheville sees.

Asheville is active. The campaign to get Bank of America to divest in Massey Coal has actions at least once a month. There are constant blockades against the Cliffside and Dominion power plants. The thick wallets of developers keep getting threatened. It would be good for the *Journal* to be closer to an action-packed region. The *Journal* should be the media that is publishing these actions. Think of it as inspiration for those cooped-up in front of the *Journal* computers. Beyond

actions like blockades, banner drops and a bit of sabotage, Asheville recently opened its first worker-owned collective bookstore/café/infoshop/event space called Firestorm Café. It has been extremely successful, and has proven that many folks in Asheville are willing to commit hard work to long term projects. Having the *Journal* here would mirror Firestorm well as a radical space that is more project-orientated.

Housing in Asheville is not as cheap as Tucson, but it is manageable. We are dedicated to finding housing that fits the *Journal's* needs for equal or less than what the *Journal* is paying now. There is also a local printing company that will print the *Journal* for exactly the same price as it is currently being printed. Asheville is a small city, and it's easy to navigate by foot or bike. It is very manageable to live here without a car. With the balance of the small-town feel and the huge percentage of folks with a radical history, both short- and long-termers will easily find their niche in this city.

Like the collective that brought the *Journal* to Tucson in 2001, we cannot guarantee that the *Journal* will do better in Asheville, but we can promise a dedicated group of folks who have the time, energy and experience to organize fundraisers and lay the necessary groundwork to support the *Journal*. We invite you to let us show you what southern hospitality is all about, and what us mountain folk fight so dirty for.



Asheville activists causing a scene downtown on May Day.

those folks out of the woodwork. People who haven't talked to each other in years are taking out their *Journals* from 10 years ago and laughing about old campaigns. These folks have offered to help with fundraisers and peripheral support. The movement needs their experience, history, stories and legacy.

Being a very transitional city, it sometimes feels like the same projects get started every few years just to die as different folks keep making the same mistakes and start at the beginning each time. In contrast, the *Journal* already has a set collective, a set way it works, and it knows what it needs to exist. This will help comfort the folks who have seen our community centers get evicted, as well as give newer activists strong handholds to becoming organizers and radicals.

Many folks in North Carolina have previously put out an issue or two of the *Journal* as a member of the collective since it's been in Tucson, and have a general idea of how the collective runs and what publishing a newspaper entails.

One of the longest-standing radical projects in Asheville was the Asheville Global Report (AGR), a free weekly newspaper that was nationally distributed and had a large volunteer and working base. Although after seven years the AGR went under due to lack of funding, it is regaining strength and some of the people who were integral parts of that

Come to the OC to help decide whether the *Journal* will move.

artwork by Felicia Fox

DEAR SHIT FER BRAINS



Dear Shit Fer Brains,

Reading the November-December *Earth First!*, I just learned of this wonderful womyn warrior, "Sali," who she really was, and I just cried looking at her pictures.

And I cried more. In Cherokee, I prayed. Then, I cried more.

She had power. Her spirit still does! She was 100 times the warrior I am. So, I honor her memory.

Let her inspire us all! Also, everyone please, be careful working in Mexico. But "get busy" there, too! There is so little time to waste. Go Hard.... Do not back down.

—OSO BLANCO DE AZTLAN

Dear Shit Fer Brains,

Collective, got the postcard. Thanks. Some un-requested feedback here from me.

I stopped reading *EF!* so much when so many anonymous names were used. To me, this has no credibility and should be stopped or minimized. I know you have to deal with what you are sent, but I'd encourage writers to use real names, and, if they won't, then perhaps tell them you won't print it. There are reasons to be careful, but too much paranoia is a problem.

I also was somewhat put off by all the transgender discussion, etc. I am a strong supporter of equal rights for all, but not sure how this should be such a big deal or appropriate topic in the *EF!*.

Perhaps, I am missing something here, but that's how I feel based on the info I have.

Finally, *EF!* should try to find a way to go fully to the web, if possible.

—DANIEL PATTERSON

Dear Shit Fer Brains,

I don't really know how to say this, so I'm just going to be blunt: Based on its website and last issue's article, I'm forced to conclude that the Northeast Climate Confluence fell into the trap

of propagating dangerous and destructive anti-Jewish ideas (historically called "anti-Semitism"). Organizers' consider yourselves "called on your shit."

This is a hard letter to write, because so many people don't know what

serious problems with real-world Zionism, that's still what the word means to most Jews.

So, Lightning is basically saying that Palestinians should have self-determination (which, of course, they should), but that Jews

"...when the officer asks the activist to return his call because he needed his help, the author should have ended the article with the sentence, 'I never called him back.' End of story."

anti-Semitism looks like—or they assume that, unlike any other form of genocidal oppression, it just miraculously vanished one day. They forget that all forms of oppression are deeply rooted and often manifest as subtle attitudes and prejudices.

So, let me start out by saying that anti-Jewish oppression did *not* disappear, that the trauma caused by being oppressed and murdered for thousands of years is still very real to Jews, and that social change movements need to confront anti-Semitism just as assiduously as we need to take on white supremacy, patriarchy and all the other baggage this death culture has left us with.

The anti-Semitism in the article is subtle.

First, Lightning says that because the confluence endorsed Palestinian self-determination, it was "explicitly anti-Zionist."

I'm not sure what Lightning's definition of Zionism is, but, at base, the term simply refers to the desire for an autonomous Jewish homeland. While there are certainly

should not. (This assertion sketches me out.)

Then, Lightning references a workshop on "confronting Zionism in social movements." Note that the title is not "addressing"—that is, challenging Zionism's distortions and destructive currents, grappling with its deeply held statism, etc.—but "confronting," as if Zionism is just as valueless as white supremacy or patriarchy, and just as pervasive. Here, we see the old, anti-Semitic canard that Jews (here, relabeled "Zionists") are a corrupting influence within leftist movements, with tentacles that reach to all aspects of society.

Think I'm exaggerating? I would, too, except that I looked up who gave this workshop, and it was none other than the New England Committee to Defend Palestine (NECDP), a group whose literature is awash with Jewish conspiracy theories and other anti-Semitic tropes, and that endorses the murder of any Jew within the areas referred to as Israel and Palestine.

What the fuck, people? A little research on this

sketchy-ass group would have made it clear who you were dealing with.

And so, all your back-patting aside, you successfully created a space where I, as a Jew, would have feared for my safety if I'd known who was presenting there. I believe a sarcastic "Mazal Tov" is in order.

Now, there's no space here for me to go into what anti-Semitism looks like, the ways it sometimes disguises itself as Palestinian solidarity, or how this all plays out in regard to NECDP—and the *EF!* isn't really the forum for that, anyway. So, instead, let me encourage everyone to look into this on their own, just as they hopefully would with any other oppression they're not particularly familiar with.

There are some good resources floating around the Internet.

And before someone writes in saying that the confluence *couldn't* have engaged in anti-Semitism, because it didn't serve pork, let me point out that there's a vast difference between avoiding any single food and actually observing Jewish or Muslim dietary laws. I mean, props for making such an effort with the kitchen—really. But saying that it was for those who kept kosher? Don't be condescending.

—BEN PACHANO

Dear Shit Fer Brains,

Please save the planet some carbon emissions and stop sending me the *Earth First! Journal*.

Although I do admit to co-founding a group called "Earth First!" in April of 1980, that outfit bears little resemblance to the current bunch that goes by the same name. Although I do agree with some of your dogmas, life is short

and I don't have the time to read about all of the injustice heaped upon the noble indigenous people by greedy capitalists. And besides, it's hunting season in Montana. Time to stalk the wiley wapiti.

Good luck and happy trails,

—HOWIE WOLKE
(FORMER CO-FOUNDER)

Dear Shit Fer Brains,

I have to say I'm a bit dismayed at the length of the article "FBI Wants Scoop on Vegan Potlucks."

In the first paragraph, when the officer asks the activist to return his call because he needed his help, the author should have ended the article with the sentence, "I never called him back." End of story.

Why in the world would you ever call him back, then spend 30 minutes chuckling with him and his partner over coffee?! You are under no obligation to speak with an officer or an agent, unless subpoenaed, and even that is open to debate.

By sitting down for coffee and a chat, you are opening up the door for further phone calls and harassment. You are letting them know you are willing to do so in the future. And you can be sure that any and every word you say can and will be used to manipulate and misconstrue your original intention.

My hat is off to the activist for finally making the right decision, but he should have known their offer to begin with.

We hear and read too many reports of "I was paid a visit today by so-and-so and they wanted to know about x, y and z."

We need to hear more of "I was paid a visit today by so-and-so, but I have no idea what they wanted, because I shut the door." Remember, without a warrant or subpoena, you are under no legal obligation to speak to anyone.

Keep fighting and stay strong!

—JAKE CONROY

SHELL STEPS IN IT AGAIN

Irish and Shell in a Row

BY VERONICA

It's August. It's high noon at low tide and the Shell to Sea pirates are reclaiming Glengad beach.

You're not likely to meet a flotilla of Irish pirates in any dark alleyway, but if you did you, too, would consider hauling your monolith of a ship back to its cradle.

They are a group of brave, solitary buccaneers piloting inflatable kayaks, storming out to meet the Royal Dutch Shell "marauders" head-on in the open seas. It's another brazen action by citizens cum soldiers for the environment.

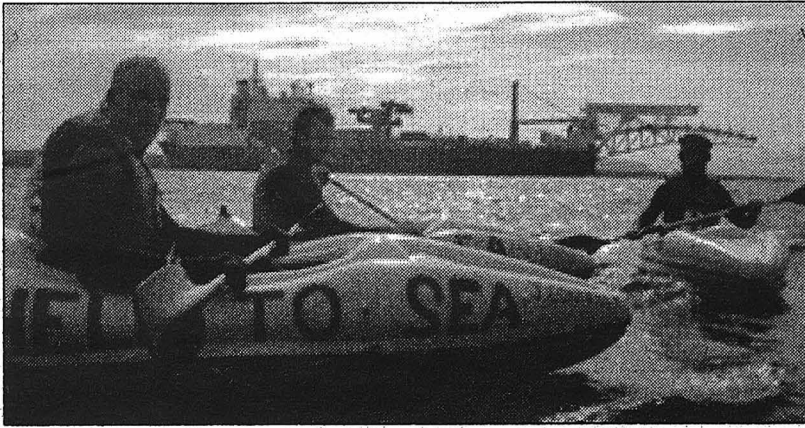
Black paint identifies two of the kayakers as the *James Larkin* and the *James Connolly*—men of Irish history, both fierce in their ways. The printing is neat, bold.

"I think the idea was that they would have to be named in court if the cops lifted them, and the judge would be embarrassed," representative Tadhg Mc Grath said. "Not my idea, I don't think it's possible to embarrass the Irish judiciary."

This campaign is visceral. And it began as one of those epic examples of how to frustrate a corporate Fafner. This battle has been furiously-but-quietly raging since April of 2005 when a High Court order prevented local residents from obstructing the construction of a gas pipeline through delicate, unstable, boggy land in County Mayo, Ireland.

Two months later, five residents from Rosspoint, in northwest County Mayo, were jailed for contempt of court for refusing to obey the aforementioned High Court order. The men vowed to stay in prison until they received justice. The activists, known now as "The Rosspoint Five," were released after 94 days. Thousands rallied publicly to support the men.

"We take no prisoners. It's the gang-plank for these boys."—CAPTAIN AHAB OF THE REBEL CREW



The Rebel Crew rows out to meet the *Solitaire*.

Shell wants this pipeline—the first of its kind—to carry odorless, unrefined and volatile gas from the Corrib Gas Field, a reserve of natural gas off of the west coast of County Mayo. The Corrib Gas Project is led by Shell. The company seeks to bring the gas ashore at Glengad and pump the unrefined gas inland where it will be cleaned and depressurized for sale and export.

The cleaning terminal, a large combustion plant, is a terrifying megalith of excessive consumption. It would require more than 120 megawatts of power to operate. That's enough electricity to power more than 250,000 homes for a year. This power would come from burning off the uncleaned gas condensate—full of chemical nasties, such as oxides of carbon and nitrogen, sulphur dioxide, methane and ozone.

There are nine chimneys, four of them approximately 140 feet high. They would release carbon dioxide and methane equivalent to the global warming potential of 27,000 dairy cows.

The route of the pipeline runs through a Special Area of Conservation.

This would put a total of three pipelines (unrefined gas, electric cables and an outfall pipe with toxic chemicals) through people's neighborhoods and villages.

The valve station is planned for Broadhaven Bay, a vital breeding and rearing area for dolphins and whales. A University College Cork research team recorded more than 220 sightings of seven whale and dolphin species, as well as sightings of two seal species, in Broadhaven Bay and north-west Mayo waters.

In August, the pirates delivered a letter to Shell's giant ship, the *Solitaire*, on Donegal Bay. "We do not seek confrontation with you and your crew, and we feel sure that you would not wish to go ahead with pipe-laying when there are such serious safety issues unresolved.... Having stated these points, we wish to point out to you that, should you decide to go ahead with laying the pipeline before the issues are resolved, our experienced marine team will attempt to prevent you in protection of our livelihoods, families, communities and environment."

Captain Ahab of the *Rebel Crew* states, "It's unacceptable what Shell are being allowed to get away with here in Mayo. We intend to plunder Shell's compound at Glengad and board the *Solitaire* when she arrives in the Bay. We take no prisoners. It's the gang-plank for these boys. This environment needs protection from these marauders of Shell's."

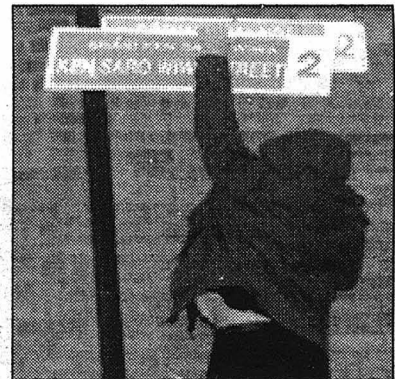
These shots are bright, sun-washed—Kodachrome and filled with action and urgency. They contrast with some of the more somber images from the campaign—like hooded activists in Dublin switching out street signs to commemorate the anniversary of Ken Saro Wiwa's murder.

Other images reveal activist Maura Harrington locked in and curled up on the front seat of her small car for 10 days, engaged in a hunger strike until the *Solitaire* leaves Broadhaven bay.

"My name is Maura Harrington. I am Principal of Inver Primary School, situated beside Broadhaven Bay." Harrington began in a statement. "I am a native of Erris and have spent all my life here."

"My sense of personal outrage is driven by the primacy of Place—people come and go in nanoseconds; Place endures."

For more information, visit Youtube.com/shelltosea.



An activist changes Dublin street signs

Coal Protestors Fight "Dirty"

Continued from page 1

at the Key Biscayne Ritz-Carlton. Inside an exclusive cocktail event, the party crashers used a megaphone to make a presentation that outlined the reasons that the dirty bank needs to move towards better energy solutions. Before security arrived to kick the activists out, the group of energy executives assembled into two groups, the first curiously watching and listening to the activists' presentation, and the second group angrily and aggressively attacking the protesters. While holding a banner that read, "Captains of Industry: Rise Above Dirty Energy!" the group found themselves under attack by the drunken investors. Conference goers charged one banner holder, while another had a beer poured over his head. Obviously, the pressure of foreclosing on people's homes and destroying the climate is getting to these guys!

Charlotte, North Carolina: Activists with Rising Tide penetrated Bank of America's headquarters in downtown Charlotte, and unfurled a banner inside the lobby that read, "Stop Banking on Climate Change. No New Coal." Tied to dozens of helium balloons, the banner floated to the ceiling of the headquarters.

New York City: The New York Action Network and friends "apologized" on behalf of

Citi at their headquarters in midtown Manhattan for their role in coal finance, the climate crisis and the bailout. Activists got into the headquarters and attempted to ask CEO Vikram Pandit to sign a pledge committing to change. They then convened out front to hand out a letter from the "Citi family" outlining their new policies (or, how we might write them, at least).

Austin, Texas: A solid crowd of no less than 40 marched from the state capital building to a downtown Bank of America branch, taking over a lane of traffic as they went along. Once they arrived at the bank, they performed street theater and folks closed bank accounts totaling more than \$60,000!

College Park, Maryland: More than 25 students, mostly with Students for a Democratic Society, formed a blockade outside the Bank of America on Route 1, laying down on the wet sidewalk and obstructing the entrance to protest the bank lending money to coal-mining companies.

Beckley, West Virginia: Coalfield residents distributed fliers outside a Citi Financial office, informed Citi employees that their employer had a major role in destroying their communities and handed fliers to customers entering the office.

Washington, DC: Around 30 activists organized into eight teams. Three teams took Bank of America and the rest took Citi. More than 40 ATMs in DC, mostly in the heart of downtown

were shut down with "out of order" signs and caution tape. As expected, some bystanders got pissed at some of the groups. Much of this was done in the middle of the lunch rush, so there were lots of opportunities to discuss the reasons for the actions with people who had their money in Bank of America and Citi.

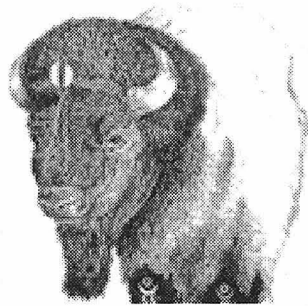
San Francisco: More than 30 RAN, Greenpeace and Rising Tide activists marched through San Francisco's Financial District on the "No Coal Tour of Shame," occupying Bank of America and Citi branches while chanting, singing and coughing-in. The tour ended with a protest at California-based utility company Pacific Gas and Energy, the owner of six coal-fired power plants.

Boston: Rising Tide Boston set up "green coal" marketing tables outside branches of Bank of America and Citi to highlight these banks' high-risk investments in coal power and mining. Emulating the coal industry's marketing pitch of "clean coal," activists handed out samples of "green coal" while informing fellow citizens not to expect green coal to be clean, safe or affordable.

Baltimore: Members of Baltimore Rising Tide and Towson University students rallied outside a Bank of America branch to educate customers and employees about the bank's dirty practices.

For more information on the National Day of Action Against Coal and Coal Finance, visit www.dirtymoney.org.

On Patrol With The Buffalo



artwork by Assante Riverwind

BY STEPHANIE SEALY

"[The buffalo are] the dark force of the plain—the living muscle of our history. Perhaps no other animal represents so well that richness which we once had, and which we so savagely squandered and mutilated."—Rick Bass

In the frigid morning darkness of February 8, 2008, my partner, Arlo, and I awoke for patrol. Donning our warmest clothes, we gathered with others in the cabin for breakfast, loaded our skis, grabbed cameras and radios, scraped snow and ice from the car, and headed into the field. Dropping off the Horse Butte ski patrol, I noticed frost in Will's beard even before he'd finished putting on his skis. Arlo and I then headed to the north bluffs of the banks of the Madison River to look for buffalo. As we skied out, a symphony of wildlife played across the landscape. We were in the company of ravens, trumpeter swans, a moose, elk, coyotes and a small family of buffalo. The Madison River shimmered below us, embraced by green forests donning nature's icy diamonds.

Unbeknownst to us, it was to be the day of the largest wild buffalo slaughter since the 19th century. Later, as we sat in the warm car awaiting the arrival of the afternoon patrol, Frankie's voice came through the radio with the bad news. So it began. Fifty-four buffalo were captured that day. In the days and weeks that followed, Montana and Yellowstone would kill more than 1,600 of America's last wild buffalo.

As the number of dead bison mounted, our hearts sank. We did everything in our power to stop the kill, but neither a national news story nor a flood of citizen letters, emails and phone calls would change the course. Some took matters into their own hands. In late February, a man risked his life and freedom by blockading the Horse Butte bison trap from a bipod perch. After 15 hours, he was forcibly removed and arrested. The next day, the Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) responded by capturing and killing more than 30 buffalo. In late March, two courageous women locked down in Yellowstone's visitor center to draw national attention. Buffalo activists gathered in Helena, Montana's capital, to highlight the massive buffalo kill. Hundreds of buffalo headstones were placed on the capitol lawn, and an "award" was presented to Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer and Yellowstone National Parks' Superintendent Suzanne Lewis for their leadership in spilling the most buffalo blood since the late 1800s. Still, the slaughter continued.

The war against wild buffalo has been underway since the arrival of European settlers. Cattle producers fear that the return of wild bison would mean a reduction of subsidized public land grass. Brucellosis, a European livestock disease brought to North America with cattle, provides a convenient excuse to kill migrating bison and control wildlife. The bacteria, which hasn't posed a serious threat to humans since the advent of pasteurization, can cause cows to abort their first calf. Wild bison contracted the disease in the early 20th century when park rangers tried to nurse bison calves on domestic cattle. They have never transmitted brucellosis back to cattle, yet they are continuously killed because the ranchers fear it is possible. In Montana, wild bison are not considered wildlife; they are deemed an "animal in need of disease control" and fall under the management of the DOL.

Wild bison who follow their instinct to migrate and their drive to survive, are killed each Winter and Spring when they cross—or even approach—the ecologically meaningless boundary separating the world's first national park and the state of Montana. Bearing witness to this war against wild bison, you cannot comprehend it as reality. Whether it's a mixed herd of 300 mothers and calves or a lone bull, all alarms are sounded at the "threat" of wild buffalo in Montana. State police, county sheriffs, Forest Service law enforcement officers, national park rangers, Montana game wardens, and deputized Montana DOL agents swarm the landscape to chase buffalo from Forest Service lands—and even private lands where bison are welcome—using helicopters, horses, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and trucks. They shoot explosive "cracker rounds" from shotguns to scare the animals into running. This harassment—or "hazing" as the agents call it—can end up with the buffalo running miles back into Yellowstone, or with scores being trapped in pens and sent to slaughter. Visit the video galleries at www.buffalofieldcampaign.org for a glimpse of what this looks like on the ground.

The Interagency Bison Management Plan drives this madness. It's a nefarious plan tailored by the cattle industry with the stated purpose of both protecting Montana's brucellosis-free status and maintaining a wild, free-roaming population of bison. It fails completely on both counts. How the plan fails the buffalo is clear. Even with the plan in place, Montana lost its coveted brucellosis-free status in 2008 when the disease was discovered in two separate cattle herds within a year. The source of the infection is unknown. While there is some debate over whether the transmission was from another cattle herd or wild elk, it is agreed that bison are not to blame.

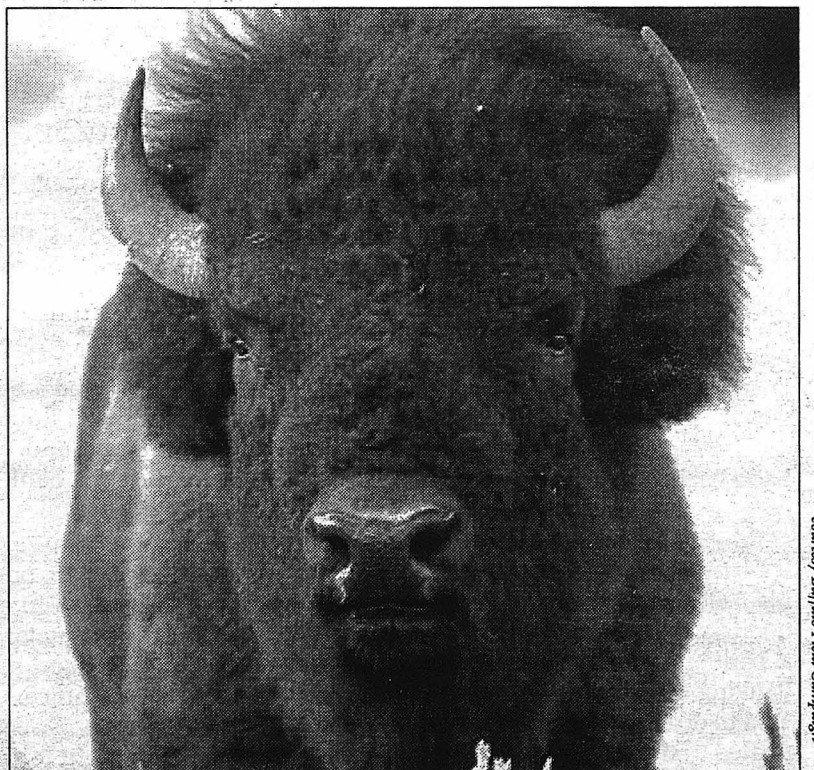
In March Schweitzer and Lewis made what they called a "historic announcement" about a deal they'd reached with the Church Universal and Triumphant (CUT). CUT's Royal Teton Ranch sits adjacent to Yellowstone's northern boundary, in the heart of North America's largest wildlife migration corridor. For the past several years, CUT has raised cattle on their land. Thousands of wild buffalo have been captured inside Yellowstone's boundaries and shipped to slaughter for even approaching this land. The big announcement was that the government and some misguided nongovernmental organizations would pay CUT millions of dollars to sell their cattle and forego their grazing rights for 30 years. As part of the deal, up to 25 bison would have temporary access to portions of the land. But first, they would have to endure capture, undergo brucellosis testing, get tagged, and—for the pregnant females—suffer the violation of vaginal telemetry devices.

Prior to the still-ongoing European invasion, buffalo represented the largest mass of land mammals in North America. Those great herds have been so diminished that they now occupy less than one percent of their former range. Across the US, approximately 500,000 buffalo exist in public and private herds. In most of these places, they are fenced, unable to migrate, handled, culled and treated like livestock. Yellowstone is the only place where wild bison have an uninterrupted history of living in the wild. Yet, with every passing Winter, this wildness is eroded, as they find themselves confined within a political fence. If current management practices continue, the genetic viability and evolutionary potential of the wild buffalo could be lost forever.

However, the pendulum can only swing so far before it swings back. Buffalo show us what restoration looks like every time they migrate from the park: one foot in front of the other. The voices for wild buffalo are growing locally, nationally and globally. Residents of Horse Butte, Montana, are petitioning the government to demand that wild bison be given sanctuary on the cattle-free peninsula. The voices of First Nations are rising again for the buffalo. More scientific evidence is pointing towards the need to protect the buffalo and their historic range. The selfish acts of the livestock industry are being shown for what they are. The tides are changing.

Back at camp on the night the slaughter started, we gathered in the main cabin for dinner and our nightly meeting. The fire crackled, as wet and frosty clothes hung to dry around the woodstove's perimeter. The room was full, the energy heavy. At the beginning of the meeting, Clarence shared a thought about the captured buffalo in the trap and how it felt like having family members sentenced to death. I looked at the stressful question on Jessie's face; she didn't know yet. "Wait, Clarence," I said. "Not everyone knows." I looked around the room at other bewildered expressions. Busy with all of the work around our camp, everyone hadn't heard the news. Slowly, we explained. The looks on peoples' faces were enough to break your heart. And yet, somehow, we were fortunate. We were together, going through this as a family. We suffer with the buffalo, yet it is happening to them. Together, we console one another and resolve to never give up—and we won't until the buffalo roam free.

Buffalo Field Campaign runs daily field patrols and stands with the buffalo on the ground they choose to be on. We document every action made against them and share our footage, photos and experiences with the world. Please join us on the front lines. Our greatest need for volunteers is between March and May. Room, board, gear and training are provided. For more information, contact (406)-646-0070; buffalo@wildrockies.org; www.buffalofieldcampaign.org.



courtesy Buffalo Field Campaign

A lone, stoic buffalo—one of the last few

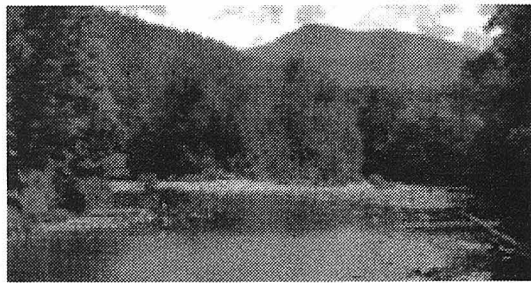
Another Act of Resistance to Plum Creek by Maine Earth First!

BY TEAM FIASCO

In a daring act of civil disobedience, four women locked their necks together at the Land Use Regulatory Commission (LURC) office in Augusta, Maine. In mid-September, LURC signaled their approval for the controversial Concept Plan put forth by Plum Creek to rezone a large tract of the Moosehead Lake region (see *EF!* September-October). This plan would turn the area, rich in biodiversity, into sites for gravel mining, water extraction, commercial logging and development for resorts for the rich. The women, members of Maine Earth First!, refused to leave the office until LURC staff could explain why they had recommended the approval of the plan.

LURC approved the plan revisions that their staff had recommended in a move that surprised many who have been watching the process closely. Critics noted that LURC received more than 1,700 comments opposing a resort development at Lily Bay as part of the Plum Creek Concept Plan. LURC received only six comments in favor of the plan.

Despite this overwhelming public statement against the Plum Creek development, the commission refused to amend their recommendations by removing the Lily Bay resort. "The public has spoken on this issue, and LURC refuses to listen. We want to



A beautiful shot before the destruction

know why they are selling our future," said one of the four locked together.

Many of the groups that intervened in the formal Concept Plan review process are expected to file appeals to LURC's decision in the Maine Superior Court.

Some of the grounds for these appeals are likely to revolve around the flawed process that has LURC staff writing changes to Plum Creek's plan so that it can be rubber stamped by LURC.

The staff that is working on tailoring the Concept Plan for Plum Creek worked in the office occupied by the four women.

"We aren't leaving until the LURC staff who made the recommendations can adequately justify their actions," said another of the women who locked down.

"Many Mainers believe their process has been undemocratic and corrupt.... LURC's decision flies in the face of thousands of Mainers who have expressed serious concerns about the Concept Plan."

After a full day of closing down the Department of Conservation building, the four women were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and criminal trespassing. They have been arraigned and are currently awaiting their next court date.

Two days following the lockdown, the arrestees and others attended LURC's meeting on October 1 in Bangor, Maine, where LURC was to present its final version of the plan to Plum Creek. Maine Earth First! congratulated LURC on yet another job well done with a cake the shape of the state of Maine and the question, "Would you like to have your cake and eat it, too?" LURC ungraciously refused to accept Maine Earth First!'s gift to them. To further express their ingratitude, they illegally arrested a concerned citizen who accompanied Maine Earth First! to express his anger at LURC's initial approval of the Plum Creek plan.

Members of Maine Earth First! are pledging continued resistance to the plan as it moves forward in the coming months. Maine Earth First! is completely dedicated to doing what LURC has refused to do: protecting a way of life, safeguarding biodiversity, promoting climate stability and preserving the culture that makes the Moosehead Lake region so unique and so wonderful. This is just the beginning!

Team Fiasco is two women from rural Maine who like chopping wood, booty dancing, farming, drinking whiskey and fighting to protect the North Woods!

MAINE ACTIVISTS TARGET PORTLAND LAW FIRM FOR ROLE IN COMMODIFYING MAINE'S GROUNDWATER

BY STORM AND CREEK

People from across Maine brought trash bags full of empty plastic water bottles to the Pierce Atwood law firm's office in Portland, Maine, on the morning of November 14 to demonstrate the physical ramifications of the corporate bottling industry on Maine's landfills. The law firm represents both Nestlé Waters North America and the Nature Conservancy in their water acquisition projects throughout Maine. Nestlé, the Nature Conservancy and Pierce Atwood share both financial resources and leadership in order to pursue an agenda of commodifying Maine's groundwater.

Young Maine residents and their allies gathered in Portland to protest against Pierce Atwood's role as the legal liaison in the corporate theft of Maine's water. In particular, those gathered were concerned about Nestlé's continued legal action against the people of Fryeburg, Maine, as well as the Nature Conservancy's refusal to remove commercial water extraction from the development easements attached to the Plum Creek development plan for the North Woods.

The town of Fryeburg has been battling a Nestlé expansion project for more than four years. As of October 2008, on four separate occasions, Fryeburg's town government has denied Nestlé the permits necessary for the truck-loading station that is needed to put another well online for Nestlé's water extraction operations. Each time, Nestlé has appealed the decision and

brought suit against the people of Fryeburg, leaving the community struggling with crippling legal expenses.

In September, the multinational corporation filed its fourth suit in the Maine Supreme Judicial Court against the small rural town of 3,000 residents. "How many times does Fryeburg have to say 'No!' for Nestlé to respect their town's democratic decision?" Andy Smith of Waterville, Maine asked.

"This type of legal action is not how good neighbors treat each other."

Farther north, the Nature Conservancy is expected to take control of more than 266,000 acres through conservation easements related to the Plum Creek planned development of the Moosehead Region.

Despite numerous concerns raised during public hearings by those opposed to corporate development of the North Woods, commercial water extraction is still a possibility in the Nature Conservancy's easements.

"It seems like the Nature Conservancy has really put the 'con' into their conservation," says Emily Posner of Defending Water for Life.

"When the average person thinks of environmental conservation, they do not think of the North Woods being littered with diesel trucks shipping out the region's water."

Pierce Atwood and Nestlé Waters North America are major contributors. Executives from both organizations also sit on the Nature Conservancy's corporate conservation board.

Nestlé Waters North America—a subsidiary of Nestlé Société Anonyme (S.A.)—is the largest food processing corporation in the world.

Native Forest Network and Defending Water for Life remain concerned that, without local consent and often times without public input, Nestlé is bulldozing its way through Maine's long-standing democratic processes in order to commandeer the great sand and gravel aquifers that run throughout Maine; the very water that should be a resource and common good for Maine's future generations should not be a source of profits for giant corporations.

This debacle represents an emerging world-wide corporate water cartel that is steadily and deliberately eroding community governing practices in their efforts to commodify the land, water, wildlife—even the people—in communities and localities throughout the world. This type of corporate abuse mirrors that which has happened on oil-rich lands.

Canada and the northeastern quarter of the US hold a significant percentage of the world's fresh water reserves. This assault on Fryeburg represents part of a developing, dangerous trend launched by multinational corporate enterprises to appropriate control over ground- and surface-water supplies from local communities for markets elsewhere. Along with the actions of bottled-water outfits like Nestlé in places like Maine, Wisconsin, Michigan, Texas and Florida, even greater plans

are afoot to pipe water from the Great Lakes and the Québec-Labrador Peninsula (which is largely indigenous territory) to provide fresh water for golf courses, swimming pools, gated communities, lawns and water parks in the Southwestern deserts. Such projects will be pushed on communities in relatively water-rich regions under the guise of providing water for thirsty people in desert communities—allegedly justifying the suspension of people's rights to local sovereignty and control over their own resources.

With the coming climate catastrophe, water will become the most precious of all natural resources. It is likely that most future human conflicts will arise over water rights and dwindling water supplies. As many bioregions become warmer and drier over time—and with much of their existing water supplies already compromised by pollutants and taxed by over-use, places like Fryeburg represent initial battlefields in the effort to protect threatened water supplies on local and regional levels.

If people in places like Fryeburg decide that they are able to assist less-fortunate communities elsewhere that are suffering from water shortages, then the decisions and terms should be dictated by the people of Fryeburg and nobody else. With the uncertainties we all face regarding the future climate scenarios and subsequent human migrations, there is no guarantee that places like Maine will not also face water shortages in the future.

Hey, Nestlé: Go to Hell!

From tha Climb Line to tha Platform

A Year in Review of 2008's Climbing Actions

BY JEZZABELL

To form a platform (no pun intended) for a climbing discussion at the Organizers' Conference (OC), we threw together this "year in review" of climbing actions. While we know this is not a complete list, this serves as a tasty appetizer to get us started for more action in 2009. Much has happened in 2008, as far as climbing goes; we hope for even more in the upcoming year.

At the end of Summer, we saw the long-standing treesit in Berkeley, California, get evicted. This brought sadness to many of us. In the long run, this sit meant a lot to us. It inspired folks to strive for radical ecological defense in urban areas in a way that we hadn't thought of before. Since the transition of Earth First! in the mid-1990s into more of a "green anarchist" trend that focused more on urban issues, we've seen the lingering effects of that manifesting itself across the US.

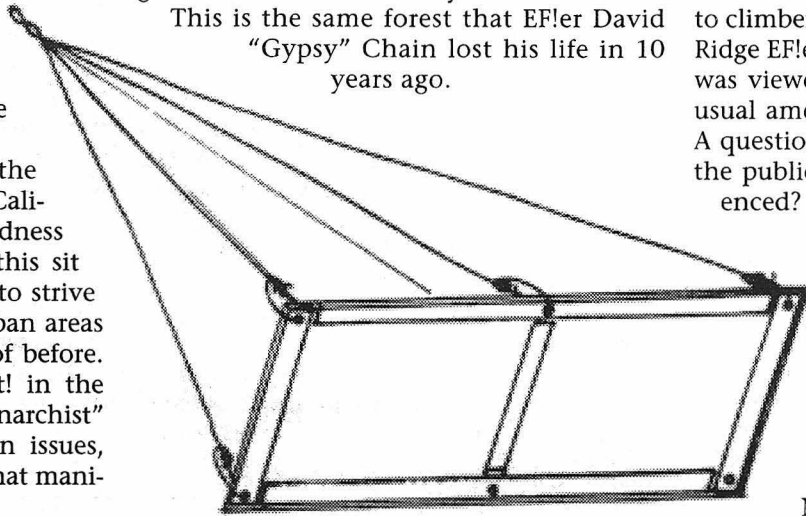
What began as an action by a couple of folks against unnecessary development, grew into a wide-scale action of national interest that affected the community in a phenomenal way. Treesitters would race the cops to the trees and flee up them to evade arrest. Many of the sitters loved how solidarity and a sense of community permeated the usual environment. Even after the fence was built around them, comrades still found ways to congregate and send supplies up. As the cops cracked down with increased surveillance, folks would organize getaway cars for those coming down.

The tactic of urban treesitting was also part of the tools used in Santa Cruz, California. Activists there erected four tree houses as a big "fuck you" to those who want to build an animal research laboratory and destroy a pristine forest at the University of California, Santa Cruz campus. One of the notable points with this treesit is the combination of objecting to animal research while fighting for the land. It gives us a true sense of a diversity of tactics. In November, community members celebrated the sit's one-year anniversary.

We also saw a last-minute urban sit erected at the state capitol in Salem, Oregon, to raise awareness of the attempts to stop the implementation of the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR). The WOPR would allow the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to increase logging of Oregon lands by 463 percent. Here, urban treesitting was used in conjunction with a public rally to sway local politics.

Moving out of the streets and back into the trees, we look at the 20-year-plus campaign in Humboldt County, California, for the redwoods. In August, the president and chief forester of Humboldt Redwood Company paid a face-to-face visit to treesitters to announce a promise to protect all old-growth trees that are 250 years old or more.

This is the same forest that EF!er David "Gypsy" Chain lost his life in 10 years ago.



going up! here we have a common plywood platform

This is an amazing victory for us all. The Humboldt redwood forests are a part of the California Floristic Province (CFP). Home to an enormous amount of endemic species, the CFP has been on the radar of eco-radicals for many years. It was mentioned in *Do or Die* as one of the western hotspots to defend. As climbers win campaigns like this, we grow one step closer to protecting the world's biodiversity.

Although it was evicted early this year, the Bear Mountain treesit was a great act of resistance to development. This sit not only comprised four platforms, it also included a tripod that had been erected over a threatened cave. In conjunction with the climbing techniques, another important element was the tactic of blockading the entrance to the forest with logs and large stones. A trench the entire size of the road was also dug.

The rebellious atmosphere of the Bear Mountain camp provided a setting for many public rallies. The campers also forced away public surveyors. Removing survey stakes and ribbons became a way of life. This type of action in the forest had been lacking since forest defense in Oregon was at its peak. Let's all take note of these tactics and implement them the next time we get our platforms off of the ground.

One of the most creative climbing actions of 2008 was performed by Blue Ridge Earth First!. During a four-womyn lockdown outside of Dominion Power's proposed power

plant in West Virginia's Wise County, they "topped it off" with a fifth persyn dangling over a footbridge above. A climber was anchored into a center barrel, displaying a unique use of urban climbing in combination with a lockdown.

Some of the things that were learned from this action were how much attention is given to climbers by cops and the media. One Blue Ridge EF!er was quoted as saying the climber was viewed as reckless and received an unusual amount of attention from the action. A question that comes to mind is why does the public view us as reckless and inexperienced? Perhaps, it is due to a lack of familiarity with climbing actions.

Maybe we should give them more actions to show how experienced we are.

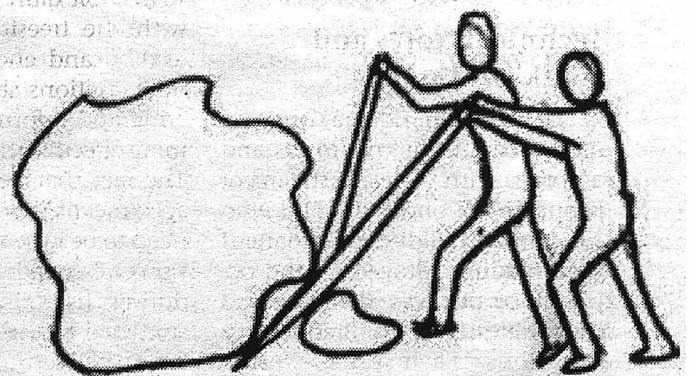
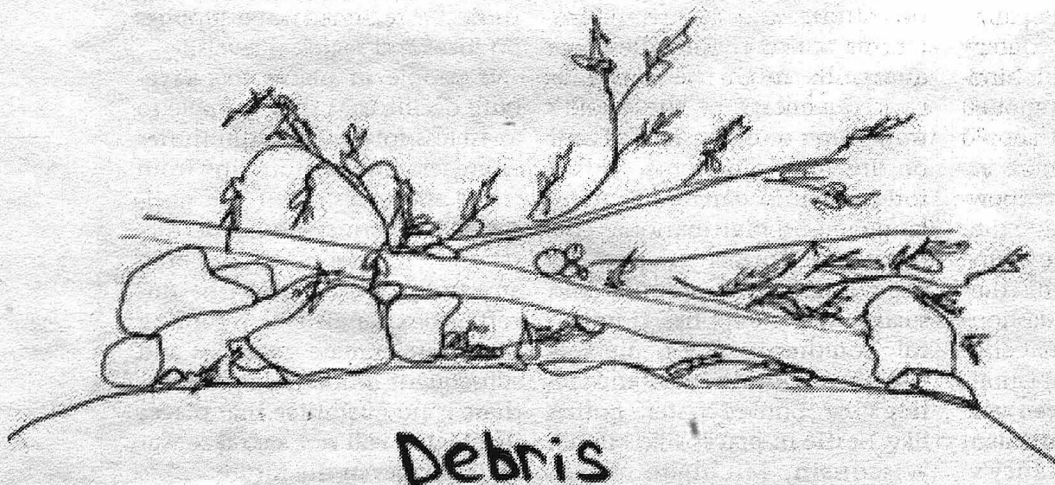
Part of the post-Round River Rendezvous action was another awesome urban climbing adventure. Two womyn climbed the flagpoles outside of the American Municipal Coal office in Columbus, Ohio, protesting the proposed construction of new coal plants in Meigs County, Ohio. The boys in blue were definitely thrown off by this action. It provided an awesome media spectacle, too, as one of the climbers had a lengthy sound bite on the evening news! The climbing action coincided with an in-office demonstration and lockdown before things escalated into a mini-riot that day.

More often than not, people complain about how little action there is within the current Earth First! movement. While compared to some past eras, that is true. However, overall, there is a fair amount of action occurring in our movement. This year in review of climbing actions clearly shows us that!

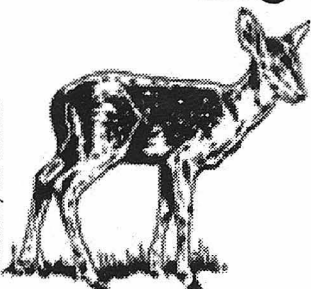
For insight on the Indiana treesit village, Camp B-Rad, see "The Low Down on What was Up With the Anti-I-69 Treesit" on the following page.

With that being said, we do need to step it up. The scumbags we're fighting are not letting up in the slightest. The climbing actions we perform are merely one tactic in the toolbox that's at the disposal of each campaign. Combined with other actions and an increase in the frequency of action in general, we will undoubtedly move closer to realizing our goals.

At this Winter's OC, we hope to have a climber's caucus to discuss the ins and outs (or, should we say "ups and downs") of incorporating climbing skills into our actions more frequently and successfully. If this sounds like your fancy, climb aboard!



Knock knock. Who's there? Block. Block who? Blockade!



The Low Down on What was Up With the Anti-I-69 Treesit

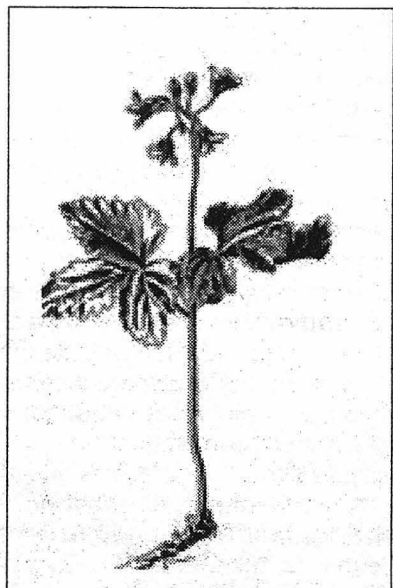


BY NIGHTTIME CLIMBERS

In May, some of the folks resisting Interstate-69 (I-69) put up a treesit in the way of the construction of an onramp at the far end of 2008's projected construction zone. The effort wasn't necessarily based on consensus. While there was a long-term discussion within Roadblock Earth First! around building momentum for land defense, the treesit happened because a specific affinity group decided to make it happen.

From late May until late June, the treesit was a major focus of the campaign. Dozens of people stayed there, either in one of the three platforms or supporting on the ground. The eviction, which led to eight arrests, catalyzed maybe a dozen separate solidarity actions, ranging from small-group retaliatory attacks to a 100-person emergency torch march in Bloomington, Indiana, with quite a few outbursts in between. In fact, the repression against the treesit was, for many people, more empowering than the treesit itself (keeping in mind the high costs, emotionally and otherwise, of the eight arrests during the eviction).

At the same time, the treesit raised a number of problems and questions that were never resolved. These included issues of power and decision-making, the inability to push beyond a narrow civil disobedience framework, and doubts about whether treesitting was genuinely strategic to our campaign or if it was simply a desire to preserve an EF! tradition.



Toothwort, an Indiana favorite

Technical Notes and Dunk'em Donuts

The treesits in Indiana consisted of two "dunk'em" platforms and a donut, with a steady stream of people living on the ground who were slowly building a permanent groundcamp. Altogether, the occupation site was named B-rad Camp, in memory of Brad Will.

The sits were set up in a patch of trees between the proposed on-ramp and the future highway proper. The occupation was initiated after some of the logging had already happened, which was one of the reasons the dunk'em model was used. Dunk'em refers to the fact that the two primary treesits were not anchored at any static point to trees. Rather, the support lines ran through pulleys clipped onto the tree above the platforms and all the way out to already-cut logs on the ground. The slash piles of cut trees that were the ultimate anchor points for the platforms made a kind of pick-up sticks game, so that any disturbance of already-downed-lumber in the right-of-way of the on-ramp would drop one or both of the treesitters.

Three weeks after the initial set-up, a wrap-around "donut" platform was added to the mix. This donut was anchored more conventionally, meaning (in this case) that it wasn't directly in the way of construction. It was intended to create more hang-out space for the treesitters, to add potential room for sleeping in the trees and allow a larger reserve of supplies should police remove ground support from the area (which didn't end up being an issue, since cherry pickers were brought in the same day that ground-support people were arrested).

The dunk'ems, with their four support lines, ultimately did do a lot to limit the points of approach for cherry pickers and other extraction methods. Should there have been even more ground obstacles, it would have been nearly impossible to get close enough for an eviction without huge amounts of careful clearing work. As it was, the police only found one small, precarious approach for their vehicles. In any case, given our shorter and straight Midwestern trees, there are just basic limits to how unevictable we can be. This should be accounted for in how we strategize for land defense.

Strategic Reflection

We want to emphasize that people can get together and organize things that are worth doing. When approaching a campaign, people should talk about strategy while choosing tactics. In hindsight, that didn't happen enough with the treesit. Actions should lead to and encourage more actions. Actions should be empowering and informative, leading to more effective things in the future. The fact that people are discouraged means that serious questions need to be raised about what decisions were made regarding actions during this time. People were stretched too thin; the campaign

was waged on too many fronts. Not enough emphasis was put on any one approach.

One point that our recent experiences have emphasized again and again is the importance of strategizing and acting in your home locality. All of the literature and consultas put together by the campaign didn't do nearly enough to empower and educate people from distant places to undertake their own projects—land defense or otherwise—in Indiana. So, it's important to have a strong, local (or, dare we say, bio-regional) base for your thoughts and activities.

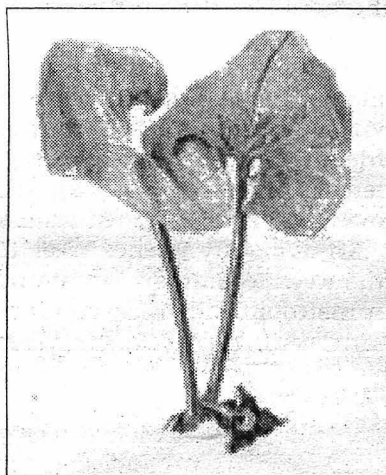
While the fact that the treesit was initially set-up on an affinity-group model illustrated the kind of movement we want—where many people feel empowered to act and contribute to a wider effort in their own way—it also undermined wider strategic discussions. One easy fix would have been to place a stronger emphasis on the treesit-rigging affinity group of absolutely guaranteeing the minimum logistics of the treesit. While a lot of planning went into the longer-term support for the occupation, others who had separate projects and had been involved in wider discussions of other tactics were invariably drawn into the day-to-day maintenance of the sit.

Beyond questions of logistics, nearly everyone involved seemed to have much bigger dreams than a simple treesit. The two or three platforms were intended as a starting point for autonomous zones and as a tool for generalizing the struggle in multiple ways: to create a space for interactions between local residents opposed to the highway and eco-anarchist forest defenders, as a foundation for creating a larger liberated space in the way of the on-ramp, and as a jumping-off point for the spread of direct-action camps up and down I-69's route as a model that others could copy.

In any case, none of these dreams fully came through. While some local folks came to hang-out, the subcultural elements of B-Rad Camp remained at the fore, not necessarily a terrible thing. In fact, the strong and sometimes exclusive culture that develops at treesits might be a natural consequence of the tactic and is sometimes quite positive. Think of the many long-time bonds formed within our movements by people who've lived together in the trees to defend them. At the same time, though, not too many people ever ended up living together in these southern Indiana trees, since the larger tree village failed to materialize. Part of the reason for this might

be a lack of sufficient numbers. Another might be that the climbing methods used were too exclusive, and that many ground-support people never felt empowered enough to leave the ground and start living in the trees. Resources for this were lacking, as well.

Finally, other camps were set up during the Summer, though none were directly in the route. A huge obstacle to the spread of the camps was the fact that sympathetic local landowners who might have lent land to us faced systematic threats by the FBI. Also, we obviously had unrealistic expectations of the wider movement. Unfortunately, there aren't that many affinity groups just hanging around the Midwest waiting to set up additional treesits and camps. On the other hand, if we can rebuild momentum in the future, there are now dozens more people who had a first taste of land defense in the Midwest in 2008, and who might be itching to take their own initiatives in the future.



artwork courtesy Dover Publishing

Wild ginger for wild folks

In the end, we feel encouraged by our experiences in Indiana this Summer. It's through these smaller efforts and gigantic dreams that we can collectively develop the skills and networks to eventually stop projects as big as I-69. Technical experiments in treesit design were undertaken, leading to at least small improvements in previous models. At the same time, many lessons in ground support and community organizing were learned the hard way, by running up against rough realities. With just as much confidence as we had a year ago, but, perhaps, with a little more knowledge, we can say that we'll be seeing some of you in the trees sometime soon.

For more information on the anti-I-69 campaign, contact roadblockef@yahoo.com; stopi69.wordpress.com.

Disclaimer: this article is a reflection from those involved with the treesit and not a statement from the overall anti-I-69 campaign.

WHERE MY SHACTIVISTS AT?

This Repression is Whack.

BY STILL POPPIN'

SHActivists have been very busy. The "Novartis Knockdown" Day of Action and Scary Science Week were both hits for Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC). House raids have been steady for some SHAC'ers. Still, despite the repression, solidarity actions from more clandestine groups are still poppin'.

On October 14, two activists had their information taken while doing a banner drop in Hampshire. They were just outside the exclusion zone of Ciba Vision, a subsidiary of Novartis. Later that week, on October 17, 25 cops arrived at the home where the two activists they took information from were staying. The two were arrested and charged with criminal damage and conspiracy to blackmail.

Cops are attempting to link these activists to prior acts of vandalism against the manager of a Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) client. They are claiming that the activists had used spraypaint to make the banner, and that spray paint had been used in other actions against HLS targets previously. Their clothes were also confiscated for forensic testing. This was the third time that the house had been raided in the past year.

Late in October, the managing director of Goldman Sachs was paid a special visit. Members of the Animal Rights Militia tricked his car out a little bit. Some new graphics were added with paint stripper and, instead of new rims, folks decided to just slash all of his tires.

An important scumbag at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) Euronext was included in the festivities. His two motorcycles received a paint touch up and tire slashing, and his walls and doors were splattered with a special blood-colored paint. Since so many friends came to visit, his garden was also rearranged—just a special hook-up action. Numerous Barclays banks across the UK were visited by the Animal Liberation Front and friends. Many had their ATMs glued and altered in different ways. Some select locations received a free, blood-red paint job.

SHAC'S Scary Science Week took place in the week leading up to Halloween. Actions sprouted up on three continents in more

than eight countries, leading to more than 50 protests. The Philadelphia Animal Defense League made its debut during the week, holding an action at Glaxo SmithKline. Other actions were taken against HLS in the UK, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Chile and Israel. Additional HLS supporters that received visits were Abbott Labs, Arrowmigh Biosciences, AstraZenica, Barclays,



Another day spent in a laboratory is too long.

Bristol Myers Squibb, Ciba Vision, HLS, Novartis, NYSE Euronext, Phenomonex, Propath, Sandoz, Sanofi Aventis, Syngenta and Teva.

One supplier that deserves special recognition is Novartis. They were special enough to receive their own event, "Novartis Knockdown." Nine groups paid visits to Novartis. There was even a double-banner drop—at 8:30 a.m. and at 5 p.m.—in Hampshire, outside of Ciba Vision, despite house raids earlier in the month directly related to banner drops in the same area.

SHAC has been the target of repression for many government campaigns, such as Operation Backfire, the SHAC 7 case in the US (see *EF!* November-December 2006) and Operation Achelies in the UK (see *EF!* July-August 2007). The disturbing commonality in all of this is the internationally growing trend of putting the heat on legal animal rights protestors.

The heightened repression in California has been one of the most appalling examples of them all. In late September, Bill 2296 was passed, aimed at distinguishing the efforts of above-ground animal rights activists in order to secure resources to stop them.

The bill calls for professors' "academic freedoms," defined as the protection of "the lawful performance, dissemination or publication of academic research or instruction." The bill creates new misdemeanors prohibiting any persyn from publishing information describing or depicting an academic researcher, their immediate family or the location of an academic researcher. The intention of this bill is to give more protection to professors who make a living off of exploiting animals through useless animal experimentation. The bill also creates a new misdemeanor trespass law, making it illegal for any persyn to enter the residential property of an academic researcher for the purpose of disparaging, preventing the exercise of, or interfering with the researcher's academic freedom.

In the fight against University of California vivisection, one womyn, Pamela Ferdin, was recently convicted of contempt of court for violating an injunction against University of Los Angeles researchers' homes.

Many say that this increased repression against above-ground actions does nothing but increase clandestine activism. In response to the third house raid in the UK, activists followed a Ciba Vision employee home, stripped the paint from her car and slashed its tires. In California, a vivsector had his home and vehicle windows smashed, and the paint scratched, mocking Assembly Bill 2296.

None of these lessons are new. Repression always hits above-ground organizers first. Besides, laws don't affect outlaws who work for liberation rather than money. SHAC'ers have sent numerous strong messages, stating, "No justice, just us! Smash HLS!" As repression against activists continues, so does vivisection. So, until murder in the name of research ends, activists will continue to fight dirty!

Submit or They'll Git You

BY VERONICA

Philosopher Thomas Hobbes posed two starkly different options for society: submit to an unaccountable sovereign, or we will descend into our "natural" state—which is civil war (more or less), where all we can expect is chaos and violent deaths.

This governance would ostensibly save us from ourselves. This "sovereign" would, among other rights, have the unquestioning obeisance of its subjects in order to maintain order and a civilized society.

Most might not be conscious of this treatise more than 300 years after it was written, but most western societies' conscience, anger and sense of self-value have shriveled under similar claims from the mass media.

Vote. Participate in the one familiar way you know. Cower under your living-room furniture while, night after night, broadcasts of street crimes, "domestic terrorism" and plagues of meth-mad perverts who stalk your children work their way into a near reverence for stronger government. More police. More riot gear. They will protect us from us.

But what happens when the Leviathan is the one inviting chaos and disorder—when the man, the machine or the monster brings violence to the peaceful and the righteous?

What happens when the powers protect the killers and punish the just?

The British government's attempts to smash the animal rights movement, the anarchists and the eco-warriors have been well catalogued.

On November 14, activists staged a legal demonstration against Ciba Vision, a subsidiary of Novartis, from an overpass near Ciba's compound near Southampton, Hampshire, England. Ciba is a client of Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), the contract laboratory that punishes and kills 500 animals daily in their institutions. The activists

were not arrested. They were only questioned by police for a possible court summons.

Shit turned ugly, however, days later when the cops kicked down the door at the activists' home. Twenty-five police showed up to arrest two activists for criminal damage and conspiracy to blackmail because—get this—spray paint had been used in the banner, and spray paint had been used in other actions against HLS.

An activist who was involved said, "It's as though police think we're the only ones in Hampshire with spray cans."

This was the third time this same household had been raided in the past year. A total of six computers, three printers and ten mobile phones have been taken from this household during these raids.

Stateside and internationally, these examples illustrate how governmental force is being used to try to upset the balance and rights of peaceful activists.

Last year, a private animal sanctuary in Kent, England, was raided during an animal rights gathering. Police were not admitted onto the property and stormed off to gather warrants.

The Freshfields Animal Rescue Center, in Ince Blundell, Merseyside, England, was among the addresses across England that were targeted in a raid of almost 30 United Kingdom addresses by a police force of 700. Freshfields has been taking in unwanted animals from across the region for more than 25 years.

This is not news. The familiar sentiment has been echoing through the hallways of history for decades.

For an illustration, let's look at a historical account. Webster Thayer is not a famous man. He was the judge presiding over the unpopular murder trial of two anarchists, Ferninando Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti. Of the trial, Mr. Thayer said: "This man, though he may not have actually committed the crime attributed to him, is nevertheless morally culpable, because he is the enemy of our existing institutions."

That's right. If you don't like their ways, you go to prison.

MESS WITH THE BULL AND YOU GET THE HORNE

BY OLIVE

Even before he went to prison, jailed while awaiting sentencing, animal rights activist Barry Horne was on hunger strike. In 1997, during the first year of his 18-year sentence, Horne—who passed away in 2001—committed himself to two intense hunger strikes. The first began in January 1997 and lasted 35 days.

The second began in August of the same year and lasted 46 days. Each time that Horne was willing to starve himself to demand the British Government's withdrawal of support for animal testing, there was an increase in animal-rights activism to support him and the whole movement. Horne had gone to prison for planting incendiary devices in stores that sold animal products, and was given the longest sentence to date for an animal liberationist.

Horne became interested in animal rights in 1987 at the age of 35, after watching videos of animal testing. Soon after, he became active in animal raids and release actions.

In 1988, he was a part of a campaign to rescue a dolphin named Rocky, who had been held captive for 20 years in a small concrete pool. Due to the amount of money that had

to be raised to free Rocky from his prison pool (a whopping \$240,000), it seems understandable that Horne's next rescue was an illegal raid.

On March 17, 1990, Horne's 37th birthday, he helped 82 beagles and 26 rabbits to a new life void of torture and laboratory testing. "He had a kind and gentle heart, but also a burning sense of rage towards bullies—be they racists or animal abusers," stated a friend of Barry's who was with him the night of the St. Patrick's Day raid.

Horne became more militant as the years went by, eventually working as a one-person operation. "Few activists were willing to plant incendiary devices, and Horne was known to be one of the hardcore who would," said Keith Mann, a fellow animal rights activist friend and author of *From Dusk till Dawn, An Insider's View of the Growth of the Animal Liberation Movement*.

With each hunger strike, Horne committed himself to specific demands, such as calling for an end to vivisection research in the UK. The second-longest strike ended when the British government agreed to formally talk with the animal rights activists in 1997. The longest strike began on October 6, 1998, and lasted for more than two months. After 68 days

without eating, Horne's body was severely affected by the combined toll of his strikes. Horne's actions brought the issue of animal testing to the forefront of British politics, as images of his fading health made headlines and activists around the world made threats to act more defiantly. The British government made some effort to communicate with Horne and his supporters throughout the hunger strikes and hospitalizations, making it appear that changes would be made. However, after numerous negotiations, the government officials involved never followed through with anything tangible.

Horne died of liver failure on November 5, 2001, 15 days into his final hunger strike. Over the course of his three major hunger strikes, Horne's body became intensely affected and unable to recover. Mann noted that at the end of Horne's 68-day strike, Horne was "never the same again."

"His actions generated worldwide publicity and initiated a huge upsurge in animal liberation activity, the effects of which are still being felt today," states a website attributed to Horne (www.barryhorne.org). Seven years after Horne's death, actions continue to be made in his honor. On November 5, a wild boar was released from a

hunter's society in Spain on the anniversary of the date that Horne, "gave his life" for animal rights.

The Frente Liberación Animal in Spain writes, "We continue his fight through direct action."

The Frente Liberación Animal de Mexico (FLAM) also released statements about actions done in honor of Horne.

Various autonomous animal liberation groups in Mexico committed a series of actions, such as releasing eight hens back to freedom. FLAM acted in their usual fashion, attacking fast food companies and painting slogans.

The communiqué from a November 6 action stated that Molotov cocktails were launched at "strategic points" of a Burger King franchise. The same communiqué read, "Fighters like Barry are remembered as they would like to be remembered, bringing war without mercy to the exploiters and capitalists."

Other groups around Mexico City and in other places around the world carried out actions this November 5 in Horne's honor. They sent a message that strong animal liberation solidarity will be coupled with the destruction of property belonging to those who are to be held responsible.



HUNGER STRIKE ENDS

Continued from page 1

\$13 to around \$4, with the provision of being reduced to around \$1.50 by decision of the jury.

3) All people who have served one-fifth of their prison sentence for two-year sentences and one-third for sentences longer than two years are to be released, with no exceptions.

4) The minimum limit of served sentence is reduced to three-fifths for conditional release and for convicts of drug related crimes. Those condemned under conditions of certain laws are exempted.

5) The maximum limit of pre-trial imprisonment is reduced from 18 to 12 months, with the exception of crimes punished by life or 20-year sentences.

6) The annual time of days-off prison is increased by one day.

7) Disciplinary penalties are to be integrated.

8) Integration after four years into national law of European council decision of drug trafficking.

9) Expansion of implementation of conditional release of convicts suffering from AIDS, kidney failure, persistent Tuberculosis and tetraplegics.

"The amendment submitted to the Parliament by the Ministry of Justice tackles but a few of our demands," said the Prisoner's Committee in a press release. "The minister ought to materialize his promises for the immediate release of the suggested number of prisoners announced, and, at the same time, implement concrete measures regarding the totality of the

demands. We, the prisoners, treat this amendment as the first step, a result of our struggle and of the solidarity shown by society. Yet, it fails to cover us, it fails to solve our problems. With our struggle, we have first-of-all fought for our dignity—and this dignity we can not offer as a present to no minister, to no screw. We shall tolerate no arbitrary facts, no vengeful relocation, no terrorizing disciplinary act. We are standing, and we shall remain standing.

"We demand from the parliament to move towards a complete abolition of the limit of four-fifths of served sentence, the abolition for accumulated time for disciplinary penalties, the expansion of beneficial arrangements regarding days-off, and conditional releases for all categories of prisoners," continued the Prisoner's Committee.

"Moreover, we demand the immediate legislation on the presently vague promises of the minister of justice regarding the improvement of prison conditions (abolition of juvenile prisons, foundation of therapeutic centers for drug dependants, implementation of social labor in exchange for prison sentences, upgrading of hospital care of prisoners, incorporation of European legislation favorable to the prisoners in Greek law, etc.). "Finally, we offer our thanks to the solidarity movement, to every

component, party, medium and militant who stood by us with all and any means of his or her choice, and we want to declare that our struggle against these human refuse dumps and for the victory of all of our demands continues."

As these prisoners have demonstrated, when people pull together, the authorities must listen. All we can do now is wait for proof that the ministry will keep it's end of the bargain. One has to wonder about all of the things that could be accomplished if enough of us made ourselves heard as loud and clear as these prisoners have done.

James likes to give props to folks who kick ass and get the job done. She also likes to think of herself as one of those people, but she would never say as much.

the strike was enacted to highlight a 45-point list of demands.

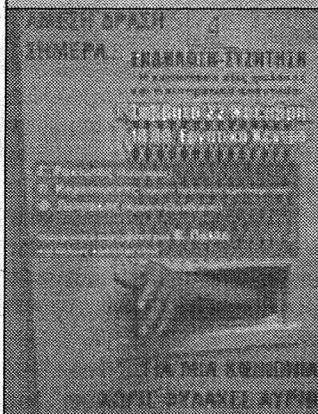


photo courtesy www.resistance2003.gr

Bare Bones



Supreme Court to Whales: Drop Dead

On November 12, the Supreme Court lifted restrictions on the Navy's use of sonar in training exercises off of the California coast. Studies by environmental groups had persuaded lower federal courts to impose the restrictions. Sonar has been linked to beached whales, internal bleeding around marine mammals' brains and ears, and other physical damage.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the majority opinion, which was joined by Justices Samuel Alito, Anthony Kenney, Antonin Scalia and

Clarence Thomas.

In the dissenting opinion, Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and David Souter said that the prospect of harm to marine animals was enough to justify the limits on sonar use. Ginsburg said that "this likely harm... cannot be lightly dismissed, even in the face of alleged risk to the effectiveness of the Navy's 14 training exercises."

Politics Overrules Biologists in Wolverine Decision

A recent federal decision refusing to protect wolverines was reached in September, despite scientific findings by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service experts. Documents obtained using the Freedom of Information Act revealed that Washington officials reversed a decision protecting the wolverine, a wide-ranging and rare member of the weasel family that is associated with wild, remote alpine areas. According to experts, wolverines are at direct risk from climate change because they depend on areas that maintain deep snow from February through May, when females dig their dens to birth and raise young.

Wolverines are also threatened by trapping, human disturbance and fragmentation of their habitat.

We Hold Its Value to be Self-Evident

Ecuador approved a new constitution on September 28 that, among other things, grants inalienable rights to nature and will grant legal standing to any person to defend those rights in court. It is the first such inclusion in any nation's constitution.

The document reads, "Nature, ...where life is reproduced and exists, has the right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles, structure, functions and its processes in evolution. Every person, people, community or nationality will be able to demand the recognition of rights for nature before the public bodies."

It remains unclear what this law will mean in practice.

Proposition Two Passes in California

Proposition Two, a landmark measure that bans three of the cruellest factory farm confinement systems—battery cages, veal crates and gestation crates—passed on November 4 in California by a vote of more than 60 percent. All three will be illegal in the state by 2015.

California is the first state to ban battery cages for laying hens, who, by 2015, will finally have enough room to spread a wing.

However, the debate continues about this historic vote. This new law will alleviate some of the suffering of millions of animals in factory farms, though some in the animal protection community feel that it may simply lead to Californians feeling better about eating animals.

ELF Press Office Releases Challenge to the New Obama Administration

The North American Earth Liberation Front Press Office (NAELFPO) has returned as the public face and voice of the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) movement. In one of their first acts, they released an ultimatum from the ELF to the incoming president.

"The United States government has refused to sign the Kyoto Protocol, refused to permanently protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, refused to stop the logging of national forests.... We have one message for the Obama administration: Act to protect the environment, or the ELF will," a NAELFPO press officer stated.

Raccoon Dogs Used for "Faux Fur"

An investigation shows that 80 percent of jackets labeled as "faux fur" contain the fur of the raccoon dog, according to a report released by the Humane Society of the United States and CNN.

Law prohibits the import or sale of dog and cat fur, though dog and cat fur come into the US through illegal channels. A legal loophole does not protect raccoon dogs, though they are members of the canine family.

The dogs are beaten and often skinned alive for their fur, according to investigations and video obtained by animal rights groups. Recently, 1,500 dogs who were bred for their fur died after eating feed tainted with the chemical, melamine.

US law does not require products that contain fur to be labeled if they are valued at less than \$150.

Whalers and Protesters at Risk in New Zealand

New Zealand will not be able to quickly rescue anyone who gets lost or hurt if or when clashes erupt between animal rights activists and Japanese whalers off of the north Antarctic coast, Foreign Minister Murray McCully reported. He stated that, "New Zealand will not be able to deal quickly with incidents where someone is required to be rescued."

The whaling fleet left Japan in November and is expected to focus its hunt for around 1,000 whales in the Ross Sea, where New Zealand is responsible for search-and-rescue missions.

In response, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society has vowed to disrupt the hunt.

In February, 2007, a Japanese whaling ship and a vessel owned by Sea Shepherd collided twice in Antarctic waters.

Arizona Representative Releases Report on the Bush Administration's Assaults on Public Lands

US Representative Raul Grijalva recently released "A Report on the Bush Administration Assaults on Our National Parks, Forests and Public Lands—A Partial List."

The report includes the following articles. (*This list is a summary and does not reflect the order in the original document or imply order of importance.*)

1) The Environmental Protection Agency is seeking to weaken regulations protecting air quality in some national parks. If adopted, additional power plants and factories could be built near national parks, leading to increased air pollution in "areas of special natural, recreational, scenic or historic value."

2) The administration has presided over the largest slaughter of bison since the 19th century. More than 1,000 bison were killed this year, formerly residing in Yellowstone National Park where their survival should have been protected.

3) The Bush Administration permitted a company to begin commercial uranium mining on public land, dangerously close to the Grand Canyon. Another proposed rule exempts "small" mines from any public environmental review.

4) The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) formalized a policy that makes cleanup at oil and gas drilling sites purely voluntary for corporations that drill on public lands. The Government Accountability Office noted in a report that, due to increased oil and gas development, various environmental effects—ranging from vegetation depletion to habitat destruction—were occurring at a rapid pace.

5) In June, the BLM, at the direction of the Bush Administration, officially put all undeveloped public lands atop the Roan Plateau in Colorado on the auction block—with more than 55,000 acres of oil and natural gas parcels—despite an overwhelming public outcry against the move.

6) In the early days of the administration, the Interior Department put forth a "no wilderness" policy, which prohibits the BLM from ever designating Wilderness Study Areas and stripping almost three million acres of land in Utah alone from consideration as wilderness. Bushies also discarded the 2001 Wilderness Handbook, which laid out procedures used in identifying wilderness-quality lands.

Additionally, according to Bloomberg News, with just weeks left in Bush's tenure, directives coming from the White House have been pushing through a series of last-minute regulations (so-called "midnight rules") catering to special interests. The flurry of new rules includes legislation allowing factory farms to decide whether or not they need permits to release waste into streams and rivers, and allowing federal agencies to decide for themselves whether projects like new highways or dams pose a threat to wildlife and the environment.

Meet the "Green Berets"

"Green Militias" are forming in several central African countries where rangers perish while defending local wildlife. The new "eco-police" force will be armed, trained and well-funded. In the 1980s, a team of eco-defenders attacked and reportedly killed more than 30 ivory poachers in their early operations, burning dozens of poachers' camps and recovering stockpiles of ivory. Soon after, elephants began to return to the region.

Karl Ammann, a Swiss conservationist-turned-journalist, has been effective in carrying out several wildlife-protection and enforcement initiatives.

"You're in countries where [poachers] are coming in, heavily armed. There's no jails.... They're massacring the country's wildlife," Ammann said. "In these circumstances, I agree absolutely with the use of force."

Green Mountain Earth First! Takes Action Against Nuclear Energy

BY SLUG

Demanding the closure of the Vermont Yankee (VT Yankee) nuclear power plant in Vernon, Vermont, Green Mountain Earth First! challenged the Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) at their State Street office in Montpelier on November 3. Dressed as Santa Claus and a gaggle of elves, the group entered the office insisting that the PSB revoke Entergy (the company who maintains the VT Yankee's certificate of the public good and instead sign a large cardboard "certificate of the public no-good." "We've talked with Santa Claus and, clearly, Entergy Nuclear has been up to no good," said one of the elves entering the office.

The group brought photographs of VT Yankee's 2007 cooling tower collapse and 2004 transformer fire, as well as a giant banner that read, "Do the public a service, close VT Yankee!"

While the PSB considers granting Entergy Nuclear a certificate of the public good to continue operating the 30-year-old Vernon reactor until 2032, many Vermonters question the reliability,



Sorry, Entergy. Santa's got you on his naughty list.

safety and costs associated with clean up.

"Due to accidents, leaks and decay, Entergy is regularly having to power down, decontaminate workers and scramble to keep a clean image in the media. They want to keep this kind of behavior going for another 25 years! We say no way!" exclaimed Bill Smith, an impassioned Vermonter at the demonstration.

In an effort to receive a 20-year license extension, Entergy is claiming that it will not have the money to pay for decommissioning the plant until 2026. According to Green Mountain Earth Firster Erik Gillard, "Entergy is leading us on. They haven't given

a penny to the decommissioning fund since they bought the place, yet they're promising \$60 million 20 years down the road. They're trying to bribe the state to renew the license."

In early November, Entergy said the decommissioning fund was valued at \$397 million. That's \$43 million short of where the fund stood before the stock market fell in October. "The bribe isn't guaranteed!" Gillard added.

The PSB refused to sign the group's "certificate of public no good" and was met with a blizzard of "styrofoam snow," which exuded an extreme stench. "Bad decisions around this issue have brought the PSB an early and

cold nuclear Winter," said one demonstrator. Concerned about possible toxicity the PSB called the fire department and temporarily evacuated two floors.

"If they are worried about potentially hazardous substances, they ought to close VT Yankee," continued Gillard. "That place dumps radioactive waste on Vermont land daily."

When asked about the event, the man posing as Santa Claus responded, "Entergy Nuclear's Vermont Yankee [plant] is dangerous, dirty and out of control. They've been lying and cheating Vermont for years. They are on the bad list and deserve a certificate of the public no-good. The PSB needs to know-ho-ho this."

The PSB reported that clean up after the action cost them \$800. No protesters were arrested, and Montpelier Police Chief Anthony Facos said that no further investigation is planned.

The action came on the heels of a major Earth First! gathering in southern Vermont from October 30 to November 3. The gathering drew supporters from across the Northeast and included activist workshops and plenty of beer.

We Are the Ones We're Waiting For

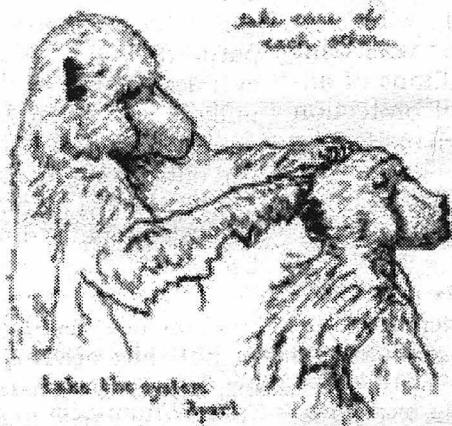
BY KEYOTE

I hope it's become obvious that civilization is ravaging the planet—and has been since its demonic spawning. Dead zones, caused by fertilizer runoff from industrial agriculture, are spreading across the world's oceans. There are currently more than 400 documented examples. One, at the decayed mouth of the Mississippi River as it leads into the Gulf of Mexico, is approximately the size of New Jersey.

Fertilizer doesn't stop fertilizing when it leaves a farm; it creates blooms of algae that suck oxygen from the water, making the area largely uninhabitable for other aquatic life. Coral reefs—biodiversity hotspots and "the rainforests of the ocean"—are dying and declining at alarming rates. We all know what's happening to forests worldwide. We're in the throes of the sixth mass extinction of plants and animals in Earth's history. Not since the time of the dinosaurs, 65 million years ago, have species disappeared this fast. Earth went through numerous ice ages, as well as periods of tremendous fluctuation of temperature and topography, without such a plethora of extinction. To say, as a recent article in the *Earth First! Journal* did, that capitalism is the root of our ecological crisis is a massive oversight.

While capitalism is awful, it is hardly the root cause. Ask yourself: To house this ever-expanding, overblown human population, wouldn't habitat and open spaces still be evaporating? If food were still being grown to feed billions of humans (and domesticated animals), with about 75 million more humans added every year, wouldn't dead zones still be spreading, regardless of how egalitarian and non-hierarchical and "organically" the farms were run? You have to have petroleum-based fertilizers to feed this many mouths. And fertilizers equal dead zones.

Agriculture was the original ecological and cultural sin. With it came the widespread domestication and commodification of animals, the origins of patriarchy, and fuel for the population crisis. As *Collapse* author Jared Diamond has said, agriculture is "a catastrophe from which we have never recovered." Let's face it, no matter which umbrella we huddle under, whether it's capitalism, socialism or even anarchism, so long as civilization stands, the deluge will continue. Earth and all of her inhabitants will ultimately lose.



Let me make it absolutely clear that it is not my intention to disparage the fantastic work being done by those trying to reform aspects of the system. Gays do deserve equal rights. Forests do need to be saved from the chainsaw's violence. Animals shouldn't be tortured and killed in laboratories (or anywhere else). But the enormity of the situation we face requires steadfast honesty with others and ourselves. So, to be honest, now is really not the time to be fighting for table scraps on the deck of the Titanic. The fact is that life on Earth doesn't have time for us to educate and convince the masses. Civilization needs to come down as soon as possible.

It sounds impossible—monolithic. The enormity of the task may threaten to crush us into submitting to the allure of reform, but we must resist. No compromise, right? Luckily, there are rays of life-giving sunlight shining through the dark clouds that envelop us all. The first is that the collapse is already happening on its own, and has been for a long time through climate chaos, topsoil depletion, peak oil, and so on *ad infinitum*. To use a Derrick Jensen phrase, civilization is indeed collapsing under the weight of its own ecological excesses. Earth is doing her damndest to shrug the concrete and its ilk off her skin, to say nothing of the global financial meltdown!

The second piece of good news is that civilization's armor is by no means impenetrable. It is like a steel rhinoceros standing on flamingo legs. Monolithic, but extremely vulnerable. Disrupt or destroy the cheap and smooth flow of just a few key resources—like ammonia and other necessities for industrial agriculture, electricity for computers and therefore the functioning of the global economy, oil for everything—and it crumbles apart ever more rapidly.

The full-on collapse is imminent. The critical questions are how many species and how much biodiversity will be left when this happens? How painful and prolonged will the recovery process be? How poisoned will the water, the air, the soil be? The longer civilization stands, the more unpleasant the answers will be. Many environmentalists and anarchists seem unwilling to consider an anti-civilization praxis. Whether this stems from ecological naiveté or some kind of cultural Stockholm syndrome (whereby we identify more with our industrial captors than with our land base and our communities) is irrelevant. Let's start to think and, more importantly, *act* in ways that truly address the full gravity of the situation. The future of all life is at stake.

keyote is working on a book about industrial collapse. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/anti_civ.

FRONTLINES

Greenpeace Prevents Palm Oil Shipment From Leaving Indonesia

On November 10, Greenpeace tagged the hull of three palm oil tankers and a barge full of rainforest timber while another activist chained himself to the anchor of a tanker, preventing it from moving. Indonesia is the world's third-highest greenhouse gas emitter, due in large part to the heavy amount of deforestation associated with the palm oil industry.

Welcome Back, Liberated Mink and Salmon!

Early on October 16, approximately 3,000 mink were released from La Visonnière Labonté de Thetford Mines, the largest fur farm in Québec.

Farm director Pierre Labonté told a local newspaper, "Not only did they open the cages and release mink, but they also destroyed their pedigree cards, which is the trademark of anti-fur militants." With the loss of genetic information, Labonté said, the escaped mink are no longer useful for breeding. He added that economic losses were estimated at \$200,000.

During the night of November 21, more than 100,000 salmon were given freedom from two fish farms in northern Sweden. These farms are a part of the huge Swedish fish farming industry that kills more than five billion fish every year.

The nets that were holding the fish captive were sliced, while a boat motor was also destroyed and some tires were slashed. The farm is not insured and, after economic losses of millions of dollars, the farmer doesn't think he will be able to open up the business again.

The second farm visited the same night also had as many nets as possible destroyed before dawn. Direct action saves lives!

"Both by saving individual animals and also by economic sabotage, we make it harder and less profitable to continue torturing and killing animals," read part of the communiqué from one of the actions.

Chase Bank Attacked Again in Bloomington

On the morning of October 28, the main Chase bank branch in Bloomington, Indiana, had its rear ATM smashed. This was the second attack on a Chase bank in Bloomington in October.

These attacks were directed at Chase for its involvement with Gohmann Asphalt Company (GAC). GAC is responsible for the construction of the first 1.7 miles of the I-69 NAFTA super highway that is slated to run through Indiana. The fight against I-69 can't stop and won't stop until the plans for this useless road are destroyed.

Chicken Company Truck Set Ablaze

In the safety of the early morning darkness on October 17, a truck belonging to Pilgrim's Pride in Mexico City, was torched with gasoline. Pilgrim's Pride is a US company that profits from the suffering and exploitation of non-human animals.

"Maybe this company thought it was immune from radical attacks in Mexico, but they were wrong!" said the attackers, "The fire grows; it is not going to be put out! Counter violence destroying the speciesists!"

Citizens Have Their Way With Corporate Media

In line with a complete nonacceptance of the electoral process and the increasingly wide scale media consolidation, activists took things into their own hands during the pre-dawn hours of November 5. In numerous cities across the US, rebels wrapped USA

Today's post-election day edition in special, subversive front covers. The fresher front page proclaimed "Capitalism Wins at the Polls" and "Anarchy Brewing in the Streets." With this action, citizens forcefully, yet creatively, planted their ideas into the front-page news.

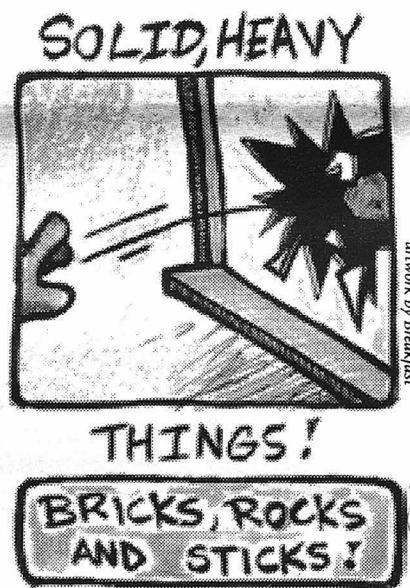
Operation Bite Back II Still Kickin'!

As trees grew closer to releasing their leaves on a cool autumn night in Astoria, Oregon, the cages of 1,500 mink also became empty. The third mink farm raid in Oregon this year went down amongst the darkness of the night on October 16. This makes it the seventh mink liberation in North America this Autumn. What began in the early 1990s as Operation Bite Back is now whirl-winding into a brand new blitz on the fur industry.

Swedish Peace Activists Repeatedly Trash Weapons Factories

On October 16, the culmination of more than a year's worth of planning spewed out destruction to Swedish weapons factories. The nuclear-free demilitarization group, OFOG/Avrusta (OFOG loosely translating to mischief), used bolt cutters to bypass the (un)secure fence that separated them from their targets.

Leaving a banner outside the factory that read, "The door is open. You are free to start disarming," the activists began attacking



machines with hammers. A Howitzer 77 (a gun capable of firing six rounds every second for 20 minutes with a firing range of 18 miles) had its cooling parts and hydraulic cylinders attacked.

That same night, approximately 83 miles away, another band of renegades was having a party at a weapons factory in Eskilstuna, Sweden. Hammers collided with 20 grenade launchers until guards slowly discovered the racket. With an appetite for destruction, the same two activists jumped right back into the game, returning to the weapons factory once again. They were re-arrested and now remain in jail.

Also on October 16, a fifth comrade sliced her way through a fence surrounding a weapons factory in Karlskoga Sweden. Upon gaining entry, she hung a banner advocating further disarmament actions.

Saboteurs Are Hittin' the Rails!

In Canada, on October 30, anti-infrastructure folks had fun playing with fire with the aim of causing a shitload of damage. Two telephone poles were knocked down across the tracks outside of Toronto. A pile of trees were also set ablaze and an electrical box met with a Molotov cocktail. These actions were taken in retaliation to the 2010 Olympics in British Columbia and its "Spirit Train."

"We want to actually dismantle the whole system!" said the attackers.

Evading a group of at least eight security guards, 20 people slid into a fenced-in area that was home to machines used in the construction of a high speed train in northern Spain on November 4. Two people locked down to a door where machines are stored, while everyone else erupted into a rage and fits of screams, declaring their opposition to the construction of the TAV high-speed train being built through mountainous areas of northern Italy and Spain.

During the weekend of November 8, 160 trains lost service in France. Saboteurs skillfully hung iron bars from the high-voltage lines that power the high-speed trains. The bars were designed to catch the train as it passes, and then be pulled along the power lines, smashing everything in their path. The government has accused rural anarchists of the sabotage.

The anti-nuclear fight is also heating up! Trains shipping nuclear waste from France to Germany met resistance from the get go. On November 9, three folks on the French side jammed their arms into a secret block of concrete hidden under rocks along the track. Some scummy police officers stated that the three activists halted the train for 12 hours.

The next obstacle for the same train was a flame-engulfed barricade set ablaze by German activists. Throughout the entire route of the train, 15,000 activists demonstrated and 200 continued to block the rails late into the day.

Dear UC System, Stop the Vivisection or Watch Yer Back!

In response to a lack of interest to no longer be demented speciesists and to cease torturing primates and other animals, the University of California (UC) system continues to feel the heat. Here is a breakdown of the actions that have happened recently:

In mid-October, 12 University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) commuter vans were sabotaged when shotgun shells were placed in their mufflers.

A communiqué was left that stated, "The security cameras, the easily timed late night patrols and the new laws don't mean a thing to us. We will keep coming up with new ways to keep the primate torturers wondering. Leave the primates alone, and we leave you alone."

On October 31 a trick was delivered to a notorious primate abuser at UC-San Francisco, Stephen Lisberger, as tubes of superglue were used to fill his front door locks.

UC-Berkeley bird murderer Frederic Theunissen had red paint thrown on his door, walls and windows on November 5. His front door locks were also super-glued.

Around the same time, a couple of UCLA football players had shotgun shells inserted into their mufflers. The shells' explosions startle the cars' occupants, but they are ultimately harmless.

In the last week of November, Students and Workers for the Liberation of UCLA Primates claim to have burned an automobile belonging to primate vivisectionist Goran Lacan.

In response to California bill 2296, which aimed to increase the protection of UC vivisectionists, activists in Berkeley smashed three windows at cat-killer Ralph Freeman's Vine Street home. Theunissen's car was scratched up with a hammer. These actions were claimed by Feminists for Animal Liberation.

Lastly, around the same time, three cars were paint-stripped in the driveway of UCLA vivisectionist Baldwin Way.

An Interview with Grant Barnes

BY JEFF "FREE" LUERS

Two eco-defenders talk shop in an interview through prison bars. In 2001, Jeff "Free" Luers was handed a 23-year sentence, the longest term ever given in the US for environmentally motivated damage. (It has since been reduced.) In an interview with fellow saboteur, Grant Barnes, Luers asks questions that reflect on their experiences and invite us to get to know Barnes, a passionate defender of the wild.

Jeff "Free" Luers: You are currently serving a long prison sentence for arsons claimed on behalf of the Earth Liberation Front (ELF). What compelled you to take such actions?

Grant Barnes: I had been aware of the ELF for some time, and as I became more aware of the severity of the most likely consequences of climate change, I decided it was time for me to do my part and take responsibility. I think property destruction is a useful component in a united front of tactics toward first, Earth liberation and, ultimately, towards the cultivation of a biocentric culture. It raises the economic and psychological costs of Earth destruction, and when there is media coverage (as there usually is), it shows people on all sides of the struggle that the destroyers are vulnerable. I believe that property destruction is one of the things that the other species of the planet would do in their defense against extinction if they had the knowledge and ability to do so.

Those who destroy the property of uncaring, irresponsible people act on behalf of these other species, which are our cousins.

Luers: How did you first get into activism?

Barnes: I helped with an infoshop in Denver (now closed) and Food Not Bombs, and I worked for the Rape Assistance and Awareness Program.

Luers: You are serving your sentence in maximum security. What has that been like?

Barnes: One challenge has been racism. I'm white, and most of the people I talk to are not, and this has led to some confrontations with racists. My friends back me up, though. So, when problems arise, we respond, and that keeps me safe enough. They deserve the better part of the credit for that. Otherwise, the hardest thing is the isolation; I'm a social person, and community is very important to me. So, everyday, it takes a conscious effort to adapt to spending most of my time alone. (Most of the time, I'm not allowed to leave the cell.) However, I stay productive by studying for my degree and working out, and I've made strong progress in both areas. I occasionally have the opportunity to return correspondence, and that is one of my favorite things to do.

Luers: When you first decided to get involved in eco-defense, did you think you would end up in prison? If so, how did you prepare yourself for that possibility?

Barnes: I knew I could go down, and I strove not to. At various times in my life, I had read prison memoirs like *Soul On Ice* by Black Panther Eldridge Cleaver and *Soledad Brother* by George Jackson, as well as some more recent accounts of prison life, including a web file entitled, "How To Survive In Prison." It contains some good information—for instance, on the importance of respect—but I think I would have picked up on that sort of thing whether or not I had read anything on it. Probably,

the best way somebody could prepare would be to stay in good physical shape.

Luers: How has your support been? How can people get involved?

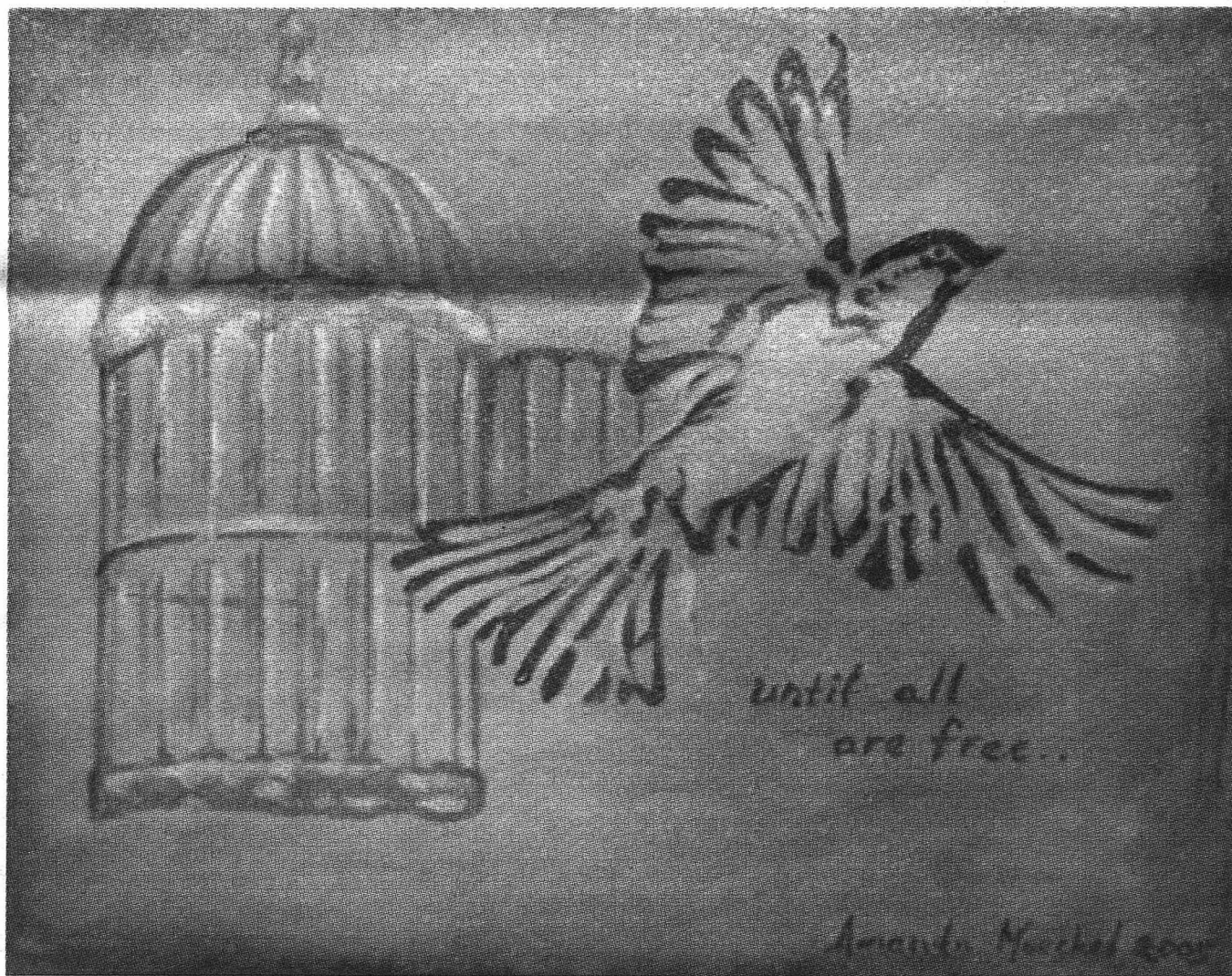
Barnes: The Lucy Parsons Project sent two books last year, which are outstanding to have, as good reading material is hard to get here. The *Earth First! Journal* kindly gave me a free prisoner subscription, and I also got an issue apiece from *Green Anarchy* and *Bite Back*, all of which I considered notable on the outside and appreciate having in here. I am especially thankful that the *Earth First! Journal* and *Green Anarchy* have listed my address. I've gotten several letters and postcards wishing me well, and recently, I've begun corresponding with several people. It would be outstanding to hear from others. The best thing people can do is send information on intentional communities, mutual-aid networks and similar formations that I might contribute to when I am released. One of the most frustrating things about being inside is having few outlets to give to others, but I want to lay a solid foundation for such community that I can build on when my time

Luers: Are you working on projects while locked up?

Barnes: I'm finishing my degree in cultural anthropology; I was a student when I was arrested. Reading about a range of cultures has been provocative. It has shown me, to some extent, how much is being lost with the extinction of so many sustainable, primitive ways of life—knowledge we need now more than ever. I also keep up with reports on climate change, and I am reading some books I had not made time for on the outside, like Derrick Jensen's *Endgame*.

Luers: And now, here's your chance for a shameless wish list. Would you like people to send any specific books or books on particular subjects? Are there any canteen items, like a radio or anything else, we can help you buy to make your time easier?

Barnes: I don't listen to the radio, watch television or buy snacks, and money is qualitatively less valuable to me than heartfelt correspondence, but I would certainly appreciate funds for mailing supplies, and for beans and oats, as the vegan food here is very limited. One luxury I do



artwork by Amanda Noebel

here is done. Creating community takes a great deal of work, and I know it's necessary to spend time to understand, among other things, a potential member's level of commitment and the extent of the common ground shared with existing members.

I want to start that dialogue, because the kind of life I want to live on the outside is one spent as much as possible in spaces of liberation from patriarchy, exploitation, anthropocentrism, racism and all other symptoms of the present alienating civilization. To that end, I am most interested in more primitive groups.

Also, I find that, in general, pictures are more natural expressions than words, and it means a lot to me to see photographs, along with peoples' writings. Regardless, it is always special to receive a letter or postcard from anyone who feels concern for the Earth and joy for life.

love is music, and receiving some of that would be a treat.

One of the subjects I most want to better understand is the difference between primitive and complex cultures. I would be very grateful for any well-researched reading material at the undergraduate level on this topic. Much of what is listed in *Green Anarchy* is of interest, for instance.

Luers has been in prison since 2001 for the arson of three SUVs. He is expected to be released in December 2009.

Barnes is serving a 12-year prison sentence that began in 2007 for the arson of seven SUVs. From his prison cell, he watches the birds that have made their nest within the razor wire, a reflection of what is happening to our world.

Write to Barnes at #137563, San Carlos Correctional Facility, POB 3, Pueblo, CO 81002. Visit his new website at grantbarnes.wordpress.com.

An Invitation to Join Chuk'shon EF! at the 2009 Organizers Conference

BY CHUK'SHON EF!

The Earth First! Organizers' Conference (OC) and Winter Rendezvous will be held in the beautiful mountains of southern Arizona. Traditionally, this conference is a time for members of radical environmental campaigns to come together to discuss ideas and strategies, ideally creating a stronger, more unified front. We expect this year's gathering to help connect and strengthen existing campaigns within the movement, as well as look at how current social and political trends impact the environment in increasingly devastating ways. We hope the conference will inform and inspire new comrades to join the struggle in defense of the Earth—along with eatin' good food and doing a bunch of hootin' and hollerin'!

Rewilding Chuk'shon EF!

There are endless reasons why "the people at the bottom of Black Mountain" (a loose translation of "Chuk'shon") have been fighting tooth and claw for the chimerical land of the Sonoran Desert! For anyone familiar with the hotspot theory, welcome to part of the Madrean Pine-Oak Woodlands hotspot. Our Madrean sky islands, are home to numerous endemic amphibians, reptiles, birds, bats and rodents, as well as threatened flora. Nowhere else will you see so much of the magical, towering saguaro cactus other than in good ol' Sonora. Don't be surprised if y'all get sung to sleep by howling coyotes, either.

In the past, Chuk'shon EF! has worked on numerous campaigns, ranging from disrupting mountain lion and sandhill crane murders to shutting down copper mining projects. We are using the time preparing for the OC to rebuild Chuk'shon EF! as a group to reckon with.

Content/Schedule

We are encouraging folks to show up on Wednesday, February 11, to help get things started on time. Thursday and Friday, February 12 and 13, will be the OC section of this year's gathering. Workshops and discussions on current campaigns will be conducted, and ideas for future projects will be discussed throughout these two days. All EF!ers are welcome to join in on some good ol' fashioned critical analysis of our radical environmental movement.

Here is a glimpse at some of the already-proposed discussion points for the Winter Rendezvous: strategy sessions on attacking infrastructure, discussions on integrating climbing into our actions, radical approaches to climate change, thoughts on combating fear from the Green Scare, actualizing support for Earth and animal liberation prisoners, and overviews on anti-oppression work within EF!.

The Winter Rendezvous will take place on Saturday and Sunday, February 14 and 15,

with the Night to Howl kicking up the desert dust on Saturday night. This will be a time for folks to show off their skits, musical numbers, poetry and other creative acts.

The weekend will bring us multiple workshops on a variety of different subjects and will provide opportunities to learn about the magnificent Sonoran desert from resident ragamuffins.

Some of the current proposed workshops are: challenging oppression within the EF! movement, raising awareness on border and immigration issues, confronting copper mining, sharing techniques on how to sabotage hunts, conducting bioregional roundups, doing direct action trainings, learning acupressure techniques and discussing consent and accountability.

Anyone interested in heading up a workshop or who has certain workshops they would like to see should contact us at chukshonoc2009@yahoo.com. There is still time to make this gathering what you want it to be.

Among things you should consider bringing are clothing for very warm and very cold temperatures, food and water for the communal kitchen and yourself, friends, sleeping bags, an appetite for action, tarps if you got them and musical instruments.

The desert gets relatively hot during the day, and temperatures can drop to freezing at night. It's also very dry here. So, staying hydrated is extremely important. In addition, the conference is intended to be a safe space for everyone, so please do not bring drugs—and leave your dogs at home.

A Few Strategic Discussion Topics

Many within the EF! movement desire more action *now*, but how are we going to reach that point? Conversations on how to get there must happen. At this Summer's Round River Rendezvous (RRR), we heard an assortment of action stories from new and old groups during the bioregional roundup. Let's try to keep this happening!

Confronting the Green Scare

Another lasting concern of the movement is the chilling effect of the Green Scare. From asking ourselves how to support all of those who are now imprisoned to how to stop the snitching, we need to talk and strategize. The government is slowly stealing our friends away from us. More and more people are becoming targets of the escalating government repression. Let's all sit down and try to formulate new approaches to this.

The Mexican/US Border's Influence on Earth First!

The border is definitely an issue for both the Chuk'shon and international EF! communities. Throughout EF!'s existence, its opinion on the border has varied, but over

the years, an overall stance of opposition to the border has developed.

Due to the intensified militarization of the border, it has become increasingly harder to enforce environmental standards. This leads directly to more drastic attacks on the wild ecosystems around the border. EF! groups have increased the amount of coordination between organizing north and south of the border. From a strong presence at the 2007 No Borders Camp, to solidarity actions that attack infrastructure projects that would affect Central and South America, to being active in the popular uprisings in the Mexican state of Oaxaca, EF! has been working hard to smash the border.

Conflict Mediation and a Safe Place for All

At the RRR this Summer, the mediation team discussed how having a special chill space for folks would be beneficial for everyone's mental health. So, we are planning on having a special area devoted to that at the OC.

The space will include an assortment of tools and resources to help EF!ers relax and regain focus. There will be books available on stretching, yoga, acupressure and different types of massage. Zines on mediation, support, communication and mental health will also be at your fingertips. Oh yeah, tea anyone? If that's your fancy, you can find it there! We will also have mediation team members available to talk throughout the gathering. We recognize that people may be coping with an assortment of things (grief, loss, addictions), and we want you to know we are there for you.

Anti-Oppression Check-in

Everyone coming should know that any form of mental or physical abuse will not be tolerated at this gathering. We also do not welcome any form of oppression and encourage others to call folks on their shit when they mess up. If anyone is currently going through a process for these types of things, we encourage you to check in with our mediation team and let us know. We expect everyone to practice consent with each other and to be conscious of how much space they are taking up. While we have a mediation team available to help with things, we ask everyone to talk about concerns that arise with one another and reach creative positive solutions.

As the OC draws near, there will be a link to a separate OC website that will be posted at www.earthfirstjournal.org. If you haven't been to an OC before and would like to see what they're like, check out past Beltane issues of the *Earth First! Journal* for reportbacks. The OC website will include a ride board to help folks figure out travel plans. We hope to see a bunch of old friends and a gang of new ones! The 520 is one of the *hottest* deserts in North America for a reason! So, come on down and see why!

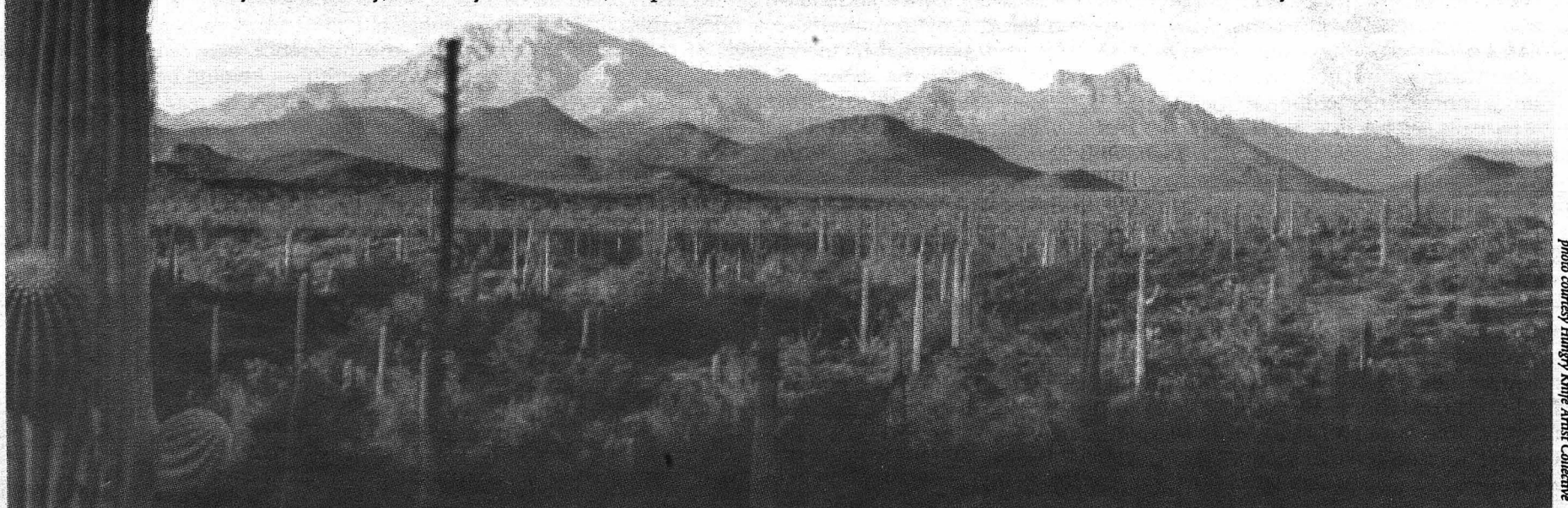


photo courtesy Hungry Knife Artist Collective

A Reflection on the Move Towards a More Primitive Lifestyle

BY PRUSIT

Within Earth First! and the broader radical environmental and activist movements, our analysis of society forms the basis of our "alternative" lifestyles—from anti-capitalist living and vegan diets, to eco-feminist approaches and various do-it-yourself scenes. Some philosophies are more extreme than others, such as green anarchy and ideas based on hunter/gatherer lifestyles. On one hand, the discussions focused on these analyses have created a culture that includes a crucial examination of our evolution—or regression—and its impacts over the last 10,000 years. On the flip side, the active practice of these ideals often falls through the cracks.

After engaging in many discussions involving agriculture and the domestication of land and animals, the history of civilizations, and the arguments that support primitivism and eminent collapse, it is fairly easy to come to terms with a land-based lifestyle as being inherently a part of us. It is, however, a bit more difficult to assert that our instincts and ability to adapt to our environment could allow us to survive in the wild without some sort of rewilding process. In this society, while it is perfectly acceptable to be dependent on a lifestyle based on money and material objects, it's heavily frowned upon to unplug and spend our time working in a different way—to acquire skills and knowledge that prove almost useless in the industrial world.

Turning to the many resources that exist beyond anti-civilization discussions is as vital as holding open discussions in the first place. Surprisingly, the US has some of the most impressive nods to rewilding and living off of the land.

Within our communities and convergences, we have begun sharing and nurturing skills based around outdoor living. These often intertwine the abundance of herbal and food knowledge as a form of alternative healthcare that can also be applied in the wilderness. A few collectives have made the leap to purchase land in efforts to make the process of rewilding more accessible. They are learning first-hand how to tackle obstacles that arise. Others have turned to the indigenous communities of the world. By spending time among native communities, we can help in the struggles they face and are able to tap into their traditions as a portal into the sea of knowledge of land-based living. All of these explorations are exciting chapters in our rewilding life; they literally hold the key to our survival.

I've had the pleasure of knowing an individual who has dedicated the last five years of his life to understanding the practical side of a primitive lifestyle, a person who has come a long way from the theoretical crutch that can prevent people from physically learning to live in the wilderness.



Digging burdock roots

Originally from Sweden, Brum began his journey into activism as many do—through mass demonstrations. At first, Brum found much affinity in marching with small armies of folks who were aware of the world's injustices and wanted to fight against their root causes.

Eventually, the mass demos left Brum demanding better results and desiring further action towards a fairer and less-destructive world. By his early 20s, Brum became restless with his yearning to be a catalyst for change. He began hitchhiking through Europe, and into England and Scotland.

His adventures lead him to London, a city where monumental uprisings have taken place at the hands of the poor, the working class, the militant suffragettes and the anarchists. Brum found refuge among the squatters who, for the most part, were active in the struggle against the government and corporate giants responsible for so much of the Earth's devastation and suffering.

When the grimness of London's metropolis began to dig its sharp claws into him, Brum hit the road again, looking for more alternatives to the mainstream lifestyle. Outside of Edinburgh, Scotland, he found a treesit community in the woods. The Bilston Glen Anti-Bypass Protest Site is a complete village in the trees where folks from all over Britain—and some from further away—live communally to protect this area from destruction.

For several years Brum spent much of his time at the tree village, helping with chores that kept the site functioning, building shelters and occasionally walking the 12 miles to Edinburgh to educate others about the woods where he lived. While living on the site, Brum found green-anarchist resources which helped to strengthen the commitments he was making with the feral world.

Brum is an individual many can identify with. He desires to live the life so often glamorized in articles and discussions among green anarchists. He has attended and organized green-anarchist gatherings, but to his disappointment, he sometimes found himself camping on land where fires were not permitted or (more often than not) sitting in discussion workshops with fellow enthusiasts who seem fixated on ecological collapse, but weren't as interested in learning survival skills.

These sorts of frustrations lead Brum back to his native lands to understand what type of community existed there. Once again, many folks were interested in discussions, but seemed frightened to take any real initiative toward a more primitive lifestyle.

As a close friend of Brum's, I had spent almost a year living in the woods and traveling through Europe with him, visiting alternative communities and living off the land. However, my desire to live a completely primitive life was not as strong as his. For me, the rewilding process feels like an intricate journey that I will engage in my whole life, to learn new skills every year and constantly make steps towards a more sustainable lifestyle. For Brum, there was no long and winding road. There was only a bleak canvas that needed to transform into a patchwork of knowledge immediately—or he would not only die in the wilderness, but possibly kill himself before Mother Nature could.

The next chapter in Brum's path to re-wilding brought him to the US, a country he regarded as a place of great ecological direct actions—such as numerous treesits, the presence of the Earth Liberation Front and a strong green-anarchist culture (as a theory and a magazine). Brum traveled to the states to attend a year-long program at Teaching Drum.

Surprisingly, Teaching Drum, an outdoor primitive skills school in Wisconsin, is nearly one of the only places in the western world where individuals can continue on the path of rewilding without being arrested for living in woods they don't own. Between 2005 and 2008, Brum spent two years at Teaching Drum, living in the woods, learning survival skills as well as native traditions.

We may think that our desire to live fully in nature helps to re-adjust our body clock, but there are certainly many obstacles in converting to an outdoor lifestyle. Brum spent his first year at Teaching Drum living

the "Wilderness Guide Program." His second program, which he helped to design, is a "Wild Moon Immersion" nomadic camp, currently in effect.

Brum has learned how to build a variety of shelters, tan hides to make clothes and shoes, fish, trap and adjust to drinking "wild" water. All of these skills may seem easy enough to acquire alone, but it is, in fact, the process of rewilding that makes living among others so crucial. It's a big jump from considering



Snow shower



Canoeing at Teaching Drum

photos courtesy Brum

yourself a primitivist and being able to live off of the land. Experiencing this transition without a community could certainly be detrimental the desired outcome.

Brum's idea of a primitive lifestyle has been affected by his first years of living what he has referred to as "the native way." His plans are not to necessarily live in full isolation from civilization; he feels that it may not be possible to do this in today's world. For one thing, there is no longer an abundance of food in the wild—certainly not enough for the masses to "convert back" to a nomadic hunter/gatherer lifestyle. What is more important for Brum is to continue to work towards a clan-based community that can potentially live off of the land year-round. Living in a group is very important to Brum, as is having the skills to "heal the wounds of civilization." He feels that our children and elders are vital in creating a land-based community. He recently experienced a very positive gathering in Idaho where folks from various ages, political backgrounds, skill levels and religious views came together under a banner unified by primitive outdoor living.

With the possibility of the collapse of civilization all around us, from ecosystems to economies, a reliance on primitive-based knowledge will be at the core of our communities' survival. While Brum feels that it is very difficult to live without a dependency on civilization all together, his new perspective seeks to find a balance between alternative urban living and a primitive clan-based community. He continues to educate people about land-based living and is considering forming a school similar to Teaching Drum.

Prusit misses living in the tree-tops. Brum remains her good friend and inspiration in the quest to find balance in a world flipped upside-down.

Sequoia Greenfield, 1944-2008

BY KAREN PICKETT

A wild woman warrior, witch, pagan juju conjurer, biker owl, office queen, Mardi Gras frog priestess.... Sequoia, we will miss you! You are one of the few who named yourself after a mighty rough-barked tree and lived up to the moniker, big red mane and all. You have gone to the other side. We will miss you!

Sequoia left this physical plane on October 20, two months after being diagnosed with myelomic leukemia.

Hailing from Greenfield Ranch in northern California, Sequoia had been away from Earth First! activism for a while, but she left her mark. She burst onto the EF! scene in the mid-1980s, coming to a gathering in the Big Basin redwoods, and then to her first national Round River Rendezvous (RRR) on the north rim of the Grand Canyon in 1987. During the rally, we were fellow Spiketees, doing a choreography routine to the *Song of the Lonesome Tree-Spiker*, sung by a couple of "men with guitars," as we called them. Few people knew who she was at that point, and this is how she introduced herself to Earth First!: At the end of the song, she turned around and flipped up her leather skirt, mooning the audience with her bare butt.

She loved grand entrances, roaring up on her motorcycle to the doorstep of the Pacific Lumber office—or into a crowd of several thousand people at a Headwaters Forest rally—in full spotted owl get-up, wings on the handlebars and huge clawed feet on the pegs. Grand exits worked for her, too. One of the most hilarious Sequoia stories involved an incident following a successful civil disobedience action atop Mount Graham following the 1992 RRR at the telescope sites being imposed on the mountain. Somehow, after we'd occupied the site all day, Sequoia managed to hitch a ride down the mountain



(bad knee, you know)—but not in a vehicle. (We were beyond vehicle access.) Rather, she rode down on the shoulders of the deputy sheriff! She cackled and reveled in riding the deputy the entire two miles down the mountain. To this day, I don't know what possessed that deputy to say yes (Kali magic, I think).

Mischief and magic were her calling cards, whether sneaking around in the dark to yank down the drawers of Dana Lyons from behind as he sang a slow and sensitive song at the RRR campfire, or suddenly appearing as the goddess Kali in full juju regalia as we prepared to march into the uranium mine site at the Grand Canyon to shut it down. She also gave a Katúahan (now Mountain Justice activist) who will go unnamed a body shot he will never forget, rolling on the ground laughing as steam came out his ears.



Sequoia was an amazing seamstress and tailor. She fashioned costumes, floats and wicked finery for Mardi Gras and Samhain. Her favorites guises for cloaking herself were spotted owls, mountain lions, leopards and trees. She confronted then-Secretary of the Interior, Don Hodel, as a redwood tree in Yosemite during a call to take down Hetch Hetchy dam.

Her black fringed leather jacket with the full size mountain lion face sewn on the back was part of her alter at her memorial. However, she didn't just dress up. She became those wild species. They were her totems. She was a wild animal and a wild human.

Those close to her knew she had an especially intense childhood and adolescence that made her very tough and gave her an ability to defend herself as passionately as she defended the wild.



photos courtesy Karen Pickett

Around 1987, we all went to hearings in the redneck city of Redding, California, when we were fighting against trophy hunting of mountain lions in the state. Even we were surprised when Sequoia leaned into the microphone at the lectern and said to the assembled Fish and Game officials and scores of hunters in the audience, "I have a gun. I know how to use it. I've used it successfully to defend myself, and I'm a very good shot. I live in Mendocino County, and if I ever see any of you hunting mountain lions where I live, you'll be in my sights." There was a thundering ovation from our side, and a collection of gasps from the opposition and mainstream groups.

She embraced biocentrism as passionately as she embraced her motorcycle, and brought lessons learned from her earlier life experiences—her witchiness, her tough biker persona, and her organizational skills that made her an excellent office maven in Cove/Mallard and an amazing base camp mama during treesits on Georgia-Pacific land. She was also a key person in the women's movement in Los Angeles, and one of the first members of the Susan B. Anthony Coven # 1, founded by Z Budapest in 1971.

It was too soon for this wild woman with the big red hair and outrageous, open-mouthed cackle to pass over to the other side. She showed remarkable wisdom, love of life, calm and even humor when she explained to me that she felt settled and felt that a lot of her life goals had been achieved. She was an accomplished potter, had a pilot's license, had jumped out airplanes numerous times, traveled the world, biked thousands of miles, could fix almost anything on two or four wheels, and was caring for the land she loved on Greenfield Ranch as it cared for her.

She noted in an interview published years ago that a phrase she always lived by was "tits to the wind." So to you, Sequoia, may your tits always be to the wind. Viva Sequoia!

Long-time EF!er kp was a fellow woman warrior, collaborator and close friend of Sequoia's.

introducing...

SHORTS

- One of the Angola 3 will be released on bail after 37 years spent at Angola Penitentiary. On September 25, District Judge James Brady overturned Albert Woodfox's conviction for the 1972 murder of a prison guard. Woodfox has been in solitary confinement since the murder. The Angola 3 were organizing nonviolently for an end to gang-enforced sex slavery and better conditions inside the prison. Angola has had a reputation as the "bloodiest prison in the United States."

- On October 29, mayhem erupted in Freetown Christiania, in Copenhagen, Denmark, as members of the community were evicted. Riot police clashed with dozens of demonstrators protesting the eviction.

- On November 15, animal activists pelted actress Lindsay Lohan with a flour bomb as Lohan arrived at a Paris nightclub wearing a fur stole.

- On November 30, the human rights commission approved an international resolution against the death penalty in a vote of 105-48, with 31 abstentions.

- Goldman Sachs, owner of the obnoxiously bourgeois eatery in New York City called "Pret a Manger," also sells shares of

Huntington Life Sciences. So, now, the colorful windows of Pret have had a "funky new design" added by etching fluid, courtesy of the "Pret Sketch Crew."

- There are reports that there are no acorns falling from oaks from Virginia to Pennsylvania, and from the Midwest to Nova Scotia. Squirrels are skinny, "eating garbage and inhaling bird feed."

- The World Wildlife Fund has declared Cuba to be the world's most sustainable nation. Criteria included an ecological footprint of less than five acres per person and a high ranking on United Nation's Human Development Index.

- Rainwater harvesting saves water, but it is evidently illegal in Utah, Colorado and Washington unless you go through the difficult—and sometimes impossible—process of gaining a state water right.

- A German court has approved the release from jail of a leader of the radical leftist group, the Red Army Faction. Christian Klat, 56, is serving five life terms, but will have served the minimum 26 years by January. The group targeted bankers, businessmen, judges and the US military throughout the 1970s and 1980s.

- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), under pressure from the cattle-ranching industry, has taken more than 33,000 wild mustangs off of public lands and put them in pens. The BLM is planning to "euthanize" the healthy animals. The horses would likely be sent to slaughterhouses, where they will be turned into steak for export.

UPDATES

Aaron Ellringer Cooperates in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, ELF Case

Aaron Ellringer was indicted in the Rhinelander, Wisconsin, Earth Liberation Front (ELF) attack on a Forest Service genetic engineering project because of the testimony of snitch Ian Wallace (see *EF!* September-October 2008). Now, Ellringer, himself has turned snitch and taken a cooperating plea agreement. The agreement, viewable at midwestgreenscare.wordpress.com, reduces his charge to a misdemeanor and requires that he testify to his "involvement in criminal conduct, as well as to the involvement of all other individuals known to him."

Ellringer will be sentenced in December after Bryan Rivera and Katherine Christianson, the two activists that the government wants to put away in this case, go to trial. It is clear that Ellringer's level of cooperation in this trial will be a deciding factor in his sentencing. Ellringer is expected to receive a six-month sentence for his role as the driver in the action.

Aotearoa Activists Face Charges

Eighteen indigenous and anarchist activists in Aotearoa/New Zealand were arrested on October 15, 2007 (see *EF!* January-February 2008). They were charged with hundreds of counts under the Terrorism Suppression Act, Aotearoa's counterpart to the USA PATRIOT Act.

On October 30 of this year, the Crown issued an indictment against the 18 people. Five are now charged with "participation in a criminal gang." These charges are a desperate attempt by the government to save face after there was found to be insufficient evidence to bring charges under the Terrorism Suppression Act. The Crown seeks to characterize political activists who support Tino Rangatiratanga (sovereignty for indigenous Maori people) as criminals. All 18 face charges under the Arms Act for the possession of restricted weapons. Although charges relating to three of the accused had been dismissed outright due to lack of evidence following a month-long deposition hearing, the Crown has also chosen to re-instate these charges.

For more information visit, www.october15thsolidarity.info.

A Silver Lining in Economic Crisis

The Miami, Florida-based housing-rights direct-action group, Take Back the Land, is still in full swing thanks to the current financial crisis (see *EF!* January-February 2007).

The recent 40,342 foreclosed properties in Miami comes as good news to this bunch. Thanks to Take Back the Land, some of Miami's homeless will soon be squatting it up in a brand new home. That's right, as quick as you can say "debt," squatters in Miami are liberating foreclosed homes and reclaiming public space.

The group has been in solidarity with community members for years. This year alone, Take Back the Land risked significant legal trouble to reclaim empty homes and fill them with community members who were previously homeless.

"We could virtually empty the streets and shelters simply by filling the vacant houses," said director Max Rameau. "Homes should go to people, not kept empty so banks can cash in."

Consisting of only 10 members, Take Back the Land first gained national media attention two years ago after erecting a

shantytown called Umoja Village in the impoverished Liberty City area of Miami. The village consisted of 21 shanties on public land that were constructed of wooden pallets and tarps.

After a continuous buildup of house foreclosures, on October 22, Take Back the Land helped its first family move into their brand new home. The group has since been involved in opening dozens more homes across Miami.

The Miami City Council recently passed a law giving police and zoning authorities more power to interfere with Take Back the Land, yet the law hasn't gone into effect yet. "We're putting a priority on it because [vacant houses] are places for criminal activity, for drug dealing and drug use," said Loret de Mola, the city code enforcement director. "It's a quality-of-life problem."

Black Mesa Threatened by Peabody Coal, Again

The permitting process for massive coal-mining expansion plans on Black Mesa, in northeastern Arizona, has been re-opened. Peabody Coal, the world's largest coal company, is once again pushing through plans to massively expand dirty coal strip-mining operations that target the Diné and Hopi people's sacred ancestral homelands on Black Mesa (see *EF!* March-April 2007).

The Black Mesa Project, funded by Peabody Coal, outlines harmful impacts to every level of the ecological and cultural systems on

removed under the guise of the so-called "Navajo-Hopi Land Dispute."

A record of decision—which would enable the expanded mine permit to take effect—will almost certainly be issued before the December holidays, according to Rick Holbrook, of the Office of Surface Mining's Denver office.

Oaxacan Activists Framed for Brad Will's Murder

Mexican federal police arrested five Oaxacan activists on October 16. At least two were charged with having a role in the murder of Earth First!er Brad Will on October 27, 2006 (see *EF!* January-February 2007).

Brad was assassinated while working as an Indymedia journalist, filming the uprising in Oaxaca. Multiple witnesses say Brad was shot by paramilitaries who are seen in photographs shooting toward him.

Contrasting what the medical examiner who performed Brad's autopsy said, the Mexican government claims that the autopsy found powder burns on Brad's body, consistent with a close-range shooting. The medical examiner conducting the autopsy said that this was not the case. He actually specifically reported not finding powder burns on Brad's body. Additionally, Brad was filming when he was shot. His video clearly shows that the shots were not from close range.

The activist that the government is accusing of murdering Brad is Juan Manuel Martínez Moreno. Martínez Moreno is a supporter of the Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca (APPO, in its Spanish initials).

Martínez Moreno was kidnapped, along with two other APPO members, while performing election observations in Santa Lucía del Camino in 2007. The kidnappers beat the three in the face and abdomen before dumping them in a community 23 miles from Oaxaca City.

Octavio Perez, another participant in the 2006 uprisings, was also taken into custody and accused of covering up the crime.

APPO activists and members of the Indigenous Popular Council of Oaxaca say the government is blaming activists for Brad's murder in order to cover up its own involvement in the crime. Three of the four men caught on film shooting in Brad's direction work in different levels of the Mexican government.

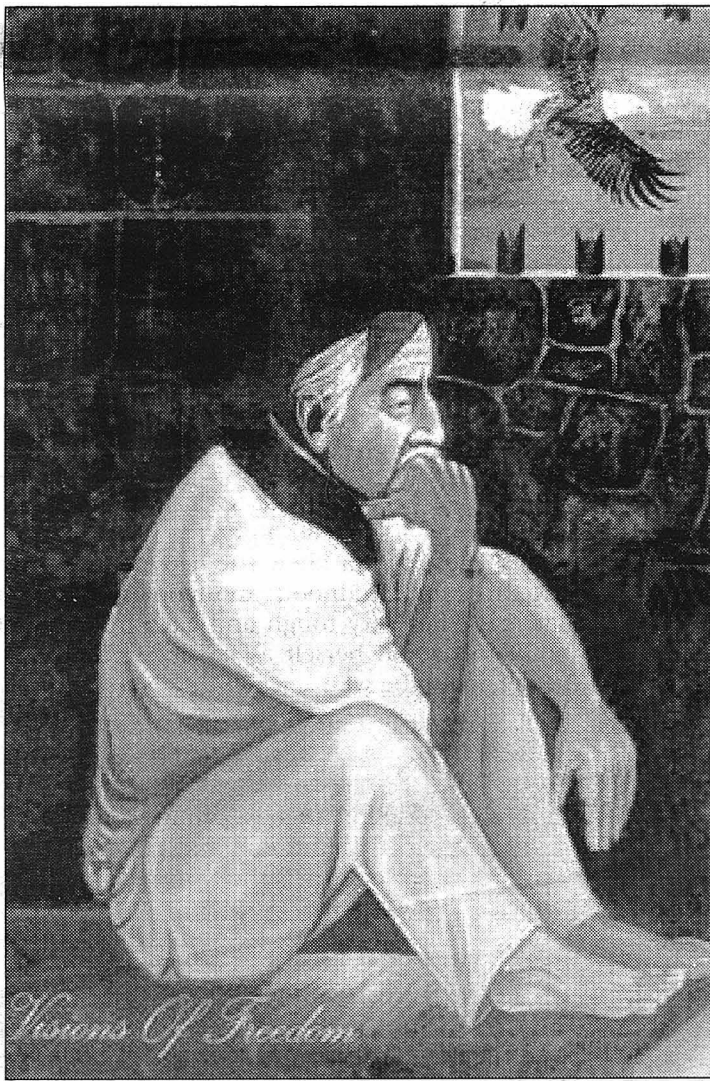
Grand Jury Subpoenas Withdrawn

Grand jury subpoenas of six Texas-based activists in connection with actions at this Summer's Republican National Convention (RNC) in Minneapolis, Minnesota, have all been withdrawn.

This means that the "People's Fishing Expedition" is being postponed until the next time that the state tries to get up in our business (see *EF!* November-December 2008).

While the official reason behind the retractions is not known at this point, some have speculated that—from the perspective of the state—the strong resistance on the part of the Texans who were subpoenaed, as well as the immediate show of solidarity from folks all over, made the whole affair too much trouble for too few returns.

For information on the continuing federal case against Bradley Crowder and David McKay (the "Texas Two"), as well as information on other RNC-related cases, visit rnc08arrestees.wordpress.com.



Black Mesa. Thousands of acres of pristine canyon lands, animal and plant ecology, and cultural sites would be destroyed, thus preventing religious practices. The increased daily detonation of coal would affect the air quality and health of miners, local residents and their livestock.

These plans could deplete the already-scarce water tables and the regional aquifer that is essential to residential survival, as well as uproot and relocate more families from their homelands. More than 14,000 Diné and 100 Hopi have already been forcibly

"Any Compromise in Defense of Civilization?"

Wind, Solar and the Great Climate Sellout

Hey, EF!,
where's
the deep
ecology in
cozying up
with
liberals?

BY ROOT FORCE

Over the past couple of years, it's been great to see climate change finally enter the general consciousness, as well as the resulting spike in direct action against fossil fuels and nuclear energy. Whether climate change is just the sexy issue of the moment or we've finally found an issue that strikes a deep enough nerve, it seems that radicals and the mainstream have finally come to agree that climate action is needed—now.

However, much of the otherwise great work happening these days suffers from one major flaw: the articles, communiqués, banners and messages from these climate-related actions either throw their support behind "clean energy" (usually meaning wind and solar power) or remain silent on the subject.

This is the kind of thing we might expect from mainstream environmental nonprofits—but from radicals? Have we gone from "No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth" to "Any Compromise in Defense of Civilization"?

Nothing Clean About It

One fundamental problem with wind, solar and the rest is that they aren't "clean" by any sane definition. All require massive amounts of industrial materials for their construction, including plastics, copper and steel. However, metal comes out of mines, just like coal. Ripping open the Earth for copper-heavy solar panels or steel wind turbines isn't any more eco-friendly than ripping it open for coal. Mines are devastating to local ecologies and communities, poisoning the water as thoroughly as they strip the land. More often than not, these mines are forced on poor and indigenous communities at the barrel of a gun.

Some people have suggested that we could get around this problem by taking old cars and remaking them into wind turbines without mining any new iron, but this wouldn't be any cleaner. The steel would still have to be extracted through intensive industrial processes—including transporting the cars, melting them down, reforming them and transporting the turbines to the site of the wind "farm." This brings up another point: Once the metals, plastics, semiconductors and other pieces of solar panels or wind turbines are made, it still takes a heavily intensive (and yes, fossil-fuel intensive) process to make them into these supposedly clean energy generators.

It's called embedded pollution, and it's the same problem that gives the lie to "clean" cars and nuke plants. No matter how low their emissions might be during use, the emissions during manufacture, transport and eventual disposal are still through the roof. So, next time you hear someone talking about how clean windmills and solar panels are, challenge them to visit their local steel smelting plant or an open pit copper mine (in the Southwest, Latin America or elsewhere) before they say that again.

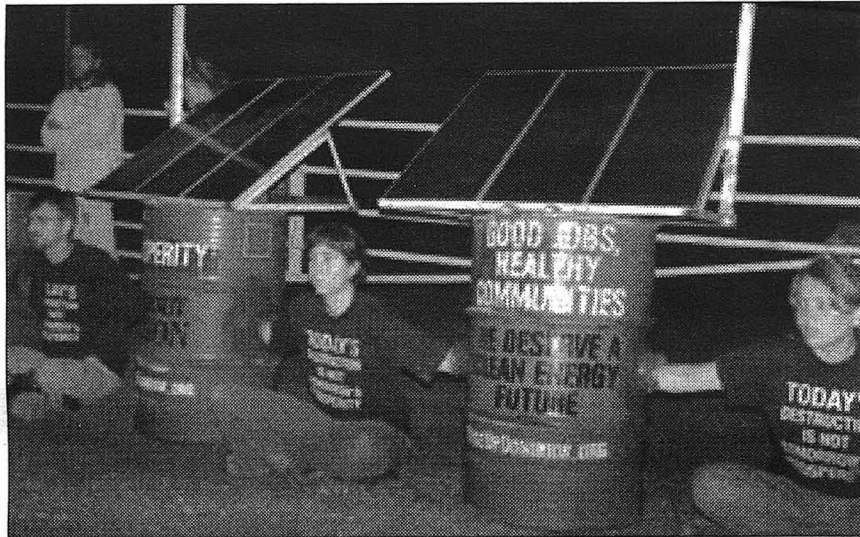
Propping Up the System

As if all of that weren't bad enough, both wind and solar "farms" require huge amounts of land—mostly indigenous lands and wild areas. In short, this is land that those in power have written off as useless.

We're not just talking about land for the "farms" themselves. We also need to include the massive swaths needed for the construction of new electrical transmission grids across the country. A recent *New York Times* article notes that the US electric grid is not

capable of handling a large influx of wind and solar energy: "The dirty secret of clean energy is that, while generating it is getting easier, moving it to market is not." That's because the current grid is constructed primarily for local power generation, while wind and solar energy need to be generated in very specific areas. So, while half of the country's electricity could be generated from wind in North and South Dakota, half of the population would have to move there in order to use it.

That's why government and industry are gearing up to build an "interstate transmission superhighway system," a "high-voltage backbone spanning the country." This means



What's wrong with this otherwise awesome picture? (Hint: Look on top of the barrels.)

extracting more "resources" to make more electric lines and destroying more communities to put these lines in.

Even if none of this were true, wind and solar power would still be unjustifiable for one important reason: *the last thing we should be doing is adding more power to the US electric grid.*

Set aside for a moment the fact that there are no plans to actually take coal and nuke plants offline when wind and solar plants get built. Assume for the sake of argument that the people who run the economy miraculously agree that we're going to keep the power grid at its current size and just shift it over to wind and solar sources. Who benefits from this setup?

Let's put it another way: Will it be a better world when the government drags us off to solar-powered jails and launches its nuclear bombs with wind turbines? If we finally build enough wind farms, will all of the dead zones in the oceans magically spring back to life? Will all of the species that have been driven extinct return? Will the 100 species-per-day extinction rate slow down?

Of course not. Electricity serves the system of industrial production that is killing the planet—the system that the rich and powerful have always committed theft, murder and genocide to maintain.

Hijacking Our Message

So what's the harm, you might ask? Wind and solar are still *better*, right? So, can't we just talk about them now, to get people on board in the fight against coal, then address the other problems later?

That's certainly what the energy industry is hoping we'll do. They've read the changing winds of opinion better than we have, and are already rolling out aggressive measures to preserve the system while still appealing to the green liberal conscience.

Within days of Barack Obama's election, Al Gore's Alliance for Climate Protection called on him to prioritize the construction of an

"electric [transmission] interstate" for wind, solar and geothermal power. Obama and the Democrats are calling for massive investments in new infrastructure to "rebuild" the economy and "create jobs." The efforts to save the system in the age of declining oil are well underway.

When radicals call for new electric infrastructure, all we do is legitimize the greenwashing efforts of industries that will ultimately stab us in the back. Does anyone really think that Shell and BP have become better companies now, just because they make solar panels? We're letting a genie out of its bottle—whipping up public support for new technology is far easier than turning sentiment against it later.

Throwing our support behind the capitalists and their wind and sun "farms" is selling out the next generation; it ensures that, just as we spend our days fighting the fossil fuel industry, our kids will spend theirs fighting the wind and solar industries. This is just another version of the mentality that we've all complained about: "I'll be dead when [insert ecological calamity] happens, so I don't care." Sure, replacing coal with wind will still kill the planet—but at least *I* won't have to adapt to a radically new world in *my* lifetime.

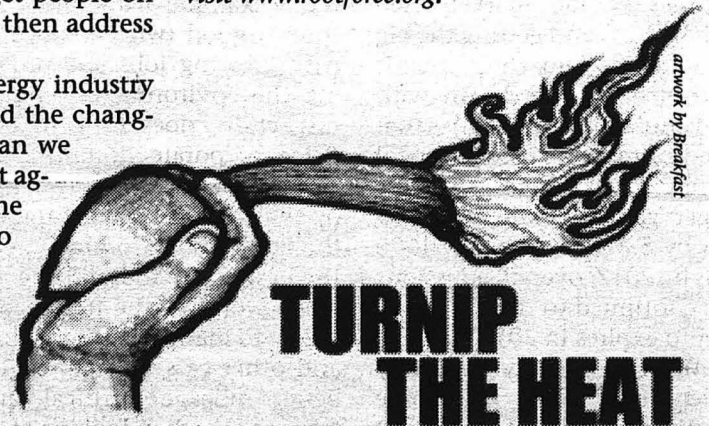
It's easy to say that wind and solar power will save the world—it's politically fashionable, after all, and it's a nice safe answer for when you inevitably get asked "what else?"—but it's still a lie. It's much more difficult to talk about how we have to stop consuming so much, to scale back, to live locally and to build sustainable communities—but at least it's truthful.

When we offer up wind and solar power as positive alternatives, we are discouraging people from taking the radical action that we so desperately need. We are asking them to put their energy into the continued killing of the planet. We're encouraging them to waste their time trying to make a fundamentally genocidal, Earth-killing system somehow just and sustainable.

When the oceans are one big dead zone, when the last forest falls, when all the water is poisoned and undrinkable, when the last wild and free creature dies, when the last spot of Earth is covered with concrete—well, then we'll all be dead. Wind and solar power will do nothing to change our breakneck trajectory toward that fate.

So, by all means, fight fossil fuels and nukes—there's no question that those industries need to be shut down. However, please stop saying that "clean" energy can replace them—that we can have the modern way of life and a living planet, too. The truth is, we simply can't—and the sooner we admit that, the better.

Root Force works to take down the system by facilitating action against the expansion of global trade infrastructure. For more information, visit www.rootforce.org.



Toward Mass Action in Copenhagen and the Belly of the Beast Building an Anti-Capitalist Movement for Climate Justice

BY ABIGAIL

Climate change is on everyone's mind. Whether you work for the Sierra Club or ExxonMobil, rallying behind the call to "fight climate change" is becoming the norm. With each dire report that comes out and every unseasonably severe storm that devastates some corner of the Earth, the reality that humans are destroying the life-support systems of this planet is becoming clear to more people.

Yet, even with so many warning signs that modern society is hurtling toward the abyss of climate catastrophe, mainstream climate activism remains dominated by watered-down notions of what is "politically feasible." The demands of professional environmentalists are not driven by what we need to ensure that the Earth can survive, but by what sort of "request" can gain political traction; what tiny step can we get them to agree to? "No real change can happen without industry," they say. "How can we get the corporations on board? How can we convince them that they can make just as much money off of us with wind and solar as they can with fossil fuels?"

The mechanisms for addressing climate change being pursued by governments and industry (such as carbon trading, or "greening" industries like coal and nuclear) are failing and/or are exacerbating the problem. Many "solutions" like agro-fuels are creating new social and environmental atrocities.

Governments, corporations, nonprofits and all forms of green initiatives are toting the feel-good line of "sustainable growth," a dangerous oxymoron that justifies the status quo while giving lip service to the looming apocalypse of ecosystem collapse and agricultural meltdown.

Nowhere is this more clear than in international climate talks. The United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP) negotiations around the Kyoto Protocol have been completely bought out by corporate interests and watered down to the point of uselessness. These talks no longer focus on the science behind climate change, what is at stake or what scale of response is appropriate. Rather, the focal point has become "market-based mechanisms" and getting the big corporations (and their friends in government) on board with the eventual plan. Countries that signed onto the Kyoto Protocol are not even meeting Kyoto's meager goal of reducing emissions by 5.2 percent below 1990 levels by 2012; overall, emissions have continued to rise.

Kyoto expires in 2012, and negotiations are already underway to determine what will come next. We can undoubtedly expect

more of the same market-based crap from the next agreement, which is slated to kick off at the next major climate talks scheduled for Copenhagen, Denmark, on November 30, 2009.

Does this date ring a bell? The Copenhagen meetings, ironically, are set to commence exactly 10 years to the day after the historic mobilization that shut down the World Trade Organization's meeting in Seattle in 1999. Those of us who were there feel a tinge of nostalgia, along with a bittersweet reflection

proposed solution to climate change are: who is proposing this "solution?" Who will benefit? Who will bear the impacts and consequences?

A top-down, corporate model for "change" will never address systemic issues like over-consumption (most corporations require massive levels of consumption to exist) or the exploitation of workers and "natural resources." It will never challenge the cornerstones of consumer capitalism that are destroying the climate—industrial-scale agriculture, centralized systems of energy production and distribution, sprawling development, etc. Unfortunately, the big greens are lining up behind such top-down climate initiatives, and they are drawing in thousands of concerned citizens and

efforts, however, are not directed by DC-based, large non-governmental organizations. In an effort to show incremental victories and produce "deliverables," mainstream climate activism focuses on winning small concessions from large corporations, or on number-crunching to make individual institutions, families and businesses, appear "carbon-neutral," rather than looking at the root causes of climate change: industrialism, a culture based on consumption and a society religiously devoted to capitalism. Systemic change is not on the agenda.

Still, the recent upswing in people who are interested in taking action on climate change is proof that people do care and are increasingly more aware of the issues. People are getting hyped-up about buying carbon offsets and energy-efficient light bulbs, because these are the only solutions being offered to them. No one is telling them how to realistically make a dent in the massive amount of greenhouse gases we spew into the atmosphere everyday. We all have to get serious about localizing our lives, getting to know our communities and looking to the land around us to meet our needs for food, shelter, energy and medicine.

In this context, a clear, well-communicated anti-capitalist analysis is more relevant than ever. Both the climate crisis and the current economic turmoil are good illustrations that an economic model based on continuous growth is destroying our (and millions of other species') ability to survive on Earth. Some of the US's most mainstream newspapers and magazines are outright questioning unfettered capitalism. Where are we in this dialogue? The time is ripe for a radical intervention.

Vibrant social movements have sprung up throughout the global South. They are fighting not only the causes of global warming (fossil fuel extraction and development), but also its "false solutions:" carbon trading, agro-fuels, industrial tree plantations (some of which threaten to contaminate the world's remaining rainforests with genes from genetically engineered trees), massive hydroelectric projects, nukes and other carbon offset projects. We in the global North have a lot to learn from groups like Via Campesina and the World Rainforest Movement, who are resisting the corporate takeover of communal lands with land occupations and mass actions against timber plantations. These and many other grassroots groups struggling for ecological justice, community control of resources, food security and indigenous sovereignty are joining forces under the banner of Climate Justice.

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From one continent to another, taking a movement in a more radical direction

on the rise and fall of the global justice movement.

Perhaps the overwhelming nature of the problems we face has as much to do with the near-dormancy of radical movements as political repression does.

However, momentum has been growing over the past few years, and this time, the focus is more on global climate change. Unfortunately, many of the folks who are active these days were not around for the teach-ins on globalization and neoliberalism's roots in colonization, repression and slavery. They missed out on the mass mobilizations, direct action trainings, street scuffles, and cross-pollination of movements and communities that inspired so many offshoots of this broader movement for justice and sanity. The movement to stop climate change lacks teeth, a sense of history and alignment with revolutionary movements that have come before.

The current "green jobs" craze is one example of a solution that sounds good (who could argue with creating jobs and protecting the environment?), but on inspection, does little to challenge corporate dominance or a centralized economy driven by the whims of global trade. Is the Ford Motor Company really the best entity to build the new green world of the future, with a shift to manufacturing hybrids and other cars that get slightly better mileage? Critical questions to ask when looking at any

up-and-coming youth climate activists who are looking for outlets for action.

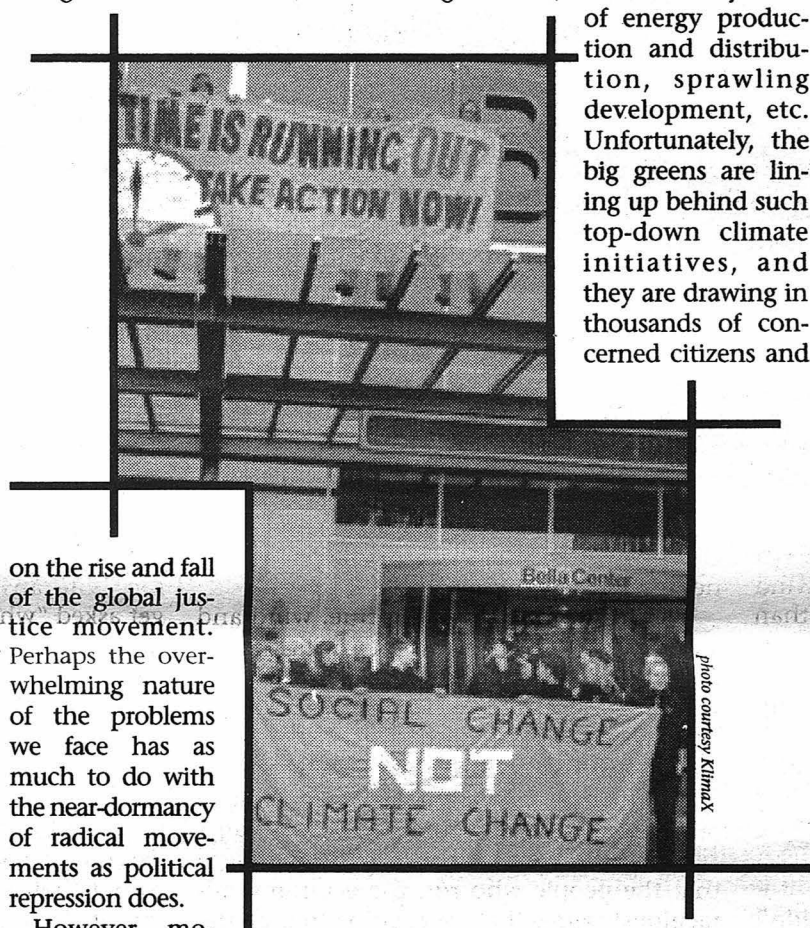
The Power Shift phenomenon is a good illustration—thousands of young people flocked to Washington, DC, last year for the biggest summit on climate change ever to happen in the US.

Keynote speakers included Nancy Pelosi and other politicians, and the conference culminated in a "lobby day" in which conference participants could "take action" by advocating for change within the proper channels. (Fortunately, there was an alternative—a few hundred people also shut down a branch of Citi.)

This year, Power Shift expects as many as 15,000 youth and students to attend, and they are considering inviting such inspiring figures as Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie to speak there.

Still, more disturbing than calling in celebrities to spearhead climate activism is the strategy of getting big institutions to lead the way.

Change that will actually benefit communities and ecosystems must be driven by the grassroots. Such locally-based



Blow Up a Koala on His Celly

Aussie scientists are using cell phones to spy on koalas. Researchers tagged the chatty marsupials on St. Bees Island off of northeastern Australia with satellite tracking devices to monitor their movements, and they also put mobile phones in the trees which are programmed to turn on every 30 minutes and record for two minutes. Not wanting to get left behind in the "green revolution," the phones are charged by solar power and car batteries.

Researchers record the koala's bellows and try to translate them. They hope this can be used to help conserve the koala who is threatened by habitat destruction.

We expect findings to report that koalas are saying things like, "...nothing, what are you doing?" and texting, "I dropped a stick on that python again. LOL."

Dick Cheney and Laura Bush in Epic "Clash for the Tritons"

With the Bush administration's clock at two minutes to midnight, the battle over protecting areas of the Pacific Ocean from fishing and mineral exploration is raging.

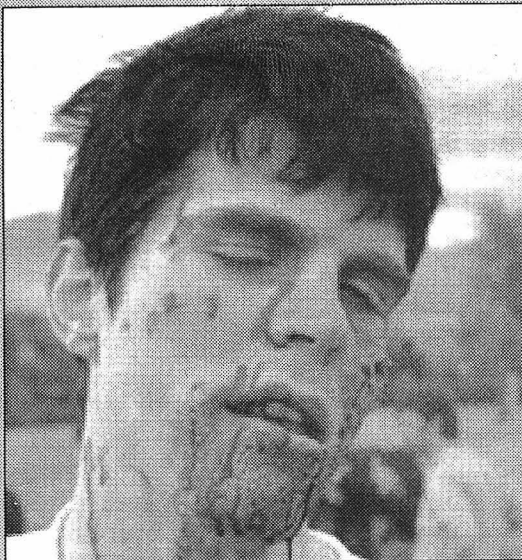
On this side, weighing in at 126 pounds is First Lady Laura Bush, who, in a flash of self-assertiveness, has asked her aides to confer with scientists on how to maintain diverse eco-systems.

In the other corner is Vice President Dick Cheney, weight undisclosed for national security reasons, arguing that banning fishing and mineral exploration will hurt the region's economy.

WTF, right? We hope they both drown.

May the Schwarzenegger Be With You

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger opened his "climate change summit" by telling the no-doubt star-struck attendees from around the globe that environmental protection can be balanced with economic growth. No, really! He said that!



Q: What do you get when you run 500 solar panels through a cemetery, possibly creating zombies? A: A false solution!

Even though experts from around the world grapple with the problem of how to cut global warming while addressing a worsening financial crisis, the governor seemed confident that his climate meeting would influence negotiations on a new climate treaty during a United Nations gathering in Poland in December.

The two-day summit was held at the luxury hotel (turned bastion of sustainability—not!), the Beverly Hilton.

Spanish Town Digs Solar Energy

Flat, open and sun-drenched land is scarce in Santa Coloma de Gramenet, Spain. So, naturally, the only viable spot to move ahead with its new solar energy program was the local graveyard.

Nearly 500 panels are placed on top of mausoleums at the cemetery, transforming the crypts into a source of undead energy.

The panels produce the power equivalent to the annual demand of 60 homes, and flows into the local energy grid for normal consumption.

"The best tribute we can pay to our ancestors, whatever your religion may be, is

to generate clean energy for new generations. That is our leitmotif," Esteve Serret, director of Conste-Live Energy said. The Spanish company also runs the cemetery in Santa Coloma.

"Huggable" Chinese Panda on Rampage

A college student visiting a zoo in the southern Chinese city of Guilin, was bitten by a panda after he broke into the bear's enclosure hoping to get a hug.

"Yang Yang was so cute, and I just wanted to cuddle him. I didn't expect he would attack," the 20-year-old student said. There are signs on Yang Yang's enclosure warning people not to climb in.

Yang Yang who was flown to Guilin last year, did not seem to suffer any negative psychological effects, according to a park employee.

In 2000, another panda bit a drunk tourist who broke into his enclosure and tried to hug him while he was asleep. The tourist retaliated by biting the panda back.

Police are Afraid of Bloodthirsty "Eco-terrorists"

Police are reportedly legitimately scared that an eco-terrorist group has supporters that believe that reducing the Earth's population by four-fifths will help protect the planet.

Officers from a special unit that monitors an eco-movement called Earth First! are concerned that a "lone maverick" eco-extremist might attempt a terrorist attack aimed at killing large numbers of Britons, according to a United Kingdom's newspaper, *The Observer*.

A senior source at the unit said it has growing evidence of a threat from eco-activists. "We found statements that four-fifths of the human population has to die in order for species to survive." It was not specified where these reports were found or if Tom Clancy novels are their primary inspiration.

Rather, some folks simply advocate birth control.

continued from page 21

Indigenous groups have been mobilizing against a new UN program called Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD). Launched in September, this World Bank-funded program would privatize indigenous forestlands and bring them under the control of the global carbon market in order to "better manage" them. At the failed climate meetings in Bali, indigenous groups pronounced that "REDD will steal our land.... States and carbon traders will take control over our forests."

The REDD document itself admits that the program would "deprive communities of their legitimate land-development aspirations, that hard-fought gains in forest management practices might be wasted... and that it could erode culturally rooted not-for-profit conservation values." The document does not distinguish between healthy, native forests and monoculture tree plantations. In theory, one could cut down a native rainforest, sell the timber, replant it with a Eucalyptus tree plantation and get carbon credits for "reforestation." Around 60 million indigenous people depend upon the forest lands that REDD considers most threatened.

With much of the rationale and funding for these projects originating in the US, and many similarly destructive projects happening within our borders, an intensified movement is needed here in the belly of the beast.

One of the main tenets of Climate Justice is that change comes from the grassroots. Solutions to the climate crisis must come from communities on the frontlines who are fighting the fossil fuel industry and who are already feeling the impacts of industrial development and climate change. There are several environmental justice and indigenous-led groups in the US that are doing great work around climate issues. What is missing here is broader support for these groups and cross-issue movement building.

With the anti-capitalist movement's tendency toward theorizing and critiquing, good old-fashioned people power seems to often get overlooked. If we are serious about making change, and serious about the fact that meaningful change happens when communities come together to solve their own problems, then we need to get off our asses, out of our cultural and ideological ghettos, and into the streets to talk with regular people about our visions for a better future.

Momentum is already building. The direction that this momentum is directed will have a lot to do with who shows up to make shit happen. Right now, there are a lot more professional environmentalists showing up to climate debates than anti-authoritarians.

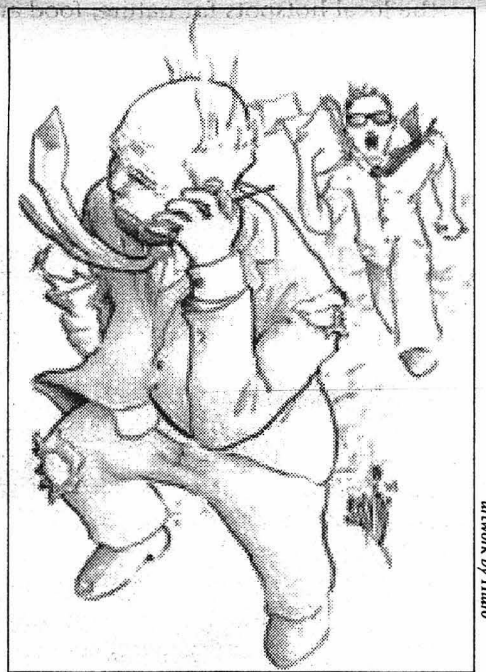
Now is the time to build bridges, to bring together communities and campaigns to listen to each other and make space for many opinions and perspectives. At the

same time, we must establish a baseline of demands that does not include a continuation of corporate control of the planet, and does include a respect for the rights and dignity of all people and species. Such a constellation of ideas is coming together, under the umbrella of Climate Justice.

The UN meetings in Copenhagen will be huge. The Kyoto Protocol, bogged down in corporate interests and preoccupied with getting a belligerent US government on board, was a bust. What comes next is not up to the official delegates, but to all of us. With ecosystem collapse and the biggest mass extinction event since the dinosaurs upon us, we have everything at stake. It's time to throw everything we have into building a movement for social, ecological and climate justice.

Grassroots groups around the world are already mobilizing around the Copenhagen meetings—not to get people to fly to Denmark to fill the streets outside the conference center (the Europeans will probably have that covered), but to build this movement globally and locally.

In the US, a coalition of grassroots, environmental justice, indigenous and anti-capitalist groups are coming together to organize a Mobilization for Climate Justice here, where so many global problems are rooted. The particular form



A polluting CEO on the run from climate activists

this mobilization will take will be determined in coming months, with input and participation from many different groups.

As this new movement takes shape, we will need to come together across lines of race, class, education, culture and geography; we will need to meet each other, listen to each other, and exercise our power together in the streets. Earth First!ers have much to bring to this struggle, with a focus on biocentrism and a skill set of direct action strategies and tactics. Wherever the US action hubs end up being for the Mobilization for Climate Justice, I hope y'all will be there.

When abigail is not organizing with Rising Tide, she enjoys getting to know the plants and mountains of Southern Appalachia.

Here Today, Gone Tomorrow

Assessing Roles of Transients in the Movement

BY JEZZABELL

Within the Earth First! movement, there are numerous divisions. Two very similar, yet drastically contrasting groups are transient activists and long-term community organizers. The main difference between the two groups is the duration of time spent at a single location. Both share a passion for change and a willingness to work for it. While one group chooses to engage in work within their own community, the other chooses to travel and help others in their communities.

No matter which group you fall within while campaigning, you can surely understand the importance of each component. Many things can influence how these two groups coexist while working together. Respecting each group for everything they are capable of is important. Each side provides the other with numerous eye-opening benefits. Analyzing different situations within campaigns and learning how to optimize these benefits (and pull them to the surface) is a discussion that both sides need to have.

Gaining a Better Sense of Direction

Direction is a useful tool for balancing dynamics between organizers and newcomers. This can be approached from either side. There are numerous tasks travelers can do before hitting the road. Likewise, there are plenty of things for campaigns to discuss before they begin inviting folks to town.

Some new folks come to town dying to plug-in on specific projects. Others may come to town with a big bag of special tricks. After minimal direction, they are ready to get their hands dirty. Travelers like this are just plain loveable. Others may be head-over-heels into taking on some of the less-desirable tasks. Finding ways to plug into a new campaign can be extremely rewarding. It can also help people get over those new town blues and jitters.

Filling in every new persyn that shows up to town can become unfathomably tedious. Having an accessible infrastructure already in place for newcomers is a must. Zines with maps and locations of the local hotspots for nature, food and fun are nice. Also, having a community-accessible list of meetings, ongoing projects and working groups helps people acclimate much quicker. One should try to have some sort of regular meetings, too.

Effects of Campaigns on Communities

Community involvement outside of campaigns is a task that both travelers and organizers could work on in some places. It's incredibly easy to become fully absorbed in activism. Yet, without actually spending time in your community, it is impossible to realistically organize effectively.

The role we take in communities as organizers reflects on our campaigns immensely. For long-term relationships to develop, there is an obvious need for long-term commitments. While bridging gaps between a campaign and locals, a sense of involvement, dedication and action to back it up is a must! Those that pillage the Earth are never going to just move away. There needs to be a defined group focused on long-term organizing.

The Role of High-Risk Situations

One of the most defendable roles for transient community members to fill are the riskier arrestable ones. The absence of common inhibitors, like a job and rent, enables the average traveler to jump into action worry-free. Anyone that has organized actions before knows that filling these roles is often tedious. Allowing local organizers to stay out of jail also helps out local campaigns drastically in the long run.

While most arrests result in small slaps on the wrist, the scumbags in blue can definitely escalate charges. This is where bond money comes in. What if someone fronts money for a couple of comrades to get out of the slammer, and they don't get reimbursed? Even worse, what if someone signs for someone to get out and that persyn just never appears in court? Now, you have a whole new situation on your hands.

Support throughout the winding maze of the judicial world is extremely

important. Splitting town, then planning on showing up to court later, can really take away from possible empathetic support roles. While facing the peril of large fines, SLAPP suits, probation, grand juries, or the possibility of jail or prison time, having activists have your back really helps. Going into actions as a team and feeling the aftershock alone can be really confusing and sometimes detrimental to everyone involved.

Culture

Traveling to a new place often means navigating a different demographic of people. This can lead to culturally enriching experiences. For instance, learning stories of local indigenous people in central California or seeing how trans-friendly Philadelphia is can be eye-opening. Learning about new cultures can help identify new areas of interest. Additionally, for local organizers, it can provide a time to express how culturally unique your bioregion is.

Fighting with the Land and Animals

Not surprisingly, a lot of Earth First!'s work is based around combating those who are destroying the homes of animals and throwing delicate ecosystems off balance. This brings up the concept of connecting to your land. Different people have varying thoughts on this.

Being stationary usually helps create long-term bonds with your land base. It helps provide time to enjoy all four seasons and learn how they affect flora, fauna and various situations within one's community. It also provides more time for wildcrafting. Learning how to utilize what you're working hard to protect can be a very intimate experience for eco-defenders.

In contrast, being on the move provides opportunities to see far-away lands and learn how precious and diverse all ecosystems are. Enjoying new places and being away from your bioregion, or even in a different part of it, can help develop new-found bonds.

Accepting Transience in the Movement

We need to think critically about our activism. New perspectives are perfect for this. We all have our own unique experiences. Sharing these experiences with each other is beneficial for all parties involved. What better way to bond than late night discussions about strategy with new comrades?

The capability to pass along skills to help others with their campaigns is incredibly empowering. Sharing the solutions you've helped develop can create a brighter future for someone else. As we all travel through life, we intersect at different points. These points can prove to be life changing, as we aid each other in developing solutions to the problems that we encounter.

Staying in one place, might make it seem as though we are part of a small, fragmented movement. Traveling and engaging in different campaigns helps us realize that we are indeed part of a very tightly-knit, widespread movement. Including ourselves in our perspectives of the wider movement helps us develop a better grasp on what we belong to. It's easy to feel alone when you've never seen the other amazing people from different bioregions that you're fighting with.

All things aside, what about the exuberant flood of fresh energy from wild-eyed travelers? When local energy begins to slip, a fiery traveler ready to throw down can really boost group morale. Campaign work and organizing sometimes become routine and monotonous. A new persyn falling in love with a campaign after traveling from across the country helps remind long-termers what they are fighting for. You'd be surprised how contagious and inspiring some people's energy can be.

A basic acknowledgement of transience in our movement is a must. Many communities fall short of this. Let's face it, nearly everywhere that activism and campaigning occur, an influx of new people appears at one time or another. Why push these people away and disregard them for the short time they're available? This is blatantly ignoring a piece of our culture. We are all fighting the same fight! Let's do it together!



ARMED WITH VISIONS

Clear as cut glass & just as dangerous

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Planting Buckwheat, Coffee Berry

What you plant
in the slap and suck of a winter's rain
is thick with rivers of orange roots.
Recognition lies in the fingertips,
placing saplings snug
in muddy syrups and saltwater taffy soils.

Persistence is rich.
Leaves draw from roots:
sure signatures scrawled under clays,
holding a historic chemistry.
Something vital then, about leaning
into the dark
how we crawl it, weighing the hours
between fruit and relief.
Soon, dawn begins to utter them:
notes of color rising in its throat,
flame-purples, greens, and silky whites
gripping the stiff-edge slopes
and bare-backed rock,
their sugars breathing light.

—Maya Khosla

Redding Town

On Cypress Avenue I watch for the ghosts
of Wintu women, with willow root baskets,
pine nut
skirts, poles spread with the silver
skins and carmine flesh of drying salmon.

I spot them in a half-circle
along Churn Creek Road, near a deli.

They are watching a great-granddaughter
pump unleaded into her battered truck,
the power of Eagle dangling
from her rearview.

I wonder if their baskets hold blackbird
feathers, salmon bones, the future.

—Susan Kelly-DeWitt

This Beautiful Garden Planet

There must be more to life
than what's lurking in our living room
So we step outside into the open
where birds are calling from their cores
& trees are unspeakably taking part

People are always reaching for the impossible
& I'm no exception
Why am I always putting things into words
when nature specializes
in nonverbal communication?

As we're weeding the garden on our knees
I can't help but wonder
What if it turns out
that on this beautiful garden planet
it's humans who are the real weeds?

—Steve Toth

Big Mama's Miniature Miracles

It all began with little drop of Dew
As stupidity knocked down too many trees
And the Rain ran away
When the Clouds disappeared
And arrogance lost its mind
Next, some big money Jerks come pay an unasked for visit
Covered the beauty of Creation's Bounty with concrete
And a heart broken Earth turned in on herself
Brutally humiliated, the Old Girl was devastated
As she was forced to watch
Flowers fade, the silent spaces where Birds used to play &
Bumble Bees hooked on Pollen followed the Flowers that got away
She sat, had to watch the Leaves fall to the ground
Feel the pain of seeing the lushest of foliage get rotten & die
Mother Nature was "pissed" & she cried
Was furious, but she just cried
She ate the hate & got sick from the steady diet of disrespect
As she tried to be "cool" & get through this re-run cycle of strife
Still under our feet all kinds of little Critters witnessed
Strawberry Creek (like the Ohlone's Mission Creek) being driven
Deeper underground looking for a safe place to hide
As sniveling greedy hypocrites worked hard at looking all pitiful
Boo-hoo'd & tried to look like they were pushing tears aside
(In denial of their own treacherous handiwork)
Then had the nerve to curse the desiccated blandness of the Land
And the Floods of madness
That brought about the nothingness of Droughts
A soulless duplication of the dryness
Of Arrogance's own lack of humanity & imagination
A continuous saga, a bankrupt drama
The arrhythmic Dance that comes from worshipping dollars
And in complete disregard of common sense
Greed wrapped itself from head to foot
Masked the sterile suicidal shame in their own self pity
And were so unbelievably busy feeling sorry for themselves
That they completely lost sight
Of the fact that they were only a small part of life
They never even noticed
The resilient reappearance of the beauty of Clouds
Or that little ignored drop of Water
You know, the one that refused to give up the ghost
Mama's stubborn little Dewdrop

Cute little thing jumped up & gave a tiny blade of thirsty Grass
Just the right amount of courage to break through the concrete
And remind us all again, "this too shall pass"
Mama Nature has already paid the cost
And even though
She sometimes gets confused, lets go & loses control
She knows she's Mama
She knows the Earth is her home
And these days
She's spending all her time getting ready to stay ready
In anticipation of Mankind's next display of foolishness
Regardless of whether we're ready to accept the ramifications
Of humanity's actions or inaction
Mama knows... she's always known
In no uncertain terms... Earth is her Turf!!!
And it's Nature's Nature to always reclaim what's hers
Mess with just one of her Babies & even history won't miss you &
There's nothing worse than an angry Mother's fury
Nature is
One of those over-protective kind of Mamas that almost never plays
A Mama that will always let you know
She would much rather hold you, but
If you push her too hard, she'll fight
Think twice before you act unwisely
Unless
You think your conscience is strong enough to handle the loss
'Cause when Nature takes, she takes it all
Big Mama's temper tantrums have been known
To turn Heaven & Hell inside out before you can blink your eyes
So, while there's still a chance
Find what's left of common sense in your heart
Be an unwavering example of peace & harmony
Moving productively & gracefully through life like a Dewdrop
Or we're gonna lose big time... this time we're gonna lose it all
In the long run, the Old Girl always wins
That's the way it's always been
That's the way the Story always go
She's Mama... Big Mama
And Mother Nature is always Boss!

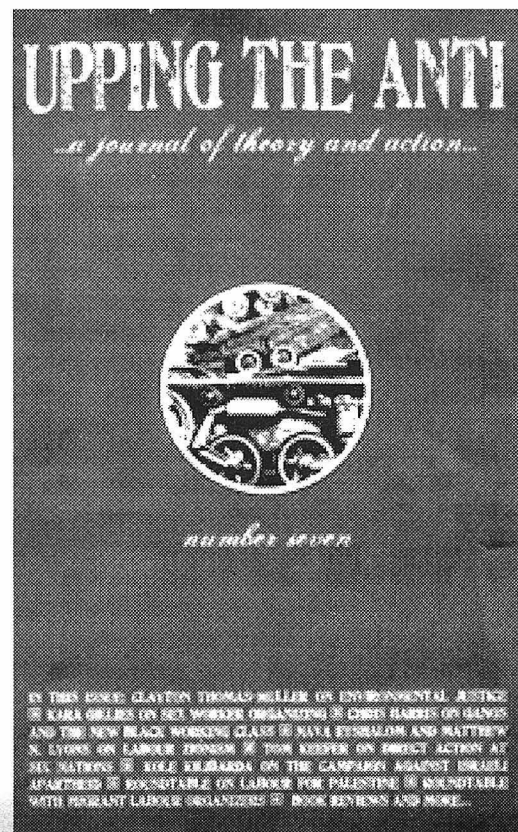
—Avotcja

Send poems to
Warrior Poets Society
P.O. Box 14501
Berkeley, CA
94712-5501

BY LEAH

Upping the Anti: A Journal of Theory and Action, *UTA Publications*, 2008.

Roughly 200 pages of articles, interviews, book reviews, and letters that read like mini-essays, *Upping The Anti* (UTA) leans heavily on all things within the radical left. The last two issues of the publication also include a number of essays about the student activist movement in Canada and the US, where you can learn that the group, Platypus, is taking over. This is a collection of writings that is not primarily for an Earth First! audience, but by no means is it a collection to be ignored.



With many books sent our way, it is at times hard to find ones that are worth highlighting from an EF! perspective, due to the amount of conservation and “greenwashing” books that arrive that are irrelevant to our movement.

UTA gives folks the opportunity to tap into many movements with writings that come from the hearts of various campaigns. What I enjoyed the most was consistently experiencing each author’s fervor and conviction.

The latest release, number seven, included multiple articles on indigenous struggles. After reading the article, “Declaring the Exception: Direct Action, Six Nations, and the Struggle in Brantford,” the comparison between the arrests and oppression of the Six Nations people to those targeted in the Green Scare—as well as the arrests during the 2008 Republican National Convention—appeared more obviously.

The article discussed the possible victories in the campaign for Six Nations people to reclaim land that is subjected to development, as well as those lands that are already developed. It also calls for an increase in the use of blockades, one of their main tactics.

Each issue of UTA allows its contributing writers to fully present their topic, a luxury lost to smaller journals. May 2008’s release of UTA number six included the article, “The Green Scare is Everywhere,” a concise presentation and topic that most certainly deserves the spotlight from a wider audience outside of our own. The article points out an important fact that all activists organizing in North America need to know and understand: Based on Operation Backfire and the Green Scare, the activities of all “activists can and will be used against other left groups that challenge capital and state.”

In the latest release, an article calling for positive female representation from the hip-hop community was submitted as a letter

response to an interview with M-1 of Dead Prez (UTA number six). The interview included questions I would want to ask the revolutionary rapper if I had the chance, with a letter response that complimented much of M-1’s points. The rapper discusses going to college, getting turned off by what that road could lead to and getting into organizing, because the “US government-funded education system was preparing us to go out into the world and create more opportunities for capitalist exploitation.”

Upping the Anti seems similar to the CrimethInc. magazine, *Rolling Thunder*, in its critique and analysis of theory and action, though UTA has a greater “radical left” wingspan of activists and organizers.

The editorial in number seven was a rough start, filled with too much cross-sectioning and intellectual politics, though it obviously came from a well-read perspective. I commend those who write, read and discuss all the dissections of the world. Still, I mostly wonder why there aren’t more strong-standing collectives building on our experiences, taking action and implementing alternatives, rather than so much talk of theory. The editorial is well written in a way that is critical of today’s widely read theoretical authors, such as John Zerzan, Derrick Jensen, Naomi Klein and George Monbiot. I enjoyed parts of the anonymous editorial, in particular the short analysis on primitivism.

Released twice a year, UTA is a journal of submissions to a pan-Canadian editorial collective based out of Toronto. It is sold on the shelves for \$10. If you want five or more copies for distribution, the journal is \$5 a copy, and they will cover the postage. New articles will be uploaded to their website over the next few months. If you would like to find out about submitting to the collective, visit www.uppingtheanti.org.

UNDER ONE PUBLICATION

Vengeful Animals Are Getting Even

BY KENT MACDOUGALL

The animals are angry—and they’re fighting back. From China, where six black bears who were kept in cramped, crushing “extraction cages” to have their bile painfully removed via a surgical extraction process, ganged up on their keeper and ate him, to Uganda, where baboons avenged the death of a troop member by ambushing the guilty farmer and tearing out his heart, to the US, where a Siberian tiger leapt from its zoo enclosure, and chased down and killed a visitor seen taunting it, animals are rising up in rebellion against their human oppressors.

Far from isolated acts of revenge limited to fierce animals with sharp teeth and claws, these three incidents are part and parcel of a worldwide upsurge in resistance to tyrannical civilization by representatives spanning nearly the entire spectrum of the animal kingdom.

Insects are among those retaliating for human depredations. Last April, in the Chiapas state of Mexico, honeybees who were provoked when a stray bullet from an open-air police firing range hit their hive, swarmed the range and sent 20 cops to the hospital, many in serious condition with stings over much of their bodies.

Hostile interactions between wildlife and humans have become increasingly common just about everywhere, as human populations mushroom and “development” encroaches

on once-undisturbed habitats. Attacks on humans have multiplied in India’s northeastern Assam state, as deforestation reduces monkeys, leopards, tigers and elephants to homelessness, driving them onto farms and into villages. Hunger has overridden the natural instinct of Indian wolves to avoid humans, impelling them to attack and carry off small children.

In Bangladesh, intense poaching of Royal Bengal tigers has taught them to consider humans as enemies and made them more aggressive. In one three-month period several years ago, tigers killed 22 people.

Primates turned into bush meat in equatorial Africa don’t willingly sacrifice their lives in order to transmit their simian immunodeficiency virus to their executioners, who in turn pass on HIV and AIDS to other humans. However, the resulting toll of 25 million people dead of AIDS and an estimated 33 million infected with HIV can be considered the chimpanzees’ revenge.

Similarly, naturally vegetarian cows fed infected brains, spinal chords and other byproducts from sheep and other cows don’t choose to become unwitting carnivores and even cannibals. Still, the resulting bovine spongiform encephalopathy they pass along to humans as a variant of mad cow disease can be seen as a form of retribution. The blowback includes more than 160 human deaths in the United Kingdom alone.

Fishermen who favor the relative safety of a boat while aiming to kill top predators of the sea aren’t immune to wrathful resistance either. In 2000, a 10-foot-long swordfish hooked off of Mexico’s Pacific coast leapt into a lone fisherman’s boat and thrust its spear all the way through the fisherman’s abdomen, pinning him to the side of the boat. The fisherman lay there helpless for two days while his boat drifted, until he was spotted by another boat and rescued. Likewise, in 2006, off of the coast of Bermuda, a blue marlin vaulted across the stern of a boat and impaled an angler.

Even presumably tamed animals—circus elephants, aquatic amusement park sea lions, movie chimpanzees and others exploited for humans’ entertainment—sometimes go beyond the script and get even for years of abuse. During the filming of a promotional video at an exotic animal training center last April in Big Bear Lake, California, a supposedly gentle 700-pound grizzly bear named Rocky took “playful” wrestling with his trainer seriously and fatally bit him on the neck.

Similarly, domesticated work animals are known to stage violent strikes against cruel bosses. In Vietnam in 2007, a one-tusked male elephant objected to being forced to haul logs from a forest without being fed, and expressed its displeasure by killing two handlers.

And, so it goes wherever animals are being oppressed—that is, just about everywhere. The individual and group actions of self-defense, resistance and revolt described in this article comprise only a small sample of the guerrilla skirmishes being fought wherever rapacious hyper-industrialized civilization has taken over and is exploiting species. Animal rights activists can take heart that the victims they seek to liberate are increasingly fighting to liberate themselves. Intensifying the joint liberation struggle can only benefit all species, humans included.



Kent MacDougall is a retired newspaper reporter and journalism professor who sticks by his Fall 1996 Wild Earth story, “Humans as Cancer.” He can be contacted at kentmacd@berkeley.edu.

artwork by Hungry Knife Artist Collective

my profile is set to private

BY SACRAMENTO
PRISONER SUPPORT

MySpace is a networking website with more than 100 million members. Users create dossiers on themselves in order to communicate and share information with other users. In addition to the commercial, social and entertainment uses of MySpace, it is a searchable, public scrapbook of images, affiliations and written exchanges, offering detectives raw data on 70 million potential suspects, witnesses or victims. It gives the government access to information about millions of people that it would never have the time or resources to acquire on its own. MySpace also mitigates the scandal associated with the exposure of massive surveillance programs, because the subjects of these dossiers are also the people that produce and disseminate them.

In its privacy policy, MySpace indicates that it records user Internet Protocol (IP) addresses for "security and monitoring purposes." Their privacy policy further states that the company will provide a user's personal information if merely requested by law enforcement—even if it's not required by law—and that it will provide information to a third party if they think it is necessary to protect "the public."

According to *Newsweek* magazine, "a 20-member, 'round-the-clock law enforcement team fields 350 calls a week from its rolodex of nearly 800 agencies, helping them surf the site.... Communication between cops and [MySpace] has surged this year, with MySpace now contributing to about 150 investigations a month." The same *Newsweek* article stated that "under Justice Department guidelines, anything posted online is fair game." MySpace ought to be familiar with Justice Department guidelines, since they hired former federal prosecutor Heman-shu Nigan to monitor the site.

In January 2008, MySpace made an agreement with 50 Attorneys General, promising to "enhance the ability of law enforcement officials to investigate and prosecute Internet crimes" and to develop "identity verification technology" for the site.

Besides the public goal of prosecuting Internet crimes, law enforcement also uses MySpace data to map and analyze political movements and subcultures. In their 2005 ethnography of anarchists in *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, police officer Chuck Tilby and professor Randy Borum state that "infiltration is made more difficult by the communal nature

of the lifestyle and the extensive knowledge held by many anarchists, which requires a considerable amount of study and time to acquire. Other strategies for infiltration have been explored, but so far, have not been successful." Social networking websites have proven to be the ideal text for this official study. By offering complete profiles of individuals in social and political groups, it gives law enforcement (or informants) all the information they would need to pose as a member of that group. If police (or informants) cannot convincingly portray anarchists (or environmentalists, animal rights activists, etc.), they cannot gain the trust of those people.

In the case of *US v. Eric McDavid et al.*, McDavid and his co-defendants, Zachary Jenson and Lauren Weiner, were arrested and branded as eco-terrorists due to the efforts of an FBI informant. The informant traveled to gatherings and protests from 2003 to 2005, trying to gather information and encourage attendees to break the law. According to FBI agent Nasson Walker, "the information she has provided has been utilized in at least 12 separate anarchist cases."

McDavid, Jenson and Weiner knew the informant, "Anna," for one and a half years prior to their arrests. After the three were arrested, it came out that



the government was monitoring the MySpace accounts of Jenson and Weiner. (McDavid did not have one.) The informant had a MySpace account that she continued to log on to after their arrests, and FBI case agent Nasson Walker had a MySpace account he used regularly. In the discovery process, the government turned over printed copies of Jenson and Weiner's MySpace accounts that included all of their blog posts, comments and friends. The criminal complaint that charged the three with "conspiring to damage or destroy certain property by explosive or fire" referred to

Jenson's MySpace account and quoted from it extensively.

At Jenson's bail hearing, his MySpace and LiveJournal accounts were referenced frequently. The prosecutor announced that, on Jenson's MySpace page, he said he was a "ninja" and an "assassin," thus proving that he was too dangerous to release on bail. The prosecutors also used information from Jenson's MySpace account to argue he had no residence and no ties to a particular geographic community and, therefore, posed a "flight risk." Because decisions are made at bail hearings based on a lower standard of proof, this "evidence" was admitted and Jenson was denied bail. McDavid was also denied bail.

Though McDavid did not have a MySpace account, Jenson's MySpace page was offered as representative of McDavid's behavior and a source of insight into his activities. The criminal complaint states, "Jenson's site also contains several journal entries in which he documents his interactions with McDavid. Information from Jenson's journal entries corroborates reporting from the confidential sources regarding McDavid and Jenson's travels."

In a separate case in 2006, the Santa Monica Police, in cooperation with the FBI, raided the homes of eight animal rights activists, trashed their residences, took thousands of dollars worth of property and ultimately filed no charges. The activists' problems with law enforcement began when they were served with restraining orders to stay away from the property and employees of juice-maker POM Wonderful. POM Wonderful was engaged in animal testing and was the subject of regular protests.

The restraining order was roughly 80 pages long and included photographs, text and links from the MySpace accounts of the eight people whose houses were later raided. The information from the MySpace pages was collected by a law firm working for POM Wonderful, and included pictures of people doing vegan outreach, attending unrelated protests and drinking beer. These pictures, along with links to websites such as Vegan Outreach and www.ecoprisoners.org were meant to prove that these people were dangerous and supported direct action. It didn't matter that none of the information was alleged to actually be proof of criminal activity.

Police and prosecutors are unabashed about their regular and

widespread reliance on social networking sites in their work. Police can create false profiles for surveillance purposes, but MySpace users that do so can be severely punished. In 2006, a 13-year-old girl from Farmington, Connecticut was charged with criminal impersonation because she created a MySpace profile of her principal.

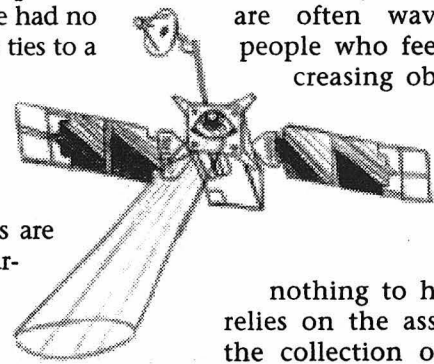
The dangers of surveillance are often waved away by people who feel that the increasing observation and documentation of their lives is irrelevant because they have

nothing to hide. This idea relies on the assumption that the collection of information is an inherently and consistently neutral process that only has negative consequences for those committing crime. This perspective ignores the fact that it is through the very act of surveillance that crime is produced. By dramatically enhancing the government's ability to survey people, MySpace users enhance the government's ability to produce crime.

This is not to say that some arm of the government is directly responsible for the acts that they label as crime. Nor does it mean that government is responsible for the social conditions that shape people labeled criminals (though that may be so). What it means is that the government has the power to designate certain acts, thoughts and the people accused of perpetrating them as criminal. Therefore, what we know as crime is produced through being designated as such. While clearly, there are acts labeled criminal that are both real and harmful, the notion of crime requires no such objective criteria. The designation of crime is not linked to demonstrable harm (though the two things certainly do sometimes coincide).

Action does not become crime because an individual or a group of people is harmed. "Crime" exists because the state has the power to stand in judgment over peoples' lives. As the government gains increasing access to those lives through surveillance, their arena of power expands. Judges, police, guards and lawyers need crime in order to exist; without it, they cease to have meaning (as well as jobs). Phenomena like MySpace create a relationship of confession and observation between a government and its subjects that becomes fodder for the production of crime.

Crime is on the rise. Delete your MySpace.



Ask an EF!

Lawyer

Dear EF! Lawyer,

A lot of my friends partook in a lockdown this summer. As result of that, some of them may be facing varying degrees of charges and repercussions. The most disconcerting issue of all is the possibility of paying restitution fees. Some of the particular questions are: Can institutions garnish my wages? How will this interfere with owning vehicles or, say, land? In a nutshell, how far can companies go to get their money? Is it realistic to float through life, middle fingers in the air, or is it all eventually going to catch up with us? Looking forward to your response!

Sincerely,
—Hella Hatin'

BY STU SUGARMAN

Dear Hella,

Thanks for asking this question! Most people can get too distracted by the possible sentence and forget that a restitution order may be involved, as well. For these people, restitution is the kind of thing that bites them in the butt at the end of the case. The relief of learning that they are facing less custody time than they had thought is immediately dissolved by feelings of rage at having to actually pay the evil-doer money. I'm glad your friends are thinking of restitution and what effect that might have on them.

Restitution happens when someone is convicted of a crime, and the court finds that person caused an entity or person to suffer some damage or loss that is easily calculated in terms of money. The court can order the defendant to pay that money back, in addition to any other sentence.

All of my advice is based on my experience in the Oregon state and federal court systems. Your state might be different, but the federal laws and general concepts I discuss are likely to be consistent throughout the country.

Before I get to the questions you ask, here's a little about courts and restitution, focusing on the relatively small restitution order that might follow a lockdown (as opposed to, for example, the destruction of a group of houses, a research laboratory or a group of SUVs). The highest restitution demand I have ever seen for a lockdown was \$8,000 against Tre Arrow when he occupied a ledge over the entrance of the building housing the Forest Service's Region 6 Headquarters. We fought that restitution figure, and the judge awarded restitution of only \$500. Other than that bill, I've only seen restitution amounts well under \$1,000 for lockdowns.

The burden is on the government to ensure that the court orders restitution within a certain time after sentencing. (In Oregon state court, the time limit is 90 days.) The defense normally will reserve the right to fight any restitution amount and conduct its own investigation into what the true amount, if anything, should be. I strongly recommend that you do this, because we can often reduce, if not eliminate, the restitution number. If the court does order restitution, that amount becomes a monetary judgment against the defendant.

The restitution figure is not intended to cover the entire loss in every case. For example, the cost to a person or company of repairing a damaged fence, to replace a vehicle or to pay medical bills caused by injuring someone are recoverable as part of a restitution claim. However, the time the company spent calculating the amount of the claim, filling out forms to make the claim, and the cost of going to court to talk to a judge or prosecutor are not compensable as restitution in criminal court. A person's (or a company representative's) pain and suffering is also not compensable as restitution. Restitution only covers the cost of replacing or repairing what was damaged or lost in the incident.

The restitution order must be based on evidence that is sufficient enough to prevail in a civil case. Thus, the evidence must be adequate to prove that, more likely than not, the company suffered this damage to its property. Sometimes, companies just send a short note to the prosecutor listing the figure they say the defendant cost them, but with no written information or testimony to back up that figure. In such cases, the court should order no restitution at all.

If the defendant gets a probationary sentence, the judge will require the defendant to pay any restitution as a condition of probation. If the convicted person makes an insufficient attempt to pay the restitution

before the end of probation, the judge could order that person to serve jail time for a probation violation. Of course, your lawyer will know best what your judge might or might not do.

If you are sentenced to prison (more than 12 months in custody), the judge and parole (or post-prison) officer are likely to care only whether you make an honest effort to pay the restitution. If the restitution number is sky high, you very likely won't be sent to jail for failing to pay off the entire amount before probation or parole ends.

Your lack of ability to pay restitution may be a factor in your state. Being unable to pay used to be a bar against restitution payments in Oregon, but that law changed so that now, lack of ability to pay is not relevant to deciding what the restitution amount should be. In federal court everywhere in the US, your lack of ability to pay will not be a factor in deciding the amount of restitution you will be ordered to pay.

Now, let's discuss your questions. Yes, institutions (such as the government or a corporation) or any person can garnish your wages if they have a judgment against you. In Oregon, they can take up to 25 percent of each paycheck until your debt is satisfied. They can also go after your savings account and any other asset you possess, although the law will protect some assets you have from a creditor's claim.

There is good news here, though, because it is the government, not the institution, which has the restitution judgment against you. The government is not as likely to garnish your wages to satisfy a restitution claim as an institution, because governments tend to have too many other, higher priorities—such as cases when the government gets to keep the money it garnishes instead of turning it over to a company or person.

If a judgment for restitution is entered against you, you should expect that it will hurt your credit rating until it is paid off. That will limit your ability to

get nearly any form of loan for a house, car or anything else. The mortgage lender may also require that you pay off the judgment (or at least put it in an escrow account created by the mortgage lender) before loaning you any money, so as to avoid fighting with another creditor over your asset. The lender would hold that money and would return it to you when you had repaid the loan, or would return it to you or the government when a judge ruled one way or the other whose money it is.

Many people who are ordered to pay restitution never pay it. However, these people tend to be too poor to even care about a credit rating. If you want to own a house or a new car some day, but won't be rich enough to own one outright without a loan, you will almost certainly need to pay the restitution amount. However, since only the government can go after your property and wages pursuant to a restitution order, and the government is less likely to collect the monetary judgment than an institution, you may be able to avoid debt collection efforts such as garnishment of property. Of course, the institution could then sue you in civil court for damage done. If you lose a monetary judgment in that case, the institution itself would become your judgment creditor, and it could then garnish you itself.

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

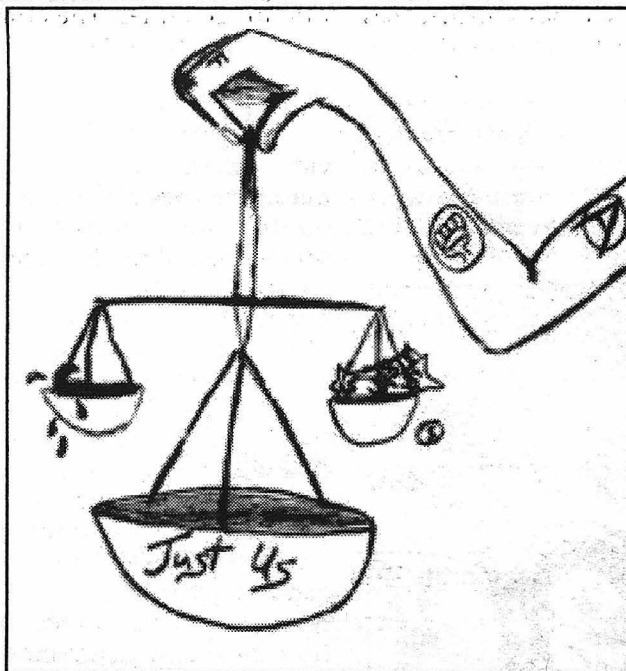


Illustration by James Jamieson

Prisoners in the Struggle Support Them!

The following list is a small sample of the total number of political prisoners and prisoner support groups worldwide. Regulations for mail sent to prisoners vary according to individual prisons. Before sending monetary donations, stamps, books or packages, ask prisoners what the regulations are. Assume that the authorities read everything you write to a prisoner. When prisoners are awaiting trial or sentencing, it is best not to discuss their cases or related topics with them. Although some prisoners are listed together, they must be written to separately. Prisoners can obtain a discounted subscription to the EF! Journal by sending a book of 10 42¢ stamps to POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. Individuals who want to sponsor a prisoner's subscription should send \$20 to the same address.

Prisoner and Legal Updates

•Vaggelis Botzatzis was released from jail, awaiting trial in Greece for the alleged arson of a bank, a car dealership and two cars owned by an energy company.

•Dean Cain, WJ4309, and Luke Steele, WJ4308, HMP Lincoln, Greetwell Rd, Lincoln, LN2 4BD, UK. Awaiting trial on three charges related to interfering with animal research on a rabbit farm.

•Julien Coupat, N° d'Erou 290173, 42 Rue de la Santé, 75014 Paris, France. Awaiting trial on charges of sabotaging a high-speed train line in France.

•Bradley Crowder, Sherburne County Jail, 13880 Highway 10, 13880 Business Center Dr, Elk River, MN 55330, USA. Awaiting trial on charges of constructing and possessing Molotov cocktails at the Republican National Convention (RNC).

•Matt DePalma, Sherburne County Jail, 13880 Highway 10, 13880 Business Center Dr, Elk River, MN 55330, USA. Plead guilty to unlawful possession of destructive devices at the RNC. He is awaiting sentencing.

•Francesco Gioia, Casa Penale, Via Lamaccio 1, 67039 Sulmona (Aq), Italy. Moved to the above address. Awaiting trial for allegedly using explosives to damage power lines. Gioia is a member of Il Silvestre, an Italian eco-anarchist group and frequent target of state repression.

•Paola Gori has been released from jail, and is on house arrest. Awaiting trial for alleged subversive conspiracy to rob a post office. Gori is a member of Il Silvestre.

•John Graham, Pennington County Jail, 307 St Joseph Street, Rapid City, SD 57701, USA. Awaiting trial on murder charges. Graham was framed by the FBI for the 1975 murder of fellow American Indian Movement (AIM) activist Anna Mae Pictou Aquash.

•Eric McDavid, #16209-097, FCI Victorville Medium II, POB 5300, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA. PO Box has changed. Serving 19.5 years for conspiracy to destroy the US Forest Service's Institute of Forest Genetics, a cell-phone tower and power plants. For more information, visit www.supporteric.org.

•Daniel McGowan, #63794-053, Currently in transit, USA. McGowan is being moved around, presumably to attend more Grand Jury hearings. Serving seven years for Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arsons at a lumber company and a hybrid poplar farm. For more information, visit www.supportdaniel.org.

•Rev. Edward Pinkney #294671, Pugsley Correctional Facility, 7401 East Walton Rd, Kingsley, MI 49649, USA. Moved to the above address. Serving three to 10 years for "threatening" a judge in court by quoting *The Bible*. Pinkney has been the cornerstone of a campaign to prevent a resort from being built in a park in low-income Benton Harbor, Michigan.

•Andrew Stepanian, #26399-050, USP Marion, POB 1000 Marion, IL 62959, USA. Moved to the above address. Serving three

years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC). For more information, visit www.andystepanian.com.



Awaiting Trial or Sentencing

•Mumia Abu-Jamal, #AM8335, SCI Greene, 175 Progress Dr, Waynesburg, PA 15370, USA. Awaiting resentencing to either life in prison or death. Abu-Jamal, a politically active journalist, was framed for the murder of a cop in 1981. For more information, visit www.freemumia.org.

•Dan Amos, VN7818, HMP Winchester, Romsey Rd, Winchester, SO22 5DE, UK. Awaiting sentencing for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportdan.

•Gregg Avery, TA7450, HMP Winchester, Romsey Rd, Winchester, SO22 5DE, UK. Awaiting sentencing for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/shacukprisonersupport.

•Natasha Avery, NR8987, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Awaiting sentencing for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/shacukprisonersupport.

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

•Daniele Casalini, Casa Circondariale, Via Burla 59, 43100-Parma PR, Italy. Awaiting trial for allegedly using explosives to damage power lines. Casalini is a member of Il Silvestre.

•Marie Mason, Clinton County Jail, 1347 E Townsend Rd, St Johns, MI 48879, USA.

Awaiting sentencing for committing arson, committing aggravated arson and conspiracy to commit arson in connection with a series of ELF actions against genetic engineering and development. Mason is expected to be sentenced to 15-20 years. For more information, visit www.freemarie.org.

•Heather Nicholson, VM4859, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. On trial at press time. Pled not guilty for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/shacukprisonersupport.

Animal Liberation

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

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

•Donald Currie, A3660AA, HMP Parkhurst, Clissold Rd, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX, UK. Serving an "indefinite sentence" of at least six years—with no fixed release date or upper limit—for arson against targets linked to the vivisection industry.

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

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

•Sean Kirtley, WC6977, HMP Stafford, 54 Gaol Rd, Stafford, T16 3AW, UK. Serving 4.5 years for organizing legal demonstrations against Sequani, an animal-testing company. For more information, visit supportsean.wordpress.com.

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

•John Smith, TB4887, HMP Lindholme, Bawtry Road, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, DN7 6EE, UK. Serving 12 years for attempting to blackmail a farmer who supplied guinea pigs for vivisection.

•Sarah Whitehead, VM7684, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Serving 15 months for burglary charges after rescuing an abused beagle from a dangerous home and nine additional months from a prior suspended sentence for rescuing more than 100 animals from a pet breeder who was later prosecuted for animal abuse. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportsarah.

Ecodefense

•Tre Arrow, 70936-065, FCI Herlong, POB 800, Herlong, CA 96113, USA. Serving 6.5 years for two counts of arson for burning logging trucks, and a sand and gravel company's vehicles. Under a plea agreement, Arrow will receive credit for time served since March 2004 in Canadian and US jails, leaving less than two years in his sentence. For more information, visit www.trearrow.org.

Announcements

Earth First! Roadshow Winter-Summer 2009

The Earth First! Roadshow is going to be sweeping the nation late this Winter and we want all of our readers, campaigners, organizers, listeners and bystanders to come out and hear about the Earth First! movement—past, present and looming future. The EF! Roadshow promises to be a fun and engaging presentation that hopes to rekindle the embers of old Earth First!ers and set ablaze new fires in those who may not know how pertinent our movement is to defending all things wild.

The Earth First! movement has made a significant impact on those who are threatening our Earth and all her beings. Still, so much work remains to be done.

For dates, information and to learn how you can help, visit www.earthfirstroadshow.wordpress.com.

Black Mesa Work Crews Needed

Any time of year, especially Winter

The residents of the Big Mountain region of Black Mesa need your support. We are at a critical juncture and must take a stand in support of communities on the frontlines of resistance now! This Winter, please consider joining the people of Black Mesa in resisting an illegal occupation forced upon them by the US government

and Peabody Coal. This is a critical time in the campaign to stop relocation laws and coal mining from taking precedent over the natural rights of the Black Mesa Diné living on their ancestral homelands.

By assisting with direct, on-land projects with the Sovereign communities of Big Mountain, Black Mesa volunteer crews are invited to stay with families and help herd sheep, as well as provide aid in other ways. If you are able to make a donation, please send checks payable to Black Mesa Indigenous Support (BMIS). If you are planning a visit or want more information on the movement, contact blackmesais@riseup.net; www.blackmesais.org.

Additionally, some EF!ers are interested in making a trip to Black Mesa following the Organizers' Conference. Keep it in mind when you come out to the desert this February.

17th Annual Environmental Film Festival

March 11-22 · Washington, DC

More than 100 documentary, feature, animated, archival, experimental and children's films were "selected to provide fresh perspectives on pressing environmental issues affecting our planet." They will be shown throughout the capital in museums, embassies, universities, libraries and local theaters. Many of the films will be free.

To submit a film or to view the complete schedule once it's posted in February, visit www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org.

13th Annual San Francisco Bay Area Anarchist Book Fair

March 22-23 · San Francisco, California

Presented by the Bound Together Anarchist Collective Bookstore, the fair will feature around 60 vendors of books, pamphlets, zines, t-shirts, other merchandise and information. To view a list of speakers and panelists who are scheduled for the free event, visit sfbookfair.wordpress.com.

In addition, there will be a kid and family space, an art space, bike taxis, fresh baked goods on sale and more great events that will be happening during the week of the book fair. The fair will be located in Golden Gate Park at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way.

Suggestions on How to Send a Quality Photo Submission to the Earth First! Journal

Graphic submissions are accepted year-round

We want more of your photographs and original artwork. If you've ever submitted graphics to us before, you know that we have a healthy obsession with high resolution. The size of each submission to the EF! Journal

needs to be at least at 300 dots per inch (dpi), at five inches by seven inches. If you want your submission to be considered for a cover, please make sure the picture is vertically 300 dpi at nine inches by 12 inches.

Here are some suggestions on how to get images of art and actions in the pages of the EF! Journal: Having a camera that is at least four mega-pixels is great for the job. Check out your camera menu and be sure that your camera is set to "fine" or "high," as opposed to "good" or "medium." The highest resolution setting will make your pictures have the most dots per inch.

When you open your picture on the computer in whatever program you are using, find the properties of your photograph. Sometimes you can right-click the image; sometimes, you have to use your toolbar. Find out your dpi or resolution, and make sure it is at least 300 dpi at a large-enough size. If it is crazy big—like 1500 dpi—then, we actually prefer for them to be made smaller.

If you are scanning artwork, choose a high resolution when you do the initial scan. Be sure to check the size of the image before you send it to us as an attachment in an e-mail.

Thanks so much. We love getting your artwork and photographs, and look forward to seeing more in the future!

•Grant Barnes, #137563, San Carlos Correctional Facility, POB 3, Pueblo, CO 81002, USA. Serving 12 years for the ELF arson of SUVs. For more information, visit grantbarnes.wordpress.com.

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

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

•Jeffrey "Free" Luers, #13797671, Columbia River Correctional Institution, 9111 NE Sunderland Ave, Portland, OR 97211, USA. Serving 10 years for arson at a car dealership and attempted arson of an oil truck. For more information, visit www.freefreemove.org.

•Olga Aleksandrovna Nevskaya, UU163/5, 7 Otryad, pos. Dzerzhinskiy, Mozhaysk 140090 Moskovskaya oblast, Russia. Eco-activist serving six years for arson, criminal damage and causing explosions in protest of the war in Chechnya.

•Jonathan Paul, #07167-085, FCI Phoenix, 37910 N 45th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85086, USA. Serving 4.25 years for the Animal Liberation Front/ELF arson of a horse slaughterhouse and meat-packing plant. For more information, visit www.supportjonathan.org.

•Michael Sykes, #696693, Handlon Correctional Facility, 1728 W Bluewater Hwy, Ionia, MI 48846, USA. Serving four to 10 years for the arson of two newly constructed condominiums, trying to chop down an 80-foot utility pole and attempting to chisel through cement in his jail cell. For more information, visit supportmichaelwordpress.com.

•Briana Waters, #36432-086, FCI Danbury, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811, USA. Serving six years for the ELF arson of the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture. Waters insists she was not involved. For more information, visit www.supportbriana.org.

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

Indigenous Resistance

•Byron Shane of Chubbuck© Clan, #07909-051, FCI Tallahassee, 501 Capital Circle NE, Tallahassee, FL 32301, North America. Serving 80 years for aggravated assault of federal agents, escape and bank robbery. "Oso Blanco" funneled money that he stole from banks to the Zapatista Army of National Liberation in Mexico.

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

MOVE

The MOVE 9, members of an eco-revolutionary group, were framed for the murder of a cop and sentenced to 30-100 years each. For more information, visit www.onamove.com.

•Debbie Sims Africa, #006307, Janet Holloway Africa, #006308, and Janine Phillips Africa, #006309, SCI Cambridge Springs, 451 Fullerton Ave, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403, USA.

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

•Edward Goodman Africa, #AM4974, SCI Mahanoy, 301 Morea Rd, Frackville, PA 17932, USA.

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

Other Political Prisoners

•Rodney Coronado, #03895-000, FCI El Reno, POB 1500, El Reno, OK 73036, USA. Serving one year for distribution of information related to the assembly of explosives and weapons of mass destruction. Be aware that the prison may punish Coronado for receiving radical materials in the mail. For more information, visit www.supportrod.org.

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

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

Prisoner Support Groups

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

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

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



"I spent a year in the Northwoods of Wisconsin at an outdoor school. It was not a survival school, because I died. I died to my old way of thinking. I died to being egocentric. I died to the pursuit of the civilized lifeway. I became alive to many other things—became alive to the Circle. I became alive to the native lifeway. I became alive to the connectedness of all things. I became alive to trusting, being and the now. My heart is full. I have much to share, more than words can say."

—Coyote Three Feathers aka John Herron
(Wilderness Guide Program 2004-2005)

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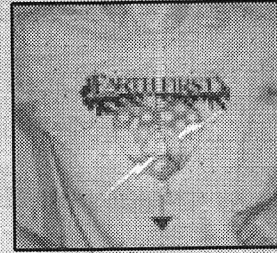


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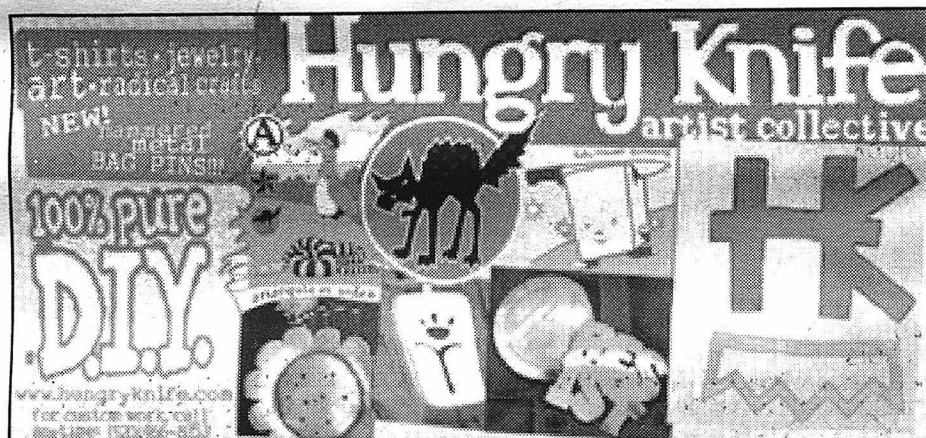
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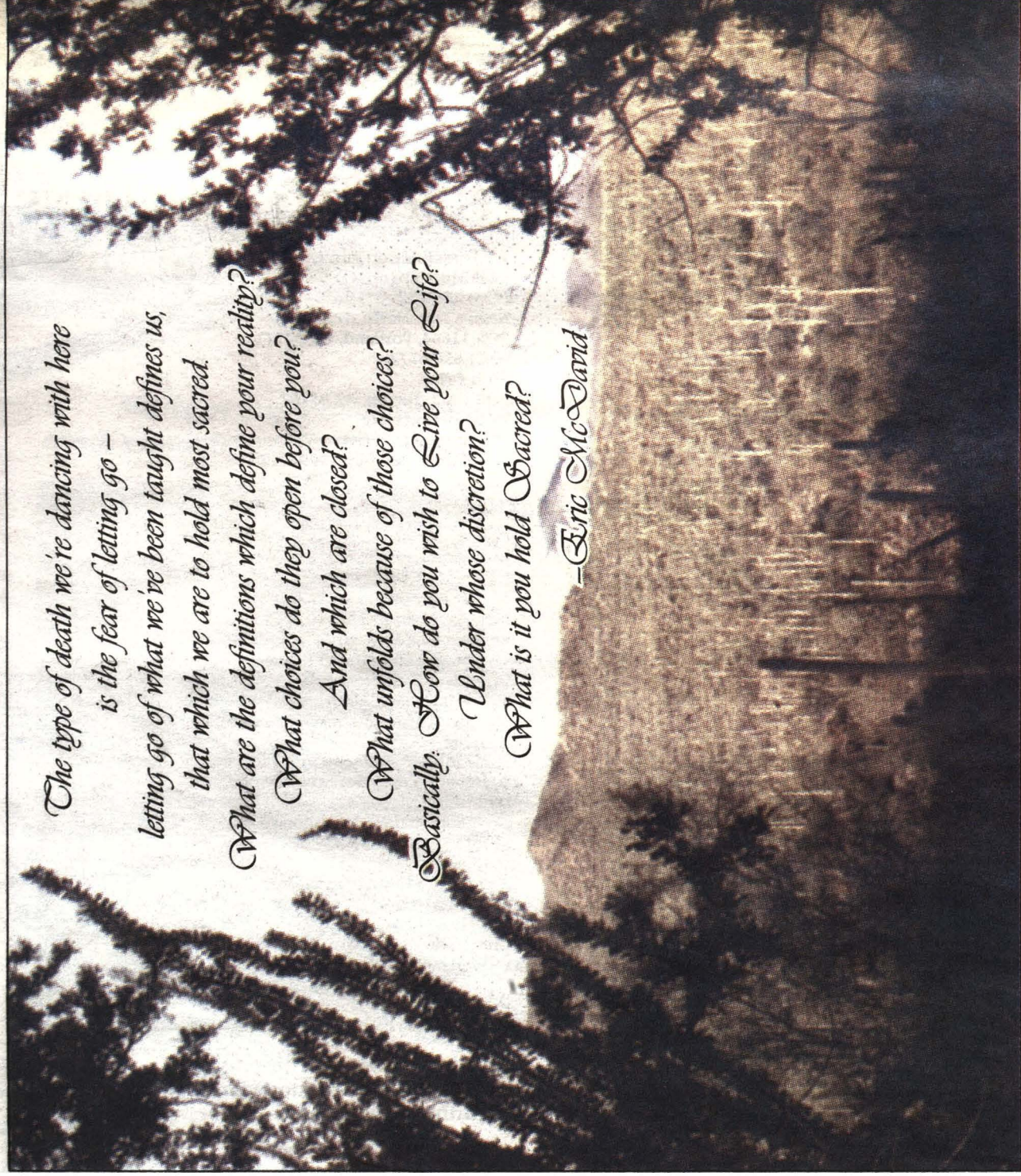
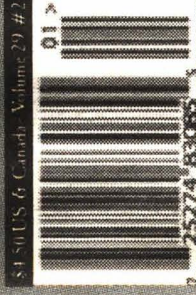


photo by Hungry Knife

*The type of death we're dancing with here
is the fear of letting go –
letting go of what we've been taught defines us,
that which we are to hold most sacred.
What are the definitions which define your reality?
What choices do they open before you?
And which are closed?
What unfolds because of those choices?
Basically. How do you wish to Live your Life?
Under whose discretion?
What is it you hold Sacred?*

—Eric McDavid

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